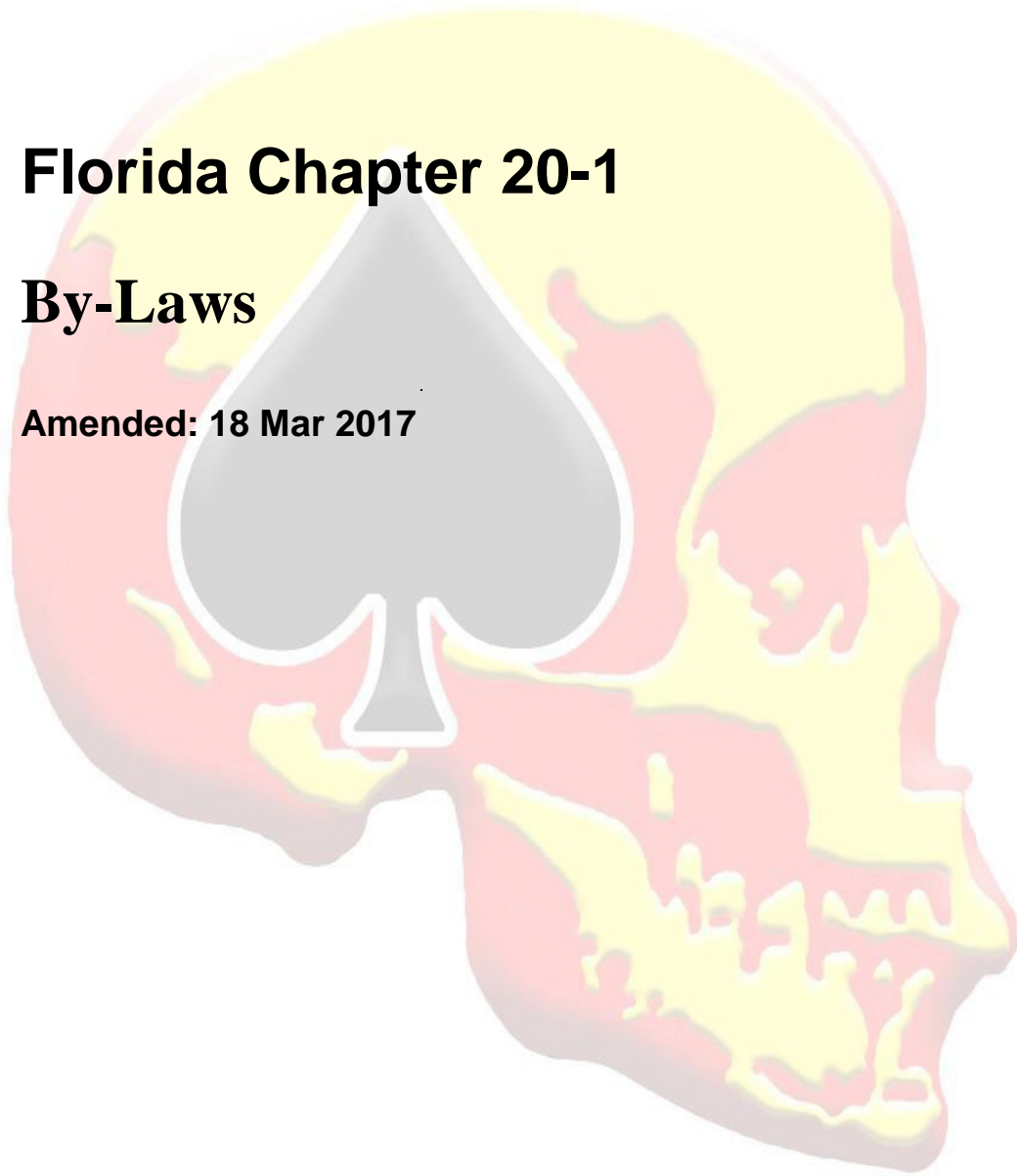


Florida Chapter 20-1

By-Laws

Amended: 18 Mar 2017



ARTICLE 1: NAME AND EMBLEM

Section 1 (a)

The name of the association is: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

- a) Principle office of the Florida Chapter 20-1 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association will be located at the following address: The current address of the elected Treasurer.
- b) Change of Address. The designation of the county or state of Florida Chapter 20-1 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 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.
- c) New Address:
Dated:
- d) Other Offices. The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association may also have offices at such other places, within or without its state of incorporation, where it is qualified to do business, as its business and activities may require, and as the board of directors may from time to time, designate.

Section 1 (b)

IRS Section 501(c)(19) Purposes. Florida Chapter 20-1 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 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 Executive Board” (CEB) has the authority to change the CVMA bylaws if any part is found to be in conflict with Federal or FL state tax laws.

Section 2

The emblem/logo used by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is the sole property of the CVMA. The CVMA patch and logo cannot be reproduced without license from the CED. 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 spade represents the death that war leaves in its wake.

ARTICLE 2: OBJECTIVES

General: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Protocol.

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association is formed for the betterment of communication

and camaraderie between other Motorcycle Associations, 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 Veteran Organizations.

Section 4

To raise awareness for the plight of POWs, MIA's and their families, Post-Traumatic 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 Florida Chapter 20-1 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.

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 has conformed to the requirements as set forth in these bylaws.

Section 1 (a)

Full Member:

- 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 DD214 or Official Military Personal File or officer/enlisted record brief which must be surrendered to the NBOD for verification.

- d) Must own and operate a Motorcycle of 500cc or above.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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.
- h) 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.
- i) Member's initial assignment of chapter will be in the State of physical residence. Once membership is approved, he or she can request in writing for a change of Chapter to the gaining and losing State Rep. 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.

Section 1 (b)

Auxiliary Members:

- a) Must be of good character.
- b) 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.
- 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 at the National level but can vote on all Chapter level business.
- e) Cannot hold a position on the CEB.
- f) 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 any 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 CVMA rolls for any reason, no refund will be made.

Section 1 (c)

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:

Article 5: Elections.

Article 6: 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 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 at the National level but can vote on all chapter level business.
- h) Cannot hold a position on the CEB. Unless the position cannot be filled with a Full member. Excluded positions are Chapter Commander and Executive Officer.
- i) Support members can wear the 10 inch support back patch which will be supplied by their sponsor.

Section 2

By applying for membership with the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, you are giving the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and its National Board of Directors/Chapter Executive Board the right to verify any membership application and DD 214 records along with any other documentation required for processing.

Section 3

Each member should attend a minimum of at least one (1) event hosted by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 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 Combat Veterans Association.

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.

a) In the event of misconduct by any member, under the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, the National Board of Directors/Chapter Executive Board 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 5

All members must possess a valid motorcycle driver's license endorsed by their state as well as proof of insurance for their motorcycle if required by the state in which they reside in.

Section 6

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

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

Section 4

Charter Members may wear the Florida Charter Member patch distinguishing that they are an original starter member, or support member of the Florida Chapter 20-1 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

Section 5

Florida Chapter 20-1 may collect local dues. A cap of \$20.00 annual chapter dues can be assessed. All national dues continue to go straight to national.

Section 6

Benevolent fund for CVMA members will be up to, but not to exceed, \$1,500.00 per incident. Chapters must help raise money on their own prior to applying for additional funds from the NBOD. Money given out will not be required to be given back. Chapters with a member in need

can petition the NBOD through their Chain of Command for funds. 20% of members' dues will be set aside for the benevolent fund.

Section 7

Annual dues of \$20 will be assessed effective March 1, 2010 for all Full Members (Combat Veterans) and \$10 for Support Members (non-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.

Section 8

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

Section 9

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

ARTICLE 5: ELECTIONS

Section 1

All nominees for any office must be active and in good standing in the association with a minimum of one (1) full year CVMA membership. Retired members of Chapter 20-1 cannot hold an officer position. Chapter officers in newly formed chapters are excluded from the one year requirement.

Section 2

All elected and or appointed officers and Chapter Executive Board must remain active members in good standing for the duration of the term while in office. Any elected or appointed member of the CEB can be removed from the CEB, by the CEB, if absent from three (3) or more chapter meetings within a twelve (12) month period. In order to remove a member of the CEB, the CEB must be unanimous in its decision.

Section 3

All officers are to be nominated and elected at the Florida Chapter 20-1 meeting in November and will assume office at the next scheduled meeting in January of the following year and hold that office for 24 months or until their successors are duly qualified. Consecutive terms are permitted.

Section 4

Nominations for Florida Chapter 20-1 CEB must be submitted and elected at the chapter meeting in November. The State Representative 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 one year.

Section 6

CEB members will be considered for re-election in the following order, Commander/Treasurer, XO/SGT at Arms, Secretary/Public Relations. Should any member of the CEB for Florida Chapter 20-1 resign or be removed for any reason, the CEB has the authority to replace the officer, and the new officer will be put up for approval by the CVMA members during the next scheduled chapter meeting. In addition, nominations for the newly filled position will be taken at that time should anyone want to apply for the position.

ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1

The Commander will preside over all meetings of the association; serve as Chairman of the Chapter Executive Board, act as executive officer member of all committees, issue the call for regular and special Chapter Executive Board meetings, schedule regular elections, and be sure they are held IAW this constitution, and carry out the directives of the Chapter Executive Board. Treasurer and Secretary Positions are both accountable to the CVMA Chapter Executive Board.

Section 2

The Executive Officer will perform all duties of the Commander in his/her absence or by his/her direction.

Section 3

The Secretary shall keep minutes of the Chapter Executive Board and general membership meetings, to include the number of members present at the meeting, broken down by status, i.e. full members, support members and auxiliary members and assume all duties of office. Chapter 20-1 by-laws will be reviewed and updated to reflect membership approved amendments.

Section 4

The 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 Executive Board, sign all associations checks (along with another officers signature) and make regular reports of the associations financial status to the Chapter Executive Board, State Representative and the general membership. He or she will also assist the Quartermaster in the purchase of supplies for the Chapter Store.

Section 5

The Public Relations Officer 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 Florida Chapter 20-1 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Associations publicity, in conjunction with and approved by the association's Commander. Duties will include: Historian, club file, pictures, newspaper articles, TV and radio announcements and the associations website. He or she will also maintain event mileage statistics and report.

Section 6

Sergeant at Arms has and will maintain order during CVMA meeting's and check members ID cards before each meeting will start. He or she shall also conduct patching and naming ceremonies when needed.

Section 7

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

Section 8

The Quartermaster is an appointed position and therefore is NOT a member of the Chapter Executive Board. This position CAN be held by any member of the organization, including support or auxiliary member. The responsibilities include maintaining and presenting the 'Chapter Store' at meetings as well as maintaining a balance sheet which may be requested by the Secretary to balance the Chapter's financial records.

ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS

Section 1

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

Section 2

See DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Article 6

Section 3

Special Membership meetings and special Chapter Executive Board meetings can be called by the Commander or two active members after notifying the Chapter Executive Board.

Section 4

Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed as the guidelines for running the 20-1 meetings.

Section 5

Meetings shall be held within 75 mile radius of the Chapter's mailing address. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the Chapter Executive Board

ARTICLE 8: DELEGATIONS

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

ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS

Section 1

These By-Laws may be altered, or repealed and new by-laws adopted only at scheduled chapter meetings by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 2

Approved and accepted amendments take effect immediately. All submissions for changes will be brought to the membership prior to a meeting and voted on at the next scheduled meeting. No By-Law changes will be submitted and voted on at the same meeting.

Section 3

Any changes to any Article and or Section of the Florida Chapter 20-1 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association will be discussed and voted on by a quorum.

ARTICLE 10: STATE CHAPTERS

Section 1

State chapters require a minimum of 15 members.

Section 2

Initial State chapters are based on when they were recognized; KY being chapter one, MA chapter two, etc. Subsequent chapters within the same state shall be numbered in accordance to their initial recognition as a full chapter within that state. Example Kentucky Chapter is KY Chapter 1-1; the next full chapter will be KY Chapter 1-2.

Section 3

Chapters should not be located closer than a 1-hour ride from a previously established Chapter within the same state unless approved by the State Rep and/or National BOD.

Section 4

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

Section 5

Chapter Commanders within the state are considered to be equal in "rank" regardless of chapter recognition dates.

Section 6

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 when they meet Chapter guidelines. (see Article 10 sections 1-5).

Section 7

Every chapter at a minimum needs to be incorporated. Each chapter that has their own checking account will stand as individual entity and will be responsible for their own audit. Each chapter or sub chapter, at their discretion can apply for tax exempt 501(c) status and will submit a yearly report to their State Representative. The State Representative will in turn submit a financial statement to the National Treasurer. The report is due following close of the business year and not later than 15 Feb. Report Needs to include an itemized list of any donations made to eligible groups (example Veterans homes) and any monies raised from chapter sponsored events and all donations received from sources outside CVMA. A detailed of expenses for chapter operations are to be included as well.

Section 8

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

Section 9

Chapters may allow deployed military members to vote for chapter officers via e-mail directly to the Secretary provided such is included in the chapter by-laws

