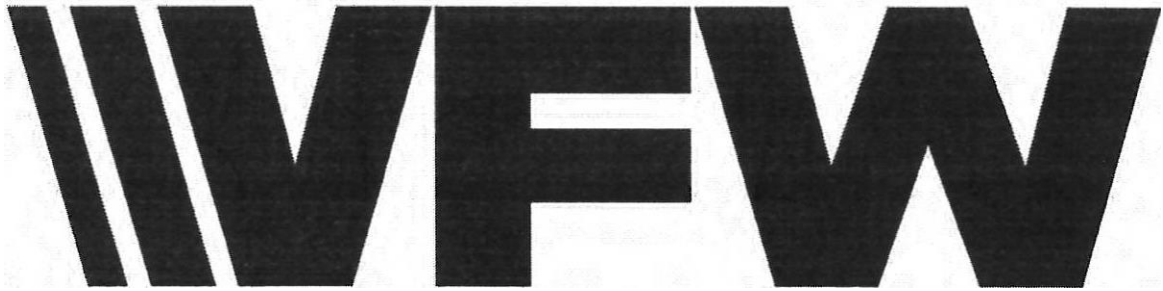


DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS VETERANS OF
FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

MOTORCYCLE GROUP POLICY
(VFWMGTX)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®

Texas

AS APPROVED BY THE TEXAS VFW COUNCIL OF
ADMINISTRATION

March 26, 2022

TEXAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

MOTORCYCLE GROUP POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Texas, is a nonprofit membership organization under the laws of the State of Texas and an affiliated organization under the National Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, a Congressionally Chattered nonprofit organization.

VFW members, affiliated organizations (including Districts and Posts) and the general public look to the Texas VFW to provide strong leadership on veterans' issues and to develop and implement effective programs to promote patriotism, community service, youth development and a strong national defense. In order to fulfill those important responsibilities, the organization must maintain a reputation that is above reproach.

POLICY STATEMENT

The purposes of this Motorcycle Group Policy are to promote and support the programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for VFW members and members of it's Auxiliary who share the same interests. All activities will be governed by National, Department, or Post Bylaws and this Policy.

RESOURCES

Resources used for this policy were obtained from National VFW Resolution 308 approved at the 111th National VFW Convention and adopted on August 23, 2010, the National VFW Riders Group Policy dated 12/20/2017, National VFW Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, and Texas VFW Bylaws.

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

The Department of Texas Adjutant or the Department of Texas Motorcycle Group Chairman.

APPROVED BY

This Motorcycle Group Policy was approved by the 2022-2023 Council of Administration and ratified by the State Commander on March 26, 2022

Texas VFW Riders Group Committee

In accordance with National VFW Resolution 308 approved at the 111th National VFW Convention and adopted on August 23, 2010 and the National VFW Riders Group Policy dated 12/20/2017 the Department of Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars establishes a Texas VFW Motorcycle Group Committee as a subordinate unit of the Department of Texas in accordance with the State Bylaws and shall be known as the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group (Group).

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Motorcycle Group of Texas, as a subordinate unit, is a standing committee of the Department of Texas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, authorized by the Department Bylaws to Operate as a subordinate unit to the Texas VFW under the control of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The Texas VFW is comprised of Post motorcycle committees as approved by a Post as a subordinate unit hereinafter referred to as the "Unit".

The Group Committee Chair shall advise the State Commander on topics relating to group riding; assist in the coordination and execution of sponsored ride activity, examples would be the annual Vander Clute Memorial Motorcycle Ride, the Operation Daily Battle Ride or any Commander rides; provide guidance to sponsoring Posts in the form of a policy approved by the Department Council of Administration; and to promote safe riding in accordance with this policy that promotes the purpose of the Congressional Charter.

1. General Comments

- A. All Texas VFW Motorcycle Group activities will be governed by National, State and Post Bylaws and official Policy as approved by the National Headquarters and Department Council of Administration. Wherever the Texas VFW MG Policy or subsequent amendments are found to be in conflict with the present or any future National or Department Bylaws or Policy, the latter shall prevail and be binding upon the Texas VFWMG. In all cases where there is a disagreement in the interpretation of this Policy, the Department Commander or the Post Commander, at each Post will decide the issue subject to the provisions of Section 109 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.
- B. The Texas VFW Motorcycle Group IS NOT a sanctioned Motorcycle Club (MC) or a part of any MC Confederation/ Organization at any level and as such, does not have colors. The Texas VFWMG proudly displays the VFW Cross of Malta or Auxiliary Emblem which shows they are members of the VFW or its Auxiliary and must always conduct themselves with that representation in mind.
- C. Each Unit formed shall be a subordinate unit serving as a committee of the

Sponsoring Post. All Unit Officers will be appointed or elected from those members, in good standing of the Post or Auxiliary, who are also members of the Texas VFWMG. In addition, the Commander and Quartermaster of the sponsoring Unit, by virtue of their offices, shall be members of the committee.

- D. The Unit Chair or Group Chair shall exercise supervision over the Texas VFW Unit or Group members and will ensure the protection of the VFW name and property.
- E. The Unit Chair shall report activities at each regular meeting of the sponsoring Post. The Group Chair shall report activities to the Council of Administration at the Department Midwinter and State Convention Meetings. This report includes the following information:
 - 1) A full accounting of Unit members and participants to include VFW members, VFW Auxiliary members and invited participants.
 - 2) Their activity, which should include the number of Unit events, mileage, hours donated, and an accounting of funds raised and disbursed by the Unit for the period.
 - 3) Units can submit written reports at the appropriate regular business meeting of their Post.
- F. Expenditure and receipt of funds (to include solicitation and fundraising activities) shall be in accordance with VFW National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure and the Texas VFW Bylaws.
- G. The Texas VFW Motorcycle Units must adhere to the policies herein and those passed down from the proper authority in accordance with Section 709 of the National Bylaws.
- H. By acceptance of a Texas VFW Motorcycle Unit, each Post entity agrees that it will maintain sufficient General Liability Insurance to protect such Unit and must name, as additional insureds, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the Department of Texas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
- I. Texas VFW Websites "Report Community Service" function is the standard method for Sponsoring Post/ District to report the Units Community Service activities.

2. MISSION

- A. To promote and support the Congressional Charter and programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- B. To promote motorcycle safety programs.
- C. To provide a social atmosphere for VFW members and members of its Auxiliary who share the same interest.

3. MEMBERSHIP

To be a member of Texas VFWMG, either Riding, Auxiliary or Support member, a person:

- A. Must meet all eligibility requirements of and be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; or
- B. Must meet all eligibility requirements of and be a member in good standing of the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and
- C. Must provide proof of membership in the VFW or the Auxiliary by providing a current membership number and a membership card issued by the National VFW or Auxiliary.
 - 1) Riding Members consist of VFW members in good standing from any Texas Post who have a valid Driver's License with a motorcycle "M" endorsement in their state of residence and maintain proper levels of insurance and must meet requirements of the Unit they belong to as established by the Sponsoring Units Bylaws or Policies.
 - 2) Support Members consist of VFW members in good standing from any Texas Post that do not ride or cannot ride a motorcycle and must meet requirements of the Unit they belong to as established by the Sponsoring Units Bylaws or Policies.
 - a) Persons holding the position of Post or Department Commander and Quartermaster or their appointed representative are automatically considered voting members by virtue of their positions.
 - b) Persons disabled to the point that they can no longer ride a motorcycle shall be eligible to maintain their membership, with full voting rights and eligibility to hold any office within the Unit or Group, provided they:
 - (a) Are members in good standing; and
 - (b) Were members who met all requirements herein prior to any disability caused by:
 - (i) An accident; or
 - (ii) The aging process; or
 - (iii) A military service-connected disability
 - 3) Auxiliary members consist of all Auxiliary members, whether riding, passenger

or support and must meet requirements of the Unit they belong to as established by the Sponsoring Units Bylaws or Policies.

- D. VFWMG Riding members should be recommended by two (2) active members in good standing and should attend two (2) Unit meetings and/ or participate in two (2) rides or events hosted by the VFWMG. Once all requirements have been met, at a regular meeting of the Unit the applicant will be voted on and become a member with a 50% majority vote.

4. UNIT REQUIREMENTS

- A. A new Post motorcycle Unit may apply for a Unit Charter provided that the sponsoring Post has, by a 2/3rd's majority vote at any regular or special meeting called for such purpose, passed a motion to sponsor the Motorcycle Unit and have provided a copy of the applicable minutes the Texas VFW Group Chair.
- B. The sponsoring Post membership as well as the Texas VFWMG Group Chair must approve all applications for a new Unit Charter.
- C. Sponsoring Posts may establish Bylaws, a standard operating procedure or adopt additional rules and regulation for the governance of their motorcycle Unit which will be considered a Subordinate Unit to the Post. Such Bylaws, procedures, or rules shall be subordinate to and consistent with the Bylaws of the sponsoring Unit, the National and Department VFW including the Department and National VFW Riders Policy.
- D. Each motorcycle Unit may propose Bylaws, a standard operating procedure, or propose additional rules and regulation for the governance of the Unit. Such Bylaws, procedures, or rules shall only become effective upon the approval of the sponsoring Post by a majority vote of members present at a regular or special meeting called for that purpose.
- E. Units may establish annual/ life member dues for its members.
- F. A new Post Unit Charter may only be left open for a maximum of ninety (90) days to allow the names of the original applicants to be added to the Post Unit Charter before publication.
- G. A Chartered Unit will always consist of at least eight (8) VFW Rider members. Failure to maintain at least eight (8) members will be cause for the revocation of the Unit Charter.
- H. Each Post shall register its Motorcycle Unit, using a form designated by the

National VFW Adjutant General. Each Unit will submit a VFWRG Form to the Group Secretary by September 1 of each year. Information provided will be used to promote and disseminate information regarding VFW organized riding events and National and State Policy recommendations.

- I. The VFWMGTX State Committee will receive from each Unit a per capita (maintenance) fee of \$50 per every five (5) members (or portion thereof) to cover the administrative costs of the VFWMGTX annually. Such per capita may be changed as prescribed by the VFWMGTX Committee of Units with the approval of a majority vote of those riding members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the VFWMGTX or a special meeting called for such purpose. Monies to be paid no later than December 31 each year for the ensuing year.
- J. The VFWMGTX State Committee will receive from each Unit a per capita fee of \$50 per every five (5) members (or portion thereof) to cover the VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship annually. Such per capita may be changed as prescribed by the VFWMGTX Committee of Units with the approval of a majority vote of those riding members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the VFWMGTX or a special meeting called for such purpose. Monies to be paid no later than December 31 each year for the ensuing year.
- K. Any member of the Texas YFWMG who is also a member of the VFW or its Auxiliary and are delinquent in dues for their respective organization will lose their Texas VFWMG membership until such time as they are a paid member of the VFW or the Auxiliary. Only the Post has the authority to suspend delinquent members or remove unpaid members.
- L. Each Unit shall be required to submit an Officer Report, with Official Meeting Time and Location, to the Group Secretary by July 1 each year and any time a change of Officers, Meeting Time or Location happens.

5. TEXAS VFW MOTORCYCLE GROUP

- A. The Texas VFW Motorcycle Group (MG) consists of every chartered Unit in the Department.
- B. A quorum of at least 20% of Units must be present to conduct business provided all Units received notification of the meeting.
- C. All matters of business brought before the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group must be done so only through the Unit Chair or duly authorized voting representative of the Unit.
- D. The Texas VFW Motorcycle Group will meet bi-annually for regular meetings

which are to be designated as the Spring All-State Meeting and Fall All-State Meeting, with the location and dates to be voted on during such meetings. Special meetings of the Texas **VFW** Motorcycle Group may be called by the State Committee at a date not more than fourteen (14) days after:

- 1) The Group Chair receives a signed, written request from at least five (5) Units; or
 - 2) A majority vote of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group members present at any meeting; or
 - 3) The State Commander or Group Chair decides a special meeting is necessary.
 - 4) No business shall be transacted at any special meeting except for that for which the meeting is called. The location of the special meeting will be at the discretion of the Group Chair.
- E. Unit Chair's will assure that they provide two (2) duly authorized voting representatives of the Unit to attend all regular or special meetings of the Group.
- F. A 50% + majority of the Units present will constitute a majority for voting. Any action that requires approval by the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group between meetings, may be accomplished electronically. A record of such voting and the outcome will be maintained by the Group Secretary and ratified at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group.
- G. No business approved will become effective until approved by the Department Council of Administration.
- H. Texas VFW Motorcycle Group will provide a written report annually to the National VFWRG Advisory Committee.

6. OFFICERS - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. UNIT OFFICERS

The members of each Unit shall recommend to the sponsoring Post, a VFW Rider member to serve as the Unit Committee Chair for each VFW Administrative year no later than May 31 of each year. The sponsoring Post Commander shall, upon installation to office, appoint a Motorcycle Committee Chair, who must be a VFW Rider member for such Unit. It is entirely the prerogative of the sponsoring Unit's Commander, to either agree with the Unit recommendation or to appoint a Motorcycle Committee Chair of their choosing. Among the duties of the Unit Officers are:

- 1) Chair - Appointed by Post Commander, must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a member of the sponsoring Unit and qualify as a

Member of the Unit and has the following duties:

- a) Serve as presiding officer of all Unit meetings. The Chair will act as a liaison between the Unit and the Sponsoring Post and community organizations. The Chair will request, from the Sponsoring Post, approval for all events, expenditures of Unit restricted funds. The Chair will give a monthly report of the Unit's activities.
 - b) The Chair will ensure that all required paperwork (i.e. Officer Report, Meeting Information, VFWRG National Form, etc.) is submitted to the Group Secretary within required timeline.
- 2) Vice-Chair-The Unit may elect or the Chair may appoint a Vice-Chair if required by Sponsoring Posts Bylaws, standard operating procedure, or adopted rules and regulations for the governance of their motorcycle unit and must be a riding member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and has the following duties:
- a) Will perform the duties as the presiding officer in absence of the Chair. Assists in the planning of Unit events. Coordinates the flow of information provided to Unit members and advises the Chair of concerns of Unit members.
- 3) Secretary - The Unit may elect or the Chair may appoint a Secretary if required by the Sponsoring Posts Bylaws, standard operating procedure, or adopted rules and regulations for the governance of their motorcycle unit and must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or a member of its Auxiliary, and has the following duties:
- a) Responsible for keeping all the Unit records, written reports and correspondence between outside organizations. The Secretary will maintain all applications and Waivers of Liability Forms. They call role at Unit meetings and are responsible for recording the meeting minutes. It is the Secretary's duty to notify all members of special meeting times and dates other than the normally scheduled meetings. The Secretary will maintain the Bylaws or Standing Rules as approved by the Sponsoring Post that are applicable to the Unit.
- 4) Treasurer - Held by the Sponsoring Unit Quartermaster or their authorized representative in accordance with VFW Bylaws and has the following duties:
- a) Maintains financial records of the Unit. The Treasurer collects monies from all fundraising events and coordinates disbursement of funds. The Treasurer shall give a detailed report of all receipts and disbursement of funds at all Unit meetings. Shall provide a monthly financial report to the Sponsoring Post Quartermaster for inclusion in the Sponsoring Posts

financial report. The Treasurer is also responsible for maintaining all the Unit patches that are un-issued as well as a record of the patches each member has in their possession. The Treasurer collects all dues, if any, from Unit members.

- 5) Sergeant at Arms - The Unit may elect or the Chair may appoint a Sergeant at Arms if required by the Sponsoring Posts Bylaws, standard operating procedure, or adopted rules and regulations for governance of their motorcycle unit and must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or a member of its Auxiliary, and has the following duties:
 - a) Makes certain to uphold rules of the Unit and keeps order at all meetings and events. Reports actions of its members, who do not conform to the rules of the Unit, or its Sponsoring Post, to the Chair.

- 6) Chaplain - The Unit may elect or the Chair may appoint a Chaplain if required by the Sponsoring Posts Bylaws, standard operating procedure, or adopted rules and regulations for the governance of their motorcycle unit and must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or a member of its Auxiliary.

- 7) Road Captain(s) - The Unit may elect or the Chair may appoint Road Captains as necessary if required by the Sponsoring Posts Bylaws, standard operating procedure, or adopted rules and regulations for the governance of their motorcycle unit and must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or a member of its Auxiliary, and has the following duties:
 - a) The Road Captain is responsible for route planning and if needed the coordination of Support Vehicles for events. When on an event, they are the ranking officer if the Chair and Vice-Chair are not present and therefore lead the Unit formation on the ride. If the Chair is on the ride, the Road Captain rides at the front of the group with the Chair. The Road Captain will give a pre-ride safety briefing to all participants on the event including Support Vehicles drivers and passengers.

- 8) Any other positions requested by the Chair can be filled here by either Riding, Support or Auxiliary members.

B. GROUP OFFICERS

- 1) Texas VFW Motorcycle Group Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed by the State Commander of the Texas VFW. The term of the Chair and Vice-Chair will end concurrently with the term of the State Commander unless reappointed to the position. The Chair and Vice-Chair must be a member in good standing of the VFW

and a riding member in good standing of a Unit within the Department. The Chairman shall:

- a) Preside at all meetings of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group.
 - b) Provide reports at the Texas VFW Mid-Winter and State Convention on the combined activities of all Units.
 - c) The Chair recommends all disbursements of restricted funds of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group to the State Quartermaster with approval from the State Commander.
- 2) Vice-Chair- Will perform the duties as presiding officer in absence of the Chair. Assists in the planning of Group events. Coordinates the flow of information provided to Unit members and advises the Chair of concerns of Group members.
- 3) Secretary -The Group Chair will appoint a secretary who must be a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or a member of its Auxiliary, and has the following duties:
- a) Record and publish the minutes or all meetings associated with the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group.
 - b) Maintain any additional records of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group.
 - c) Receive membership application from Group Treasurer and enter into Memstats. Will also maintain Unit rosters and disburse as necessary.
 - d) Handle any incoming or outgoing correspondence under the direction of the Group Chair for the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group.
- 4) Treasurer - This position is filled by the State Quartermaster or his authorized representative. (VFW State Quartermaster is accountable for Texas VFW Motorcycle Group funds once such funds are placed in his custody. The VFW State Quartermaster will place all funds in a restricted account and list such funds as a separate line item on budget as directed by the Texas VFW Council of Administration) Among the duties of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group the Treasurer, shall:
- a) Collect and forward all monies collected to the VFW State Quartermaster on a timely basis.
 - b) Process patch orders - to include verifying person ordering has current membership status, then ordering, receiving, and shipping all orders to Patch Coordinators of each Unit.

- c) Process all membership applications and forwarding to Group Secretary for record keeping.
 - d) Maintain scanned copies of all incoming monies.
 - e) Maintain yearly Unit monetary requirements and report to Chair any amounts received from Units.
- 5) Any other positions requested by the Group Chair can be filled here by either Riding, Support or Auxiliary members.

7. UNIT MEETINGS

- A. Each Unit of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group will conduct at least one (1) monthly meeting of the Unit Motorcycle Committee.
- B. The quorum at meetings for any Unit will be at least five (5) VFW Unit members.
- C. Special Unit meetings must be called for at a date not more than fourteen (14) days after:
 - 1) Committee Chair receives a signed, written request of five (5) VFW Riding members; or
 - 2) A majority vote of the Unit VFW members present at any meeting; or
 - 3) The Unit Committee Chair decides a special meeting is necessary.
 - 4) No business shall be transacted at any special meeting except for that which the meeting is called. The location of the special meeting will be at the discretion of the Unit Chair.

8. UNIFORM, VESTS & INSIGNIA-PATCHES/ LOGO

- A. The use of VFW logos and VFW trademarks are protected under Section 803 and 805 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. The emblem used by the Texas VFWMG is the VFW Cross of Malta. The National office of the VFW has the copyright to the emblem and as such, all emblems or logos used by the Texas VFWMG will be purchased through the VFW Store. The Texas VFWMG patch will be a one-piece patch, which has two (2) ribbons incorporated in it. The ribbon on top will read "Veterans of Foreign Wars" and the ribbon on the bottom will read "Motorcycle Group", and in between the two ribbons will contain either the VFW Cross of Malta or the Auxiliary emblem, as appropriate. The patch will be worn on the back of a black leather or denim vest. Below that will be a special ribbon that denotes a Charter, Unit, Department, Auxiliary, Support or Founding Member. The Founding member ribbon denotes the original founding

members of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group. Department ribbons will be worn exclusively by the Department Commander and Department Quartermaster as they are members per their position in the Department VFW.

- B. The only patch or markings of any kind that will be displayed on the back of members vest will be as stated in Section 8 A and may only be worn by a member in good standing with both the Texas VFWMG and either the VFW or its Auxiliary. All patches with Unit numbers, positions held, name, road name as well as Charter Member patches for Auxiliary or VFW
- R Support Members (that joined during the open charter period), will be worn on the front left side of the vest under the flag of the United States of America and above any military badges and ribbons. A single small pin or patch recognizing a particular military achievement (such as a CIB, Purple Heart, Military Grade/ Rank, etc) or an assigned unit may be placed above the Texas flag as long as such pin or patch does not detract from the State of Texas flag.
- C. Unit members are encouraged to wear their own vest with appropriate patches to display their affiliation with the Unit and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Unit and Group officers are required to wear appropriate position patches for the position held.
- D. Auxiliary member will use the blue Auxiliary emblem patch with the "Veterans of Foreign Wars" ribbon on top and the "Motorcycle Group" ribbon on bottom with an Auxiliary ribbon beneath it. If an Auxiliary member joins during an open charter period, a small Charter Member patch will be placed on the front left side under the Unit patch.
- E. The VFW Post or the Auxiliary that the member belongs to, as well as, but not limited to, being a Life Member of such stated entity, will be noted on a patch on the right front side of the vest, under the flag of the State of Texas.
- F. Any Unit wanting to use VFW logos, Initials or name Veterans of Foreign Wars for items to be sold must provide a draft or prototype of the item at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas VFWMG or its Committee Chair for written permission submitted on the appropriate form from the National Quartermaster General to produce and sell.
- G. Any item of apparel which bears the Texas VFWMG emblem as defined in Section 8 A shall only be sold to members of the Texas VFWMG.
- H. In accord with United States Code Title 36, Chapter 10, Section 176 - Respect for Flag, item
U) the American Flag patch, being a replica, is to be worn on the left side of the vest, closest to the heart with the Texas flag opposite of it to designate our home state of Texas.
- I. The VFW Cross of Malta and Auxiliary emblems will be purchased through the VFW Store at their current rate plus applicable shipping and handling charges.
- J. To ensure that the look of the vest and patches remain consistent among the entire

group, all purchases will be from a designated source as approved by the State Quartermaster and Group Chair.

- K. A patch kit (all required patches) may be purchased by a Unit member and it will be the Unit Chair's responsibility to ensure that the patches meet the requirements and standards of this Policy.
- L. Support patches for other groups and clubs are not authorized for wear on the Texas VFWMG vest.

9. DRESS - OFFENSIVE ITEMS

Members of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group will dress in a manner that promotes a positive image for the VFW, particularly when operating in group activities or interacting with the community. No Texas VFW Motorcycle Group Unit shall allow the use of patches or apparel using offensive language in conjunction with any patch or apparel using any VFW logo or trademark. It will be the responsibility of the Unit to enforce this provision.

10. WAIVERS AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

- A. VFW Riders and Events will require that a waiver and release of liability be signed by the rider and their passenger, if applicable. The waiver should include a statement indicating that the rider carries liability insurance for themselves and all passengers that meets the minimum state, city and/ or local insurance requirements; it should also indicate that the rider carries a valid state driver's license (military equivalents are acceptable), with a motorcycle endorsement. This is to indemnify the Post, District, Department, and National VFW against any liability for damages caused by the rider. All riders must ride and operate a motorcycle of sufficient size and power to maintain extended highway speeds. All members must always operate their motorcycle in a safe and controlled manner.
- B. All VFWMGTX 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 VFWMGTX 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 VFWRG;
 - (ii) any act, omission, or negligence of the VFWRG or any VFWRG member or participant;
 - (iii) any accident, injury, or

damage whatsoever occurring during or related to any VFWRG event. This application and release shall be retained by the sponsoring unit for seven (7) years.

- C. Ride activities by Sponsoring Unit will be required to have liability release waivers for each participant outside of the VFWMG, regardless of age or status, if those individuals will be participating in or on a motor vehicle for the event.
- D. Waivers and liability release forms will comply with the National Policy as well as guidelines from the American Motorcycle Association (AMA).

11. UNIT CONDUCT AND MEMBERSHIP

- A. Misconduct is defined as the failure to abide by the VFWMG Policy, the National VFW or Auxiliary, the Department VFW or Auxiliary and any additional Post rules. In the event of any misconduct by a member of the Unit, the Unit has the right to temporarily revoke the offending member's privileges to include the wearing of a Group patch and participation in Unit or Group activities until a regular Unit Committee meeting or a special called Unit Committee meeting called for such purpose can be held. At that time, the members in attendance may vote to take action to reinstate the member or permanently or temporarily (for a designated period) revoke the member's right to wear the VFWMGTX patch. Subject to appeal to Post Commander.
- B. If a member misses two (2) consecutive Unit meetings or has not paid their dues or has been a non-communicative member of the Unit, the Unit has the option to suspend/ revoke the membership by a majority vote of those members present at any regularly scheduled Unit meeting. Subject to appeal to Post Commander.

12. GROUP CONDUCT AND MEMBERSHIP

- A. Misconduct is defined as the failure to abide by the VFWMG Policy, the National VFW or Auxiliary, the Department of VFW or Auxiliary rules. In the event of any misconduct by a Unit, the Group Chair (with approval from the Department Commander) has the right to temporarily revoke the offending Unit's privileges to include the wearing of a Group patch and participation in Group activities to include meetings until the Unit Chair has rectified the issues provided to them in writing. Subject to appeal to Department Commander.

- B. If a Unit misses two (2) consecutive Group meetings or has not paid their commitments or has not responded to communication, via phone call or written or email, the Group Chair (with approval from the Department Commander) has the option to suspend/ revoke the Unit Charter. Subject to appeal to Department Commander.

13. CHANGES | ADDITIONS | APPROVALS

- A. All proposed changes to this Policy shall be sent to the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group Chair, in writing, by the Unit Chair no later than 30 days prior to the Spring or Fall All-State Meeting. The proposed changes will then be sent to all Unit Chairs for discussion. A 2/3rd's majority of Units in attendance at a regular or special meeting is required for approval. These actions may only be taken at the scheduled bi-annual Texas VFW Motorcycle Group meetings. Any changes must not conflict with any provisions of the Bylaws of the National VFW or the Texas VFW.
- B. All changes to this policy, after approval by the committee will be forwarded to the VFW State Adjutant for review and final approval by the Texas Council of Administration.

RATIFICATION

Except as modified and amended by subsequent action of the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Council of Administration, the Motorcycle Group Policy is hereby ratified by majority vote and confirmed in full force and effect in accordance with its terms by the 2022-2023 Council of Administration on March 26, 2022

Signed:



Department of Texas Commander - Norman J. Macey



Department of Texas Adjutant - Lupita M. Perez