VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES MOTORCYCLE RIDERS GROUP

Bylaws of VFW Riders
Washington Group Chapter 2
Fred Needham Post 2669
Port Orchard, WA

ARTICLE I
SPONSORSHIP

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Motorcycle Riders Group, herein referred to as the VFWRG, is sponsored by Fred Needham Post 2669 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of Washington.

ARTICLE II
OBJECTIVES

The VFWRG is a family-oriented organization dedicated to the ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and formed for the betterment of communication and camaraderie between veterans' organizations, motorcycle enthusiasts, and the general public along with the Widows and Orphans of Combat Veterans.

The VFWRG shall:

- Develop and maintain a strong active membership.
- Promote a positive public image of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and motorcyclists.
- Develop an active and diversified list of activities designed to encourage maximum member participation and enjoyment of the VFW and the VFWRG.
- Support U.S. Military Veterans, the various programs sponsored by the VFW, and local non-profit organizations.

ARTICLE III
Section 1
MEMBERSHIP

Membership will consist of Riders, Retired riders, and Participants:

- Riders: Members who actively ride Motorcycles and participate in the functions of the Riders Group.
- Retired Riders: Members who do not ride or actively support Riders Group functions.
- Participant: Non-Riders who attend meetings and assist with Riders Group functions that are part of the VFW or Auxiliary.

All Members shall:

- Be of good character.
- Maintain membership in good standing with the VFW or its Auxiliary, if eligible.
- Attend a minimum of six (6) VFWRG Chapter Business Meetings and attend four (4) rides or sanctioned events annually. Exceptions allowed by chapter officer.
- Maintain all membership eligibility requirements as outlined in this Bylaws.

Note: Members are exempt from meeting and ride attendance requirements while deployed or in a duty/work status. Members who anticipate missing meetings or events due to a deployment or duty/work requirement must notify a Chapter Officer of their schedule so any associated absence will be counted as 'Excused'. Any member missing more than the minimum required meetings without contacting a Chapter Officer for exclusion will be considered "not in good standing" and their membership will be reviewed by the governing officers.

Section 2
Membership Eligibility

Member Applicants Shall:

- Be a member in good standing of the VFW or its Auxiliary.
- Possess a valid driver's license with proper endorsement.
- Maintain liability insurance on their motorcycle or trike.

VFW and Auxiliary Non-Rider (Participant) Members:

- Any non-riding member of the VFW or its Auxiliary desiring membership in the VFWRG may apply for membership as a 'Participant Member'.

Participant Applicants shall:

- Be a member in good standing of the VFW or its Auxiliary.
- Be governed by and follow the VFWRG Bylaws.
- Participant members shall be limited to 20% of Riders membership.

Members at Large:

- A Member at Large is defined as any person who is a member in good standing of the VFW or its Auxiliary who desires membership in the VFWRG but does not live near a VFW Post sponsoring a Motorcycle Riders Committee.
- Applications for membership in this Chapter as a Member at Large shall meet all eligibility requirements outlined in the bylaws with the exception that they are required to attend only two (2) regular meetings per year with any VFW riders' group and two (2) sanctioned Veterans events annually to maintain membership in the VFWRG
- Members at Large are encouraged to participate in as many VFWRG events as possible.
- Members at Large are encouraged to seek other interested parties qualified for VFW and VFWRG membership to help establish a VFWRG Chapter at a Post in their area.
- Members at Large shall be governed by the VFWRG bylaws of this Chapter.
- Officers and members of this Chapter shall assist any member at large in starting a VFWRG Chapter at the Post to which they hold VFW membership.

Section 3
Program Participation

- Members' motorcycles shall be of sufficient size to maintain highway operating speeds. All members must operate their motorcycles in a safe and controlled manner at all times. All members shall have Insurance on their bikes.

Section 4
Membership Voting In

- If you are a VFW or its Auxiliary Member in good standing. Membership will be granted with the application verification by the officers of this organization and general membership vote of the VFWRG.

Section 5
Code of Conduct

- All members MUST conduct themselves in a manner as not to bring discredit or embarrassment to themselves, the VFWRG, or the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or its Auxiliary organization.
- The VFWRG is NOT a Motorcycle Club, and as such, they do not seek or claim territory. They proudly display the VFW Cross of Malta, which shows they are members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or its Auxiliary, and must always conduct themselves with that representation in mind.
- Misconduct is defined as failure to abide by the Chapter bylaws.

Disciplinary Action

- In the event of a member's misconduct, under the bylaws of the VFWRG, the Chapter President and Post Commander together possess the right to temporarily revoke that member's privileges including wearing of the Chapter Patch and participating in Group activities until a special meeting can be held and the members in attendance can vote on the action to be taken per National VFW By-laws. This could result with loss of the following items. Cross of Malta patch, chapter patch, and membership in the rider's group and disciplinary action by Post. There will be no refund.

SECTION 6
Returning Members

- In the event of a previous member wanting to return to the VFW Riders, a special meeting will be held by the Officers, Post Commander, and the individual to discuss the possible reinstatement to the VFW Riders. Areas that will be covered in the meeting will be the bylaws, rules of conduct, and future expectations from the VFW Rider in question. A patch members' discussion and vote will also be held at the following meeting to allow the individual to return.

Section 7
Retirement of Membership

- In order to retain your vest with all the chapter patches, you MUST be a member in good standing and meet one of the following criteria:
- Inability to ride due to medical reason
- Leaving the area permanently and or transferring.

- No longer owns a bike and no longer rides
- Majority vote of the membership brought to the floor by the requesting member.
- No Longer pays dues or votes.
- Upon leaving the VFW Riders you shall not wear your vest in public with the VFW Riders patches on it unless you have approval of the Chapter President, and are in good standing with the VFW.
- Once retirement of the vest has been approved you will receive a patch that says "Retired" that will need to be sewn on directly under the American Flag.

ARTICLE IV
INSIGNIA
Section 1

- The emblem used by VFWRG is the Cross of Malta of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and is the sole property of the VFW and, as such, will be purchased from the VFW Supply Catalog or a licensed copyright reproducer.
- The back patch will be comprised of three patches, the Upper Patch (Veterans of Foreign Wars), the Cross of Malta and the branch of service and shall be worn below the Cross of Malta by all members who served in, and/or have been honorably discharged from active duty in any branch of the U.S. Military, or "PATRIOT" by any auxiliary member who did not serve.
- The front, top left portion of the vest shall have the US flag followed by an open space, followed by the chapter 2 patch. The open area will be utilized to identify officers, appointed position, specialty positions and support patches.
- Auxiliary members will wear the back patch in the same manner as all VFWRG members with the exception that the Cross of Malta will be replaced with the VFW Auxiliary Emblem as appropriate. The service patch may be worn by those Auxiliary members who have served in and/or have been honorably discharged from Active Duty in any branch of the United States Military. Non-veteran Auxiliary members shall not wear a Service Patch.
- Name and Position Patches for all Charter Members of the Chapter shall have a Charter Patch with a double gold border. All other members shall wear single gold border patch.

Section 2
Vest Patches

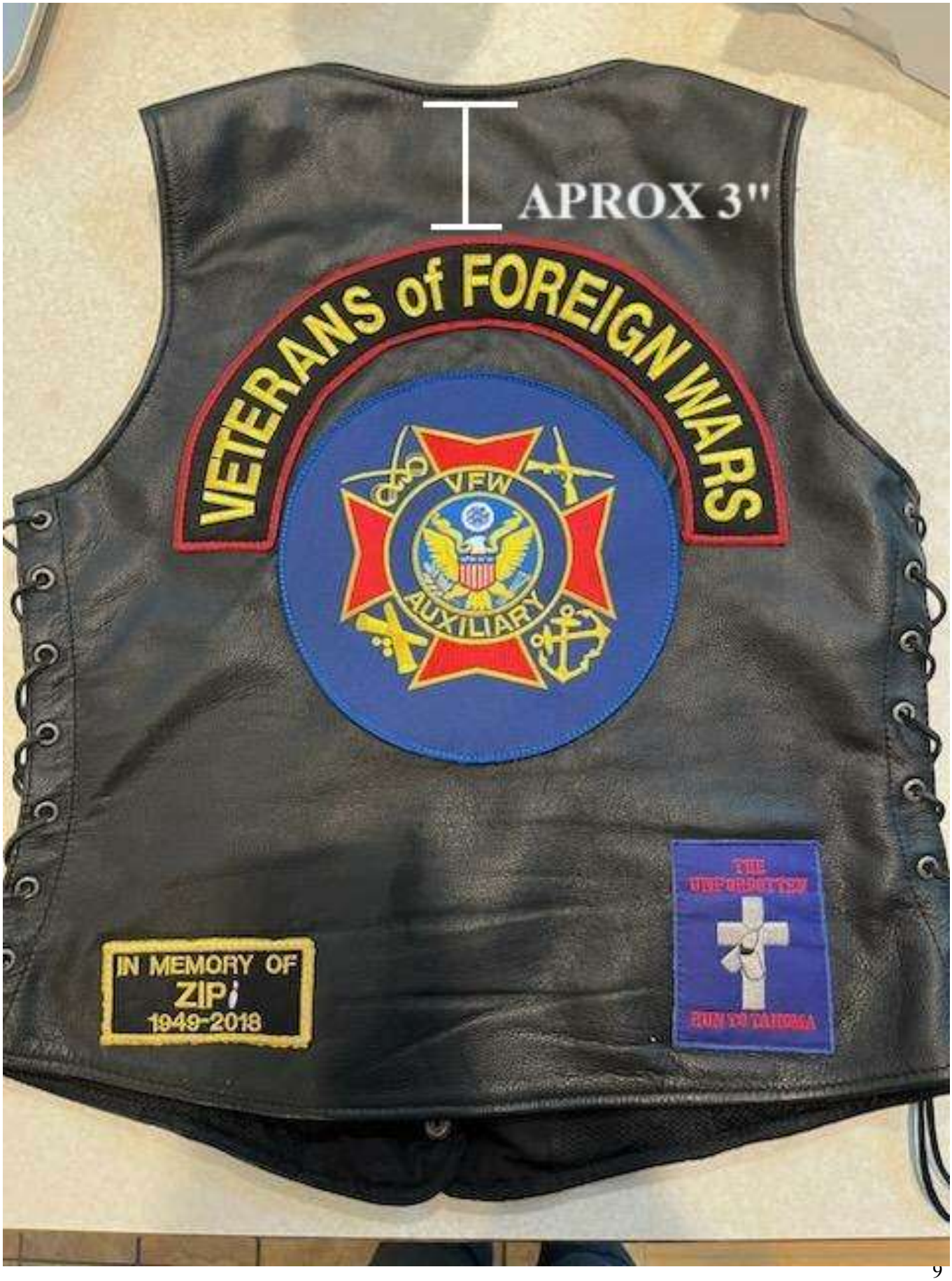
- To maintain uniformity of all VFWRG vests and patches, all required patches, including but not limited to Chapter Member, Support, and Auxiliary Member patches as well as flags, POW/MIA, Department of Washington VFW patch, Officer Positions, post number and name patches are to be purchased from the Chapter Patch Coordinator.
- Optional VFW patches authorized for wear on the VFWRG may be purchased through the Chapter Patch Coordinator at a nominal price to be set by a vote of the general membership during the Chapter's monthly business meeting and approved by the general membership.
- Personal patches may worn in good taste that are not vulgar non-political or represents the VFW in a negative way and shall not be between the outer boarders of the top rocker. Any patches that come into question will be brought to vote of the elected officers.

Section 3
Patch Layout

- Patches shall be laid out as shown in the examples below. Exact measurements are provided where required however; the actual location of patches on each vest may vary *slightly* depending on the size of the vest being used. Our patch is a two-piece patch with the branch of service or "Patriot".

EAGLE LEATHER
MONGER
CHAPTER 2
FRED NEEDHAM
VFW POST 2669
PORT ORCHARD, WA
POW•MIA
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN
WASHINGTON

APROX. 3"
VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES
U.S. NAVY


APROX 3"
VETERANS of FOREIGN WARS
VFW
AUXILIARY
IN MEMORY OF
ZIPi
1949-2018

ARTICLE V
INITIATION FEES AND DUES
Section 1
Membership dues

- VFWRG Membership dues shall be $25.00 annually for all members and shall be scheduled or formulated from time to time as prescribed by the VFWRG Chapter President and approved by the general membership.
- New member fee shall be $25.00 payable to VFWRG Treasurer upon acceptance to the group. New members joining in the last quarter of the calendar year will be paid in full for the next calendar year

Section 2
Membership Year

- The membership year begins January 1st and ends December 31st. Annual membership dues shall be collected by the Chapter Treasurer from January 1st to January 31st.

ARTICLE VI
ELECTIONS
Section 1

- Positions within the VFWRG are for 1 year and run from July 1 thru June 30.
- Nominations begin at February meeting. Voting at March meeting for VFWRG.
- The VFWRG President shall be approved by the Post Commander. Full patched members of the VFWRG shall recommend, (1) to the Post Commander. Commander will except or decline the nomination. The Post 2669 Commander will announce the selection at the monthly Post business meeting in June of each year. The newly selected officers shall assume office 01 July of that year.
- Members shall also select by majority vote, the following:
    - President
    - Vice President
    - Treasurer
- All contested elections will be conducted by closed ballots.

Section 2
The President may appoint

- Secretary
- Sergeant at Arms
- Public Affairs Officer/Historian
- Road Captains (2 minimum). Tail Gunner (2 minimum)
- Patch Coordinator
- Chaplain

Section 3
Position Eligibility

- The President may appoint (as listed in Article 7 of this bylaws) any VFWRG Auxiliary Member to hold an appointed office. That person must remain an active member in good standing of the VFWRG Chapter 2 and its Auxiliary for the duration of their term in office. Terms of office shall not exceed 1 year.
- Deployed members are eligible for appointment to any office listed in article 7 provided their deployment and/or duty schedule allows for minimum participation in VFWRG events and will not, in any way, detract from the organization's ability to carry out its mission and functions.
- All nominees will be nominated in February, elected in March and will assume office effective 1 July concurrent with the chairperson's appointed term.
- Non-Riders shall not be eligible for President or Vice President

ARTICLE VII
CHAPTER OFFICERS
Section 1
PRESIDENT

The President shall:

- Wear the position patch of "President" on their riding vest.
- Oversee Chapter Officers in the execution of their duties.
- Preside over all VFWRG meetings.
- Issue the call for regular and special meetings.
- Report directly to the Post Commander on all matters pertaining to VFWRG Chapter activities.
- Attend monthly VFW Post meetings and make regular reports to Post membership concerning the Chapter, its membership, and financial status.

Section 2
VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall:

- Wear the position patch of "Vice President" on their riding vest
- Assume the duties of the President in their absence.
- Assist the President in the performance of their duties.
- Assist the President in overseeing Chapter Officers and Sub-Committee Chairs in the execution of their duties.
- Serve as the Membership Officer in charge of recruitment.
- Perform other duties as the Chapter President may direct.
- Appoint committees and committee chairs as needed to ensure Chapter functions and hosted or sanctioned events are organized and executed in a manner which brings credit to the VFW and the VFWRG.

Section 3
TREASURER

The Treasurer shall:

- Wear the position patch of "Treasurer" on their Chapter riding vest

- Be responsible for all Committee finances.
- Maintain Committee financial records and participate in all required audits. The VFWRG financial records shall be audited a minimum of once each quarter by the hosting Post trustees.
- Collect dues and other forms of income due to the VFWRG and deposit into the VFWRG account.
- Make payments from the group funds when so ordered by the President and by a majority vote of the members present.
- Make a report of the group's financial status to the general membership at each regular business meeting.
- Perform other duties as the committee chairman may direct.

Section 4
SECRETARY

The Secretary shall:

- Take detailed minutes during all Chapter meetings.
- Provide a copy of the minutes from each Chapter meeting to the general membership within five days of the meeting.
- Keep membership records as may be required to include the member activity records.
- Manage the chapter's incoming and outgoing correspondence. The President or an appointed representative shall approve all outgoing correspondence prior to distribution, posting, or mailing.
- Shall verify all members state driver's license are valid with endorsements and proof of liability insurance annually and at installment of new members.
- Perform other duties as the President may direct.
- Shall wear patch of position.
- Maintain release of liability and wavers for a minimum of seven years

Section 5
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

- Ensure all meetings are conducted in accordance with the VFW Riders Group Bylaws
- Verify all those in attendance are members in good standing and constitute a quorum
- Keep order during all meetings and official functions of the VFWRG.
- Coordinate and manage security requirements at Group functions.
- Act on behalf of the Vice President during their absence.
- Perform other duties as the Chapter President may direct.
- Shall wear patch of position

Section 6
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER/HISTORIAN

The PAO/Historian shall:

- Compile and maintain files of written and photographic records of Chapter activities.
- Coordinate VFWRG web content requirements with the Post Webmaster for the Chapter webpage.

- Take charge of all VFWRG Chapter publicity as approved by the chapter President and the general membership.
- Perform other duties as the Chapter President may direct.

Section 7
ROAD CAPTAINS/ TAIL GUNNERS

The Road Captains shall:

- Plan all organized Group rides to include date, time, route and logistics. Assign a
- Ride Captain And ensure ride brief is given.
- Be responsible for coordinating all safety requirements in support of Chapter events and activities.
- Appoint, direct, assist and train Assistant Road Captains as required in support of Chapter riding events.
- Ensure Liability Waivers are signed by each guest prior to any ride.
- Ensure all members are instructed in VFWRG formation riding rules.
- Perform other duties as directed by the Chapter President

ARTICLE VIII
CHAPTER MEETINGS
Section 1

- *Roberts's rules* and VFW Congressional Charter Bylaws will be applied during Chapter meetings unless otherwise amended and provided for in the VFWRG Bylaws.
- Chapter meetings shall be held the first Monday of each month at VFW Post 2669. Meetings will be called to order at 1800 unless otherwise voted on.
- A quorum for conducting business shall be; at least 5 active members plus two (2) elected officers.

Section 2
Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called:

- At the discretion of the Chapter President.
- As Chapter events or circumstances dictate with 72 hours notice.
- By a 2/3's majority vote of the General Membership present to address special situations or issues.
- Shall have enough members to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX
BYLAWS AND BY LAW CHANGES

- Shall be reviewed annually prior to election of new Chapter Officers.
- A Review committee will be appointed by the Chapter President. The Review Committee shall solicit change recommendations from the general Membership at the regular Chapter Business meeting in April. Proposed changes, additions, and/or deletions to the Bylaws shall be reviewed by the Committee and a proposed draft of all changes shall be reviewed by the General Membership at the May Business Meeting. All changes shall be finalized by a majority vote of

the General Membership and the new Bylaws be signed by the incoming President in June of each year.

- A copy of the new Bylaws shall be provided to each member of the Group and the Post Commander.

Approved by: _____
President Date

Approved by: _____
Commander, Post 2669 Date