

## Bylaws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association New York State Chapter 19-3

Revision a: June 14, 2010

### **ARTICLE 1 : NAME AND EMBLEM**

#### **Section 1 (a)**

The name of the association is: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association NYS Chapter 19-3 (CVMA 19-3) Principle office of the CVMA 19-3 will be located at the following address: 211 Golden Rd. West Chazy NY 12992

- a. Change of Address. The designation of the county or address of CVMA 19-3 principal office may change by amendment of these bylaws. The board of Officers may change the principal office from one location to another within the state by noting the changed address and effective date below, and such changes shall not be deemed minor, and require an amendment of these bylaws.
  - a. New Address:  
Dated:
  - b. New Address:  
Dated:
- b. Other Offices. The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) may also have offices at such other places, within state of incorporation, where it is qualified to do business, as its business and activities may require, and as the board of Officers may from time to time, designate.

#### **Section 1 (b)**

IRC Section 501(c)(19) Purposes. Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association NYS Chapter 19-3 is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and/or scientific purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, and 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, and 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law . The chapter Board of Officers has the authority to change the CVMA NYS Chapter 19-3 bylaws if any part is found to be in conflict with Federal or NY state tax laws; ( 501(c)19 requires approval by IRS)

#### **Section 2**

The emblem / logo used by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and CVMA NYS Chapter 19-3 is the sole property of the CVMA (National). The CVMA patch and logo cannot be reproduced without license from the BOD. The emblem of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is in the shape of a skull encompassed by the following colors. The incorporated colors are: Red, representing the blood that has been shed on the battlefield. The Military Gold, representing the many ethnic backgrounds of all nations. Black, representing the heavy hearts possessed for those who gave their lives and for those that are considered missing in action or prisoners of war. The Skull and ace of spade represents the death that war leaves in its wake.

---

## **ARTICLE 2 : OBJECTIVES**

General: CVMA NYS Chapter 19-3 Protocol .

The CVMA NYS Chapter 19-3 is formed for the betterment of communication and camaraderie between other CVMA Chapters, Veterans Organizations, and or Motorcycle Groups.

### **Section 1**

To promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activity associated with Veterans.

### **Section 2**

To create and maintain camaraderie among Combat Veterans from all U.S. Branches of Service and its allies.

### **Section 3**

To support other Veteran Organizations.

### **Section 4**

To raise awareness for the plight of but not limited to POW, MIA and their families and to including families of KIA.

### **Section 5**

To conduct National Association, State, and local Chapter functions and activities in a manner befitting the members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and as well as the association's Support and Auxiliary Members.

### **Section 6**

To encourage a better understanding of motorcycle riders as a constructive sport among members of the public, press, and law enforcement agencies.

---

## **ARTICLE 3 : MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1**

Any person:

- a. Of good character.
- b. Who is a Veteran of a Foreign War, "Combat".
- c. The ONLY Acceptable proof for membership to the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is a copy of one's DD 214 or ERB which must be surrendered to the BOD for verification.
- d. Annual national \$20 for all full Combat members and \$10 for military support members. Dues for CVMA members deployed in a war zone will be waived. Dues for all members are due in June of each year. Dues for new members will cover the balance of the current year and dues

will be collected again in June. Dues for all new members joining after March 1st will be considered as paid in full for the balance of the current year and the following year.

Adjustments to the national dues will be at the discretion of the national BOD.

- e. Must own and operate a Motorcycle of 500cc or above.
- f. Should a full member resign they will be given a 5 day grace period to rescind their resignation with no repercussions. After the 5 day grace period a member will have to re-apply for membership as a new member and will require BOD and chapter Board of Officers approval.
- g. Active members in good standing with the CVMA who become infirm, disabled or otherwise unable to ride their motorcycles will be able to keep their patch and be retired as members in good standing with the CVMA. Members must submit medical documentation and a minimum of one year as a member and/or BOD approval is required.
- h. Life members, if for health reasons can no longer ride can at their discretion, remain members in good standing with full voting privileges and can keep their patch.
- i. Life membership requirements: 3 years active in the CVMA. Member must be in good standing for all three years and minimum participation of one sanctioned CVMA event per year is required. One of which must be a National meeting. Cost for life membership is \$200. If a life member quits for any reason or the member is removed from the CVMA rolls for any reason, no refunds will be made.

## **Section 2 (a)**

Auxiliary Members:

- a. Must be of good character.
- b. All Auxiliary members must be a spouse, widow or widower of a full member who is in good standing with the CVMA
- c. Must support the efforts of ALL branches of the United States of Americas Armed Forces and the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.
- d. Will have no vote in CVMA business.
- e. Cannot hold a position on the BOD or chapter Board of Officers
- f. \$10.00 annual dues will be assessed by the CVMA Auxiliary Unit

## **Section 2 (b)**

Support members:

- a. Must be of good character.
- b. Must own and operate a motorcycle of 500cc or greater.
- c. Maximum number of support members will not exceed 10% of total CVMA full Combat membership.
- d. Support members must be a veteran of the United States Armed Forces.
- e. Support members will read and abide by all CVMA by-laws applicable to them. Sections excluded:
  - a. Section 6
  - b. Section 3
  - c. Elections
  - d. Duties of Officers
- f. Support members are required to submit their application with proof of military service through a full member of the CVMA who has held a membership for not less than one year. Support members are required to have either ridden a minimum of 3,000 miles with their sponsor,

attended three CVMA events or be known by their sponsor for a minimum of 6 months. A full member submitting an application for a support member should verify they meet the above criteria. Only 1 support member can be vouched on board per year by an individual CVMA member. Support members will be at a 1 to 10 ratio, 1 support member to 10 full members based on state.

- g. Will have no vote in CVMA business .
- h. Cannot hold a position on the BOD or Chapter Board of Officers
- i. \$10.00 annual dues will be assessed and a CVMA Support ID will be issued.
- j. Support members in good standing can wear a small CVMA Support Patch on the front of their vest or jacket which will be supplied by their sponsor. Support members can also wear the 10 inch support back patch which will be supplied by their sponsor.

### **Section 3**

By applying for membership with the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, you are giving the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (national) and its Board of Directors the right to verify any membership application and DD 214 records.

### **Section 4**

Each member should attend a minimum of at least one (1) event hosted by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (national) per year. This can also be an event in any member's state if prior approval is obtained by the state representative from the governing body of the National CVMA.

### **Section 5**

All members **MUST** conduct themselves in a manner that is not an embarrassment to themselves, the CVMA, CVMA NYS Chapter 19-3, or the United States of America.

### **Section 6**

All members must possess a valid motorcycle driver's license as well as proof of insurance for their motorcycle.

### **Section 7**

- a. In the event of misconduct by any member, under the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, the Board of Directors possesses the right to revoke that member's membership. Misconduct is defined as failure to abide by the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and any organization that the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association supports.
- b. Bringing dishonor upon the Combat Veterans Association in action, word(s), or deeds. Always remember **WE ARE NOT, NOR DO WE CLAIM TO BE, A MOTORCYCLE CLUB! WE DO NOT HAVE COLORS!** We do not prospect. We do have membership fees.

### **Section 8**

The BOD has the final authority in disbanding a chapter or dismissing a chapter member. The BOD has the authority to assemble an investigative committee to investigate any incidents involving either a chapter or chapter member

---

## **ARTICLE 4 : MEMBERSHIP DUES**

### **Section 1**

Membership dues shall be at such rate, schedule or formula as may from time to time be prescribed by the governing body (CVMA) of the association and approved by the general membership.

### **Section 2**

The governing body of the association shall determine deadlines for payment of renewal membership dues.

### **Section 3**

New members purchasing patches of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association will be done so at cost plus shipping and handling.

### **Section 4**

CVMA NYS 19-3 dues of \$10.00 annually. All national dues continue to go straight to national.

---

## **ARTICLE 5 : ELECTIONS**

### **Section 1 (National CVMA)**

All nominees for any office must be active and in good standing in the association with a minimum of 1 full year CVMA membership. All nominees for the National BOD must be a member in good standing and have held a State or Regional leadership position for a period of 1 year. Retired members cannot hold a CVMA officer position.

### **Section 2**

All elected and or appointed to the Board of officers or CVMA Board of Directors must remain active members in good standing for the duration of the term while in office.

### **Section 3**

a. All officers are to be nominated and elected at the CVMA National and will assume office within 60 days of the election and hold that office for 36 months or until their successors are duly qualified. Consecutive terms are permitted.

b. All officers are to be nominated and elected to the Chapter Board of Officers and will assume office immediately but NLT 60 days of the election and hold that office for 24 months or until their successors are duly qualified. Consecutive terms are permitted.

### **Section 4**

Nominations and elections to the BOD must be made at the CVMA national. The President will vote only in the event of a tie.

### **Section 5**

Members nominated for office are qualified if he or she is a paid member in good standing with the CVMA for a minimum of 1 year.

## **Section 6**

a. BOD members will be considered for re-election in the following order, President / Secretary, VP / Treasurer, SGT at Arms / PR. Should any Officer resign or be removed for any reason the BOD has the authority to replace the officer and the new officer will be put up for approval by the CVMA members and nominations for the newly filled position will also be taken at this time.

b. Chapter Board of Officers members will be considered for re-election in the following order, Commander (CO), Executive Officer (XO), Secretary, Treasurer, SGT at Arms, Public Relations (PR), Road Captain, and Chaplin. Should any Officer resign or be removed for any reason the Board of Officers has the authority to replace the officer and the new officer will be put up for approval by the Chapter members and nominations for the newly filled position will also be taken at this time.

## **Section 7**

Should an elected officer resign from office for any reason the Board of Officers will appoint a replacement to serve until the next Chapter meeting.

## **Section 8**

Will follow the requirements as in Article 5 Section 1 of these By-Laws with the exception of this newly formed chapter will be excluded from the one year requirement. After the first terms of officers has expired the same requirements of Article 5 Section 1 will apply.

## **Section 9**

Chapter Board of Officer will consist of ; Commander (CO), Executive (XO), Treasurer, SGT at Arms, and Public Relations(PR), Road Captain, and Chaplin. The term limits for all officer will be Two 24 months. Should any. Officer resign or be removed for any reason, the Board of Officers has the authority to replace the officer and the new officer will be put up for approval by the Chapter members. Nominations for the newly filled position will also be taken at this time.

---

## **ARTICLE 6 : DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1**

The **Commander (CO)** will preside over all meetings of the Chapter; serve as Chairman (Presiding Officer) of the Board of Officers, and issue the call for regular and special Board of Officers meetings, schedule regular elections, and insure they are held IAW these by-laws, Roberts Rule Of Order, and carry out the directives of the Board of Officers. The Chapter XO will fill this position as required in the absent of the Commander.

### **Section 2**

The **Executive Officer (XO)** will assume, and perform all duties of the Commander in his absence.

### **Section 3**

The **Secretary** shall record, keep and distribute to the Board of Officers, the general membership roster, issue credentials as needed, records meeting minutes, prepares order of business; calls meetings to order in the absent of the CO and XO; maintain CVMA NYS 19-3 records/documentation, and distribute as needed or directed by Chapter Commander, and assume all duties to office.

#### **Section 4**

The **Treasurer** will collect dues and other forms of income due to the Chapter, maintain the accounting books, make payments from the Chapter funds when so ordered by the board of Officers, sign all Chapter checks (along with another officers signature) and make regular reports of the Chapters financial status to the chapter membership meeting, Board of Officers, State Representative, and to the National CVMA BOD when or as required; file all required financial documentation with the Federal, state, and local agency's.

#### **Section 5**

The **Public Relations Officer** (PR) will maintain a file and have it ready to present at each meeting and all association functions. He or she will be in charge of all the Chapters 19-3 publicity, in conjunction with and approved by the chapters Commander. Duties will include: Historian, clubs PR file, pictures, newspaper articles, TV and radio announcements and the Chapters web site.

#### **Section 6**

The **Sgt. at Arms** will maintain order during Chapters meeting's and check members ID cards before each meeting; removes unruly persons at the order of the CO; in-charge of controlling order at all functions/ meetings; acts as Chapter Chief of Police; interacts with local law enforcement to insure order during Chapter functions.

#### **Section 7**

The **Road Captain** plans ride route, proper protocol for ride formation and safety, lead the ride, and set up the blockers,

#### **Section 8**

Chaplin: is responsible to, lead the membership in prayer, and invocations at memorials or gatherings.

#### **Section 9**

The Board of Directors constitutes the Executive Board of the National CVMA, responsible for the execution, through its officers of the authorized policies, by majority votes, fills vacancies in any office of the Board of Directors and submits to the national associations meetings and recommendations affecting the policies of the association which have been previously approved.

#### **Section 10**

Regional Representatives will be chosen by the members in the given region and will require BOD approval prior to taking office. Regional representatives primary duty will be to enforce the National CVMA bylaws.

#### **Section 11**

State Representatives are appointed by the BOD and the Chapter Commander would be picked by the Chapter members. The State Representative would be over the State Chapter Commanders, all below the State Representative will be elected by state members.

#### **Section 12**

State and Regional Officers would use military terms to describe their position.

#### **Section 13**

State Representative's responsibilities. These include carrying out the bylaws of the national and to

watch over their membership. State representatives can dismiss or discipline unruly members with BOD approval.

---

## **ARTICLE 7 : MEETINGS**

### **Section 1**

Meetings will consist of members and invited guest.

### **Section 2**

A quorum of conducting business shall be those present at any given meeting.

### **Section 3**

See DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Article 6, Section 1 thru 13.

### **Section 4**

Full Members only have full voting rights, all other members have the right to participate without voting rights.

### **Section 5**

Special membership meetings and special Board of Officers meetings can be called by the Commander or two active members.

### **Section 6**

The Robert's Rules of Order, parliamentary procedure will be applied during meetings to affect parliamentary procedures, unless otherwise amended and provided for in the by-laws.

### **Section 7**

No alcohol is to served during the meetings without the approval of the Commander.

---

## **ARTICLE 8 : DELEGATIONS**

### **Section 1**

Delegations will be appointed by the Commander, but are subject to the approval of the Board of Officers, to represent the association at any convention, meeting, rally, or other assembly that may be deemed necessary, and all delegations are authorized to exercise only those powers specifically vested in them by the Board of Officers.

---

## **ARTICLE 9 : AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1**

The membership may present amendments to the bylaws when ratified buy three fourths of the membership present at a CVMA NYS Chapter 19-3 meeting. Amendments once passed will take place

immediately.

- a. Proposals for amendments to bylaws may be submitted to the general membership meeting for consideration for a maximum of two consecutive year. If the proposal is denied for two consecutive Chapter meetings , it shall not be placed on the agenda again unless one of the following criteria is met:
  - a. A one year time limit has elapsed
  - b. The Board of Officers approves the item for placement on the agenda

## **Section 2**

National BOD members may not hold the position of State Representative or Chapter Officer while serving on the National BOD.

## **Section 3**

The National BOD is responsible for implementing overall policy and direction of the association. The National BOD is responsible for day-to-day operations of the association and shall make decisions as necessary to maintain the association's viability and order. At the BOD's discretion, they may delegate responsibility of implementing policy operations to the State Representatives and Regional/Area Reps when necessary.

## **Section 4 (National)**

Benevolent fund for CVMA members will be \$250 per incident. Chapters must help raise money on their own prior to applying for additional funds from the National. Money given out will not be required to be given back. Chapters with a member in need can petition National for funds. \$3 out of members dues will be set aside for the benevolent fund.

## **Section 5**

Any full member who is still a member of the Armed Forces of the USA who attends the previous years Nationals, but cannot, because of Military deployment to a combat zone, attend the current year national meeting will be given credit for the National and will be authorized a rocker for the National patch that will read, for example, DEPLOYED 20XX.

## **Section 6**

CVMA Chapter 19-3 will have delegate votes based on chapter membership. One delegate vote per 15 full members. Delegate votes will be used for National agenda items. Votes for National officers will not be changed and will still be taken by full members in actual attendance at the National.

---

## **ARTICLE 10 : CHAPTER DETACHMENTS**

**Section 1** Detachments of this Chapter CVMA 19-3 are sponsored by and accountable to this state Chapter CVMA NYS 19-3.

## **Section 2**

Detachments require a minimum of 8 members.

**Section 3**

Detachments may apply for Chapter status provided they meet Chapter guidelines. (see CVMA By-Laws Article 10 sections 1-5).

**Section 4**

The Detachment members would elect the Detachment Commander. The State Representative would be over the State Chapter Commander; State Chapter Commander would be over the Detachment Commander; state members would elect all below the State Representative.

**Section 5**

Detachments will be identified and referred to as CVMA NYS 19-3 (XXXXXXXXX) detachment.