

**VFW RIDERS  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
CONSTITUTION  
11 DECEMBER 2008**

**1. GENERAL.**

1.1. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Riders is a Motorcycle Association made up of members of the VFW and VFW Auxiliaries in good standing. We are a group within the VFW that enjoys the pastime of motorcycling. We are currently an official program of the Department of Arizona VFW.

1.1.1. We are not a Motorcycle Club (MC).

1.1.2. We are a family oriented group and are pro-military. We encourage our members to support other veterans' groups.

1.1.3. Distinction of class, nationality, or gender will not be recognized nor tolerated by our organization.

1.1.4. We are self governed; we abide by the by-laws of the VFW and support the Armed Forces and the Commander in Chief of the United States of America.

1.1.5. This document is intended to serve as a standard for all Arizona Chapters of the VFW Riders Motorcycle Association.

**2. DEFINITIONS.**

2.1. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is a congressionally chartered war veterans' organization.

2.2. VFW Riders (VFWR). A Motorcycle Association made up of members of the VFW and VFW Auxiliaries.

2.3. Motorcycle. Two or three wheeled vehicle manufactured for use on public roads.

2.4. Rider. Any member in good standing of a VFWR Chapter as defined in paragraphs 5.2 and its sub-paragraphs.

2.5. VFWR State Executive Board (SEB). The SEB will be made up of the VFWR State Captain, the President of each Chapter, and the Vice-President of each Chapter.

2.6. Council of Administration (CofA). The CofA is comprised of elected VFW Officers from the Department Commander down to the District Commanders for each state.

2.7. Chapter Executive Board (CEB). The CEB is comprised of the five elected officers of the Chapter (President, Vice President, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary, and Treasurer).

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**3. MISSION.**

The mission of the VFWR is as follows:

3.1. To safely share the pastime of motorcycle riding.

3.2. To provide a social atmosphere for VFW members who share the same interest.

3.3. To participate in events which are in keeping with the aims and purposes of the VFW.

3.4. To use our association to promote and support the programs of the VFW and other veteran's organizations, to include the Arizona Cottage of the VFW National Home.

3.5. To promote good standing in the local community by supporting charities and/or events as deemed beneficial and worthy to the local community.

**4. ORGANIZATION.**

4.1. In Arizona, the VFW Department Commander has agreed to our use of the name VFW Riders. A VFWR State Captain will be appointed by the Department Commander to oversee all Chapters with the assistance of the SEB.

4.2. Each Chapter exists by authorization of the Department Commander on the advice of the VFWR SEB.

4.2.1. The Chapter remains the organizational level at which individual members exists. The individual Chapter is the "atomic level" of the VFWR.

4.2.2. No individual can be a VFWR member without affiliation to a VFWR Chapter.

4.2.3. Each Chapter will be named. Chapter names will be adopted through a majority vote of Chapter members at the Chapter's organization meeting and are subject to approval by the VFW Department Commander and the VFWR SEB prior to their use. At no time shall a Chapter refer to itself or present itself as an MC.

4.2.4. Each Chapter will be associated to an individual VFW Post but will support other VFW Posts located within the geographic area of the Chapter.

4.2.5. Each Chapter will develop their own Chapter By-Laws reflecting the personality and traditions of their individual Chapter and, which may add to, but at no time take away from or contradict this Constitution.

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4.2.5.1. Chapter By-Laws are subject to review and approval of the VFWR SEB prior to implementation.

4.2.6. State Officers: The VFW Department Commander will name the VFWR State Captain. The VFWR State Captain will oversee the Chapters of the state.

4.2.6.1. Eligibility requirements to be the VFWR State Captain:

4.2.6.1.1. Must be a Rider in good standing from one of the VFWR Chapters in the state of Arizona.

4.2.6.1.2 As the State Captain will oversee the SEB, the State Captain can not be a President or Vice President of a VFWR Chapter, or represent their Chapter at a SEB meeting.

4.2.6.2. The State Captain will perform the following duties:

4.2.6.2.1. Serves as Chief VFWR Administrative Officer of the State.

4.2.6.2.2. Reports to the Department Commander and CofA at all CofA meetings.

4.2.6.2.3. Oversees the SEB and Chapters in the execution of their duties.

4.2.6.2.4. Supervises all affairs of the VFWR, at State level.

4.2.6.2.5. Appoints committee or special function chairs as needed.

4.2.6.2.6. Serves as the State VFWR Public Affairs Officer unless a chairman is appointed to assume these duties.

4.2.6.2.7. Leads or appoint a VFWR Ride Captain to lead, Arizona VFWR's to the VFW National Convention each year.

4.2.6.2.8. Submits a list of all VFWR Riders to the VFW State Adjutant in December of each year for verification of VFW status.

4.2.6.2.9. Performs other such duties as directed by the Department Commander and CofA.

4.2.7 VFWR SEB

4.2.7.1. Comprised of the VFWR State Captain, the President, and the Vice President for each VFWR Chapter.

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- 4.2.7.2. Provides oversight on VFWR activities throughout the state.
- 4.2.7.3. Convenes quarterly to discuss VFWR activities and issues no later than 2 weeks prior to CofA.
- 4.2.7.4. Acts as advisors for any VFWR Chapter having issues in the state.
- 4.2.7.5. Each Chapter's vote on the SEB will be based on the Rider membership in the Chapter. Each Chapter will receive one SEB vote for every 5 Riders in good standing (for example if Chapter A has 10 Riders and Chapter B has 16 Riders, Chapter A's vote is worth 2 and the vote of Chapter B is worth 4 - as Chapter B has more than 15 Riders – they round up to the next number for voting purposes). SEB decisions will be binding for all Chapters.
- 4.2.7.6. If at such time the SEB determines that funds are needed at the Department level for VFWR related items (i.e. annual LLC fees or insurance fees), such funds will be divided by the number of Riders in good standing throughout the State. Each Chapter will then raise such funds to be provided to the State Captain. The State Captain will provide a full accounting of such funds to the Department and SEB Representatives.
- 4.2.7.7. Set the minimum dues state wide during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the calendar year meeting.
- 4.2.7.8. Set the amount of New Rider Fee for all Chapters in the state during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the calendar year meeting.
- 4.2.8. Chapter Officers. Each Chapter will have elected officers. Officers must first be a Rider of the Chapter, having fulfilled the requirements as laid out in Paragraph 5 below, and fulfilling any additional requirements for membership as determined by the Chapter or Department.
- 4.2.8.1. Elected Officers. At a minimum, the following elected offices will be held. Without these five elected offices, a Chapter cannot exist. A Chapter that fails to maintain such offices will be considered for closure by the SEB. A new Chapter that wishes to open must also have at least 5 Riders willing to hold these five offices. These five officers will comprise the CEB.
- 4.2.8.1.1. President.
- 4.2.8.1.1.1. Serves as Chief Administrative Officer of the Chapter and presides over all meetings.

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4.2.8.1.1.2. Oversees the Chapter Officers in the execution of their duties.

4.2.8.1.1.3. Supervises all affairs of the Chapter.

4.2.8.1.1.4. Appoints committee or special function chairs as needed.

4.2.8.1.1.5. Represents their Chapter at the SEB and reports back to the Chapter all decisions made that affect the Chapter.

4.2.8.1.1.6. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB and the General Membership.

4.2.8.1.2. Vice President.

4.2.8.1.2.1. Assumes the duties of the President in his/her absence.

4.2.8.1.2.2. Assists the President in the performance of his/her duties when called on to do so.

4.2.8.1.2.3. Serves as the Chapter's Public Affairs Officer unless a chair is appointed to assume these duties.

4.2.8.1.2.4. Represents their Chapter at the SEB and reports back to the Chapter all decisions made that affect the Chapter.

4.2.8.1.2.5. Serves as the Chair of any special committees formed by the Chapter unless a committee chair is appointed to assume these duties.

4.2.8.1.2.6. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB and the General Membership.

4.2.8.1.3. Sergeant At Arms (SAA).

4.2.8.1.3.1. Acts on behalf of the Vice President during any absences.

4.2.8.1.3.2. Oversees the Road Captain in the performance of his/her duties.

4.2.8.1.3.3. Maintains order during Chapter meetings.

4.2.8.1.3.4. Appoints security personnel during events as necessary to avoid incidents.

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4.2.8.1.3.5. Ensures eligibility of those participating in Chapter elections, and ensures ineligible persons are not allowed to participate in the vote.

4.2.8.1.3.6. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB and the General Membership.

4.2.8.1.4. Secretary.

4.2.8.1.4.1. Keeps a full and accurate record of all proceedings at the meetings.

4.2.8.1.4.2. Provides detailed minutes of all Chapter meetings to the general membership within five days of the meeting.

4.2.8.1.4.3. Handles all correspondence of the Chapter.

4.2.8.1.4.4. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB and the General Membership.

4.2.8.1.5. Treasurer.

4.2.8.1.5.1. Responsible for all finances of the Chapter.

4.2.8.1.5.2. Be bonded through the VFW State Quartermaster. The bond amount will be decided by the CEB.

4.2.8.1.5.3. Disburses and collects funds as directed by the general membership.

4.2.8.1.5.4. Provides detailed financial reports at each regular meeting.

4.2.8.1.5.5. Serves as the Membership Officer in charge of recruitment unless a chair is appointed to assume these duties.

4.2.8.1.5.6. Keeps membership records as may be required, to include the member activity records.

4.2.8.1.5.7. Submits a list of all Chapter Riders to State Captain no later than 1 December of each year for verification of VFW status.

4.2.8.1.5.8. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB and the General Membership.

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4.2.8.2. Appointed Officers. Each Chapter may establish Appointed Officers within their Chapter. Appointed Officers will be appointed by the CEB and approved by the general membership at a regularly scheduled meeting. The following Appointed Officers and their associated duties are provided as suggestions only.

4.2.8.2.1. Historian.

4.2.8.2.1.1. Compiles and maintains records to document activities of Chapter, including written and photographic documentation.

4.2.8.2.1.2. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB.

4.2.8.2.2. Webmaster.

4.2.8.2.2.1. Runs the Chapter website.

4.2.8.2.2.2. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB.

4.2.8.2.3. Membership Chair.

4.2.8.2.3.1. Relieves the Treasurer of responsibility for maintenance of membership records as may be required by the general membership.

4.2.8.2.3.2. Collects membership dues, and provides same to Treasurer on a regular basis.

4.2.8.2.3.3. Reviews and/or collects eligibility documentation as required by the general members, Department, or State and Local laws.

4.2.8.2.3.4. Provides detailed membership reports at regular meetings of the Chapter.

4.2.8.2.3.5. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB.

4.2.8.2.4. Chaplain.

4.2.8.2.4.1. Provides invocation at regular meetings or other activities as may be required by the general membership.

4.2.8.2.4.2. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB.

4.2.8.2.5. Road Captain.

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4.2.8.2.5.1. Responsible for all logistics of organized rides of the Chapter, including determination of dates, times, routes, and meeting places for those taking part in a VFWR activity.

4.2.8.2.5.2. Appoints, directs, and dismisses Assistant Road Captains as may be required by activities and/or circumstances of the Chapter.

4.2.8.2.5.3. Ensures all members are instructed in VFWR riding rules and formations.

4.2.8.2.5.4. Ensures Liability Waivers are signed by guests prior to each ride.

4.2.8.2.5.5. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB.

4.2.8.2.6 Safety Officer.

4.2.8.2.6.1. Responsible for planning for the safety of Chapter members during participation in any VFWR or activity; and for planning for the safety of other participants in any Chapter-sponsored ride or activity.

4.2.8.2.6.2. Ensures all members are instructed in VFWR riding rules and formations.

4.2.8.2.6.3. Assists Road Captain in ensuring Liability Waivers are signed by guests prior to each ride.

4.2.8.2.6.4. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB.

4.2.8.2.7. Photographer.

4.2.8.2.7.1. Responsible for photographing rides, events, and meetings to be posted to the Chapter website and/or retained in the Chapter's historical records.

4.2.8.2.7.2. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB.

4.2.8.2.8. Quartermaster.

4.2.8.2.8.1. Responsible for keeping track of all Chapter property.

4.2.8.2.8.2. Provides a list of items with costs for consideration of purchase to the CEB and general membership as required.

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4.2.8.2.8.3. Responsible for care and keeping of Chapter property in his/her possession.

4.2.8.2.8.4. Provides monthly report of Chapter property to CEB.

4.2.8.2.8.5. Performs other such duties as directed by the CEB.

4.2.9. Consideration for Office.

4.2.9.1. Any Rider in good standing is eligible to serve in any office of their Chapter, with the following exceptions:

4.2.9.2. No one shall hold more than one elected office in any Chapter of the VFWR.

4.2.9.3. No two members of the same family will simultaneously serve as members of the CEB where both members of the family have access to the Chapter finances.

4.2.9.4. In order to ensure that Potential officers are fully aware of the personality of, and issues at their Chapter, no Rider having been less than one calendar year shall be considered for any office of their Chapter, unless the Chapter itself has been in existence for less than one calendar year. In the event that no Riders fulfilling this requirement are available or willing to serve, compliance to this paragraph is waived in favor of survival of the Chapter

4.2.10. Nomination/Election of Chapter Officers.

4.2.10.1. Elected Officers of the Chapter shall be nominated and elected through an annual nominating and balloting process as determined by the general membership and defined within the Chapter By-Laws. Nominations for Elected Officers can occur 90 days prior to the elections. Once nominations are accepted by the members, the nominees can shadow their respective officer in the fulfillment of their duties to ensure they are aware of and willing to accept the responsibilities required of these positions. Officers (past and/or present) may be nominated and hold an office for subsequent years if so voted and elected by the Chapter.

4.2.10.2. Election of officers will take place annually in December. Elected Officers serve for one year and assume office in January following the annual election.

4.2.10.3. A nominating method will be employed as determined by the general membership and reflected in the Chapter By-Laws.

4.2.10.4. Only those Riders of the Chapter in good standing at the time of nominations shall be allowed to make a nomination.

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4.2.10.5. Only those Riders of the Chapter in good standing at the time of nominations and who will fulfill requirements for officers by the time elections are held, shall be allowed to accept a nomination.

4.2.10.6. Determination of eligibility shall be made by the SAA using membership records of the Chapter and whatever means of identification of the member as deemed necessary by the general membership.

4.2.10.7. A balloting method (show of hands, secret ballot, etc) shall be consistently employed as determined by the general membership and reflected within the Chapter By-Laws.

4.2.10.8. Only those Riders of the Chapter in good standing at the time of election shall be allowed to vote.

4.2.11. Abandoned/Vacated officer positions.

4.2.11.1. If any officer (elected or appointed) misses two consecutive meetings (for unexcused reasons, as determined by the CEB), their office will be considered vacated and the CEB will appoint, with the advice and consent of the Chapter, a replacement to fill the position until the next regular elections.

4.2.11.2. If the office vacated is that of the President, the Vice President assumes the office and the CEB appoints a new Vice President with the advice and consent of the membership.

4.2.11.3. Should both offices of President and Vice President be vacated, a special election will be held to fill these positions for the remainder of their annual terms. A special election will be held in the same manner as an annual election and is presided over, in descending priority order, by the SAA, Secretary and Treasurer.

4.2.12. CEB. The CEB consists of all five elected Officers. This board meets at the discretion of the President. The responsibilities of the CEB are as follows:

4.2.12.1. Holds regularly scheduled meetings that are posted on the Chapter calendar.

4.2.12.2. Considers and drafts Chapter policy and guidance to be presented to the general membership for discussion and resolution.

4.2.12.3. Advises on candidates to fill appointed positions and unexpected vacancies of elected Officer Positions (except for the President).

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4.2.12.4. Approves and authorizes expenditure of Chapter funds within the following guidelines.

4.2.12.4.1. CEB expenditures are limited to \$150.00 per month for needs of the Chapter.

4.2.12.4.2. All expenditures will be approved by the majority of the CEB and must be reported to the Chapter at the next scheduled general membership meeting.

4.2.12.4.3. Expenditures exceeding \$150.00 require prior approval by the Chapter at a regularly scheduled meeting.

**5. MEMBERSHIP.**

5.1. VFWR members will not at any time hold membership in more than one VFWR Chapter.

5.1.1. This provision does not preclude a member from holding office in any Governing or Guiding Chapter organized from amongst groupings of Chapters, including District, Department, Regional, or National Chapters, as seen fit by any commensurate organizational level within the VFWR.

5.2. Membership Types and Requirements. There are four recognized "classes" of membership within the VFWR. The designation of "Founding Member" is reserved to honor those members who originally founded the VFWR and will not be used by Chapters in Arizona.

5.2.1. Charter Member. Charter Members are those members who helped to start a Chapter and are listed on the Chapter's charter.

5.2.1.1. Charter Members must meet all requirements for Full Membership, as defined in paragraph 5.2.2 below.

5.2.1.2. They shall have certain privileges and responsibilities for as long as they remain a Chapter member in good standing.

5.2.1.3. Be allowed to wear a rocker/tab stating they are a Charter member, in accordance with paragraph 7.1.4.1.

5.2.1.4. Be allowed to attend all CEB meetings and have a vote at such meetings provided they have been a Charter Member in good standing continuous since the Chapter's inception.

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5.2.2. Full Member. Full members of the VFWR will meet the following requirements:

5.2.2.1. Current member in good standing in the VFW, VFW Ladies Auxiliary, or the VFW Men's Auxiliary.

5.2.2.2. Be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle of at least 500cc engine displacement and must possess a valid driver's license (with motorcycle endorsement) in their state of residence (military equivalents acceptable), or be the legal spouse (that meets the requirements of par. 5.2.2.1 above) of a VFWR member in good standing within the Chapter of application.

5.2.2.3. If a Rider, for any reason, other than those contained in para 5.2.3, becomes no longer a registered owner of a motorcycle meeting the requirements in para 5.2.2.2, they have 90 days to meet that requirement or will lose their eligibility for membership and will be removed from the Chapter's roles.

5.2.2.4. A Rider of a Chapter that moves into the area of another Chapter within the State of Arizona will have until the end of the calendar year to transfer into the Chapter nearest their residence.

5.2.2.4.1. The Chapter receiving the existing Rider will not charge the Rider for dues already paid to the original Chapter of membership.

5.2.2.4.2. The gaining Chapter is required to vote the existing Rider into the Chapter by a majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting.

5.2.2.4.3. Once the Rider has been voted in, the gaining Chapter will issue the Rider a patch to the new Chapter at no cost to the Rider. The gaining Chapter will take the VFWR back patch from the old Chapter, and return it to the originating Chapter.

5.2.3. Medically Retired Rider. This status can be bestowed upon those Riders who are ordered by a Medical Doctor to no longer ride motorcycles.

5.2.3.1. The Rider must have been a Rider in good standing of the VFWR in Arizona.

5.2.3.2. The CEB will review each request to enter the Medically Retired status and make a recommendation to the SEB.

5.2.3.3 The SEB will have final approval of all Riders entering a Medically Retired Status.

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5.2.3.4. Once the SEB has approved a Rider into a Medically Retired status, the Rider may remain in that status for as long as they meet all other Full Member requirements with the exception of paragraph 5.2.2.2.

5.2.4. Permanent Member. Permanent Membership is honorary within the VFWR and will only be conferred posthumously.

5.2.4.1. Any Rider who dies while in good standing will be carried on the Chapter Rolls as a Permanent Member.

5.2.4.2. Any Rider may pass their patch onto a family member in the event of their death. This will be done by signing a form stating that intention with the Membership Officer when paying their annual dues.

5.2.4.3. Any patch belonging to a Rider, who does not sign the form passing their patch to a family member, will revert back to the Chapter and be retired from service.

5.3. Membership Criteria.

5.3.1. Membership in the VFWR is restricted to by invitation only.

5.3.1.1. A Rider in good standing must nominate a person to be a Rider.

5.3.1.2. The acceptance by the Chapter will be voted upon during a regularly scheduled Chapter Meeting.

5.3.1.3. Acceptance of the new member will be by a majority vote of the general membership present at the Chapter meeting.

5.3.1.4. The new member is required to be present at the meeting during which their membership acceptance is voted upon.

5.3.1.5. Upon acceptance of membership into the Chapter, a “New Rider” processing fee will be paid. The new Rider processing fee does not constitute the purchasing of the back patch. The VFWR back patch remains the property of the Chapter pursuant to paragraph 7.1.3. of this constitution.

5.3.1.6. The new Rider will be issued the VFWR back patch, membership card, and other Welcome Package items at the next monthly meeting they attend during a Welcoming Ceremony.

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5.4. Membership responsibilities and privileges. Each member of the VFWR accepts certain responsibilities and gains certain privileges through their membership. Every member of the VFWR is required to meet the minimum responsibilities described below in order to maintain good standing within the organization.

5.4.1. Must reside within the State of Arizona.

5.4.2. At no time conduct themselves in a manner which would bring discredit upon the VFWR organization or the VFW as a whole.

5.4.3. At no time allow another VFWR member to conduct themselves in a manner which would bring discredit upon the VFWR organization or the VFW as a whole.

5.4.4. Pay dues as required.

5.4.4.1. Each Chapter will charge annual dues to their Riders. The minimum amount of dues is determined by the SEB annually. Individual Chapter's dues are set by the Chapter's By-Laws, but at no time will they be set lower than the minimum established by the SEB. Any Rider that is in arrears of dues for 60 days will be dropped from the membership roster.

5.4.5. Actively participate in Chapter activities. Minimum participation requirements are as defined in the Chapter By-Laws.

5.4.6. Help organize and conduct VFWR activities.

5.4.7. Resolve and vote on VFWR resolutions.

5.4.8. Voluntarily hold elected/appointed office.

5.4.9. Wear the VFWR back patch once issued.

5.4.8.1. Any Rider showing up at a VFWR sanctioned event without wearing their Patch is subject to a fine by the Chapter. The amount of the fine will be set by the Chapter CEB.

5.5. Continuous Years of Membership. Chapters, at their option, may provide benefits based on age and VFWR membership longevity. Each Chapter's rules concerning recognition of continuous years of membership will be contained in the Chapter's By-Laws. In support of this, formal means of tracking a member's affiliation with the VFWR are contained below:

5.5.1. Chapters are encouraged, but not required, to consider non-concurrent membership in other VFWR Chapters when determining length of membership.

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5.5.2. Chapter's will maintain membership records sufficient to establish the continuous length of time any member has been affiliated with that Chapter of the VFWR. These records are to minimally include:

5.5.2.1. Date member joined the Chapter.

5.5.2.2. Record of membership renewals.

5.5.2.3. Date of separation from Chapter.

5.5.2.4 Date of membership transfer from one VFWR Chapter to another.

5.5.3. A copy of these records shall be provided to any member surrendering their membership in the Chapter, whether voluntary or involuntary within 30 days of their written request for same.

5.5.4. A copy of this record shall be provided to other Chapters upon written request of the subject Chapter.

5.5.4.1. The request must include a signed statement of consent from the subject member.

5.6. Membership status of a VFWR member will not be released or published outside the VFW organization without the express prior written consent of the member.

5.7. Expulsion/Suspension of Members.

5.7.1. Any Rider, regardless of membership type or office held may be expelled or suspended from the Chapter by a 2/3 majority vote of the general membership at a regular Chapter meeting.

5.7.1.1. Any Rider that is to be expelled or suspended, has the right to request to appear before the Chapter Membership to defend themselves against any and all charges.

5.7.1.2. Upon being expelled the expelled Rider will immediately surrender the Chapter back patch and membership card to the Chapter SAA, or other designated CEB member.

5.7.1.3. Any expulsion/suspension will automatically be reviewed by the SEB within 10 calendar days

5.7.1.4. If the SEB agrees with the expulsion/suspension, the Rider will not be allowed to transfer membership to another VFWR Chapter within the state.

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5.7.1.5. The expelled/suspended Rider has the right to request an appearance to the SEB to plead their case. This appearance will be set at the earliest possible convenience of the SEB.

5.7.1.6. Expulsions/suspensions approved by the SEB will be considered state wide.

5.7.1.7. Reimbursement of membership dues for expelled members is forfeited to the individual's Chapters.

**6. ACTIVITIES.**

6.1. Meetings.

6.1.1. Each Chapter will hold regular monthly meetings at a date, time, and location as determined by a majority vote of the Chapter.

6.1.2. Meeting date, time, and location may be changed by majority vote at any regular Chapter meeting.

6.1.3. Meetings will be conducted in an orderly manner.

6.1.4. Any member may be dismissed from a meeting or activity/ride as a result of inappropriate behavior. Such warnings or actions will come from a VFWR elected officer, Road Captain, Safety Officer, or event coordinator for a specific event/ride. The following shall be a basis for, but not limited to, inappropriate behavior and disciplinary measures.

6.1.4.1. Wild or unsafe riding habits, especially any activity which jeopardizes the safety of the rider or other persons.

6.1.4.2. Behavior that is detrimental to the image of the organization.

6.1.4.3. Consumption of alcohol or any other potentially impairing substance by a motorcycle/vehicle operator prior to or during any riding event. Alcohol may be consumed during meetings and non riding activities at the Chapters discretion. No alcohol will be allowed on any rides until kickstands are down at the end of the ride. Any member who consumes alcohol after "kickstands down" does so at their own risk and the organization will not be held accountable/liable for that individual's actions.

6.1.4.4. VFWR members are responsible for the actions of their guests at a VFWR event. Actions of a member's guest can be grounds for dismissal of the guest and/or the member.

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6.2. Annual “Signature Events”.

6.2.1. Each Chapter should establish an annual “Signature Event.” The purpose of this event will be to raise funds for charity.

6.2.2. No less than two-thirds (2/3) of the profits from the event will go to charity. The remaining one-third may be retained by the Chapter to support other activities.

6.2.3. The charity or charities for which funds are raised will be determined through a majority vote of the general membership of the Chapter.

**7. UNIFORM.**

7.1. VFWR Back Patch.

7.1.1. The VFWR Back Patch, configured as put forth by the Founding Members, may be worn by all members of the VFWR in good standing. Each members patch will contain the appropriate symbol to identify their affiliation with the VFW (VFW, Ladies Auxiliary, Men’s Auxiliary).

7.1.2. Each Rider will be issued one (1) VFWR Back Patch. Issuance of a second back patch must be approved by the CEB. A Rider requesting a second back patch, if approved by the CEB, will pay a lease fee for the second patch which will be set by the CEB. As with the Rider’s first back patch, the second, if allowed will remain property of the association.

7.1.3. While VFWR members have earned the distinction of being members of the VFW, through having met the membership requirements of the VFW or its auxiliaries, and the privilege of wearing the VFWR back patch by their active participation in their Chapters, the back patch remains Chapter property. If a member leaves the Chapter for any reason, the VFWR Back Patch will be surrendered to the Chapter’s SAA or another designated officer.

7.1.3. 1. Riders in good standing prior to 01 January 2009, who bought their patches and did not pay the one time administrative fees, retain the right to keep their back patch.

7.1.4. The following lower rockers may be worn along with the VFWR Back Patch. The lower rocker will be smaller than the VFWR patch and touch the VFWR Back Patch (it cannot be separated):

7.1.4.1. CHARTER MEMBER: Charter Member designation of is only to be worn by those members who meet the requirements of Charter Membership of their individual Chapters.

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7.1.4.2. VFW Post Affiliation: The post number of the VFW Post the Rider belongs to may be worn on a rocker by all members of the Chapter.

7.1.4.3. At no time will any other rocker or patch be affixed to a members vest in a manner which would lead an observer to think that the rocker or patch is part of the VFWR Back Patch. This does not preclude members from wearing personal patches on their vests, so long as they are clearly not part of the VFWR Back Patch and adhere to the other uniform requirements contained within this document.

7.1.5. A back patch will be assigned a service number that will remain with that owner so long as they remain a member in good status of their Chapter. The owner of the back patch may pass them onto a family member if they so choose in the event of their death. Otherwise, the patch will revert back to the chapter and subsequently be retired from service.

7.1.6. It is the intent of this Constitution that those who are not VFWR Members in good standing do not wear the VFWR Back Patch.

7.1.7. The VFWR Back Patch and other related articles of clothing incorporating the VFW emblem must be worn in a manner consistent with the VFW emblem requirements.

7.2. Chapter Officer Patches.

7.2.1. Elected Officers of the Chapter will wear patches designating their Office within their Chapters.

7.2.2. Chapter By-Laws will reflect whether the Officer Patch is a patch or name plate. For the purpose of this document, any reference to an Officer Patch refers to either the patch or nameplate as reflected in Chapter By-Laws.

7.2.3. Officer patches will be black background with all capitalized white block lettering stating the Office held as described below:

7.2.3.1. PRESIDENT

7.2.3.2. VICE PRESIDENT

7.2.3.3. SGT AT ARMS

7.2.3.4. SECRETARY

7.2.3.5. TREASURER

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7.2.4. Appointed Officers may wear Officer Patches designating their Office, at the discretion of the Chapter. Appointed Officer patches/nameplates will be of the same design as those of the Elected Officers.

7.2.5. Officer patches (Elected and Appointed, if applicable) will be worn on the left breast of the garment to which the Officer's VFWR back patch is affixed.

7.2.6. Officer patches will be provided to the officer (at the Chapter's expense) at the time of their election/appointment to their office. It is the responsibility of the Officer to have the patch sewn on prior to the next occasion they wear their garment to which the VFWR back patch is affixed.

7.2.7. Officers leaving an elected/appointed position, in good standing, will be allowed to keep their Officer patch as a "memento of their service".

7.2.7.1. Chapter By-Laws will reflect whether the Former Officer may wear an Officer patch reflecting the Riders past positions in the Chapter.

7.2.7.2. If a Chapter allows the wearing of Past Officer patches, the patch must have the word "Past" in front of the office held.

7.2.8. Officers leaving an elected/appointed position, in any other status, will surrender the Officer patch to the SAA.

7.3. Dress.

7.3.1. Each Chapter is free to set standards to which Chapter members are attired, unless superseded by the oversight of a formally recognized Department Chapter's requirements, pursuant to the following:

7.3.1.1. The VFWR is a program of The VFW, and as such, members are representatives of the VFW. It is strongly recommended that members dress in a manner that promotes a positive image for the VFW, particularly when operating in group activities or interacting with the community.

7.3.1.2. The VFWR is a family oriented group and all dress and apparel worn should be in good taste that can be worn in any environment that has women and children present.

7.3.1.3. VFWR members are encouraged to exercise all of their Constitutional rights, to include those of the Second Amendment. The carrying of weapons will be done in accordance with applicable State and Federal Laws. At no time will a firearm be openly carried during any

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VFWR event. The intent of this paragraph is not to in anyway limit the rights of VFWR members, but is intended to ensure that the public image of the VFWR is maintained.

7.3.1.3.1. Those Chapters that have Dual Sport rides, where members ride motorcycles off of paved roads, may allow their members to carry firearms in the open during official riding events only where they will not be riding on paved roads.

**8. Amendments to the VFWR Arizona Department Constitution.**

**8.1 Regular Review.**

8.1.1. Each Chapter will conduct a review of the Constitution on an annual basis to determine if there are any amendments required. This review will be conducted at a date designated by the Chapter and described in the Chapter By-Laws; however it will occur in time to provide the VFWR State Captain with any proposed amendments or changes prior to 1 December of each calendar year.

8.1.2. If amendments are deemed necessary by any Chapter within the state, those proposed amendments will be provided to the VFWR State Captain, in writing, who will distribute them for review by all Chapters of the state.

8.1.3. If amendments are deemed necessary by any Chapter within the state, the VFWR State Captain will hold a SEB meeting to review and vote on the proposed amendments. The meeting concerning adoption of amendments to this constitution will be conducted as follows:

8.1.3.1. The meeting will be held during the month of January.

8.1.3.2. The meeting will be held at a location identified by the VFWR State Captain. The VFWR State Captain will make every effort to ensure that the location is geographically central to all Chapters within the state.

8.1.3.3. No Chapter may “host” the meeting, so as not to give any one Chapter undue influence of the other Chapters of the State.

8.1.3.4. The VFWR State Captain will identify a “Scribe” who will be responsible for taking minutes of the meeting. These minutes will be published to each Chapter no later than 15 days after conclusion of the meeting.

8.1.3.5. Each Chapter will send their SEB representatives to the meeting. These representatives will vote on behalf of their Chapter.

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8.1.3.5.1. If a SEB Member can not attend, the chapter may appoint another member of the CEB to take that SEB Members place.

8.1.3.5.2. If non-SEB members are to represent their Chapter, the appointed representative's name will be provided to the VFWR State Captain, in writing, no less than two (2) days before the SEB Meeting.

8.1.3.6. Each Chapter will have votes as outlined in paragraph 4.2.7.5.

8.1.3.7. Adoption of amendments will be by a majority vote of the SEB.

8.1.3.8. In the event that a majority vote cannot be reached (i.e. a tie), the proposed amendment or change will be considered rejected for that year.

8.1.3.9. Any VFWR Rider may attend the SEB meeting, and will be given a voice in any discussion, however only the SEB members (or their representatives, as described in paragraph 8.1.3.5.1 above) of the Chapters will have a vote.

8.1.3.10. Non-VFWR members will not attend the meeting, with the exception of the VFW State Commander, who may attend but will not have a vote.

8.1.3.11. All adopted amendments or changes will be effective 30 days after the end of the annual meeting and upon approval of the VFW Department Commander and CofA.

8.2. Emergency Review.

8.2.1. An emergency review and Constitutional meeting may be called by the VFWR State Captain at any time he/she deems it necessary for the good of the VFWR.

8.2.2. The VFWR State Captain will notify each of the SEB Representatives of the requirement no later than 10 days prior to the meeting.

8.2.3. The VFWR State Captain will provide each SEB Representative with the proposed amendments no later than 5 days prior to the meeting.

8.2.4. The emergency review and Constitutional meeting will be conducted in the same manner as the annual review/change meeting as described in paragraphs 8.1.3.2 through 8.1.3.9 above.