**Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association**

**Chapter 22-4**

**By-Laws**

**Revision B**

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 22-4

05/20/2018

**Page 1 of 12**

Table of Contents

Pages

Title Page 1

Table of Contents 2

Article 1: Name and Emblem 3

Article 2: Purpose 4

Article 3: Membership 5

Article 4: Membership Dues 8

Article 5: Elections 9

Article 6: Duties of Officers 10

Article 7: Meetings 11

Article 8: Delegations 11

Article 9: Detachments 12

Bylaws Revision B: May 20, 2018

**Page 2 of 12**

**ARTICLE 1: NAME AND EMBLEM**

**Section 1**

1. The name of the association is: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 22-4.

 Principle office of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 22-4 will be located at the following address: ATTN: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 22-4, 401 Sharon Avenue, Altoona PA 16601

2. Change of Address. The designation of the county or state of Combat Veterans

Motorcycle Association Chapter 22-4 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 named country 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:

b) Dated:

3. IRS Section 501(c) (19) Purposes. Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 22-4 is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and/or scientific purposes as specified in Section 501(c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code, 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. The Chapter Board of Directors (CBOD) has the authority to change the CVMA 22-4 bylaws if any part is found to be in conflict with Federal or PA state tax laws.

**Section 2**

The emblem/logo used by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is the sole property of the CVMA. The logo of the CVMA is copyrighted and requires written approval from the NBOD prior to the logo being used in any manner of sales or marketing. Any item(s) given approval and features the full copyrighted logo may then only be sold to Full Members of the Association. Modifications to the logo will be submitted for review. 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 all branches of the military service of the United States. **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 spades** represent the death that war leaves in its wake.

**Page 3 of 12**

**ARTICLE 2: Purpose**

**General:** Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Protocol.

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is formed for the betterment of communication and camaraderie between other motorcycle associations, veteran’s 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 veteran organizations.

**Section 4**

To raise awareness for the plight of POW's, MIA's and their families, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, (TBI) and other combat related medical conditions.

**Section 5**

To conduct Association functions and activities in a manner befitting the members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and as well as the association's 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.

**Page 4 of 12**

**ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP**

**Definitions:** The term "good standing" shall be defined as any person who has fulfilled the requirements for membership in the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, who is not currently under disciplinary review or probationary status for disciplinary reasons, who has paid the necessary dues and conformed to the requirements as set forth in these bylaws.

**Section 1**

**a) Full Member**:

**1**. Must be of good character.

**2**. Who is a Veteran of a foreign war, "combat".

**3**. The ONLY Acceptable proof for membership to the Combat Veterans Motorcycle

Association is a copy of one's DD 214 or Official Military Personnel File or officer/enlisted record brief which must be surrendered to the NBOD for verification.

**4**. Must own and operate a Motorcycle of 500cc or above.

**5**. 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 NBOD approval.

**6**. 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 NBOD

approval is required.

**7**. Life members, if for health reasons can no longer ride can at their discretion, remain a member in good standing with full voting privileges and can keep their patch.

**8**. 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.

**9**. Member will be assigned to a chapter upon application approval. Member's initial

assignment of chapter will be in the State of physical residence, and closest chapter.

Once membership is approved, he or she can request in writing for a change of

Chapter to the gaining and losing State Representative. Chapter affiliation to any

Chapter of his or her choosing may be requested, to include a chapter in another

state if that chapter is closer than the existing chapter and the losing and gaining

states share a common border. If the distance is shorter, the request will be

approved. The member will only have all rights as a Full Member in the State that

they claim membership in.

**Page 5 of 12**

**b) Auxiliary Members**:

**1**. Must be of good character.

**2**. All Auxiliary members must be a spouse, widow or widower of a member who is in

good standing with the CVMA. An Auxiliary widow or widower cannot sponsor an

additional Auxiliary member.

**3**. Must support the efforts of ALL branches of the United States of America's Armed

Forces and the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

**4**. Will have no vote in CVMA full member business.

**5**. Auxiliary Life Membership requires three years active in the CVMA. Auxiliary

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

Auxiliary meeting. The Full member sponsor must already be a Life Member (or

concurrently seeking Life Member status). Cost for Auxiliary Life Membership is

$100. If an Auxiliary Life Member quits or is removed for any reason, is no longer

qualified as an Auxiliary member (e.g. divorce), or the sponsor member quits or is

removed from the CVMA rolls for any reason, no refund will be made.

**c) Support members**:

**1**. Must be of good character.

**2**. Must own and operate a motorcycle of 500cc or greater.

**3**. Maximum number of support members will not exceed 10% of total CVMA full

Combat membership.

**4.** Support members must be a veteran of the United States Armed Forces.

**5**. Support members will read and abide by all CVMA by-laws applicable to them.

Sections excluded:

a) Article 5: Elections

b) Article 6: Duties of Officers.

**6**. 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 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.

**7**. Will have no vote in National CVMA business but may vote in Chapter CVMA

business.

**8**. Cannot hold a position on the NBOD or Chapter Board of Directors.

**9**. 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.

**Page 6 of 12**

**10**. Support Life Membership requires three years active in the CVMA. Support

member must be in good standing for all three years and minimum participation of

one sanctioned event per year is required, one of which must be a National meeting.

Cost of Support Life Membership is $100. If a Support Life Member quits for any

reason or is removed from the CVMA rolls for any reason, no refund will be made.

**11**. Support 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 NBOD

approval is required.

**12**. Life members, if for health reasons can no longer ride can at their discretion,

remain members in good standing and can keep their patch.

**Section 2**

By applying for membership with the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, you are giving the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and its Board of Directors the right to verify any membership application and DD 214 records or Official Military Personnel File or officer/enlisted record brief.

**Section 3**

Each member must attend a minimum of at least one (1) event hosted by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association per year. This requirement may be met by attending any one (1) of the following within the CVMA dues calendar year. Members not in compliance will have their status (via 201 file) annotated as “Not in Good Standing due to attendance”.

a) National, Regional or State sanctioned CVMA event.

b) Any Chapter sanctioned CVMA function, excluding chapter meetings, that includes the sponsoring CEB participation.

Any member that was deployed at any time during the year is exempt from meeting this requirement.

c) Member must attend a minimum of one (1) chapter meeting in the dues calendar year

Life Members and Medically Retired members are exempt from meeting this requirement.

Chapter unassigned members are also required to attend but must ensure that the State Representative is aware and able to document attendance at the event.

Chapter Officers are responsible for “looking after” their members and should make efforts to ensure all members are aware of this requirement and assist their membership attendance of one of these events.

This bylaw change will become effective starting July 1st, 2017 and be measured on the CVMA dues calendar year from July 1st through June 30th each year.

**Section 4**

All members must conduct themselves in a manner that is not an embarrassment to themselves, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, or the United States of America.

**Page 7 of 12**

**a**) In the event of misconduct by any member, under the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, the National 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.

**c)** Conduct yourself appropriately on all Social Media sites. Do not air out dirty laundry on any Social Media site. Do not use inappropriate language and pictures.

d) Derogatory or inflammatory statements about or against fellow members will not be tolerated. Do not post inappropriate language or pictures on social media while representing the CVMA.

**Section 5**

All members must possess a valid motorcycle driver’s license endorsed by their state, valid registration as well as proof of insurance for their motorcycle.

**ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Section 1**

New, or current members requiring patches of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association will obtain them through their Chapter Quarter Master at cost.

**Section 2**

Charter Members will not be required to pay annual dues and may wear the 45 patch distinguishing that they are an original starter member, or support member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

**Section 3**

Chapter will collect local dues. A $10.00 annual chapter dues will be assessed and payment is due by Apr 30 of each year for **all** members. Failure to pay local chapter dues by Apr 30th will result in a “not in good standings with chapter” remark in your 201 file. All national dues continue to go straight to national.

**Section 4**

Annual dues of $20 will be assessed for all Full Members (Combat Veterans). Dues for CVMA members deployed in a war zone will be waived. Dues for all members must be received by June 30th of each year. Dues for all new members joining between January 1st and June 30th will be considered as paid in full for the balance of the current dues year and the following dues year. Dues for new members joining between July 1st and December 31st will be for the current dues year only. If national dues are not paid by June 30th you will be dropped off the National roster on July 1st.

$10.00 annual dues will be assessed by the CVMA Auxiliary Unit.

$10.00 annual dues will be assessed and a CVMA Support ID will be issued.

**Page 8 of 12**

**ARTICLE 5: ELECTIONS**

**Section 1**

All nominees for any office must be active and in good standing in the chapter with a

minimum of one (1) full year of CVMA membership, or a minimum of six months of CVMA membership if a member of one year or more does not elect to run for office. All nominees for the chapter must be a member in good standing. Retired members cannot hold a CVMA officer position.

**Section 2**

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

**Section 3**

All chapter officers are to be nominated and elected at a chapter meeting 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.

**Section 4**

Nominations and elections to the chapter must be made at a chapter meeting. No chapter officer will be elected with less than a majority of votes cast in an election. In elections for chapter positions where there are more than two candidates, where no single candidate receives a majority of votes, the two candidates who receive the most votes will compete in a runoff election. The Commander will vote only in the event of a tie.

**Section 5**

Chapter members will be considered for re-election in the following order, Commander / Treasurer, XO / Secretary, SGT at Arms / PR. Should any elected Officer resign or be removed from the Chapter command for any reason, the BOD has the authority to replace the officer, as an interim, for the remaining period. If the resigning/removed officer has not fulfilled a year in office, a special election will be held to fill the position for the remainder of the term IAW Roberts Rules of Order.

**Section 6**

Candidates for Chapter office must declare their intentions a minimum of 30 days prior to the designated election date unless the election is to fill a vacated position due to a previous election.

**Section 7**

The Chapter members will elect all Chapter Officers and must be present during the election meeting. Notice will go out 90 days prior to the election meeting to provide ample time to ensure maximum participation. Deployed military members are allowed to vote for chapter officers via e-mail directly to the secretary. A medical exemption on attendance may be approved by the BOD on a case-by-case basis prior to the election meeting.

**Page 9 of 12**

**ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1**

The Chapter Commander will preside over all meetings of the association; act as executive officer member of all committees, issue the call for regular and special chapter meetings, schedule regular elections, and be sure they are held IAW with this constitution, and carry out the directives of the NBOD and chapter. The Commander will also receive and process all applications for CVMA membership following rules set forth by the membership for applicant qualifications prior to forwarding them to the State Representative. Is responsible for day-to-day operations of the association and shall make decisions as necessary to maintain the association's viability and order.

**Section 2**

The XO will perform all duties of the Commander in his absence and all duties assigned by the chapter.

**Section 3**

The Secretary shall keep minutes of the chapter membership meetings. The Secretary shall provide copies of minutes to chapter members and State representative. Within 15 days of meeting. The secretary will track meeting attendance for the dues calendar year (Jul 1st to Jun 30th) The Secretary will assume all duties assigned to office by the chapter.

**Section 4**

The Chapter Treasurer will collect dues and other forms of income due to the association, maintain the accounting books, make payments from the associations funds when so ordered by the chapter, sign all associations checks (along with another officers signature) and make regular reports of the associations financial status to the Board of Directors and the general membership and all duties assigned by the chapter.

**Section 5**

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) will be in charge of all the Combat Veterans

Motorcycle Associations publicity, in conjunction with and approved by the association's chapter. Duties will include; Historian, pictures, newspaper articles, TV and radio announcements the associations web site and all duties assigned by the chapter. PRO may appoint an assistant web master if need be.

**Section 6**

The Sergeant at Arms (SAA) will; maintain order during CVMA meetings; is responsible to check member ID cards before each chapter meeting; is the chapters Point of

Contact for all discipline issues; assume all duties assigned by the chapter. Enforce CVMA Bylaws.

**Page 10 of 12**

**Section 7 – Appointed and Optional Positions**

a) The Chapter Chaplain (CHAP) will be appointed by the BOD, to provide spiritual guidance to the CVMA membership. CHAP will perform the Invocation at the chapter Meeting; attend all board meetings when required by the chapter

****b) The Chapter Quartermaster will be appointed by the BOD; responsibilities will be to ensure all chapter related materials IE. T-shirts, flyers, etc. for the chapter is in good standings with the National and chapter standards. All designed materials have to be approved by the chapter prior to any production of said item.

c) The Road Captain will be appointed by the BOD and serve as an advisor to the chapter on ride routes and ride preparation as needed by the chapter. The Road Captains duties will include, but not limited to, leading rides and ride planning.

d) The Detachment Commander is elected by the detachment in the event a detachment is authorized. The Detachment Commanders duties will be to lead the detachment monthly meetings in addition to all duties assigned by the chapter.

**ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS**

**Section 1**

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

**Section 2**

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

**Section 3**

Roberts Rule of Order will be applied during meetings to affect parliamentary procedures, unless otherwise amended and provided for in the bylaws.

**Section 4**

Chapter meetings will always be on the 2nd Saturday of the month unless otherwise voted on by the chapter body the month prior, meeting times and location will be determined the prior month’s meeting.

**Section 5**

The reading of the past months minutes may not be read if the chapter body has a 100% agreement not to read them.

**ARTICLE 8: DELEGATIONS**

Delegations will be appointed by the Commander, but are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, 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 Directors.

**Page 11 of 12**

**ARTICLE 9: DETACHMENTS**

**Section 1**

Detachments are sponsored by and accountable to a state chapter.

a) The Detachment members will elect the Detachment Commander.

b) State Chapter Commander is over the Detachment Commander.

c) Detachments require a minimum of 8 members.

d) Detachments may apply for Chapter status provided they meet Chapter guidelines. (See Article 10 Sections 1-5 of the National Bylaws).

Chad Williams

“Keebler”

Chapter Commander

Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association

Chapter 22-4

**Page 12 of 12**