

Defender Motorcycle Club, Inc.

By-Laws

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of this organization shall be “Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc.”, aka “Defenders MC”, “Defenders Motorcycle Club”, or “DMC”. The Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. is a “Not for Profit” corporation by the laws of the State of Florida, Florida State Statutes Chapter 617.

ARTICLE 2: PHILOSOPHY and HISTORY

The Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. (DMC) was founded in June 2004 as an independent, non-profit, male social club. It was established to provide the opportunity for increased camaraderie between current and retired law enforcement officers, military personnel, and emergency services personnel along with select citizenry, who enjoy riding motorcycles and attending motorcycling related events. The DMC chapter rides and events are intended to promote safe activities that will appeal to the membership. Any member may suggest ideas for rides or events. The Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. is one club, with chapters in various locations. All chapters shall be governed by and subject to the authority of the National Executive Board.

ARTICLE 3: DMC INSIGNIA & NAME

The name “Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc.” (See Article #1 above) and its patches, colors, and insignia are the sole property of the Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. Unauthorized use or reproduction without express written consent of the Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. is strictly prohibited.

Members will wear the DMC patches on a black leather vest or jacket only. Active member patches on the REAR of the vest will be worn in the following order:

Defenders Top Rocker

Defenders Patch (LEO) Center

LE Patch will be displayed to the lower left of LEO

MC Patch will be displayed to the lower right of LEO

Bottom State Rocker

No other patches or insignia will be displayed on the rear of the vest.

Associate member patches on the REAR of the vest will be worn in the following order:

Defenders Top Rocker

Defenders Patch (LEO) Center

Lady's Rocker

No other patches or insignia will be displayed on the rear of the vest.

Patches on the FRONT of the vest will be worn in the following order:

Left Front - American Flag

Left Front - 1* Patch

Left Front - Life Member/Associate Patch under the 1* Patch

Left Front - Years of service patch under the Life Member/Associate patch

Effective July 1st, 2017, the order of the patches on the right side of the vest will be as follows:

Road name

Charter Member/Charter Associate

Chapter name

Officer patch

***Anyone who was a member of the DMC prior to this date will be grandfathered and not be required to rearrange their patches unless they want too. ***

Other patches, pins, and insignia may be worn on either side on the front of the vest below the level of the America Flag.

Unacceptable patches, pins, or insignia: No patches, pins, or insignia may be worn that depicts profanity, vulgarity, language intended to offend, sexual language, pornographic images, nudity, or sexual intercourse of any kind. The indicia displayed on the vest should represent pride in yourself, your family, your community, your country, your occupation, and your brotherhood. Any violation not immediately rectified will be subject to disciplinary action by the Chapter or National Executive Board.

Only one set of patches will be issued per member and associate. If a set of patches are destroyed or otherwise unserviceable, the member will contact his chapter president to arrange for a replacement set.

There will be no patches that indicate “former” offices held. This includes but not limited to past president, past V.P. former secretary etc.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS for NEW and PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Active Members: Membership in the DMC is open to all male active and retired law enforcement officers, military personnel, emergency services personnel, or a select member of the citizenry who possess the highest moral and ethical values, uncompromised integrity and character and who have been sponsored by an active member in good standing defined as: The member or Life Member must attend a minimum of three (3) meetings a year and participate in a minimum of one (1) DMC organized motorcycle ride. These meetings may be done at sister chapter meetings if it is noted in the monthly minutes and must pay their dues twice a year. If a Life Member is not current on national dues and DERF to attend the national rally an additional fee equal to twice what the yearly dues are will be applied to purchase price of the ticket.

All active members and associates will be required to comply with these By-Laws and all future amendments. Each chapter must maintain a 70% law enforcement officer (LEO) to civilian ratio. The Chapter Executive Board will be responsible for maintaining this ratio of membership. The National Executive Board will ensure all chapters comply with this provision.

Law Enforcement Officer Status will be defined as:

- 1) Active or retired Federal, State, County or City certified Law Enforcement Officer.
- 2) Active or retired Federal, State, County or City certified corrections officer.
- 3) Federal, State, County or City certified Law Enforcement Officer or certified Corrections Officer who served at least ten (10) years consecutively with one agency and who left in good standings.
- 4) Active or retired Military Law Enforcement Officer as defined by their DD-214 or traditional "M Day" service member with a current Military Law Enforcement MOS. (Active-duty Military Law Enforcement Officer [if MOS changes, or they have multiple, then will not be considered LE] or a retired Military Law Enforcement Officer as defined by their DD-214. (Being retired means must have been on **"Active Duty"** {10+ years} as a Military Law Enforcement Officer not as an additional MOS for a short time period.) Military members who have a minimum of 10 years with an MOS as Military Law Enforcement according to the members DD-214 will be considered LEO.

Associate Members: Associate membership by females is permitted but shall be limited to a female spouse or "significant other" (girlfriend) of an active member in good standing. All associate members will be required to comply with the By-Laws and all future amendments. Upon the termination of a relationship either by divorce or breakup, the male patched member will be responsible for collecting the patches from his wife/girlfriend/significant other that he sponsored as an associate member. The former associate member may not be sponsored again by another patched member.

Honorary Membership: An “Honorary Member” should be someone who has shown a like-minded attitude, who is a major contributor and/or supporter to the chapter/club and someone who cannot be due to physical limitations, ever operate a motorcycle. Chapter desiring a person to be considered for “Honorary Membership” shall through their Chapter Executive Board, submit in writing to the National Executive Board the circumstances for this status. The chapter will be assessed \$100.00 application fee and the requested person will be subject to a background check. An “Honorary Member” will not affect the LEO percentages for chapters. The bottom rocker will depict “Honorary”.

Prospects must be sponsored by an active member in good standing. Prospects who have been invited to apply for membership will be placed on probation for a period of not less than ninety (90) days. The patch and initiation fees will accompany any prospective member's application. During the probationary period, the probationary member will not have voting privileges. During the probationary period, the probationary member must wear the “Probate” patch in the place of the center patch (LEO).

Probationary members may not sponsor an associate member. A probationary member may be awarded their full patch and membership in the DMC after completion of at least 90 days probationary membership and a unanimous vote by the Chapter Executive Board and a majority vote by the chapter membership in good standing. A probationary member who has been terminated from their qualifying agency, or a military member who has been dishonorably discharged or has been discharged for questionable behavior, will not be considered for membership.

All active and prospective members must own and ride a cruiser style motorcycle. The DMC shall employ the philosophy of judging members by who they are, not what they ride. Other styles of motorcycles shall be evaluated by the National Executive Board on a case-by-case basis. A male patched member must own a motorcycle. Should the member experience the loss of his motorcycle by theft, financial troubles or vehicle accident, the member will have a six (6) month period to repair or replace the motorcycle. Extensions may be requested by the member and such request for extension will be reviewed for approval or denial by the National Executive Board, on a case-by-case basis.

All active and associate members who drive motorcycles must possess a valid driver's license with motorcycle endorsement and must comply with all the laws of their state regarding driver's licensing, vehicle registration, and insurance requirements.

All members will pay yearly dues and any other assessments the DMC deems necessary for the good of the club, the chapter, and the organization. The Chapter Executive Board will decide on dues and assessments. Dues and assessments are **NOT REFUNDABLE!**

All members are encouraged to attend as many rides, meetings, and events as possible. However, to maintain continued membership in the DMC, each calendar year a member must attend a minimum of three (3) meetings and participate in a minimum of one (1) DMC organized motorcycle ride. The Chapter Executive Board will be responsible for giving due consideration to extenuating circumstances in accordance with current DMC By-Laws.

Members are expressly prohibited from maintaining membership in ABATE or any other motorcycle club other than the DMC. This provision does not include motorcycle benefit organizations such as, A.M.A., H.O.G., or other similar motorcycle benefit organizations. The National Executive Board reserves the right to exclude any member from maintaining membership in any organization deem unacceptable or whose objectives and philosophies are contrary to the objectives of the DMC.

Members of the citizenry who are nominated for membership must have a recognized and established history of active support for the criminal justice professions and/or for the Defenders MC.

All patches remain the property of the DMC and will be returned after membership is terminated either by dismissal or resignation. Thereafter, the member will have no right, title, interest or claim in any asset of the DMC or any rights to any refund of any dues, fees, or contributions the member has made to the DMC. Upon the return of a members patches due to dismissal or resignation; all associate member patches issued under the control of that member must also be returned.

Any member and his associate who maintains active membership for a period of no less than seven (7) consecutive years shall be deemed a "Life

Member” or “Life Associate”. Life membership shall entitle a member and his associate in good standing to retain the DMC patches in the event of resignation from the DMC in good standing. Life members will pay national dues and DERF. Life members will pay whatever the national dues are at the time he achieves life status. The Life Member’s chapter dues will be between the chapter and the member. Associates cannot count their members time toward their (7) consecutive years, they must complete (7) years in the DMC as an associate to earn their “Life Associate” status.

Fee Schedule to the Defenders LE/MC, Inc and DERF:

National dues of \$15.00 per member will be due bi-annually (January and July).

DERF dues of \$10.00 per member will also be due at the same time as national dues. DERF dues will be suspended when the account reaches \$65,000. Once it drops below \$45,000 DERF dues will be reinstated.

Defender Scholarship Fund dues of \$5.00 per member will be due annually in January.

Application, Membership and DERF fees will be set by the National Executive Board and are subject to change. The individual Chapter Executive Board shall set chapter membership dues.

ARTICLE 5: EXECUTIVE BOARD and ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

National Executive Board:

The Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc., hereafter named the National Executive Board, will preside over all DMC chapters. The National Executive Board shall consist of the following Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Commander, Major, Secretary, Treasurer and Lieutenant at Arms.

Members who are eligible to serve on the National Executive Board shall consist of Founding Members, Life Members, or members with a total of four (4) years of successful Chapter Executive Board service (Successful means during their time on the Chapter Executive Board they were not removed for

cause or resigned in lieu of being removed from the Board for cause)(example; a members serves 15 months of his 2 year term as a Chapter Executive Board member and is removed from the Board for cause, then years later serves on the Chapter Executive Board again for 3 years. Those 15 months do not count towards his 4 years as he did not serve that term successfully).

Starting in 2012, National Executive Board officers will serve a four-year term of office with no term limits. The first such election for this four-year term will take place in October 2011. The offices to be elected will be President, Secretary and Lieutenant at Arms. The newly elected officers will take effect January 1st, the following year.

The second such election will take place in October 2013. The offices to be voted on will be Vice President, Treasurer, Commander and Major. The newly elected officers will take effect January 1st, the following year.

Subsequent elections will follow every two years with the same schedule as dictated above, October election followed by January effective date.

An executive board officer's term may be altered by death, resignation, or removal for just cause for actions contrary to the philosophy and objectives of the DMC. Said removal shall be by a unanimous vote of the National Executive Board.

If a vacancy occurs due to a board member being elected to a new position, resigns from the board, is removed from the board or death the following procedure will be followed until the next election is schedule.

1st: Any board member may request to move to the vacant position. If two or more board members request to move to the vacant position the board will vote to select only one person to fill the vacant position.

2nd: The current vacancy or the vacancy created by a member moving shall now be opened to the club membership who meet the qualification to hold a national board position. This member will hold this position as an interim board member until the next scheduled election for that position.

To fill a National Board position in the case a board member is elected to a new position, resigns from the board, is removed from the board for cause or death the National President or Vice President will send out an email to all the chapter presidents to be forwarded to the chapter membership announcing the open position on the National Board. The email will list the duties of that position and any other pertinent information. It will also list the deadline date for any member to have their BIO to the National President or Vice President.

Once the deadline has lapsed, each board member will be sent the BIO of all qualified members interested in the open position. Each national board member will select who they feel is the most qualified for the position. The member with the most votes will fill that position as an interim until the next scheduled election for that position.

The National President must be active or retired law enforcement, as defined under the Law Enforcement Officer status "1" under Article #4. Two of the five remaining National Board Members must also be active or retired law enforcement. The National Lieutenant must be active law enforcement.

The National Executive Board shall have the ultimate authority over all chapters and in all club decisions but will work to fulfill the requests and demands of each chapter and the membership, whenever possible.

The National Executive Board shall be responsible for voting on issues relating to club business. Open voting by both the chapter members or club membership shall occur as deemed appropriate and necessary. The National Executive Board has the ultimate authority over all chapters and all members.

The National Executive Board will have the power and authority to issue chapter charters.

The National Executive Board will have the authority to collect charter fees as deemed necessary to efficiently operate the club.

The National Executive Board owns the trademark of the DMC patches and shall possess the authority to issue DMC patches to members. All DMC

patches are the property of the National Executive Board and may be recalled for just cause per Article #6. Patch fees are not refundable.

All matters concerning organizational, operational, or procedural aspects of the management of the chapters and the Club shall be directed to the National Executive Board for appropriate direction and action as necessary.

The National Executive Board will have (2) meetings per calendar year (Jan – Dec).

The National Team will consist of the (7) Board members along with the Webmaster, Quartermaster, Rally Chairman & Co-Chair.

National – President

The National President is the Chief Executive Officer of the club and the Chairman of the National Executive board. The President has the power and authority to run the club as deemed necessary for the good of the organization.

The President will consider the input and suggestions of the National Executive Board and the Chapter Executive Boards when making decisions that affect the club. The National President (or his designee) shall preside at all national executive meetings and sign contracts and other documents as necessary. The National President shall perform other duties as required and necessary.

National – Vice President

The National Vice President (VP) is the second in command of the organization and shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the National President in his absence. The National VP shall act as an intermediary between the chapter executive boards and the National President. The VP is responsible for coordinating the recruitment of prospective chapters and the orientation and development of new chapters. The VP may assign duties to chapter executive board members as necessary to aid in the completion of these (and other) tasks. The VP will execute all other assignments as directed by the National President.

National – Major

The National Major shall direct and supervise the responsibilities of the Chapter Majors. The National Major shall coordinate inter-chapter events and oversee development and coordination of road rules for all chapters. The National Major will ensure the Presidents ride is properly planned, organized, routed, and executed in a safe and responsible manner. The National Major shall coordinate with the National VP and National Commander to ensure the ride has adequate security to protect the club, its members, and guests. The National Major will execute all other assignments as directed by the National President or his designee.

National – Commander

The National Commander shall direct and supervise the responsibilities of the Chapter Commanders. The National Commander shall ensure that all By-Laws are followed, and all orders and directives of the National President and the National Executive Board are carried out as intended. The Commander shall maintain strict compliance with these articles and orders by the chapters. The National Commander will maintain an accurate log of all disciplinary actions and sanctions involving club members and report all disciplinary issues to the National Executive Board. The National Commander will maintain the compliance requirements and accuracy of the National Roster and the Excommunicado List. The National Commander will execute all other assignments as directed by the National President or his designee.

National – Secretary

The National Secretary shall be responsible for making and maintaining all records as directed by the National President. The National Secretary shall record and maintain minutes of all national executive board meetings. The National Secretary shall create and submit any reports as required or directed. The National Secretary shall manage the official registrar (roster) for the Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. The National Secretary shall prepare and submit all correspondence to chapters, club members and other persons and organizations outside the club. The National Secretary will execute all other assignments as directed by the National President or his designee.

National – Treasurer

The National Treasurer shall maintain an up-to-date accurate ledger of all national executive board finances to include all income, expenses, assets, and debts. The National Treasurer shall maintain all club financial documents, papers, and records. The National Treasurer shall prepare the monthly and annual financial reports. The National Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of all monies to include dues, fees, assessments, or all payments due to the club. The National Treasurer shall be responsible for the payment of all bills and expenses. The National Treasurer shall be responsible for the completion and submission of all official financial documents such as tax returns, reports, etc. The National Treasurer will provide a quarterly financial report to the Chapter Treasurers. The quarterly financial report will contain the information agreed upon by the chapter presidents. The National Treasurer will execute all other assignments as directed by the National President or his designee.

National – Lieutenant at Arms

The National Lieutenant at Arms shall direct and supervise the responsibilities of the Chapter Lieutenant at Arms. The National Lieutenant at Arms will coordinate all club security and ensure that safety measures are in place for protection of chapters and club members. The National Lieutenant at Arms shall maintain order and dignity during all national executive board meetings. The National Lieutenant at Arms shall be responsible for enforcing club discipline as directed by the National President or National Executive Board, ensuring the payment of all fees and assessments as required by the club, and for securing patches, colors and all club property from chapters, members or associates who resign or who are expelled from the club for just cause. The National Lieutenant at Arms will handle liaison duties between the DMC and other organizations. The National Lieutenant at Arms shall continually maintain an awareness of real or perceived threats or safety issues affecting the club and its members and immediately report said threat or safety issues to the National Executive Board. The National Lieutenant at Arms is required to be an active certified law enforcement officer. The Lieutenant at Arms will execute all other assignments as directed by the National President or his designee.

National – Quartermaster

The National Quartermaster shall maintain a record of all merchandise or regalia from all club chapters relating to the club's name as well as its logo(s) and or mottos. The National Quartermaster will review new potential club merchandise or regalia for the club store and has authority to approve such items on behalf of the National Executive Board. The National Quartermaster shall keep and provide invoices of all funds expended by the National Executive Board. The National Quartermaster will obtain approval from the National Treasurer or President or Vice President prior to expending funds on behalf of the National Executive Board or advancing funds on their behalf. The National Quartermaster shall research new sources and vendors for existing and new merchandise as well as negotiate prices with suppliers. The National Quartermaster will be a contact for the chapter quartermasters and will render assistance whenever possible regarding club merchandise or regalia. The National Quartermaster will maintain records and information pertaining to the club's on-line store. The National Quartermaster shall also be aware of license and trademark agreements and keep copies of signed agreements. The National Quartermaster will not have voting privileges. The National Quartermaster will wear the United States bottom rocker until he either steps down or is removed for cause by the National Executive Board. Once the National Quartermaster has stepped down or been removed by the National Executive Board, he will immediately remove the United States rocker and replace it with his current state rocker.

National – Webmaster

The National Webmaster shall create, maintain, and update the national website. The National Webmaster shall oversee the national roster and ensure it is in working order. The National Webmaster will on a continuing basis create new content for the national site. The National Webmaster will follow directives and requests from the National Executive Board and give recommendations pertaining to the national site. The National Webmaster is responsible for domain and hosting renewals. The National Webmaster will provide the National Treasurer with invoices from the hosting company for payment. The National Webmaster will work with the National Rally Committee to update the national rally website. The National Webmaster will be a contact for chapter Webmaster's and will render assistance whenever possible regarding chapter websites. The National Webmaster will not have voting privileges. The National Webmaster will wear the United States

bottom rocker until he either steps down or is removed for cause by the National Executive Board. Once the National Webmaster has stepped down or been removed by the National Executive Board, he will immediately remove the United States rocker and replace it with his current state rocker.

National – Advisor

This is an honor bestowed upon a National Board member by the National Executive Board who has served successfully on the National Board and has stepped down after their term on the National Board was up. The National Advisor will wear this patch on the front right side of his vest and continue to wear the United States Rocker. He will return to the chapter he came from. From time to time a National Advisor maybe called upon for his executive board knowledge, to assist with helping a chapter that maybe having issues and maybe requested to conduct an inquiry or investigation into a matter assigned to him by the National Board. The National Advisor serves as a National Advisor until that time he is no longer a member, or the title is removed by the National Board.

National – Rally Committee Chairman and Co-Chairman

The National Rally Chairman is part of the National Team. The National Rally Committee Chairman will be selected by the National Executive Board. The National Rally Committee Chairman will be a full patched member in good standing. The National Executive Board will additionally select a National Rally Committee Co-Chairman to assist the Chairman. The National Rally Committee Co-Chairman may be an associate. If an associate is selected for the Co-Chairman position, the associate's sponsor must remain in good standing. The National Rally Committee Chairman and Co-Chairman shall be responsible to oversee the National Rally Committee Team. The overall planning and final execution of the National Rally will be handled by the National Rally Team under the supervision of the National Rally Chairman and Co-Chairman. The National Rally Committee Chairman shall liaison with National Executive Board through a National Board Member who is designated by the National President. The National Rally Committee Chairman shall be responsible for maintaining a record of all national rally committee meetings to include those which occur on computer and through telecommunications. The National Rally Committee Chairman will be responsible to maintain a record all personal and business contacts that are

associated with the planning of the National Rally. The National Rally Committee Chairman will maintain a duties and responsibilities checklist for each National Rally to ensure all details and expectations are met for each National Rally. Once approved by a vote of the National Executive Board the National Rally Committee Chairman will be granted the authority to sign all contracts associated with the National Rally. All contracts and liabilities for each National Rally will be maintained by the National Rally Committee Chairman and supplied to the National Executive Board upon request. The National Rally Committee Chairman and Co-Chairman shall be responsible to research and determine viable locations for the National Rally. The National Rally Committee Chairman shall supply a minimum of two locations annually to the National Executive Board for the membership to decide on the next year's location for the National Rally. The National Rally Committee Chairman and Co-Chairman will liaison with chapters to assist with the execution of the National Rally. The National Rally Committee Chairman shall make final selections of volunteer personnel to become members of the National Rally Team. The National Rally Chairman and Co-Chairman will wear a patch on the front of the vest identifying themselves as National Rally Chairman and Co-Chairman. The National Rally Team will wear a patch on the front of their vest identifying themselves and National Rally Team members. The National Rally Chairman will wear the United States bottom rocker until he steps down or is removed for cause by the National Executive Board. All patches will be surrendered if no longer working on the National Rally Team. The former National Rally Chairman will be required to re-affix the state rocker affiliated with his chapter.

National – DERF Chairman

National DERF Chairman will be the National Commander, and will coordinate the efforts of the DERF board in accordance with the DERF policy. The chairman will follow directives and requests from the National Executive Board and give recommendations pertaining to DERF policy.

Chapter Executive Board:

The Chapter Executive Board shall consist of the following Executive Officers: President, Vice-President, Commander, Major, Secretary, Treasurer and Lieutenant-at-Arms. The Chapter President must be an active or retired Law Enforcement Officer. The Chapter Lt-at-Arms must be

an active or retired Law Enforcement Officer. Two of the five remaining Chapter Executive Board members must also be active or retired Law Enforcement.

Each chapter of the DMC will elect a Chapter Executive Board for a term of two (2) years (no term limit). Any non-probationary, fully patched, active members shall be eligible for service on the Chapter Executive Board. Voting will be in accordance with state statute guidelines.

If a vacancy occurs due to a board member being elected to a new position, resigns from the board, is removed from the board or death the following procedure will be followed until the next election is schedule.

1st: Any board member may request to move to the vacant position. If two or more board members request to move to the vacant position the board will vote to select only one person to fill the vacant position.

2nd: The current vacancy or the vacancy created by a member moving shall now be opened to the chapter membership who meet the qualification to hold a Chapter Executive Board position. This member will hold this position as an interim board member until the next scheduled election for that position.

To fill an open chapter board position in the case a board member is elected to a new position, resigns from the board, and is removed from the board for cause or death the Chapter President or Vice President will send out an email to the chapter membership announcing the open position on the Chapter Executive Board. The email will list the duties of that position and any other pertinent information. It will also list the deadline date for any member to have their BIO or just a letter of intent to the Chapter President or Vice President.

Once the deadline has lapsed, each board member will be sent the BIO or letter of intent of all qualified members interested in the open position. Each chapter board member will select who they feel is the most qualified for the position. The member with the most votes will fill that position as an interim until the next scheduled election for that position.

The Chapter Executive Board shall be responsible for voting on individual chapter issues. Open voting by the chapter members shall occur as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The Chapter Executive Board shall have the authority to govern the chapter and the chapter members. The Chapter Executive Board will work to fulfill the requests of the chapter membership, when at all possible.

Chapter – President

The Chapter President is the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter and Chairman of the chapter Executive Board. The President has the power and authority to run the chapter as deemed necessary for the good of the chapter. The President will consider the input and suggestions of the Chapter Executive Board when making decisions that affect the chapter. The Chapter President (or his designee) shall preside at all chapter executive meetings and sign contracts and other documents as necessary. The Chapter President shall perform other duties as required and necessary, as approved by the national board.

Chapter – Vice President

The Chapter Vice President (VP) is the second in command of the chapter and shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the Chapter President in his absence. The Chapter VP shall act as an intermediary between the chapter executive board and the Chapter President. The VP is responsible for coordinating the recruitment of prospective members. The VP may assign duties to chapter executive board members as necessary to aid in the completion of these (and other) tasks. The VP will execute all other assignments as directed by the Chapter President.

Chapter – Major

The Chapter Major shall direct and supervise the responsibilities of the Road Captains and Road Guards. The Major will ensure that all rides and events are properly planned, organized, routed, and executed in a safe and responsible manner. The Major shall coordinate with the VP and the Commander to ensure that events and rides have adequate security to

protect the club, its members, and guests. The Major will execute all other assignments as directed by the Chapter President or his designee.

Chapter – Commander

The Commander shall ensure that all By-Laws are followed, and all orders and directives of the Chapter President and the Chapter Executive Board are carried out as intended. The Commander shall maintain strict compliance with these articles and orders by the chapter. The Commander will maintain the compliance requirements and accuracy of the chapter roster. The Commander shall notify the National Commander of all members who have been removed from the club by a vote as directed in the By-Laws. Commander will execute all other assignments as directed by the President or his designee.

Chapter – Secretary

The Chapter Secretary shall be responsible for making and maintaining all records as directed by the Chapter President. The Chapter Secretary shall record and maintain minutes of all chapter meetings and send them to the National Secretary monthly. The Chapter Secretary shall create and submit any reports as required or directed. The Chapter Secretary shall maintain the official registrar (roster) of the chapter and all club members and keep it up to date. The Chapter Secretary shall conduct a roll call of members at all meetings. The Secretary shall prepare and submit all correspondence to club members and other persons and organizations outside the club. The Secretary will execute all other assignments as directed by the Chapter President or his designee.

Chapter – Treasurer

The Chapter Treasurer shall maintain an up-to-date accurate ledger of all Chapter Executive Board Finances to include all income, expenses, assets, and debts. The Chapter Treasurer shall maintain all club financial documents, papers, and records. The Chapter Treasurer shall prepare the monthly and annual financial report. The Chapter Treasurer will submit a quarterly financial report to the National Treasurer. The Chapter Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of all monies to include dues, fees, assessments, or all payments due to the chapter. The Chapter Treasurer

shall be responsible for the payment of all bills and expenses including chapter charter fees to the National Treasurer. The Chapter Treasurer shall be responsible for the payments of all bills and expenses including chapter charter fees. The Chapter Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting to the National Treasurer the chapters semi-annual dues and DERF payments on January 1st and July 1st of each calendar year. The Chapter Treasurer will execute all other assignments as directed by the Chapter President or his designee.

Chapter – Lieutenant at Arms

The Lieutenant at Arms shall direct and supervise the responsibilities of the Sergeant at Arms. The Lieutenant at Arms will coordinate with the Chapter VP and the Chapter Major to ensure that all rides and events have adequate security and safety measures in place for protection of members and guests. The Lieutenant at Arms shall maintain order and dignity during all chapter meetings. The Lieutenant at Arms shall be responsible for enforcing chapter discipline as directed by the Chapter President or Chapter Executive Board, ensuring the payment of all fees and assessments as required by the chapter, and for securing patches, colors and all club property from chapters, members or associates who resign or who are expelled from the club for just cause. The Lieutenant at Arms shall continually maintain an awareness of real or perceived threats or safety issues affecting the club and its members and immediately report said threat or safety issue to the Chapter Executive Board and the National Lieutenant at Arms. The Lieutenant at Arms is required to be an active or retired certified law enforcement officer. The Lieutenant at Arms will execute all other assignments as directed by the President or his designee.

Once the chapter board member agrees to be in that position, they will be held responsible for those duties and if the national board member over them feels they are not fulfilling their requirements they will be punished under the matrix in Article #6.

*** The following positions are chapter officers. Chapter officers are not executive officers and do not serve on the executive board and do not have voting privileges. ***

Road Captain

The Road Captain(s) are responsible for researching, planning, and executing all chapter rides. The Road Captain(s) shall conduct a monthly "Road Captains meeting" to obtain input from the membership as to suggested rides and events. The Road Captain(s) shall stay informed as to local rides and events that may appeal to the membership and include them as deemed necessary on the ride schedule. The Road Captain(s) will submit a monthly ride schedule to the Vice President for inclusion on the Official Ride Calendar. The Road Captain(s) are responsible for the ride organization and route planning to affect a safe and efficient movement of the members and guests during rides. The Road Captain(s) are responsible for the enforcement of road rules during rides. The Road Captain(s) has the authority to terminate any ride for safety reasons and has the authority to terminate any members or guest's participation in a ride for any safety reason. The circumstances of such an action will immediately be reported to the executive board for review and follow up action if necessary. The Road Captain(s) will execute all other assignments as directed by the President or his designee.

Road Guard

The Road Guard(s) will assist the Road Captain(s) as ordered and directed.

The Road Guard(s) will coordinate with the Road Captain(s) and Major for ride safety and security. The Road Guard(s) will monitor the actions of members and guests at all club rides and events. The Road Guard(s) may assume the position of the Road Captain(s) in the absence of those officers or at the direction of an executive officer. The Road Guard(s) will execute all other assignments as directed by the President or his designee.

Sergeant at Arms

Sergeant at Arms - Chapter

The Sergeant at Arms shall provide safety and security for the club, all members, and guests at all club meetings, functions, events, and rides. The Sergeant at Arms shall continually maintain an awareness of real or perceived threats or safety issues affecting the club and its members and immediately report said threat or safety issue to an executive officer. All Sergeant at Arms are required to be active or retired certified law

enforcement officers. Sergeant at Arms are expected to use their knowledge, training, skills, and abilities to defuse and control all situations for the safety and security of the club and all members. The Sergeant at Arms will report to the Lieutenant at Arms. The Sergeant at Arms will execute all other assignments as directed by the President or his designee.

Chapter Quartermaster:

The Chapter Quartermaster shall maintain the club inventory for members including patches, shirts, and other paraphernalia for the purpose of selling to members. The Quartermaster will review new potential club merchandise for the club store and present it to the membership for approval. The Quartermaster will then order paraphernalia from vendors. The Quartermaster shall be responsible for the record keeping of sales to members, other chapters and share those records with the Treasurer and Executive Board if requested. The Quartermaster shall keep and provide invoices of all funds expended. The Quartermaster will obtain approval from the Treasurer prior to expending funds on behalf of local chapters or advancing funds on their behalf. The Quartermaster shall research new sources and vendors for existing and new merchandise as well as negotiate prices with suppliers. The Quartermaster will handle requests for all regalia for members and nonmembers. The Quartermaster shall also be aware of license and trademark agreements and keep copies of signed agreements.

ARTICLE 6: CODE of CONDUCT, DISCIPLINE, TERMINATIONS and SANCTIONS

The Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. is a Law Enforcement based organization and all club members, associates and honorary members must possess and maintain the highest moral and ethical values and uncompromised integrity for continued membership in the club. All club members will strictly follow and adhere to the laws and ordinances of their respective state or jurisdiction, and the constitution of the United States of America. All club members, associates and honorary members will show respect for all club officers and all its members, associates, and honorary members. No club member, associate or honorary member shall disrespect another, harass, or cause embarrassment to themselves or the club or exhibit conduct contrary to the philosophy or objectives of the Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. Sexual harassment of members, associates, honorary

members, or guests is strictly prohibited. The Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc., its members, associates, and honorary members will not associate with any known felons, criminals, or known or suspected criminal organizations, this includes known or suspected 1% motorcycle clubs and their associates or affiliates. Members, associates, and honorary members will not discuss club business outside of the club. Any suspected violations of the By-Laws will be immediately reported to the Chapter Executive Board for investigation. The National Executive Board reserves the right to discipline club members as outlined in the By-Laws. The National Executive Board reserves the right to suspend or revoke chapter charters for conduct contrary to the philosophy or objectives of the Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. Conduct unbecoming is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

The National and Chapter Executive Boards will have the power and authority, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, to vote to rescind the membership of any member, associate or honorary member and remove the name of any member from the National roster for conduct contrary to the philosophy or objectives of the Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc.

The National and Chapter Executive Boards will have the authority to sanction its membership, including, but not limited to discipline, suspension of active membership, or expulsion from the DMC.

The National Executive Board has the right to revoke the charter of any chapter for actions contrary to the philosophy and objectives of the DMC.

Members or probates who are terminated from an agency that qualifies them to be counted as a LEO for membership or an active-duty military person who subsequently receives a criminal conviction or is discharged for "Other than Honorable Conditions" will have their membership reviewed by the Chapter Executive Board and subsequently voted on by the entire chapter as to whether to allow the affected member to continue their membership in the DMC.

No member, associate or honorary member enjoys any vested interest in their membership in, or affiliation with, the DMC. All members, associates and honorary members acknowledge that their membership in, or affiliation with, the DMC may be terminated as set forth below and agree to fulfill their respective responsibilities.

Any member, associate or honorary member may voluntarily terminate their membership by either;

1) Submitting a written statement of voluntary resignation to his respective Chapter Executive Board, which shall be self-effectuating and effective upon submission; or

2) Surrendering the Defenders Top Rocker, the Defenders Patch (LEO), the LE patch, the MC Patch, the Bottom Rocker and the 1* Patch (collectively the "Member Patches") to the Chapter Executive Board or its officer or agent. Surrendering of the Patches will also serve as a self-effectuating termination of membership effective immediately.

The membership of any member, associate or honorary member may be involuntarily terminated at any time with cause and detailed in a written statement by any one of the following:

1) Initiated by a member of the chapter – Majority vote of the membership either by phone, email or present at a regular meeting, but not by proxy of his respective chapter and a unanimous vote of the entire Chapter Executive Board; or

2) Initiated by a member of the Chapter Executive Board – Unanimous vote of the entire Chapter Executive Board and a majority vote of the members of the respective chapter's membership either by phone, email or present at a regular meeting, but not by proxy of his respective chapter; or

3) Initiated by a member of the National Executive Board – Unanimous vote of the National Executive Board.

All votes are to be recorded and maintained by the Secretary in case of any dispute both at the national and chapter level.

The involuntary termination of any member's membership by any one of the three methods set forth above shall be effective immediately upon either the majority vote of the chapter membership or the ratification by the majority vote of the chapter membership, as appropriate. The involuntary termination of a membership is not subject to any review or appeal of any nature.

Former members shall remain responsible for payment of any unpaid dues that accrued before either the voluntary or involuntary termination of their membership. All former members are obligated and agree to surrender the Defenders Top Rocker, the Defenders Patch (LEO), the LE patch, the MC Patch, the Bottom Rocker and the 1* Patch (collectively the "Member Patches") and any other club property to the Chapter Executive Board or its officer or agent immediately upon termination of membership.

The affiliation of any associate or honorary member may be terminated in the same manner as that of a member as set forth above. All former associate or honorary members are obligated and agree to surrender the Defenders Top Rocker, the Defenders Patch (LEO), the Lady's Rocker and the 1* Patch (collectively the "Associate/Honorary Patches") and any other Club property to the Chapter Executive Board or its officer or agent immediately upon termination of membership.

The National Executive Board has the ultimate authority over all chapters and its members, associates, and honorary members.

Sanction matrix for general offenses to the By-Laws:

1st Offense – Letter of reprimand to the chapter board member and their president with a specific time to have the problem corrected

2nd Offense – Removal of that board member if the problem isn't fixed within the set time frame or the issue continues after the "Letter of Page 25 of 32 Reprimand". Chapter President placed on a 90-day probation and a letter sent to the entire chapters' board with final notice. Chapter Executive Board will vote in a new board member for the one who was removed.

3rd Offense – Remove the President from position and have an interim President in his place until the chapter (not the remaining E-Board) can vote on a new president. Final letter sent to the chapter of pending shutdown or being dismantled into a neighboring chapter. (The "Removed" President cannot run for that position until a "Full" term {2yrs} has lapsed.) If the chapter refuses to or cannot vote in a new president, the chapter will forfeit their charter and be shutdown.

4th Offense – Close the chapter. Chapter cannot reopen for 1 year. Members can opt to join a neighboring chapter upon request to National and the receiving chapters Executive Board.

Sanction matrix for Chapter Secretaries:

1st Step – After Minutes are 60 days (2 months) past due to the National Secretary the Chapter Secretary will receive a letter of warning.

2nd Step – After 90 days (3 months) past due to the National Secretary the Chapter Secretary will receive a letter of reprimand and the Chapter President will receive a letter of warning.

3rd Step – After 120 days (4 months) past due to the National Secretary the Chapter Secretary will be removed as the Chapter Secretary and the Chapter President will receive a letter of reprimand.

4th Step – If after 150 days (5 months) past due to the National Secretary the Chapter President will be removed from his position and an interim President will be put in his place until the “CHAPTER” (not the remaining E-Board) can vote on a new President. Final letter sent to the chapter of pending shutdown or being dismantled into a neighboring chapter. (The “Removed” President cannot run for that position until a “Full” term {2yrs} has lapsed.) If the chapter refuses to or cannot vote in a new president, the chapter will forfeit their charter and be shutdown.

Sanction matrix for Chapter Treasurers:

1st Step – After Dues/DERF are 45 days past due to the National Treasurer, the Chapter Treasurer will receive a letter of warning.

2nd Step – After 60 days past due to the National Treasurer, the Chapter Treasurer will receive a letter of reprimand and the Chapter President will receive a letter of warning.

3rd Step – After 75 days past due to the National Treasurer, the Chapter Treasurer will be removed as the Chapter Treasurer and the Chapter President will receive a letter of reprimand.

4th Step – If after 90 days past due to the National Treasurer, the Chapter President will be removed from his position and an interim President will be put in his place until the “CHAPTER” (not the remaining E-Board) can vote on a new President. Final letter sent to the chapter of pending shutdown or being dismantled into a neighboring chapter. (The “Removed” President cannot run for that position until a “Full” term {2yrs} has lapsed.) If the chapter refuses to or cannot vote in a new president, the chapter will forfeit their charter and be shutdown.

***Letters of Reprimand will be good for 1 year from the issuance date and if the discrepancy has been corrected there will be no further action taken but the letter will remain in the chapters’ folder. ***

ARTICLE 7: ENFORCEMENT

Notwithstanding the location of the chapter, the instant By-Laws shall be construed according to the laws of the State of Florida. The exclusive venue for any action in law or equity brought to enforce or interpret the instant By-Laws shall be the state court of competent jurisdiction in Collier County, Florida. The prevailing party to any action brought to enforce or interpret the instant By-Laws shall be entitled to recover from the non-prevailing party all costs and expenses as well as reasonable attorneys’ fees and paralegal fees incurred in connection therewith at trial or on appeal. The court shall fix the amount of reasonable costs and fees, which shall be made a part of any judgment or decree rendered. All applicants, members and associates agree that in the event of their failure to surrender any patches as set forth in Article 6, regardless of the reason for the failure, it is impractical to estimate the damages the DMC will incur. Accordingly, all applicants, members and associates agree that the DMC may elect to seek liquidated damages in the amount of \$1,000 as compensation for such failure, regardless of the reason for such failure, in lieu of all other remedies available in law or equity for such failure. In addition, the former member may be responsible for two liquidated damage awards totaling \$2,000 if he and the associate that he sponsored both fail to surrender any patches as set forth in Article 6, regardless of the reason for the failure. Any award of liquidated damages for such failure shall be in addition to any monetary award related to the failure to pay dues owed to the DMC and to any award of reasonable fees and costs.

ARTICLE 8: LIABILITY

The Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. is not responsible and cannot be held accountable for any illegal, immoral, or unethical actions by its members or associates. Any such actions will be considered an independent action by that person. Any such action will subject that person to discipline up to and including expulsion from the club. All individuals, including members, associates, and guests participating in club events, will be required to sign a release of liability form that holds harmless the Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. from any civil liability claims.

ARTICLE 9: VOTING PROCEDURES

Voting on all Chapter and National matters will be done in compliance with the rules set forth below;

When it calls for Individual voting (an example would be Chapter and National Board elections), each member in good standing shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote with respect to those matters submitted to the members for action or approval. There shall be NO voting of members by "Proxy". Associates, Probates or Honorary members shall have no voting rights. Votes may be taken by voice, show of hands, written ballot or by email.

When it calls for a Chapter vote (an example would be By-Law Changes or National Rally Locations). The item(s) are discussed by the Chapter members at one of their Chapter meetings. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote with respect to those matters submitted to the members for action or approval. There shall be NO voting of members by "Proxy". Associates, Probates or Honorary members shall have no voting rights. Votes may be taken by voice, show of hands, written ballot or by email. The votes are then totaled. The Chapter vote is then cast with how the Majority of the Chapter voted on that item. If the Chapter vote is in reference to a By-Law item that is to be voted on at the National Presidents meeting the Chapter membership must give the Chapter President some room as the item may change a little after the discussion.

ARTICLE 10: CHANGES and AMENDMENTS

The Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc. reserves the right to issue changes and amendments to the By-Laws as deem necessary for the efficient operation of the club.

All members and associates are bound to abide by all future changes and amendments. All changes to the Defenders MC By-Laws must be voted on as follows:

A chapter vote to approve must be 51% or more of the chapter membership. The Chapter President (or designee) will then receive one (1) vote to be cast for his chapter at the next President’s meeting.

A 51% or better vote of approval by all Chapter Presidents and National Executive Board Officers must be registered for the change to take effect. Each National Board Officer receives one (1) vote as well as each chapter having one (1) vote.

Presidents Meeting Votes – If an issue is voted down by more than 75%, that issue cannot be re-introduce for 3 years; If less than 75%, that issue can be re-introduced at the next Presidents meeting.

**ARTICLE 11:
SHUTTING DOWN a CHAPTER**

The existence of the Defenders Motorcycle Club – (Chapter Name) Chapter, Inc. shall date from the approval of this Charter by the Secretary of the State of Florida and shall continue in perpetuity. If, for any reason, the Defenders Motorcycle Club – (Chapter Name) Chapter, Inc. shall cease to exist as a legal entity, and its Charter shall expire or be terminated, the property both real and personal owned by the Defenders Motorcycle Club – (Chapter Name) Chapter, Inc. shall then be turned over and become the property of the parent chapter, Defenders Motorcycle Club, Inc.

Every chapter has agreed to these terms when the Letter of Incorporation was signed when they opened.

If the chapter is reopened within 12 months from its shutdown date any property and/or money taken will be given back to the chapter. If the chapter

does not reopen within the 12 months, all money will be donated to the Defenders Scholarship Fund.

ARTICLE 12: CHAPTER WEBSITES & PAGES

Guidelines:

- No use of foul or hateful speech/text.
- No use of questionable photos/images.
- No use of personal business (non-Defender related. Excludes charitable events)
- No use of questionable links/promotion (i.e., Questionable M/C's, businesses.)
- Adhere to the "Code of Conduct" outlined in Article #6 of the Defenders By-Laws.
- Remember if you wouldn't put it on your departments' website you wouldn't put it on the Defenders site.

If a chapter's website comes into question, the National Board will review and determine if violations have accrued. If determined the site is questionable a notice will be sent to the chapter's president informing them of the infraction. Immediate steps will need to be made to remedy the situation. If not fixed within 24 hours the chapter's link will be removed from the national site.

ARTICLE 13: PRESIDENTS MEETING

For the good of the club there will be an annual meeting of all members of the Defenders Law Enforcement Motorcycle National Executive Board, National Team Members and each Chapter President of the club.

As a requirement, each Chapter President shall attend the annual meeting. If the Chapter President cannot attend the annual Presidents meeting the Chapter will designate a Chapter Member from their Chapter (preferably a Chapter Executive Board Member) to represent the Chapter and who will act in absentia for the Chapter President. If the President or his selected Chapter Member designee fails to attend the annual Presidents meeting, the chapter will be unable to participate in club wide voting (By-Laws, National Elections or Rally Locations). For the affected chapter to regain the right to participate

in club wide voting the Chapter President, or his Chapter member designated representative must attend the annual Presidents meeting. The affected chapter once in compliance will be issued a letter of reinstatement of voting privileges by the National Executive Board.

For whatever reason, the Chapter President or a Chapter designated member fails to show up for the Presidents meeting, and has a good excuse, the Chapter President may send an email to the National President and plead their case.

ARTICLE 14: SOCIAL MEDIA

General:

The Defenders Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club (DMC) endorses and encourages the use of any form of social media to enhance communication and the relationship between all members/associates. Social media provides the DMC and its members/associates an innovative and advantageous means to communicate for the purpose of meeting objectives in community relations, outreach, events, rides, etc. The DMC also recognizes the role that these tools play in the personal lives of our members/associates. The DMC supports its members/associates as individuals in their ability to utilize social media in any manner that will not adversely impact the DMC.

Sanctioned Use:

1. Members/associates representing the DMC, via social media outlets shall:

Always conduct themselves as representatives of the DMC and shall adhere to all By-Laws governing conduct.

2. Members/associates representing the DMC via social media shall not:

a. Post, transmit, or otherwise disseminate information confidential in nature related to the DMC or its members and associates unless it is done in a closed group and given prior written authorization by the National Executive Board, or designee, to do so.

b. Discuss DMC business unless it is done in a closed group and given prior written authorization by the National Executive Board, or designee, to do so.

c. State that their views represent those of The DMC unless given prior written authorization by the National Executive Board, or designee, to do so.

Prohibited Conduct:

To ensure The DMC's safety, mission, and public trust, the following is prohibited:

a. Speech or expression that could compromise or damage the mission, function, reputation or professionalism of The DMC or its members/associates.

b. Speech or expression that is significantly linked or related to The DMC that tends to compromise or damage the mission, function, or the professional reputation of The DMC or its members/associates.

c. Speech or expression that could reasonably be interpreted to create a negative impact on the credibility of its members/associates.

d. Posting, transmitting, or disseminating any photographs, videos or other recordings, likenesses or images of the club logo, emblems, badges, patches, equipment, or other material that specifically identifies The DMC on any personal or social network site, other website, or web page in any manner which is defamatory, obscene, unlawful or interferes with the operations of the DMC.

e. Failing to take reasonable and prompt action to remove content that is in violation of this policy from any social media portal, web page or website maintained by a member/associate or to which the member/associate has access and/or control (i.e., social, or personal website). Failure to comply with a directive relative to the removal of content may result in disciplinary action. Any violation herein can result in review of the members/associate's membership in the DMC.

Revised: 7/1/2024