



## ***Purple Heart Riders, Inc.***

### ***Bylaws***

#### **ARTICLE I WHO WE ARE**

We are a not-for-profit veteran's motorcycle riding association and not a motorcycle club. Members of The Purple Heart Riders ("PHR") have been wounded in combat with the enemy while in service to their country and have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal by the President of the United States of America.

#### **ARTICLE II OUR MISSION**

Promote patriotism in our communities, assist all veterans and their families through fundraising and charitable giving and ride to support other nonprofits and organizations that serve veterans and their families.

Unite combat wounded veterans who share a passion for motorcycle riding to foster healing and support for each other and our families.

Educate America's citizens about the sacrifices made by Purple Heart recipients and preserve their legacies for future generations.

#### **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND ELIGIBILITY**

Section 3.1        Regular Membership. Awarded the Purple Heart medal, be of good moral character, possess a motorcycle, trike, or other two or three-wheeled motorized vehicle ("Motorcycle") of at least 750cc, which is authorized by an appropriate government authority for operation on public roads, and be affiliated with a state chapter.

Section 3.2        At-Large Membership. Awarded the Purple Heart medal, be of good moral character, possess a motorcycle, trike, or other two or three-wheeled motorized vehicle

("Motorcycle") of at least 750cc, which is authorized by an appropriate government authority for operation on public roads, and is not affiliated with a state chapter.

Section 3.3        Non-Rider Membership. Awarded the Purple Heart medal, be of good moral character, and submits medical documentation showing physical or mental inability to ride a Motorcycle due to a combat related injury; service-connected disability; or a chronic and debilitating injury or illness.

Section 3.4        Associate Membership. Non-recipient of the Purple Heart medal who is a:

- a. Spouse of a Regular or Non-Rider Member.
- b. Domestic, common-law, or other legally recognized partner of a Regular or Non-Rider Member.
- c. Grandparent, parent, or sibling of a Regular or Non-Rider Member (alive or deceased), whether biological, step, or adoption.
- d. Child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of a Regular or Non-Rider Member alive or deceased), whether biological, step, or adoption.
- e. Surviving spouse, domestic, common-law, or other legally recognized partner of a deceased Regular or Non-Rider Member.

Section 3.5        Supporter Membership. Any patriotic individual who supports the Mission of the PHR.

Section 3.6        Honorary Membership. Gold Star family members and those individuals approved by the national board of directors for special recognition of their exceptional contributions to the military and veteran community.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS**

Section 4.1        Regular Membership.

1. Eligible to attend all meetings, vote, and hold elected or appointed office in their state chapter and national organization.
2. Authorized to wear the PHR standard issue back patch ("Full Colors").

Section 4.2        At-Large Membership.

1. Eligible to vote and hold elected or appointed office in the national organization.
2. Authorized to wear the Full Colors.

Section 4.3        Non-Rider Membership.

1. Eligible to vote and hold appointed office in their state chapter and the national organization.
2. Authorized to wear the PHR Full Colors back patch.

Section 4.4 Associate /Associate Member-at-Large Membership.

1. Eligible to attend all meetings and hold appointed office in their state chapter and/or the national organization.
2. If the individual resides in a state where a state chapter is constituted, they shall become an Associate Member of that state chapter. If the individual resides in a state where no state chapter is constituted, they may become an Associate Member-at-Large with the national organization.
3. Authorized to wear the appropriate PHR specially designated back patch ("Restricted Colors"), or, designated front patch as defined in Section \_\_\_\_ of these Bylaws.

Section 4.5 Honorary Membership.

1. Authorized to wear the specially designated front patch as defined in Section \_\_\_\_ of these Bylaws.

**ARTICLE V**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 5.1 Number. The Board of Directors (the "Board") shall consist of no less than five (5) directors, and no more than nine (9).

Section 5.2 Composition. The Board shall be comprised of the PHR National Officers and additional members as determined from time to time by the Board.

Section 5.3 Term. National officers shall serve on the Board for the duration of time in office. Other directors shall serve for a term as determined by the Board, not to exceed four (4) years and may have their terms renewed or extended as determined by the Board.

Section 5.4 Vacancies. In the case of a vacancy, the Board may, by majority vote, appoint an individual to complete the term of the vacant director position.

Section 5.5 Powers and Responsibilities.

1. Present an annual financial report to the national membership.
2. Manage the affairs, property, and business of the corporation.
3. Set membership dues, delegate authority to officers and committees.
4. Perform all other duties and decision-making required or allowed by law or otherwise set forth by the membership.

Section 5.6 Meetings. Meetings of the Board shall be held at a time and place as it determines, but no less than twice annually. Special meetings may be called by the President with at least forty-eight (48) hours written notice to each director.

Section 5.7 Quorum. One-half plus one of the number of Board positions occupied shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.

Section 5.8        Committees. The board may at any time create or discontinue one or more special committees, which shall have only those duties and powers specifically delegated to them by the Board of Directors. Members of special committees shall be appointed by the president with the approval of the board.

Section 5.9        Compensation. No member of the board shall receive compensation for services as such but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in conducting the business of the corporation.

Section 5.10       Notices. All notices of Board meetings and documentation may be made by mail, email, voice messages and any other form of electronic communication that the Board deems appropriate. Board members may attend meetings in person, by telephone, teleconferencing, video conferencing and any other method that the Board approves.

Section 5.11       Voting. Any matter that requires a vote or approval by the members of the Board or the PHR membership may be submitted to such persons by electronic means describing the subject matter and requesting a return vote on the matter. A majority of the returned votes received in a timely manner shall be dispositive of the matter or question submitted.

Section 5.12       Removal. If a member of the Board is not performing their duties, they may be removed by a unanimous vote of the other Board members, with proper notice of a meeting in which the question will be voted upon. The member subject to removal will be afforded the opportunity to be present at any such meeting and be heard.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **OFFICERS**

Section 6.1        National President. The National President shall be duly elected by the national membership. The term of the National President shall be for four (4) years, and they may be re-elected for subsequent terms without limitation. Duties of the President shall be:

1. Preside at all PHR meetings and events.
2. Appoint all committees and such officers as called for in the by-laws.
3. Appoint national officer positions as directed by these Bylaws or the national membership.
4. Along with the Treasurer, approve all expenditures disbursed by the PHR.

Section 6.2        National Vice President. The National Vice President shall be duly elected by the national membership. The term of the National President shall be for four (4) years, and they may be re-elected for subsequent terms without limitation. Duties of the Vice President shall be:

1. Perform the duties of the president in their absence.
2. Responsible for the proprietary image (logo) of the PHR.
3. Oversee state Chapter management and assure their proper compliance with these Bylaws.
4. Any other duties as delegated to them by the President.

Section 6.3        National Treasurer. The national treasurer shall be duly elected by the national membership. The term of the National President shall be for four (4) years, and they may be re-elected for subsequent terms without limitation. Duties of the Treasurer shall be:

1. Collect dues from the Membership of the PHR.
2. Collect all other monies owed to the PHR.
3. Make payments from PHR funds when so ordered by the PHR Board or requested by membership and authorized by the Board.
4. Keep accurate financial records of the corporation.
5. Present a financial report at each regular business meeting of the Board and the National Convention.
6. Serve as a member of all committees.

Section 6.4        National Secretary. The National Secretary may be elected by the national membership or appointed by the National President with approval by the Board. They will serve at the pleasure of the National President. Duties of the Secretary shall be:

1. Keep minutes of all PHR meetings.
2. Keep membership attendance records at all PHR activities and events.
3. Handle all PHR correspondence.
4. To send suitable remembrances to hospitalized members in good standing.

Section 6.5        National Sergeant-At-Arms. The National Sergeant-at-Arms shall be duly elected by the national membership. The term of the National President shall be for four (4) years, and they may be re-elected for subsequent terms without limitation. The duties of the Sergeant-at Arms shall be:

1. Maintain order and decorum at all PHR meetings, events, and activities.
2. Organize and maintain security at PHR meetings, events, and activities.
3. Liaison with other motorcycle associations and especially with motorcycle clubs to assure cooperative understanding and good will is maintained.

Section 6.6        National Road Captain. The National Road Captain shall be appointed by the National President and approved by the Board. They will serve at the pleasure of the National President. The Duties of the Road Captain shall be to supervise and lead all PHR official rides by performing the following:

1. Inform riders of the route, road conditions and rules of the ride.
2. Orient all new members or perspective members as to riding procedures.
3. Inspect motors for legal mufflers and operational lights.
4. Keep accurate records of the rides.
5. Provide a report to the PHR Board at the first regular business meeting after an official ride.
6. Take custody of any PHR trailer and assure it is always in good roadworthy condition.
7. Appoint as many Assistant Road Captains as necessary to ensure a safe ride.

Section 6.7        National Chaplain. The National Chaplain shall be appointed by the National President and approved by the Board. They will serve at the pleasure of the National President. Duties of the Chaplain shall be:

1. Be a non-denominational and non-sectarian minister available to members of all Faiths without regard to religious standing.

2. In the event of a member or immediate family's death, illness or special concern affecting a member. Upon the specific request of the Member, the chaplain will provide any ministerial or counseling service requested.

Section 6.8 Election of Officers. The elected national officers shall be duly elected by the national membership as follows:

1. No less than sixty-five (65) days prior to the bi-annual national convention, the National President shall put out a call for nominations from the national membership. This call for nominations will be delivered via electronic mail.
2. No less than thirty (30) days prior to the bi-annual national convention, the National President shall deliver a ballot to all eligible voting Members via electronic mail.
3. No later than two (2) hours prior to the commencement of the business meeting of the bi-annual national convention, eligible voting Members shall deliver their completed ballot to the National President, National Vice President, and National Sergeant-at-Arms, via electronic mail.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **FINANCES**

Section 7.1 Authority to Incur Expenses. The Board shall formulate and administer PHR policy respecting authorized expenditures and procedures for reimbursement.

Section 7.2 Payment of Authorized Expenses. The Treasurer shall disburse all funds but may pay only those expenses authorized by the Board that are within a budget appropriation. The bank account of the PHR shall be maintained at a financial institution as directed by the Board, preferably, but not required, to be in the state of incorporation.

Section 7.3 Expenses at Meetings. A member of the PHR may not be reimbursed from PHR funds for personal travel or other related expenses incurred in attending a meeting of the members, unless expressly authorized by the Board.

Section 7.4 Insurance Coverage. The Treasurer of the Association shall be bonded in an amount deemed appropriate by the Board and the PHR shall carry any necessary and appropriate additional insurance as deemed appropriate by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **STATE CHAPTERS**

Section 8.1 Chapters. Members are highly encouraged to come together and form state chapters. The requirements to organize and operate a state chapter are:

1. Five (5) or more members submit notification to the national Board of their interest in forming a state chapter.
2. The members must all reside in the same state.

3. Once approved by the Board, and a state charter is issued, the members shall hold a meeting within thirty (30) days and elect, at a minimum, a state president, vice-president, treasurer, and sergeant-at-arms.
4. At a minimum, the state chapter will meet twice a year to conduct any business of the chapter including annual election of officers.
5. State chapters may incorporate as distinct, nonprofit entities within their states if their mission is in accordance with the mission of the PHR. Further, the state chapter is responsible for assuring proper compliance with all nonprofit laws and regulations that apply to them within their state (and per federal) and national PHR is not to be held liable for any activities or finances of the state chapter.
6. State chapters may create their own bylaws to govern their chapter, however, any such bylaws shall not be in contradiction to these Bylaws of the PHR.
7. State chapters may, through majority approval of its membership, collect its own membership dues in addition to those owed to national PHR.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **PATCHES**

The use of the term “Colors” is intended for internal use only. As a riding association we wear a one-piece back patch without rockers, state or territory patches, or any other patches on the back of the vest. The only authorized patch on the back of a member’s vest, is the authorized and appropriate one-piece back patch. All back or front patches authorized and issued by the PHR may only be worn by members-in-good-standing.

Section 9.1        Authorized Membership Patches. The following style and display of back and front patches are authorized:

1. Regular, At-Large, and Non-Rider Members shall be eligible to wear the standard issue back patch (Full Colors).
2. Associate Members are authorized to wear: “Restricted Colors”, as a back or front patch, modified to contain the identifier of “Associate Member”, “Spouse”, or “Family.” Associate Members may not wear more than one identifier on their patch.
3. Supporters are authorized to wear Restricted Colors, as a front patch, with the identifier “Supporter.”
4. Honorary Members are authorized to wear Restricted Colors, as a back or front patch, with the identifier “Honorary.”
5. Life Members (as defined in Section \_\_\_\_ of these Bylaws) are authorized to wear a front patch, as approved by the Board, and must be affiliated with a state chapter to display the state chapter’s life member patch on their vest.
  - a. Members-at-Large who upgrade to life membership may wear a Board approved national life member patch.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **PROPRIETARY IMAGES OF THE ASSOCIATION, PRODUCTS & MERCHANDISE**

Section 10.1    Any Chapter or Member of the PHR may make a written request to the National Vice President to produce items (pins, decals, t-Shirts, etc.) bearing the Full or Life Member logo

of the Purple Heart Riders Association for the exclusive purpose of selling these items to build their Chapter treasury, fundraise for an approved veterans' cause, or other appropriate veterans' or veterans' families related endeavor. These items cannot be sold to non-members of the PHR, with prior written approval of the National Vice President. A formal request must be made to the National Vice President accompanied by a description of the Item and a photo of the design. The National Vice President will forward the request to the National Board of the PHR who will approve or disapprove the request. The Chapter selling these items must keep an itemized list of those members who purchase items.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **VEST**

All Vests will be black leather or denim and shall adhere to the following uniformity:

Section 11.1 Back. Only the PHR authorized Full or Restricted Colors will be worn on the back. No additional scrolls, patches or other club identifiers may be worn on the back and NO Support Patches for any other motorcycle clubs or associations will be worn any place on any vest.

Section 11.2 Front.

1. Left side: The United States Flag is required to be displayed on the left side of the vest above the heart. No other patch shall be displayed above the U.S. Flag. If a member wishes to display a Life Member patch, unit designator (i.e., USMC, Navy, Army, Air Force etc.) followed by a conflict designator, it shall be immediately below the U.S. Flag.
2. Right side: If the member holds elected or appointed office their office name tape shall be on the top right-side center (above pocket line).
3. Any ribbons, medals or other awards earned while serving in the military may be worn on the front of the vest if below the items noted immediately above in i. and ii.
4. All other patches displayed must be military or veteran related.
5. Profanity, or other inappropriate symbols and text are prohibited from being displayed on a vest.

Section 11.3 The Vest w/Back Patch is not to be left unattended or out of your control. When you are not wearing it should be in a secure place.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **DUES**

Section 12.1 Regular Membership. Regular Members shall pay annual dues to the national organization as set by the Board for that calendar year. These dues shall not be less than fifteen dollars (\$15) nor more than forty dollars (\$40).

Section 12.2 At-Large Membership. At-Large Members shall pay annual dues to the national organization as set by the Board for that calendar year. These dues shall not be less than ten dollars (\$15) nor more than forty dollars (\$40).



Section 12.3      Non-Rider Membership. Non-Rider Members shall pay annual dues to the national organization as set by the Board for that calendar year. These dues shall not be less than ten dollars (\$10) nor more than thirty dollars (\$30).

Section 12.4      Associate Membership. Associate Members shall pay annual dues to the national organization as set by the Board for that calendar year. These dues shall be no less than five dollars (\$5) and no more than twenty dollars (\$20).

Section 12.5      Life Membership. After being a due paying Regular, Member-at-Large, or Non-Rider Member for three (3) consecutive years, these categories may upgrade to life membership for a one-time payment to the national organization as set by the Board. These one-time dues payment may be no less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200). Once received, the Member is exempted from paying annual dues to the national organization.

Section 12.6      Honorary Membership. Honorary Members shall pay no dues to the national organization.

Section 12.7      State Chapter Dues. Upon approval of the majority of its members, a state chapter may assess and collect annual membership dues in an amount they determine. These dues are distinct and separate from the national organization's dues and the state chapter shall maintain these amounts for its own treasury.

Section 12.7      Collection of Dues.

1. No later than February 1<sup>st</sup> of every calendar year, the National Treasurer shall send each chapter president and treasurer an invoice for national dues owed from the members of that chapter. This invoice shall contain the name, membership category, amount owed, and modes of payment information, for each member. No later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of every calendar year, the state chapter president, or treasurer, will deliver payment in full to the National Treasurer.
2. No later than February 1<sup>st</sup> of every calendar year, the National Treasurer shall send an invoice to Members-at-Large for their annual membership dues owed and modes of payment available. No later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of every calendar year, the Member-at-Large shall deliver payment in full to the National Treasurer.

Section 12.8      Inactive Status Due to Nonpayment of Dues. If any category of member does not pay their annual dues in accordance with Section 12.7, they will be placed in "inactive status." Those members placed on inactive status will have their membership rights suspended until payment in full is received by the National Treasurer.

Section 12.9      Termination of Membership Due to Nonpayment of Dues. If any category of member does not pay their dues for two (2) or more consecutive years their membership may be terminated by the Board.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **FISCAL YEAR**

Section 13.1 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the PHR shall be January 1 of each year through December 31 of the same year.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Section 14.1 Becoming a Member.

1. Membership Applications shall be submitted to the National President for approval;
2. Upon verification of eligibility, receipt of payment of any required dues (no pro-ration will be applied) and receipt of payment for the costs of back or front patches;
3. The National President will send the appropriate Member patch to the state chapter president for notification and presentation to the new Member.
4. If the new Member resides in a state that does not have a chapter, or selected the Member-at-Large category, the National President will notify the new Member-at-Large of their approval and mail the appropriate patch or arrange delivery by another PHR Member for presentation.

Section 14.2 Transfer of Member-at-Large to Regular Member. A Member-at-Large may request to transfer their membership to that of Regular Membership in a state chapter at any time. Upon notification of acceptance from the state chapter president to the National President, the Member's category of membership shall be updated.

Section 14.3 Transfer of Regular Member to Member-at-Large. A regular Member may transfer to Member-at-Large, at any time, upon written notification to their chapter president and the National President. The National President shall honor the Member's request and effectuate the transfer in categories within thirty (30) days.

Section 14.4 Supporter Patches. Upon the recommendation of a state chapter president, or if no state chapter is present in supporter's state, upon application to the National President, an individual may purchase a "Supporter" patch. The cost to purchase this patch shall be no less than twenty-five dollars (\$25) and no more than forty dollars (\$40).

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Section 14.1 Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the chapter presidents and Board. Proposed bylaw amendments may be proposed by any chapter president, Board member, or ten (10) or more Members. The National President shall deliver any proposed Bylaw amendments to the chapter presidents and Board and allow no less than thirty (30) days before closing voting.

*\*\*Last amended at the National Convention membership meeting on July 24, 2021.*