# By-Laws
# Alabama Chapter 1
**Change 5**
**18 APRIL 2015**

## ARTICLE 1: NAME AND EMBLEM

Section 1 (a)
The name of the association is: Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Alabama Chapter 1 (CVMA AL 28-1).

a. Principle office of the CVMA AL 28-1 will be located at the following address: PO Box 1626, Phenix City, AL 36868-1626

b. Change of Address. The designation of the county or state of CVMA AL 28-1 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 county by noting the changed address and effective date below, and such changes shall not be deemed minor, and require an amendment of these bylaws.

1. New Address: Dated:
2. New Address: Dated:

c. Other Offices. The CVMA AL 28-1 may also have offices at such other places, within 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. CVMA AL 28-1 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 Alabama BOD has the authority to change the CVMA Alabama Chapter 1 bylaws if any part is found to be in conflict with Federal or Al 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 NBOD. 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, MIAs and their families.

Section 5
To conduct Association functions and activities in a manner befitting the members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and as well as the association's Auxiliary Members.

Section 6
To encourage a better understanding of motorcycle riders as a constructive sport among members of the public, press, and law enforcement agencies.

Section 7
Benevolent fund for CVMA members will be $250 per incident. Chapters must help raise money on their own prior to applying for additional funds from the National. Money given out will not be required to be given back. Chapters with a member in need can petition National for funds. $3 out of member’s dues will be set aside for the benevolent fund.

**ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP**

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

Section 1
Any person:
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 DD 214 or ERB which must be surrendered to the NBOD for verification.

d. National dues of $20 will be 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 are payable 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.
e. Must own and operate a Motorcycle of 500cc or above.
f. 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 BOD approval.
g. 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 BOD approval is required.
h. 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.
i. 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.

Section 2 (a) Auxiliary Members:
a. Must be of good character.
b. All Auxiliary members must be a spouse, widow or widower of a full member who is in good standing with the CVMA.
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.
e. Cannot hold a position on the BOD
f. $10.00 annual dues will be assessed by the CVMA Auxiliary Unit

Section 2 (b) 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:
    a. Section 6 and subsection 2
    b. Section 3
    c. Elections
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.
h. Cannot hold a position on the BOD
i. $10.00 annual dues will be assessed and a CVMA Support ID will be issued.
j. Support members in good standing can wear a small CVMA Support Patch on the front of their vest or jacket which will be supplied by their sponsor. Support members can also wear the 10 inch support back patch which will be supplied by their sponsor.

Section 3
By applying for membership with the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, you are giving the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association and its Board of Directors the right to verify any membership application and DD 214 records.

Section 4
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 5
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.

Section 6
All members must possess a valid motorcycle driver’s license endorsed by their state as well as proof of insurance for their motorcycle.

Section 7
a. In the event of misconduct by any member, under the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, the Board of Directors possesses the right to revoke that member's membership. Misconduct is defined as failure to abide by the by-laws of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.
b. 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 8
Any full member who is still a member of the Armed Forces of the USA who attends the previous years Nationals, but cannot, because of Military deployment to a combat zone, attend the current year national meeting will be given credit for the National and will be authorized a rocker for the National patch that will read, for example, DEPLOYED 20XX.

Section 9

Deployed members will be allowed to nominate and vote for Chapter Officer elections as follows: On even years when CDR/SEC/SAA are up for election, email directly to XO. On odd years when XO/TREAS/PRO are up for election, email directly to SEC. Deployed status must be verified by Chapter Officers.

**ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Section 1
Membership dues will be managed in accordance with National Bylaws.

**ARTICLE 5: ELECTIONS**

ALABAMA CHAPTER 1
Section 1
All nominees for any office must be active and in good standing in the association with a minimum of 1 full year CVMA membership. All nominees for the Alabama 28-1 CEB must be a member in good standing for a period of 1 year unless there is no other member that meets this requirement. Retired members cannot hold a CVMA officer position. Chapter officers in newly formed chapters are excluded from the one year requirement.

Section 2
All elected and or appointed officers must remain active members in good standing for the duration of the term while in office. Active Member shall be defined as one who participates in meetings and/or events. Any elected or appointed officer who misses 3 consecutive meetings or 6 meetings in a 12 month period without prior CEB approval will forfeit their position. The CEB will then appoint a replacement to serve until fulfillment of that office.

Section 3
All officers are to be nominated and elected, and will assume office immediately following election and hold that office for 24 months or until their successors are duly qualified. Consecutive terms are permitted.

Section 4
Nominations and elections for office must be made at the September meeting. 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 1 year, unless there is no other member that meets this requirement.

Section 6
Alabama 28-1 CEB members will be considered for re-election in the following order, Chapter Commander / Secretary / Sergeant at Arms on even years, Executive Officer / Treasurer / PR on odd years.

Section 7
Should an elected officer resign from office for any reason the CEB will appoint a replacement to serve until fulfillment of that office.

Section 8
A writ of impeachment against any officer may be submitted by any active member at a regular meeting. This writ must be signed by at least three Active Members of the chapter and must list the charges as the basis for the writ. All Active Members in the chapter must be informed of the writ prior to any impeachment vote. In order to allow the officer in question an opportunity to prepare a statement concerning the charges against them, a special meeting shall be scheduled for action on the writ no less than three, no more than seven , days following the submission of the writ. Non Chapter Members are prohibited from attending this meeting, unless required to give testimony to support the writ or to support the officer in question as a witness. Impeachment requires a 2/3 majority vote of all Active Members in the chapter. Any disciplinary action besides the impeachment will be decided upon by the remaining officers within 7 days of the impeachment vote.

Section 9
Appointed positions will be reviewed and/or renewed annually after Chapter elections. Consecutive terms are permitted.

**ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF OFFICERS (CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD (CEB))**

Section1
The Commander is the CHAIRMAN of the Executive Committee and the Chief Executive Officer of the chapter. All matters concerning relations between the chapter and any outside person or organization should be routed to the Commander for appropriate action. The Commander or his delegate shall assume the Chair at all chapter meetings. He is responsible for controlling the meeting and keeping order. If necessary, the Chair may utilize the services of the Sergeant-at-Arms to aid in keeping order. The Chair may not make or second any motion, and may only vote on questions where their vote would affect the outcome, as in making or breaking a tie vote, or on ballot questions.

Section 2
The Executive Officer shall coordinate all committees and supervise plans for all chapter events. The Executive Officer shall act as an intermediary between the Commander and the Members. All questions or comments concerning any chapter business not specifically related to the duties of the other officers should be brought to directly to his attention. Additionally, the Executive Officer is the Second-in- Command to the Commander, and shall assume all responsibilities and duties of the Commander in their absence.

Section 3
The Secretary is responsible for making and keeping all chapter records, Membership List /Chapter Roster to include monitoring membership renewals and reminding members

in March/April of annual renewal procedures, Chapter Bylaws, Rules of Order, Standing Rules, Records of all committee appointments, all written reports, copies of all correspondence between the chapter and any outside person or organization, and publishing Meeting Minutes. He is responsible preparing the meeting agenda, ensuring printed copies are available for each chapter officer, and for calling roll at the meetings. The Secretary must notify Active Members of special or emergency meetings, and must notify all the members of any appointments or elections in their absence.

Section4
The Treasurer keeps all the funds of the chapter. He may disburse funds to pay expenses as prescribed in the Standing Rules. The Treasurer must keep an accurate record of all income and expenses. He is required to report the fiscal status of the chapter at each regular meeting for the information of the members. He must submit a written report to the Executive Committee:

a. When filing taxes
b. Each September, to coincide with Chapter Elections
c. At any time there is an unscheduled change of Treasurer.

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 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Associations Alabama Chapter 1 publicity, in conjunction with and approved by the Chapter Commander. Duties will include: Historian, club file, pictures, newspaper articles, TV and radio announcements and the associations web site.

Section6
The Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA) is responsible for ensuring that the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the chapter are not violated. He is responsible to insure that the orders of the Executive Committee are carried out in an expeditious manner. He is responsible for policing and keeping order at all chapter events, except as noted under the Duties of the Commander. He may conscript members to aid in keeping order on their own authority. He has the responsibility to the chapter to report any unseemly behavior of incident to the Executive Committee. He is responsible for securing any patches from any member who retires under conditions other than in good standing, resigns, or is expelled. Auxiliary members who are widows of a deceased full member may also retain their back patch and stay a member as long as they don't remarry and wish to continue being an Auxiliary member. The SAA is responsible for the safety and security of the chapter, as well as the protection and defense of its members. He shall keep and maintain a record of all data pertinent to the safety and security of the chapter and it's members. Upon becoming aware of any real or perceived threat to the chapter, its Members or events, he shall immediately notify the Executive Committee of that information.

Section7
The Road Captain is an appointed position and is responsible for all chapter runs. He shall research, plan, and organize all runs. During actual time on the road or at intermediate stops during a run, he shall act as the ranking chapter officer, deferring only to the Commander or Executive Officer if either of them is present, and only then

for matters involving persons outside the chapter. He shall supply the Secretary with any information required to notify outside agencies of impending chapter runs in a timely manner.

Section8
The Quartermaster (QM) is an appointed position and is responsible for making and keeping all Chapter records for patches and other Chapter CVMA related items. QM will procure, stock and sell CVMA items as required. QM will report to the CEB, and submit a quarterly financial report (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) at chapter meetings for the information of the members.

Section 9
The Canteen Manager (Lodge Captain) is an appointed position and is responsible for maintaining and operating the Chapter Canteen/Lodge and property. He will ensure the Canteen/Lodge is stocked, maintained and operational as required. He will keep an accurate record of income and expenses related to the Lodge, Lodge Dues, maintain the Lodge account, and will be required to report the Lodge fiscal status and at each regular meeting for the information of the members. Any required repairs will be reported immediately to the CEB. He may conscript members as required for assistance.

Section 10
State Representatives are elected by the full members of their respective state. Nominees must be active and in good standing with a minimum of two (2) full years CVMA membership. Term of office shall be three (3) years. The State Representative is over their State's Chapter Commander(s).

Section 11
State Representative's responsibilities include carrying out the bylaws of the national, watch over their membership, and review applications for membership within the association and forward same to NBOD. State Representatives can dismiss or discipline unruly members with NBOD approval. State Rep will also keep the membership informed of NBOD changes during chapter meeting.

Section 12
CEB members may not hold any other position while holding a position on the Alabama BOD

Section 13
The CEB is responsible for implementing overall policy and direction of the association. The CEB is responsible for day-to-day operations of the Chapter and shall make decisions and Policies as necessary to maintain the Chapters viability and order.

**ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS**

Section 1
A quorum for 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 Board of Directors meetings can be called by the Commander or two active members.

Section 4
Roberts Rule of Order will be applied during meetings to affect parliamentary procedures, unless otherwise amended and provided for in the bylaws. Chapter Commander will appoint a member of the CEB to serve additional duty as parliamentarian.

**ARTICLE 8: DELEGATIONS**

Section 1
Delegations will be appointed by the Commander, but are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, to represent the association at any convention, meeting, rally, or other assembly that may be deemed necessary, and all delegations are authorized to exercise only those powers specifically vested in them by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE 9: AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER BY-LAWS**

Section 1
At any time a member desires to seek a vote to change the bylaws of this Chapter, they must complete the “BYLAW CHANGE PROPOSAL” located in the CVMA National By-Laws ANNEX B (or similar format) and label it as “Alabama Chapter 28-1” and submit to the Chapter Executive Board.

Section 2
The Chapter Executive Board will have at least 30 calendar days to review the By-Law Change Proposal to check for validity, conflicts with CVMA principles, language, grammar, alignment with the proper By-Law article/section/subsection, and redundancy. PROPOSALS THAT VIOLATE NATIONAL BY-LAWS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If there appears to be no conflict, the Proposal will be brought up as New Business at the next scheduled meeting for discussion and voting.

Section 3
a. If the Proposal fails to receive three fourths approval, it cannot be brought up again for 12 months

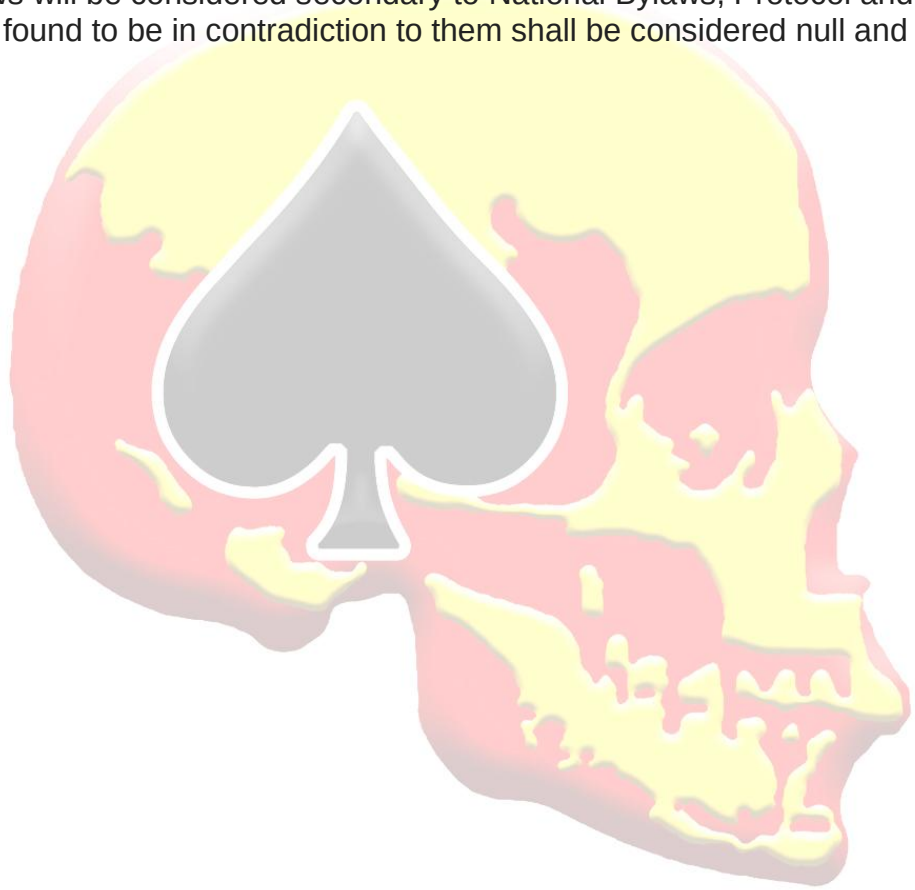
b. If the Proposal is approved by three fourths of the membership present at the meeting, the proposal will be forwarded to the following Officers for review and to check for conflicts with CVMA principles, language, grammar, alignment with the proper By-Law article/section/subsection, and redundancy:
1. State Representative
2. Regional Representative
3. NBOD

Section 4

If approved by the above Officers, the Proposal will take effect immediately. If approved based on changes, Chapter members MUST re-vote to accept changes imposed by State, Region and National representatives before amendment goes into effect.

**ARTICLE 10: STATE CHAPTERS**

Section 1
State Chapters will be managed in accordance with National Bylaws.

**Article 11: Chapter Bylaws**

Section 1
These bylaws will be considered secondary to National Bylaws, Protocol and Policies. Any section found to be in contradiction to them shall be considered null and void.