

2024-2025



DEPARTMENT OF UTAH
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

**VFW RIDERS GROUPS (VFWRG)
BYLAWS**

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BYLAWS FOR UT_VFWRG

The purpose of this document is to specify the rules and code of conduct for the UT_VFWRG and its Districts and Post Riders. As agreed, upon by the general membership, these rules and bylaws will be minimal and brief, to facilitate the purpose of the UT_VFWRG: “To ride together and have fun”.

All rules written in this document are to be always adhered to by all members and if violated will be dealt with accordingly. In a circumstance in which the UT_VFWRG Bylaws do not specifically address an issue or situation, the VFW Bylaws can be used as a guiding document at the discretion of the current elected officers of the UT_VFWRG.

Table of Contents

Statement of Policy	4
General Comments	5
Purpose	5
Mission	5
Membership	5
By-Laws/Standard Operating Procedures	7
Elections	8
Officers	8
Meetings	12
Uniform/Patches	13
Ride Formation	14
General Conduct Rules & Regulations	15
Reporting	16
Waivers and Liability	16
Dues/Fees	17
Purchases	17
Dissolution	17
Other	17
Definitions	19
Approved Utah RG Patches	20
Vest Setup	20
Etiquette & Respect Guide	21
VFWRG Registration Form (Post)	23
VFWRG Registration Form (District)	24
VFWRG Registration Form (Department)	25
VFWRG Membership Form	26
Release & Waiver of Liability	27

STATEMENT OF POLICY

VFW National By-Laws, Sec. 709 (excerpt) 2022 VFW By-laws and Rituals

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall not be responsible for the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions nor the contractual obligations or debts of any Post, County Council, District or Department nor for the negligent or wrongful acts or omissions or contractual obligations or debts of any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of any Post, County Council, District or Department. Any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and all funds derived there from shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department.

All money, property or assets of any kind or nature, as well as all books and records, owned, held or used by any activity, clubroom, holding company or unit sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or in behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be the property of such Post, County Council, District or Department and must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. Such money, property, assets, books and records shall be subject to the same rules and under the same procedure as any other Post, County Council, District or Department money, property, assets, books and records.

VFW ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NATIONAL)

A VFWRG Advisory Committee may be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief and consist of a minimum of one member, from four different Departments, who enjoy the pastime of motorcycling and monitor trends in motorcycling, policy, practices at the local, state, and national levels; and other members as may be appropriate.

The committee shall advise on topics relating to group riding; assist in the coordination and execution of sponsored ride activity, to include the annual Vander Clute Memorial Motorcycle Ride; provide guidance to groups and their sponsoring unit (a Post, County Council, District or Department) to promote safe riding.

VFW RIDERS GROUP CHAIR (DEPARTMENT)

It is encouraged that Departments, with multiple VFWRG's, form a Department Riders Group Chair utilizing the principles established above.

REGISTRATION

Each Post, County Council, District and Department shall register its riders' group, using a form designated by the Adjutant General, and be required, from time to time, to update group contact information. Information provided will be used to promote and disseminate information regarding VFW organized riding events and VFW policy recommendations.

In addition, any unit adopting a uniform utilizing registered mark of the VFW, shall register and seek

approval of said design in accordance with section 803 of the National By-Laws/Manual of Procedure and this policy.

Utah Veterans of Foreign Wars Riders Group (UT_VFWRG)

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

- a. UT_VFWRG is **NOT** a Motorcycle Club (MC)
- b. UT_VFWRG is a family-oriented group.
- c. Discrimination based on race, religion, gender, or any other protected class will not be tolerated.
- d. UT_VFWRG will abide by the laws and usages of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- e. UT_VFWRG will abide by all Federal and State Motorcycle laws.

THE UT_VFWRG ARE NOT, NEVER HAVE BEEN NOR EVER WILL BE CLASSIFIED AS A MOTORCYCLE CLUB OR MC! NOR WILL THE UT_VFWRG WEAR AN MC CUBE OR 1% DIAMOND IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS PATCHES! IN ADDITION, WE AS VFW RIDERS WILL NEVER WEAR ANY 'SUPPORT' PATCHES OR TABS, EXCEPT THOSE IN SUPPORT OF THE VFW RIDERS.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the VFW Riders is to support the VFW by promoting the public visibility of the VFW, its programs, and the VFW National Home through community service and participation in veteran's service events, through responsible motorcycling in our community. We will promote motorcycle riding and veteran's service with an active membership and provide a positive model for motorcyclists and veterans alike.

3. MISSION

- a. Develop and maintain a strong active membership.
- b. Promote the values of the VFW.
- c. Promote vibrant service to our nation's veterans through VFW programs.
- d. Promote a positive public image of the VFW and motorcyclists.
- e. Promote the value of community service.
- f. Promote and encourage motorcycle safety programs and awareness.
- g. Develop an active and diversified list of activities designed to encourage maximum Member participation and enjoyment of the VFW and the VFW Riders and in support of VFW Service Programs.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Utah Veterans of Foreign Wars Motorcycle Riders Group is a motorcycle group made up of members in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), VFW Auxiliary and invited participants who enjoy the pastime of motorcycling.

There are Six (6) classes of membership:

Member Classes

a. Full Member or Charter Member;

Any Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, Veteran or Qualified VFW Auxiliary member that is in good standing member of the VFW or it Auxiliary. This is a voting member.

i. A full member in good standing is:

1. Paid all dues.
2. Attending general meeting or UT_VFWRG ride in the last three months.
I.E. Charter Ride/ Charter activity is You and Two other full members on a

ride/activity together.

3. A member not in good standing does not have any voting rights until they are back in good standing for three months.

b. **Potential Member or Private;**

A rider who desires to become a UT_VFWRG.

- i. There is a \$50 (Refundable) payment to join the 'Private' program. The \$50 goes towards that members' first patch if they pass the 'Private' Program.
- ii. Privates are required to purchase a blank vest in good condition. This is to show a Potential Member is serious about joining. Within the first 30 days.

c. **Absentee Member.**

A Full Member who has relocated or temporarily moved out of state. Voting rights are suspended.

d. **Honorary Member.**

A surviving spouse or significant other of a fallen VFW Rider. This is a non-voting member.

e. **Retired Member:**

Any Chapter Member in good standing can petition the Chapter for "retired" status. Retired status will be granted to the petitioning member by a majority vote by the Chapter. Retired Members are not required to pay dues but will forfeit their voting privilege and will be exempt from the attendance requirements. Retired members will maintain their Patches. Retired Members may request and be granted active "Full Patch Member" status. A vote to reinstate will take place at the end of the next Chapter meeting, attended by a minimum of 50% of voting Chapter Members. Retired Members will only wear their Patches at official VFW Rider functions.

- i. A member may retire if the following is met.

1. Medical Retire must be in good standing for 2 years and cannot ride anymore do to medical reasons.
2. Full Retired must be in good standing for 5 years.
3. A sabbatical may be requested from a member that is in good standing for 2 years.

f. **Support Member:**

A non-riding individual who chooses to support the VFW Riders by wearing a patch that acknowledges their support. A spouse or significant other or immediate family member of a VFW Rider who is in good standing with the Charter, and who's Support nomination is ratified by the Charter. A Support status will be terminated with the chapter when the original relationship that gave the spouse or significant other the "support" designation is dissolved by divorce, or notification is provided to the office board of the demise of the relationship by the member who qualified the "support member". A Support patch wearer does not pay any annual dues.

- b. If a member leaves the VFW Riders UT_VFWRG for any reason, he/she shall surrender their Patches to a Sergeant at Arms. Request for retention of Patches shall be reviewed by the Executive Board and voted on by the general membership.
- c. For any further additions to the membership options listed above there must be a unanimous vote by the general membership to reflect the unanimous decision by the membership to incorporate a new membership option into the UT_VFWRG by laws.
- d. All members shall have the right to attend any meeting of the UT_VFWRG and to participate in any events sponsored by or involving the VFW Riders. The only time that a meeting maybe closed to members of the UT_VFWRG is when an event has occurred, and the information discussed needs to remain confidential for a period of time. A vote must be carried in order to close a meeting.
- e. Full Members shall have a vote in any issue brought before the General Membership, vote in the election of officers, and shall be eligible to serve as officers.
- f. Members and participants must be the legally registered owner of a street-legal motorcycle and must possess a valid motorcycle driver's license in their state of residence and maintain proper levels of insurance; or passenger thereto; or non-riding persons volunteering on behalf of the group in an active supporting role.

g. **Participants**

- a. Persons, otherwise, not eligible for the VFW or VFW Auxiliary, will be permitted to become UT_VFWRG participants provided such policy is adopted by the sponsoring unit.
 - b. Such participant classification does not constitute membership in the VFW or VFW Auxiliary nor come with the promise of any material, financial, or other benefit to the UT_VFWRG, its members or committee; nor to any other member at any other organizational level within the VFW or VFW Auxiliary; nor will there be any similar gains for the honoree through the conferring of "participant" status but is intended as a means to provide recognition to those who show strong support to the VFW/UT_VFWRG stated purpose.
 - c. Persons, otherwise, not eligible for VFW or VFW Auxiliary, who subsequently become eligible for VFW or VFW Auxiliary membership, must join.
 - d. During all rides and UT_VFWRG functions, anyone interested in becoming a Charter member should make every attempt to meet ALL sitting members of the UT_VFWRG by introducing his/herself, shaking hands, and making sure that the sitting members know he or she is serious about becoming a member of the UT_VFWRG.
- h. **Private Program:**
 All Potential Members will participate in the "Private Program". This individual will spend a set time in orientation and familiarization, with a membership review every three (3) months. This is a delayed entry program which enables both the UT_VFWRG and the Potential Member to evaluate each other for fitness within the Charter, and is designed to show the UT_VFWRG that the individual is dedicated to UT_VFWRG and has a good grasp on the UT_VFWRG culture, direction, proper etiquette for The UT_VFWRG and other Motorcycle organizations. The Potential Member must have a sponsor that is a full Member in good standing that will assist and mentor the Potential Member in the "Private program". After the prescribed period of three (3) months a vote shall be conducted by the general membership to grant the Potential Member full membership, require continuation in the "Private program", or declare the Potential Member as unfit to join UT_VFWRG. A simple majority vote will carry any of the above actions.
- a. Private: Potential Members
 - b. Must be a member of the Department of Utah VFW or its Auxiliary.
 - c. Private will pay a \$50 (Refundable) payment to join the Private program. The \$50 goes towards that members' first patch if they pass the Private Program.
 - d. Privates are required to purchase a blank vest in good condition. This is to show a Potential Member is serious about joining.
 - e. Privates are not allowed to add or remove patches from their Privates vest without Officer Approval.
 - f. Private will need to show his/her ability to ride safely individually and as a group.
 - g. Private will be required to complete Ten (10) approved rides.
 - h. Private will be considered a Private until all rides have been completed and they have been an active member for more than 90 days. Time frame can be extended by Officers if deemed necessary.
 - i. Private must be at least 18 years old.
 - j. Private must show a sincere interest in Charter and bikes.
 - k. Top 5 Officers can pull a private's patch at their discretion.
 - l. Private must attend all meetings and Charter functions.

5. BY-LAWS/STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/ADOPTED RULES & REGULATIONS

- a. Sponsoring Districts or Posts shall establish By-Laws, a standard operating procedure, or adopt additional rules and regulation for the governance of their UT_VFWRG. Such By-Laws, procedures, or rules shall be subordinate to and consistent with the By-Laws of the sponsoring District or Post.
- b. UT_VFWRG may propose By-Laws, a standard operating procedure, or propose additional rules and regulation for the governance of the unit. Such By-Laws, procedures, or rules shall only become effective upon the approval of the sponsoring unit by a majority vote of

members present at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose.

6. ELECTIONS

- a. An election shall be held every year during April's monthly meeting. The Secretary shall invite nominations for each of the four (4) offices at the March meeting. Any member in good standing may nominate another member of good standing for an office by contacting the Secretary. The Secretary shall then determine if the nominee is eligible to serve under the conditions set forth in these by-laws. If the nominee is eligible, the Secretary shall contact the nominee and determine if he/she is willing to serve; if so, the nominee's name shall be placed on a ballot to be included at the April meeting. If so desired, each nominee will have an opportunity to speak at the April meeting prior to any voting.
- b. All candidates will have served as a full member in the UT_VFWRG for one full year prior to taking office. Candidates may campaign prior to election but must have served for a full year as a member of the UT_VFWRG prior to taking office.
- c. Any new UT_VFWRG Charter will not have to adhere to the One (1) year rule when setting up first Leadership.
- d. One (1) Year rule can be waived on a case-by-case basis only by the Department of Utah Commander
- e. When you are elected and confirmed an officer you will be asked to provide a copy of your DD-214

7. OFFICERS

Officers must be a Full Member in good standing. Officers will be elected by Full Members in good standing. The term of each officer shall be one (1) year and shall begin on 1st day in July and end on the 30th Day in June, One (1) years later. Officers will receive one vote in an officer election.

Any officer, board member, committee or charter member may resign by written notice to the Secretary, or in the case of the resignation of the Secretary, by written notice to the President. Vacancies shall be filled by a Presidential appointment, or if deemed appropriate by the President, a special election to last for the remainder of the term. In the case of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall assume the office of the President and follow the same guidelines as outlined prior.

Each UT_VFWRG elected/appoint officers will be done annually from within its ranks as follows:

a. Department Positions

- i. *DEPARTMENT RIDERS CHAIR*: Appointed by Department Commander
 1. This position will also be known as the *STATE or DEPARTMENT SERGEANT AT ARMS*
 2. Must be a member in good standing of the Department of Utah Veterans of Foreign Wars.
 3. Duties:
 - a. Will attend any MC Confederation of Charters (COC) meetings that the UT_VFWRG is invited to.
 - b. Will attend any Rider Group Confederation of Rider Groups (CORG) meetings that the UT_VFWRG are invited to.
 - c. Will verify District/Post RG are following the By-Laws
 - d. Will update District/Post of any new State laws pertaining to the UT_VFWRG
 - e. Will make sure the District/Post RG are following all Safety aspects of riding

b. Elected Officers (District of Post)

- i. *PRESIDENT: ELECTED*

1. Must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a member of the sponsoring District or Post.
 2. Duties:
 - a. To preside at all meetings of the VFW Riders
 - b. To have general supervision of the affairs of the VFW Riders
 - c. Shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Executive Board are carried into effect.
 - d. To appoint any person or committee members not otherwise ordered by the VFW Riders.
 - e. To personally represent the VFW Riders on proper occasions and with business contacts.
 - f. To assist all other officers of the VFW Riders in their records, correspondence, and other duties.
 - g. To promote interest on the part of each member in the VFW Riders and its activities.
 - h. To attend and participate in functions such as motorcycle organization meetings and other functions to insure good standing of the VFW Riders within the riding community.
 - i. The President will act as a liaison between the UT_VFWRG and the sponsoring unit and community organizations.
 - j. The President will give a monthly report of the unit's activities.
- ii. VICE PRESIDENT: ELECTED*
1. Must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a member of the sponsoring District or Post.
 2. Duties:
 - a. Will perform the duties as presiding officer in absence of the President.
 - b. Assists in the planning of UT_VFWRG events.
 - c. Coordinates the flow of information provided to UT_VFWRG members.
 - d. Advises the President of concerns of UT_VFWRG members.
- iii. TREASURER: ELECTED*
1. The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the UT_VFWRG and shall be subject to the direction of the Board. This position can be held by the sponsoring District or Posts Quartermaster or their authorized representative in accordance with VFW By-Laws.
 2. Duties:
 - a. Maintains financial records of the UT_VFWRG.
 - b. Collects monies from all fundraising events and coordinates disbursement of funds.
 - c. Give a detailed report of all receipts and disbursement of funds at all UT_VFWRG meetings.
 - d. Shall provide a monthly financial report to the sponsoring unit Quartermaster for inclusion in the sponsoring unit's financial report.
 - e. Maintaining all the UT_VFWRG patches that are un-issued as well as a record of the patches each member has in their possession.
 - f. Collects all UT_VFWRG dues, if any, from the UT_VFWRG members.
- iv. SERGEANT AT ARMS: ELECTED*
1. Must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.
 2. Duties:
 - a. Makes certain to uphold rules of the UT_VFWRG
 - b. Keeps order at all meetings and events.
 - c. Keep order at all group rides
 - d. To ensure the Charter Patches are correctly displayed/mounted as described by these bylaws.
 - e. To collect Charter Patches from any member relocating out of state for

- an extended period as to be determined by the current officer board
- f. To provide security for UT_VFWRG officers and to facilitate their security and well-being in all public and open areas.
- g. To facilitate or assign security detail for any Department officer that is in attendance at any public and open areas that the UT_VFWRG is in attendance at. If more than One (1) State Officer is in attendance, the highest-ranking State Officer will be assigned the detail. The State Chair position is not considered an Officer.
- h. Reports actions of its members, who do not conform to rules of UT_VFWRG, or its sponsoring unit, to the President.

v. **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1. The executive board consists of those members who were elected as officers and the most immediate past President that doesn't hold an elected position. The executive board is responsible for.
 - a. The monitoring of conflicts within the club.
 - b. The application of disciplinary procedures.
 - c. The evaluation of new applicants and their progress.
 - d. The change or amendment of the Bylaws.
 - e. Adjudication of Bylaws, breaches, and violations.
 - f. The tallying of Election results.

vi. **OFFICER REMOVAL:**

1. A Chapter Officer may resign at any time and other current Chapter Officers will assume their title(s), duties and responsibilities as detailed in the by-laws.
2. Any Chapter Officer may be removed by the Chapter for "Good of the Chapter" reasons through the flowing process:
3. The matter must be brought up through the Chain of Command and reported to the Sponsoring District/Post Commander.
4. The Executive Board will review the issues and facts surrounding the request of removal. A Board of Inquiry may be formed or the matter may be brought to the Chapter Membership for discussion and action, however, the Chapter Officer subject to these proceedings will have the right to address the Chapter prior to a vote by the Chapter Membership. A majority vote is required to remove a Chapter Officer with a minimum of 50% Chapter Members present and voting.
5. If a Chapter Officer is accused of behavior not in the best interests of the Chapter such as defamation, embezzlement, theft or illegal activities the Chapter Officer may be immediately suspended from duties until the matter is brought before the Chapter by a majority vote of the remaining Chapter Officers.
6. Any Committees or investigations will follow the National VFW By-Laws

c. **Appointed Officers (District or Post)**

The appointed positions are appointed by the President and shall serve a one (1) year term, beginning the 1st day in July and ending the 30th day in June, One (1) year later. The standing appointments shall be subject to the general control and direction of the Current Officers. An appointed UT_VFWRG member may be relieved of their duties if an Officer believes the appointed member is not acting in the best interest of the UT_VFWRG or is unable to fulfill his duties. A Board vote will determine the appointed member's future status.

d. **SECRETARY: APPOINTED**

- i. Must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a member of the sponsoring unit.
- ii. Duties:
 1. Responsible for keeping all the UT_VFWRG records, written reports, and correspondence between outside organizations.
 2. Will maintain a record of UT_VFWRG Members Drivers Licenses with

- motorcycle endorsements and riders insurance.
- 3. Will maintain all applications and Waivers of Liability forms.
- 4. Call role at UT_VFWRG meetings and responsible for recording the meeting minutes.
- 5. Notify all members of special meeting times and dates other than the normally scheduled meetings.
- 6. Maintain the By-Laws of the UT_VFWRG noting any changes as voted on and approved by the Sponsoring unit.
- 7. To perform all functions related to the election of the UT_VFWRG officers as described in these by-laws.
- 8. To record all votes in an election
- 9. To assist the Treasurer of the VFW Riders "DISTRICT 1 UTAH" in completing the forms to be sent annually to The State of Utah and to the Internal Revenue Service
- e. **CHAPLAIN: APPOINTED**
 - i. Open to any member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, or participant of UT_VFWRG.
 - ii. Duties:
 - 1. Provides spiritual guidance to UT_VFWRG members.
 - 2. Opening or Closing Meeting Prayers
 - 3. Support the Department/District/Post Chaplain when needed.
- f. **ROAD CAPTAIN: APPOINTED**
 - i. Open to any member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, or participant of UT_VFWRG that meets criteria as ride leaders, capable of executing rides and functions pertaining to the UT_VFWRG.
 - ii. Duties:
 - 1. Lead smaller groups on large group rides. There will be one Road Capt. for every ten (10) riders on a trip.
 - 2. Keep formation in parade routes.
 - 3. Enforce group riding rules for all rides.
 - 4. Assist with planning all tours, runs, and related activities sponsored by the UT_VFWRG
 - 5. They shall help to arouse interest in, and lead said activities and shall enforce group riding rules during said tours and runs.
 - 6. They shall assist at parties and other functions sponsored by the UT_VFWRG and shall select assistants to aid in special tasks as they deem necessary.
 - 7. To maintain an accurate account of all riders in attendance at ride functions and to ensure no riders accounted for are left behind.
 - 8. When on an event, they are the ranking officer if the President and Vice-President are not present and therefore leads the UT_VFWRG formation on the ride.
 - 9. If the President is on the ride, the Road Captain rides at the front of the group with the President.
 - 10. The Road Captain will give a pre-ride safety briefing to all participants on the event including Support Vehicle drivers and passengers.
- g. **HISTORIAN: APPOINTED**
 - i. Open to any member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, or participant of UT_VFWRG that meets criteria as ride leaders, capable of executing rides and functions pertaining to the UT_VFWRG.
 - ii. Duties:
 - 1. The Responsibility to build and maintain a historical record of all UT_VFWRG and any events in which the UT_VFWRG have partaken in.
 - 2. Assisting the Secretary in publishing articles of interest to the UT_VFWRG, any VFW newsletter, motorcycle magazines and other publications as the secretary sees fit.
- h. **SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Appointed**

- i. Special committees may be created, and their members shall be appointed by the President. These committees may be eliminated by the President. As with standing appointments, all special committees shall be subject to the general control and direction of the Board.
- i. **APPOINTED OFFICER REMOVAL:**
 - i. A Chapter Officer may resign at any time and other current Chapter Officers will assume their title(s), duties and responsibilities as detailed in the by-laws
 - ii. Any Chapter Officer may be removed by the Chapter for “Good of the Chapter” reasons through the following process:
 - iii. The matter must be brought up through the Chain of Command and reported to the Sponsoring District/Post Commander.
 - iv. The Executive Board will review the issues and facts surrounding the request of removal. A Board of Inquiry may be formed or the matter may be brought to the Chapter Membership for discussion and action, however, the Chapter Officer subject to these proceedings will have the right to address the Chapter prior to a vote by the Chapter Membership. A majority vote is required to remove a Chapter Officer with a minimum of 50% Chapter Members present and voting.
 - v. If a Chapter Officer is accused of behavior not in the best interests of the Chapter such as defamation, embezzlement, theft or illegal activities the Chapter Officer may be immediately suspended from duties until the matter is brought before the Chapter by a majority vote of the remaining Chapter Officers.
 - vi. Any Committees or investigations will follow the National VFW By-Laws
 - vii. All appointed positions will be appointed by the in-coming UT_VFWRG President. These positions are on an as needed basis for the operation of the Chapter. An Appointed VFW Rider may be relieved of their duties by a vote of the Chapter Officers if a Chapter Officer believes the appointed member is not acting in the best interests of the VFW Riders or is unable to fulfill their duties.

8. MEETINGS

- a. Each UT_VFWRG will hold regularly scheduled meetings at a date, time, and location as set by the UT_VFWRG and its sponsoring unit. (At a minimum of Quarterly)
- b. Meetings will be conducted in an orderly manner.
- c. The pledge of allegiance will be recited prior to the beginning of each meeting.
- d. At the Start of the meeting, all guests and guest speakers will be introduced. All guest speakers will be asked to speak during the first part of the meeting and will be asked to leave before any of the Charter business is discussed. A guest speaker will be advised of the amount of time he/she is allowed to speak and will be held to that time.
- e. VFW Department/District officers, Department VFWRG Chair or Sponsoring Post Officers will not be considered as guests. They will be authorized to be present for the complete UT_VFWRG meetings
- f. Simple majority rules in all matters except those pertaining to bylaws.
- g. Each UT_VFWRG member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. Only UT_VFWRG members of the District/Post Riders Group shall be entitled to vote at Rider Group meetings.
- h. If a vote is taken at a meeting and a member is not there, his vote is void. There will be no absentee voting. Notwithstanding the following, a Member who is in Good Standing, who resides within 250 miles of base of the Charter and whose employment will require the member to be outside the State of their area of the home base, or if the Member is on Military Orders on the date of the annual Election of Charter Officers, the Member may apply for an Absentee Ballot for Election of Officers. The application shall be submitted to the Secretary no later than thirty (30) days before preceding the Election for which an Absentee Ballot is requested, for review by the Executive Board at its meeting preceding the General Membership meeting. The Executive Board may approve the application if it determines that the above requirements have been satisfied and, if it determines that the Member has demonstrated a satisfactory level of dedication to the UT_VFWRG If the Executive Board approves the request, it will direct the Secretary to issue an Absentee Ballot to be returned

to the Secretary by the Member prior to the next scheduled meeting or specific time frame set by the Secretary

- i. The Secretary shall arrange with the Member a method of delivery of the Absentee Ballot
- ii. a process for confirmation of its authenticity, both consistent with the Member's circumstances outside the United States.
- i. General Meetings will be open to voting and nonvoting members until the meeting is deemed closed to a "voting members only status" at the discretion and direction of the acting Charter President. When the meeting is announced as "closed to non-voting members" the affected members will politely leave the room until they are called back into the meeting room by a Charter Sergeant at Arms.
- j. All meetings will be run on a parliamentary basis. Members will be evicted for unruly conduct. One Sergeant at Arms will be appointed by the President of the UT_VFWRG to insure adherence.
- k. To have a vote, you must be a full member of the Charter as defined in in these by-laws, who is current with their dues and must be in good standing with the Charter.
- l. To be recognized to speak to the membership at a Charter meeting you must be a full member that is current with their dues and be in good standing with the UT_VFWRG.
- m. To be recognized at a meeting, the speaker must be recognized by the chair and will stand when addressing the members if able.
- n. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend the meeting on their bike.
- o. Members are highly encouraged to wear Patches when attending meetings.
- p. Members must be of sound mind when attending meetings. (Not under influence of drugs or highly intoxicated from alcohol)
- q. Members are strongly encouraged to attend all meetings.
- r. During a meeting there will be no talking among members until they get the floor through the president. Anyone not abiding by the above will be evicted from the meeting.
- s. The President of the VFW Riders will have the authority to take breaks or recess during meetings at his discretion.

9. UNIFORM / PATCHES

- a. UT_VFWRG Back Patch
 - i. All UT_VFWRG Back Patches shall be approved by the Department of Utah Commander, VFW National, and consistent with the requirements of the VFW.
 - ii. At no time will any UT_VFWRG utilize a 3-Piece Patch design, or display patches identifying their group as a "MC." In addition, the use of rockers, or appearance thereof is deemed unacceptable.
 - iii. At no time will any UT_VFWRG wear a 'Diamond 1%' patch or any other patch that depicts they are part of the 1%ers.
 - iv. The UT_VFWRG will wear their Patches at all functions of the VFW Riders. The Patches may be sewn upon one of Three (3) types of vests. Black Leather, Black or Blue Denim, or Black or Blue Canvas. Another color vest can be voted on and approved per each RG
 - v. Charter members will maintain their Patches and vest in a serviceable condition to include, legible lettering, patches that are not frayed, stitching that is intact and in an overall presentable condition. All Charter members are to show respect for the Patches and wear and maintain them with respect.
 - vi. The UT_VFWRG Back Patch may be worn by all UT_VFWRG members and participants in good standing when approval is obtained consistent with the requirements of the VFW. Each Back Patch may contain the VFW logo, emblem, name, or other protected mark (or VFW Auxiliary logo for Auxiliary members, if so adopted.) All invited participant wearing the back patch utilizing the VFW logo must carry the designation "supporter" within or just below the patch.
 - vii. President will present Patches to new members.
 - viii. When a member leaves the Charter, member turns over Patches to any of the

- UT_VFWRG Sergeant at Arms.
 - ix. Respect your Patches; don't let anyone take them from you except the President of the chapter or a Sergeant at Arms.
 - x. Nothing will be worn on the back of your vest except the Patches of the VFW Riders and small memorial tabs to honor fallen VFW Rider brothers/sisters. Unless approved by the President.
 - xi. The Patch will be placed in the center of the back 3-4 inches from the top. Back of your vest constitutes from your side vest seam to your armpit, aft.
 - xii. Members will wear the Patches as the outer most garment.
 - b. Left Front Vest Panel
 - i. The American Flag parallel with the horizon. Nothing will be placed above the American Flag on the left side of the vest.
 - ii. In line with and below American Flag will be "VFW RIDER"
 - iii. In line with and below VFW Rider will be "DISTRICT #" or "Post #".
 - iv. Example
 - a. FLAG
 - b. VFW RIDER
 - c. DISTRICT#
 - c. Right Front Vest Panel
 - i. The Name Tape parallel with the horizon
 - 1. Name Tapes will be either your Road Name, Nickname, Riders Name, or Last Name.
 - ii. In line with and below Name will be the Officer tabs
 - iii. Example
 - a. NAME
 - b. OFFICER TITLE
 - d. Patches should be always worn when riding or at Charter functions. If heat is a factor a member can wear soft Patches, I.E. T-Shirt, or other shirt with Full Patch on the back.
 - e. The UT_VFWRG Back Patch and other related articles of clothing incorporating the VFW logo, emblem, name, or other protected mark must be worn in a manner consistent with the VFW requirements.
 - f. The VFW reserves the right to revoke authorization granted to a UT_VFWRG, or any UT_VFWRG member or participant, to wear or display any VFW logo, emblem, name, or other protected mark.
 - g. ALL PATCHES MUST BE SEWN ON
- To reiterate WE AS VFW RIDERS WILL NEVER WEAR ANY "SUPPORT" PATCHES OR TABS FOR OTHER CHARTERS EXCEPT THOSE IN SUPPORT OF THE VFW RIDERS.**
- *Any exceptions are to be approved by the current officer board.
- h. OTHER PATCHES:
 - i. Officer Title, Private, and Supporter will be a Black Background with Gold Lettering with a Gold Border
 - ii. Name tapes will be a Black Background with Gold Lettering with a Gold Border
 - iii. No patches with profanity, depicting acts of a sexual nature, or otherwise not within the keeping of the standards set forth by the VFW will be worn.
 - iv. District/Post UT_VFWRG Presidents will approve all patches and placement that are not listed above.
 - v. ALL PATCHES MUST BE SEWN ON
 - i. DRESS:
 - i. The UT_VFWRG is a representation of the VFW, and as such, members shall dress in a manner that promotes a positive image of the VFW, particularly when operating in group activities or interacting with the community.

10. RIDE FORMATION

- a. Rides will be headed by The President to the left front and the Vice-President to the right front.
- b. If an officer chooses to ride elsewhere in the formation, for supervisory reasons, he will designate a replacement VFW Rider to his position.
- c. If an officer from another Charter or Charter is present, he will ride behind the Vice-President, or as designated by the President.
- d. Any former officer of the Charter may ride in the second row, behind the President and Vice-President.
- e. Any non-members riding as guest(s) of a VFW Riders will ride in formation with their sponsor who invited them to ride. It is the VFW Riders responsibility for the invited guest. *(Any non-member riding as a guest during a parade or funeral will be asked to ride to the rear of the formation).* Any changes to this rule may be directed to the senior VFW Rider at the event.
- f. All Members will serve as Road Guards where appropriate.
- g. Members will wear the Patches as the outer most garments on rides.
- h. Guests and members riding in formation will demonstrate, at all times, common driving courtesies and will not perform or display any acts that may endanger the group or other motorists or bring discredit to the VFW Riders. Any substantiated violations of these courtesies will be handled at the discretion of the officers.
- i. All trikes & 4 wheeled vehicles will take a position at the rear of the motorcycle formation. This rule will be applied to all rides, unless permission is granted by the senior officer or VFW Rider in charge of the event, who may give special consideration depending on the circumstances.

11. GENERAL CONDUCT RULES AND REGULATIONS

- a. The rules of the Charter will be strictly enforced. If any member breaks them, the officer board will deal with them. If these rules and regulations are broken, it could mean either immediate dismissal or suspension, whatever the executive board sees fit.
- b. Failure to pay his dues according to the section dealing with the paying of dues.
- c. No member will destroy Charter property purposely.
- d. No member will take the attitude that he doesn't have to help other members and other members don't have to help him/her.
- e. No member will go against anything the Charter has voted for and passed.
- f. Members are encouraged to not plan something for themselves solely on Charter rides. It should be brought up to the whole Charter and the whole Charter will participate in anything that is decided upon. (This does not include small rides that may pop up from time to time for pure enjoyment reasons. It is encouraged to invite all Charter members of these type rides.)
- g. The Charter should always stay together on rides, runs, parties, field meets etc. When the time comes that the majority feels it is time to leave, we should all leave together. Anyone staying behind for a good reason will do so at his own risk.
- h. Members should strive to have good attendance at all sanctioned rides and meetings. Members should have a good reason for not attending meetings or rides, such as working, sickness, no transportation, and bike not running.
- i. Absolutely no talking about Charter business to persons outside the Charter.
- j. If you are told you are too much under the influence of alcohol or drugs to drive, you will turn over your keys to a brother/sister. You and your scooter will be taken care of.
- k. If an Officer of the Charter determines your bike is unsafe to ride; you are grounded until the unsafe condition is repaired.
- l. During funeral or memorial runs, no one will pack a passenger without an "Support" patch, patch must be seen. ***An exception to this rule is at the discretion of the current president or highest-ranking officer for the funeral or memorial run.***
- m. While riding as a VFW Rider or on official Charter business members must maintain the highest moral standards within the community. Any negative involvement with law enforcement should be reported to a Sergeant at Arms. Any infraction involving moral

turpitude should be reported immediately. If appropriate and applicable the Sergeant at Arms will report the incident to the Chapter President.

- n. All members should adhere to all CoC (Confederation of Charters) or similar governing body's rules and regulations pertaining to their membership in the local motorcycle governing body. Whether it is a formal entity or a local presiding Charter.
- o. All members should adhere to all CoRG (Confederation of Rider Groups) or similar governing body's rules and regulations pertaining to their membership in the local motorcycle governing body. Whether it is a formal entity or a local presiding Charter.
- p. Full members shall have the right to attend any meeting of the VFW Riders, and to participate in any event sponsored by or involving the VFW Riders.
- q. Full members shall have a vote in any issue brought before a general meeting, a vote in the election of officers, and shall be eligible to serve as officers.
- r. Full members and participants will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values and mission of the UT_VFWRG and of the VFW.
- s. Full members and participants may be dismissed from a meeting or activity/ride because of inappropriate behavior.
- t. Full members and participants are responsible for the actions of their guest(s) at a UT_VFWRG event. Actions of a guest of the member or participant can be grounds for dismissal of the guest and/or the UT_VFWRG member and participant.
- u. Full membership becomes effective upon receipt of dues and lapses if not renewed by "DATE SET BY CHARTER" of each year.
- v. If a member leaves the Charter for any reason, he/she must return the Charter Patches/Patches to a Sergeant at Arms or current officer.
- w. Any member not participating in Charter rides or meetings for six months will be subject to a vote by the executive board to be placed on probation and will not have voting rights for six months. Any member not participating for one year will turn their Patches over to the Sergeant at Arms to hold for one year. If the Member does not request them back with a vote from the members, that member is removed from the books.
- x. All VFW Riders, no matter their standing, will obey these rules.

12. REPORTING

- a. District or Post UT_VFWRG's shall make a quarterly report to its sponsoring District or Post.
 - i. A full accounting of UT_VFWRG members and participants to include VFW Members, VFW Auxiliary Members, and invited participants.
 - 1. Their activity, which should include a number of UT_VFWRG events, mileage, and hours.
 - ii. An accounting of funds raised and disbursed by the District/Post UT_VFWRG for the year.
- b. District or Post UT_VFWRG's will report Semi-annually to the Department UT_VFWRG Chair
 - i. A full accounting of UT_VFWRG members and participants to include VFW Members, VFW Auxiliary Members, and invited participants.
 - 1. Their activity, which should include a number of UT_VFWRG events, mileage, and hours.
 - ii. An accounting of funds raised and disbursed by the District/Post UT_VFWRG for the year.

13. WAIVERS AND LIABILITY

- a. All UT_VFWRG members and participants will complete a yearly membership application. This application will include verbiage outlining a release of liability which will be signed by the individual, or guardian thereto. The yearly application will include language indicating the member carries liability insurance for themselves if a rider, which also implies that their passengers are covered by the minimum state, city, and or local requirements. Those individuals not meeting the criteria to sign a yearly waiver as a legal adult will be required to

have a parent/legal guardian sign for that individual. The application and release will include, to the fullest extent permitted by law, language that requires the UT_VFWRG to indemnify and hold the Post, District, County Council, Department, and National VFW, and the officers and employees of each, harmless from any and all claims arising from or in connection with (i) the conduct or management of the UT_VFWRG; (ii) any act, omission, or negligence of the UT_VFWRG or any UT_VFWRG member or participant; (iii) any accident, injury, or damage whatsoever occurring during or related to any UT_VFWRG event. This application and release shall be retained by the sponsoring unit for seven (7) years.

- b. Ride activities by the sponsoring unit will be required to have liability release waivers for each participant outside of the UT_VFWRG, regardless of age or status, if those individuals will be participating in or on a motor vehicle for the event.
- c. Waivers and liability release forms will comply with the National Policy as well as guidelines from the American Motorcycle Association (AMA).
- d. Sponsoring units will be required to have proof of general liability insurance to protect such units and must name, as additional insureds, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and the Department of the sponsoring unit.

14. DUES / FEES

- a. Each UT_VFWRG will decide if it is necessary to charge dues. This will require a 2/3 vote of Full Members
 - i. If the Charter Votes to have Dues...
 - 1. The Dues are \$\$\$ per year with an additional fee for the initial set of UT_VFWRG charter patches. Fees are not to be prorated. Dues shall be designated by the Board. Dues may vary according to class of membership and shall be due on the 1st day of July of each year, and no later than the 15th day of July, of any given year.
- b. Each Charter will set fees for the initial set of UT_VFWRG charter patches. Fees are not to be prorated.
- c. Each Charter will need to set a fee for "Auxiliary" and "Support" patch
- d. Dues or Fees may be changed or waived for members of special circumstances. These special circumstances will be taken to an Executive Board vote.
- e. Charter Patches must be returned, without reimbursement, if a member leaves the Charter unless special disposition is granted by the executive board.

15. PURCHASES

- a. All UT_VFWRG purchases must be voted on and approved by the UT_VFWRG Executive Board. Any proposed purchases will need to be authorized by a majority vote of the general membership, as per the voting bylaws in these articles.

16. DISSOLUTION

- a. If at any time in the future, the membership decides to dissolve the UT_VFWRG, as shown by a majority vote of all Full Members, after payment of all the liabilities of the UT_VFWRG or due provision therefore, all of the assets of the UT_VFWRG shall be transferred to the Sponsoring District/Post.

17. OTHER:

- a. Occasionally, situations will arise that involve special circumstances. Such situations will be handled by the Four (4) District/Post UT_VFWRG officers, and it will be up to them to determine what action will be taken in these matters.

- b. The UT_VFWRG, VFW, its name, and logos are Copyrighted, and are protected by the United States Copyright Office.
- c. All rules written in this document are to be always adhered to by all members, and if violated will be dealt with accordingly. In a circumstance in which the UT_VFWRG Bylaws do not specifically address an issue or situation, the VFW Bylaws can be used as a guiding document at the discretion of the current elected officers of the UT_VFWRG
- d. Proposed additions or changes to the bylaws of the UT_VFWRG shall be presented in writing to the UT_VFWRG Executive Board at any monthly scheduled meeting. A vote will be taken to determine if the proposed changes or additions will be presented to the general membership. A simple majority of the members present, and voting is required for passage. If approved, the proposed changes will be voted on by the general membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting. All additions or changes require a 2/3 majority of the members present for ratification.

It is the purpose of these Bylaws to preserve and protect the integrity and character of the UT_VFWRG for its membership, and to promote the ideals this rider's group was founded for, brotherhood, fun, fellowship, and riding.

This policy is hereby effective, this 30 January 2024.

By Order of

Signature on file with the state

James Shepard
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH
STATE COMMANDER
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE US

Official:

Dennis Parizek
Department of Utah
Adjutant

DEFINITIONS

- a. Motorcycle: Two or three wheeled vehicles manufactured for use on public roads and highways.
- b. RG: Rider Group
- c. MC: Motorcycle Club
- d. CoC: MC Confederation of Charters. Meeting of all MC to discuss Patches, Approval of new MC and other MC Issues
- e. CoRG: Confederation of Rider Groups. Meeting of all RG to discuss Patches, help get patch approvals through the CoC, help new RG understand the MC and CoC world.
- f. President: Presiding officer of the UT_VFWRG. Elected by the members of UT_VFWRG as a leader of UT_VFWRG.
- g. Vice President: Assist the Presiding officer of the VFWRG. Elected by the members of VFWRG as a leader of UT_VFWRG.
- h. Secretary: Term for the designated individual made responsible for maintenance of meeting minutes or other pertinent documents related to the UT_VFWRG.
- i. Treasurer: Sponsoring unit's Quartermaster or person authorized by the Quartermaster to handle the receipt and disbursement of funds related to UT_VFWRG.
- j. Road Captain: Term for an individual within the UT_VFWRG designated as a ride leader within the UT_VFWRG. Typically assigned to an individual with extensive riding experience and planning abilities for events and rides.
- k. Sergeant-at-Arms: Term for the UT_VFWRG individual assigned or appointed to maintain order within the By-Laws of the VFW or policies within the UT_VFWRG.
- l. Private: New rider to the UT_VFWRG. Will be considered a Private until ten (10) UT_VFWRG approved rides have been completed and been a member for more than 90 days.

APPROVED PATCHES

The following VFW Back Patches have been approved by the CoC and CoRG for wear in Utah. You are only authorized to change the District info. If your UT_VFWRG wants a new Patch Approved, you will need to go through the CoC Patch Approval Process to be approved to wear it in Utah. ANY Changes to the Patches will still need VFW National Approval.



AUXILIARY



SUPPORT



AUXILIARY



SUPPORT

VEST SETUP



NMALR Etiquette and Respect for Dealing in the MC world.

Golden Rule: Give respect, get respect. Period.

1. Introductions: Always introduce yourself properly 'Charter name, Position, Road Name, and City of Origin'. Let them extend their hand to shake hands first.
 - a. Example: Fred Spokes, President, VFW District 1 Riding Group
2. Do Not sit on or touch someone else's bike unless you're invited – otherwise it's a museum piece. Hands off.
3. When greeting another biker, never touch their patches. If they're in your own MC or RG, it's alright to touch when 'hugging' or 'man-shake' – not alright for someone else in another MC or RG. Respect personal commitment and self-discipline earned patches.
4. Don't interrupt. If you know someone in another group talking and want to render greetings; stand by, wait for them to acknowledge you, make your greeting and move on – unless they invite you to stay and engage. If you leave – don't repeatedly come back and forth. You could be infringing on 'Club business', stay out of it.
5. Don't disrespect the MC Females (aka 'ol ladies).
6. If you bump into someone else – admit it and apologize. To not, is disrespectful and they could address it with you.
7. Don't pick fights in bars; be smart.
8. Passing:
 - a. If you don't know the fellow biker in front of you, don't pull up beside them without an invitation. Wait for them to acknowledge you and waive you up.
 - b. Do not pass anyone in their own lane unless they move over and waive you through
 - c. Do not cut into the middle of another pack for any reason.
 - d. Slow down, fall in behind, and use protocol to pass through.
9. Your action reflect on all in the motorcycle community. MCs will police themselves to avoid incidents. The public won't discern – MC's do.
10. Levels of Commitment/Participation: guest, probation/hang-around, prospect, patch.
11. Using the term 'brother or bro'. If he is a friend and you two consider each other brothers, wait for the MC patch holder to address you as such in public FIRST.
12. Do not interrupt or correct someone else's mistake in public. Wait until you've got the floor, and politely/tactfully make the correct statement.
13. Do not lie; if you don't know, then say so. Don't offer information about yourself or others; don't ask it of others. Don't talk about other MC's to another.
14. Never, Ever, Lie. You can refuse to answer a question in a polite manner by saying something like, "That seems like club business, and I would like to refer that to one of our officers in order to get better information for you." Be prepared to answer questions about what your club is about. Such as....
 - A.) "We are a riding club & not a motorcycle club and have no intention of ever trying to become a motorcycle club".
 - B.) The Patch is bought & not earned.
 - C.) No dues or Dues - as applicable.
 - D.) All makes and models of motorcycle are welcomed.
 - E.) We are a non-territorial club.
 - F.) We are a neutral club and do not wear any MC support patches.
 - G.) Women riders are welcomed and can be or are club officers.

H.) We are an AMA chartered riding club.

I.) Do not offer forum links or web sites, It's better to refer them to a club officer.

J.) Do NOT brag about how large the local or national membership is.

K.) Do not volunteer club info. If they ask a question about the local chapter answer it if you can. If they start asking questions about the number of members, or the National chain of organization refer them to one of the club Officers.

15. Honor the 'house rules'. Establishments or other 'Club Houses' may have rules about wearing 'Patches' respect them; don't wear patches where permission's not granted.

16. Woman's rules.

a. Don't talk to an MC member Ol' Lady

b. Keep your own attitude in check

c. Ensure that the Ol' Lady doesn't get offended.

17. Never drop names. Don't talk bad about an MC member to another MC or his own MC. If there's a problem – take it to your own management and let 'management' work it out.

18. Never take pictures with or of MC members without expressed permission.

19. Never park bikes with an MC other than your own. Just because other bikes are there, doesn't mean you should too. Leave a little space, you don't know who you're dealing with.