



## PA CHAPTER 22-4

# NEW MEMBER PACKET

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# WELCOME HOME!

# **CVMA®**

We are an Association of Combat Veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who ride motorcycles as a hobby. As a registered 501c19 veterans' charity, our mission is to support and protect those who have defended our country and our freedoms. Our focus is to aid and help individual veterans, veteran care facilities, other veteran organizations, and registered charities. We sponsor and participate in many veteran related motorcycle (and other) charity events each year, and as a non-profit organization, donate to various veteran causes.

Membership is compromised of Full Members (those with verified combat service), Supporter Members (those who have non-combat service and have a strong dedication to helping veterans), and Auxiliary Members (Spouses of both Full and Support members). We have members from all 50 states and numerous countries abroad, including combat areas.

We are an ASSOCIATION and **NOT a MOTORCYCLE CLUB (MC)**. Although we may be in a geographic area/location, we do not claim territory. We do not have a club house. We do not wear cuts, but rather vests. The patch on our back is one piece.

## **CVMA HISTORY**

In 1999, the Combat Vets Motorcycle Club was introduced to the internet.

Up until the first part of 2001 many were led to believe it was a true and established motorcycle organization. Through many turns of events, it was found out that CVMC was an internet scam to bilk money from Combat Veterans. In the early months of 2001 many of the members found out this scam out and alerted on another, 45 members decided to form a Combat Veterans Association. The birth of the CVMA appeared as a non-profit

Association approximately May 1<sup>st</sup> 2001. The two main things that brought them together were motorcycles and being veterans from combat zones. The “Original 45” members adopted a patch to wear, indicating that they are the original founding fathers of the CVMA. In May 2001, the CVMA adopted the CVMA/VFW patch. This was done with the VFW’s blessing as all CVMA members were or became VFW members and entitled to wear the VFW patch. Over the next year and a half, the CVMA was well accepted at Post and Division levels within the VFW. Many meetings, conversations, and letters over this period with the VFW National BOD always sounded positive, but with no results of developing a relationship. In December 2002, the CVMA membership voted to move on towards the Association it was to become. VFW membership was no longer required, opening the CVMA up to all Combat Veterans who rode motorcycles. On 15 December 2002, it was voted that the CVMA would wear a combination of the CVMA background and the old skull logo as a one-piece patch. Membership requirements for being a new member were; Combat Veteran and rode a motorcycle as a hobby. The patch is worn by Full Members Only.



# **PA 22-4 HISTORY**

PA 22-4 was chartered in Central PA in May 2010 of the “ORIGINAL 14”. The “ORIGINAL 14” were originally with Chapter 22-1 near the Lewisburg Area. It was declared that the James E. VanZandt in Altoona, PA, would be the anchor point and would cover surrounding counties. The “ORIGINAL 14” worked diligently to grow our chapter and do great things in our communities to assist veterans.

In 2020, the chapter formed a very good / strong relationship with the Cresson American Legion. The Legion formally offered us office space within their building to maintain our property. We continue to maintain our strong relationship and utilize their building as a “home”. In 2024, We officially moved our national location to Cresson, PA.

## **MOTORCYCLE CLUBS**

### **101**

#### **RESPECT**

An MC demands respect for one reason, to recognize the deep level of personal commitment and self-discipline that a man must demonstrate and sustain to wear the club’s colors (patch). Realize that a club’s “colors” are closely guarded and the membership process is long and difficult. This respect is born out of recognition of the dedication and accomplishment. The MC strives for respect for this reason. This is true as it pertains to those

outside of the motorcycle community.

## **CLUB COLORS**

The public does not draw a distinction between different club colors. In many cases they simply cannot tell the difference. If one club causes a problem, the offending club's identity is usually either confused or ignored and the heat comes down on all clubs and riders.

## **PARTICIPATION**

A club member will not discuss any club business whether it's about membership numbers, club goings on, or any member's personal information with anyone outside of the club. They understand that they are in a MC member 24/7, regardless if they are wearing their colors or not. Everything they say or do in public can affect the club. They also understand that if they get out of line, that they are subject to be counseled for their own good and for that of the club. Wearing a patch is more than getting together for good times. It also means getting together for the other times too. It's committing themselves to a lifestyle in which they do not look for how their brothers can help them, but for ways that they can help their brothers.

If you are formally introduced to an MC member, make sure either the person doing the introduction, or you, makes sure they know you are a member of the CVMA. If you are a chapter officer, which position you hold. Under no circumstance do you interrupt to correct a mistake while that person is introducing you or while they are talking. Wait until the introduction is done & politely introduce yourself correctly.

Mike "Badass" Brown, Commander, Combat Vets PA 22-4.

Never Lie. You can politely refuse to answer a question by saying something as, "That seems like association business, and I should refer to that to one of my chapter officers to ensure you get the correct information." Be prepared

to answer questions about what the CVMA is about.

- When “showing love” (one arm embrace), **NEVER** pat them, place your hand over, on their back patch. You didn’t earn it so don’t touch it. The general rule is to pat them on the shoulder.
- Don’t ever touch any part of another MC member’s colors, which includes vest or jacket its sewn on. That is considered a serious sign of disrespect, which could cause them to educate the un-informed.

## **SHOW THEM RESPECT AND** **THEY WILL RESPECT YOU**

- If you are wearing your CVMA patch (hard or soft colors) you are considered by everyone to be a representative of the chapter. If anything were to turn bad, then the whole chapter would wind up with problems down the road.
- If an MC requests that you remove your vest or soft colors, don’t argue. Take off your vest / CVMA gear and secure it in your bike. Let a chapter officer know what MC it was so they can deal without any potential problems. If you do not take off your vest, it is your best interest to leave the said establishment.
- If an establishment has a sign indication “No Colors”, please respect that establishment. The vest or soft colors should be removed out of respect for other MCs, the policy, and the establishment. MC’s that honor “house rules” would probably be deeply offended that you didn’t. Remember, establishments choose to have this policy and it applies to all organizations. We are considered to have colors.
- Anything said about an MC member or that MC is their business ONLY. If comments, even those said in a joking manner were to get out, problems could state. Discussion outside the privacy of the chapter can start rumors, and cause the whole chapter issues.

**NEVER, EVER, leave your CVMA  
vest unattended!!!**

**NEVER, EVER SHAKE A MANS  
HAND WITH YOUR GLOVE ON!!!**

## **MC SUMMARY**

- If you are introducing yourself to an MC member, it is proper protocol to remove your glasses and hat before shaking their hand.
- We are an Association, WE ARE NOT AN MC.
- The CVMA backpatch is earned through your military service in combat operations.
- We do not claim territory.
- We are a neutral Association and do not wear any MC support patches.
- Women Combat Veterans are welcomed and in many cases are club officers.
- Do not brag about how large the local or national membership. In fact, do not discuss any business outside of the CVMA. If they ask a question and you do not know the answer. Do not lie and refer to a chapter officer.
- Do not volunteer Association information. If they ask a question about the local chapter, answer it if you can. If they start asking questions

about the number, national chain, or anything that you feel uncomfortable with answering. Refer them to your officers.

# AUTHORIZED PATCHES

- Whether worn on the front left or right of Vest. NO OTHER PATCHES SHOULD BE PLACED OVER THE US FLAG. NO OTHER PATCH SHOULD BE PLACED ABOVE THE US FLAG



- Conflict bars or other bars are authorized below the backpatch.



DESERT STORM



- If attended, you are authorized to wear patch that represents attendance. This is a simple concept, if you did not attend the event, do not wear the patch. Integrity was instilled in all of us.



2015



When in doubt, Ask your buddy or an Officer.

# NO-GO PATCHES

- No Top of Bottom Rockers around the CVMA patch.



- No % patches on your vest. Front, back, sides, upside-down, right side up. No % patches, anywhere! No DIAMOND Patches. Pins or Support items from an MC is not to worn on your vest. We do not support any one particular MC and are neutral.



# NO-GO PATCHES (CONT.)

- No Rib or Side Rockers.

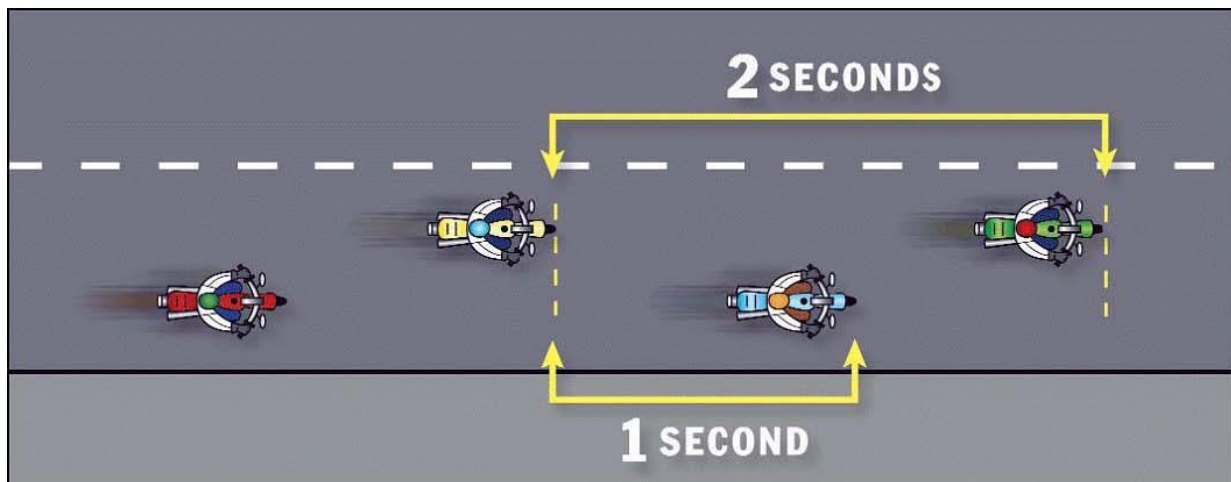


- These patches are **inappropriate**. These patches do not represent the CVMA and what we stand for. Imagine standing next to your brother at a funeral and you are displaying



# FORMATION RIDING

Unless specially briefed otherwise, the ride formation is always STAGGERED. All formations are dependent on road and weather conditions. These will be controlled by hand and arm signals sent back by the Road Captain, who leads the formation.



## RIDING IN A PACK (GENERAL GUIDE)

Chapter Road Captain leads the formation and rides in the front left position. Commander rides in the front right position. Executive Officer (XO) rides in the 2<sup>nd</sup> front left position, directly behind the RC. SGT. At Arms will ride directly behind the CC and next to the XO. Treasurer behind the XO. Secretary behind the SA. There may be a Tail Gunner that is assigned by the RC. The Tail Gunner's responsibility will maintain the pack.

# **RIDING IN A PACK**

## **(GENERAL GUIDE CONT.)**

State, Regional, or NBOD officers will always ride to the right of the Road Captain and in front of the CC, order above shifts respectively.

## **UNIFORM**

All CVMA members are expected to display their CVMA backpatch on group rides and ride in a staggered formation. If you are a beginner rider (Swallow your pride and admit it; we have all been there) try to get to the front of the pack as you will feel like you aren't playing catch-up. Riding in a pack is all about trusting your brothers/sisters. Maintain a safe distance, but try not to create a big separation which will cause a break in the pack.

## **HAND/ARM SIGNALS**

Riders should pass on hand/arm signals from the front to the back. The signals are typically initiated by the RC and are expected to be passed all the way back to the last bike / Tail Gunner.



## **COMMON EXAMPLES:**

If a rider extends his left/right leg, the rider is alerting of a hazard on the road way and you should avoid that area of the roadway.

If a rider taps the top of his helmet several times, the rider is alerting to other riders to utilize caution ahead.

If a rider places his palm to the ground in a pushing motion, repeatedly. This resembles a need to slow down or traffic has come to a quick halt.

## **COMMON SENSE (PACK RIDES)**

- Fuel: Always have a full tank **BEFORE** leaving with your brothers/sisters.
- **RIDE YOUR RIDE:** Regardless of the formation, a rider should ride his or her ride first. If you are uncomfortable, get up front where it is easier to maintain speeds. **DO NOT** ride harder, faster, or show-off if you are feeling uncomfortable. When you ride outside of your comfort zone in a pack, you put the entire group at risk. Get on your motor scoot and practice to become a better rider or ask for advice from a more seasoned rider.
- If you are having a difficult time riding with another rider, you should have a conversation with them at the next stop... or line yourself up with someone else you may feel a little more comfortable with. If you believe a member is at risk for causing harm to himself or the group, notify the SaA or Road Captain of your concerns.
- Each rider has their own responsibility. You should always be aware of your surroundings and your limits. Riders should limit any behavior that would cause an unsafe riding condition for members in the group.



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# **THE BOTTOM LINE**

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- **WE ARE A VETERAN MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION. WE ARE NOT AN MC.**
- **RESPECT IS EARNED. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO RESPECT A BROTHER.**
- **WE DO NOT RECRUIT.**
- **OFFICERS HAVE A DUTY FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIP. MISCONDUCTS / BYLAW VIOLATIONS WILL BE DEALT WITH**
- **WE ARE ALL COMBAT VETERANS. WE ALL FIGHT DIFFERENT DEMONS. SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER.**
- **YOU ARE MY BROTHER AND I AM YOUR KEEPER, AS YOU ARE MINE.**
- **PARTICIPATE. YOU WILL ONLY GET OUT WHAT YOU PUT IN. THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING GOING ON, REACH OUT TO THE OFFICERS IF YOU ARE UNSURE.**

- **IF YOU ARE A FULL MEMBER, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR AUX / SUPPORT MEMBER. (ANSWERING QUESTIONS, PAYING NATIONAL DUES, ETC.) FULL MEMBERS, DO NOT SPONSOR A SM UNLESS THEY ARE GOING TO HELP VETERANS AND/OR BE A BENEFIT TO OUR ORGANIZATION.**
- **WHEN YOU WEAR CVMA GEAR, YOU REPRESENT THE ENTIRE NATION.**
- **READ THE NATIONAL / CHAPTER BYLAWS.**  
[WWW.COMBATVET.US](http://WWW.COMBATVET.US)
- **HANDLE YOUR BUSINESS. IF YOU HAVE AN ISSUE WITH ANOTHER MEMBER, HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THE MEMBER. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO LOVE EVERYONE. BUT YOU NEED TO RESPECT EVERYONE. DO NOT CREATE DRAMA AND TALK ABOUT THE MEMBER BEHIND HIS BACK. IF THE SITUATION CANNOT BE RESOLVED, LET AN OFFICER KNOW AND IT WILL BE DEALT WITH.**
- **THERE WILL BE DISAGREEMENTS. THERE WILL UNHAPPY PEOPLE AT TIMES. BUT WE ALWAYS NEED TO REMEMBER THE CVMA IS MUCH BIGGER THAN YOU OR ANY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER.**

**COMBAT VETS FOREVER  
FOREVER COMBAT VETS**

