

**DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

**CONTENTS:**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**SECTION 1: JURISDICION AND AUTHORITY**

**SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 3: SUPPORT RIDERS**

**SECTION 4: REPRESENTATION, PATCHES AND UNIFORMS**

**SECTION 5: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 6: REIMBURSEMENT**

**SECTION 7: MEMERSHIP DUES**

**SECTION 8: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

**SECTION 9: MEETINGS**

**SECTION 10: GOVERNMENT**

**SECTION 11: ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICES ELECTED AND  
APPOINTED**

**SECTION 12: COLORADO DEPARTMENT STATE  
REPRESENTATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
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**VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**"The mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Warriors Motorcycle Organization is to promote Colorado State VFW missions, develop membership growth for the VFW, increase community awareness, and to promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activities that shall foster camaraderie among membership; and to encourage a better understanding of motorcycle riding as a constructive activity among members of the VFW, Auxiliaries, and the public; promoting motorcycle safety programs; and providing a social atmosphere for VFW Posts and Auxiliaries who share the same interest. Money raised during motorcycle fund raising events shall go to support Veteran related organizations, facilities, causes, and charities that benefit Veterans, families and their communities."**

## **SECTION 1: JURISDICTION AND AUTHORITY**

The Department Commander has jurisdiction to establish policy and procedures for the Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization. The VFW Department Commander confirm or deny the election of the Warriors State President and Vice President, as elected by Council of District Presidents and a delegate from each Warrior District that is elected by the District Warrior membership in each District.

The election of the Warriors State President and Vice President will be held during a meeting at the annual State Convention of the Department of Colorado.

The District Commander has authority to implement the VFW Warriors within their District per the Policies and Procedures of the Department of Colorado.

## **SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

### **Eligibility:**

Membership in the VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization shall consist of members in good standing with a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post or the Auxiliary of a Post within the Department of Colorado.

### **Prerequisites and requirements for VFW District Warrior charter:**

A Colorado VFW District with Post members who are interested may affiliate and obtain an organizational charter.

Eligibility to obtain and maintain a chapter as a Colorado VFW District must start at the post or District level and have a minimum of (3) three dedicated members to conduct logistical operations to sustain operations for that Post or district. Each Colorado VFW Post wishing to join a chapter must pass a motion on the floor of a regular meeting requesting and authorizing the formation of a VFW Warriors Organization and the display of their district and Post number on the Colorado VFW Warrior patch. The Post Commander must submit The Registration Form (Post) with copies of the post meeting minutes reflecting approval of the membership to the District VFW Commander for approval which is then forwarded it to the Colorado VFW Warriors State President for review and forwarded to Department Commander for approval.

Every Colorado VFW Warriors District will be managed by an elected BOD with each BOD consisting of an elected President, Vice President, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and Secretary. The VFW Warriors District President, when elected, will be confirmed by the Colorado VFW Warriors State President and the Colorado VFW Department Commander. All officers will be elected/appointed from within the ranks of their Colorado VFW Warriors District Chapter. Additionally, the District VFW Commander and Quartermaster shall be ex officio members of that chapter by virtue of their elected positions.

- a): The officers shall exercise supervision over the members of their respective District VFW Warriors as well as insuring the protection of the VFW name and property.
- b): The District VFW Warrior President, or designated representative, shall report the chapter activities at all regular meetings of their district.

- c): Expenditures and receipt of funds shall be in accordance with the VFW National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

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

**Individual Membership Process:**

Every member must be a legally registered owner of a street-legal motorcycle (650cc or above) and must possess a valid motorcycle's driver license in their state of residence and maintain proper levels of insurance as required by their licensing state, or a passenger there of as an auxiliary or support member.

Prospective members must submit their Membership Application (See Appendix A) to a member of the District Warriors for initial review. After reviewing/verifying information, the application is forwarded to the BOD, who will designate a District Warrior member as their Sponsor (from their respective post if available). The Sponsor is then responsible for their probationary period and issuance of the front patch. While mentoring the applicant in the VFW Warriors riding and safety practices, policies, procedures, the Sponsor will schedule the applicant's appearance before the BOD to verify membership criteria. The Sponsor will ensure the New Member's Checklist (See Appendix B) is completed prior to the meeting to approve membership.

A majority vote of the BOD during their scheduled meeting is required before the applicant is presented to the General Membership.

Before voting on the application during the General Membership meeting, the District Warriors President can provide the applicant an opportunity to address membership to demonstrate their commitment, capabilities and experience. A majority vote of the membership during a scheduled General Membership meeting is needed before the applicant is granted membership.

**Probationary Requirements:**

Candidates of the VFW Warriors will be initiated as "Probates". Any member of the VFW or Auxiliary may request entry into the District Warriors providing they meet the requirements listed below:

a. Current active (attends a minimum of three of their Post meetings during one fiscal year) member in the VFW or Auxiliary.

b. Maintain Probate/Sponsorship status while completing the VFW Warriors checklist requirements during the Probationary period of a minimum of three (3) months. The probationary period may remain up to twelve months. All exceptions beyond 12 months for extensions will be submitted in writing by the Probate and Sponsor to be approved by the BOD. i.e., OCONUS deployments.

c. As a member of the VFW Warriors, all probates must aggressively participate in VFW Post/Auxiliary and Warriors activities as listed in the checklist but not limited to:

- 1) Plan or assist in planning a VFW Warriors ride
- 2) Plan or assist in planning a major VFW Warriors function
- 3) Sponsor or assist in a VFW Warriors expansion project
- 4) Lead or assist in a VFW Warriors volunteer project

d. Demonstrate Loyalty, Respect, and Honor to the VFW District Warriors with dedication to the future of the VFW Warriors Organization and its members

e. Demonstrate Respect and honor for all VFW Warriors members, and other Motorcycle Clubs that support the Colorado VFW Warriors Organization

### **SECTION 3: SUPPORT RIDERS**

A District VFW Warriors Chapter may, at their discretion and by 2/3 majority vote of its paid active members, authorize the inclusion of Support Riders in their Organization. Such supporter classification does not constitute membership in the VFW or VFW Auxiliary nor provide any promise of material, financial, or benefit to the Colorado VFW Warriors, its members, nor to any other member at any other level within the VFW or Auxiliary, nor there be any similar gains for the honoree through the conferring of "Supporter" status, but is intended as a means to provide recognition to those who show strong support to their local District VFW Warriors. Prospective supporters must be the legally registered owner of a street-legal (650CC and above) that is properly insured, licensed and registered and must possess a valid motorcycle driver's license from their state of residency or a passenger thereof.

All Representational patches worn by "Support Riders" shall contain the word(s) "I support" or "Supporter" and will not have the VFW or Auxiliary emblems anywhere on the patch. All "Support Riders" will be requested to comply with the District and Department VFW Warriors Policies and Procedures. A "Support Rider" must complete the New Member's checklist and be sponsored by a member within the Colorado VFW Warriors Organization. The number of "Support Riders" in any District VFW Warriors will not exceed 20% of the VFW Warrior membership in that district.

### **SECTION 4: REPRESENTATION, PATCHES AND UNIFORMS**

The name of this Organization shall be "Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization". The identifying patches for the Colorado VFW Warriors Organization will be the "VFW WARRIORS" banner above the VFW Maltese Cross emblem or VFW Auxiliary emblem with the District and Post Number designated below the emblem. The patches are the property of the Organization and shall be returned to the BOD of their local District VFW Warriors upon termination of membership.

Uniform for members will be a black vest with the following items on the left side: the US Flag with "VFW WARRIORS" banner and the POW/MIA patch (in black) beneath it. There is nothing displayed above the American flag. Member's elected/appointed Position and Road Name tags will be worn on the right front of the vest. The identifying patch for VFW or Auxiliary will be centered horizontally on the back of the vest. Support members will have their vest layout with a "Support Rider" patch on the right front shoulder.

The District BOD may elect by majority vote to "retire" a set of patches to an individual for special recognition if the member has accumulated five years with the organization or other exceptions to policy as determined by the BOD. Members who have been in good standing and for whatever reason can no longer participate as a riding member may, at the approval of the BOD, retain the Warrior patches. However, the individual will be requested to wear the tab "RETIRED" below their road name tab.

No Warriors member will represent themselves or the organization as a motorcycle club (MC).

Members will purchase their front/ back patches from the District Quartermaster at their own cost. Colorado VFW Warriors members may join other veteran riding organizations. Loyalty and representation to the VFW Warriors is the primary commitment.

## **SECTION 5: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Colorado VFW Warriors shall foster a motorcycle-mentorship learning program. Additionally, Colorado VFW Warriors members will proudly display the designated back patch, which shows that they are members of the Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization and must always conduct themselves as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

### **Termination:**

Any person applying for membership in Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization whose character or demeanor would be considered contrary or detrimental to the purposes of the chapter may be refused membership by a 2/3 majority vote.

Should any member become ineligible due to loss of license or endorsement, they will automatically be suspended for the length of time the individual does not hold a valid license or may be disqualified from the Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization. Such action will be determined by the BOD and subsequently approved by 2/3 majority vote at a General Membership meeting.

Members who display actions identified as detrimental to the good order of the VFW, or the Warriors will be referred to the Post Commander as established in Article IX – Discipline of the National Bylaws. It is encouraged that the District President provide input to the Post Commander to determine the applicable offense(s) and assist with the procedures for disciplinary actions. Any person whose membership is terminated under this section, and who desires later membership in Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization, must reapply for membership as a new member and, if membership is granted by 2/3 vote of the General Membership, shall be assigned a new membership number. The BOD may impose a probationary period for the new membership at its discretion.

## **SECTION 6: REIMBURSEMENT**

Members of District Warriors may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred when performing duties or providing services for State or District Warriors events. Vouchers will be submitted to the District BOD and approved by the President and one other BOD member.

## **SECTION 7: MEMBERSHIP DUES**

### **Annual/Life Member Dues:**

The BOD shall establish the rate of dues for each type of membership. Annual dues are to be paid by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January every year Life Membership can be purchased at five (5) times the cost of an annual membership. District Warriors must first be a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the Auxiliary.

**Nonpayment of Dues:**

An annual membership will automatically be suspended when a payment of dues falls in arrears by one (1) month. During such suspension, the member shall not be eligible for any office or have voting rights. If they are a member of the BOD, they shall not be allowed to participate in deliberations and/or decisions of the board. The suspension shall be automatically removed once their dues are paid in full. A membership shall be automatically terminated when the payment of dues falls in arrears by three (3) months. All extenuating circumstances shall be reviewed by the BOD prior to any action.

**SECTION 8: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall govern the Colorado VFW Warriors Organization in any case to which the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Rituals are not applicable and in which they are not consistent with these policies and procedures and any special rules of order that may be adopted and approved by the State Commander and Council of Administration.

**SECTION 9: MEETINGS****Regular Meetings:**

The BOD shall hold regular meetings at such times and places as the board shall determine with appropriate input from the general membership. For the information of the general membership, the secretary shall cause to be published a notice of a regular meeting in The Warriors Newsletter in an issue not less than fifteen days prior to such meeting. Failure to publish such notice shall not invalidate action taken at such meeting. General Membership meetings will only be conducted with a quorum of 2/3 paid active members.

**Special Meetings:**

The president or any four members of the BOD, with the authorization of the President, may call a special meeting of the board. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Digital or email notice of a special meeting shall be sent to all members of the board, and as directed by the District President not less than two days prior to such meeting, or by announcement by the District President during a regular board meeting and noted in the minutes of that meeting. Special meetings may be conducted by digital text, email, or video conference and/or telephone call.

**SECTION 10: GOVERNMENT**

It is the intent of the Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization to keep leadership policies and decisions at the District BOD level. The District Warriors President will work in conjunction with the Colorado State Warriors President to resolve any issues that may arise between District Commanders, Post Commanders, and VFW Warriors members.

**Policies and Procedures:**

The District BOD may develop policies/procedures that may address categories/actions specific to their organization but must not conflict with Department VFW Warriors policies and procedures, the National By-Laws, Manual of Procedures and Rituals of the VFW.

## **Offices:**

**President**, 1 elected position (Voting VFW Member) one year

The President chairs the BOD and presides at all District Warriors General Membership meetings. The President maintains order and requires strict compliance with the National Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual, State Warrior Policy, and Department of Colorado Warriors Guidelines/ By-Laws and the Department of Colorado VFW Warriors policy. The President shall perform such other duties as the BOD may assign. The President is a voting member of the BOD.

**Vice President**, 1 elected position (Voting VFW Member) one year

The Vice President presides in the absence of the President. In event of a vacancy by the President, the Vice President shall at once, and without further formality, succeed to the title and duties of the President. The Vice President is responsible for the forwarding of the BOD Minutes to the District Commander for review. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as the BOD may assign. The Vice President is a voting member of the BOD.

**Treasurer**, 1 elected position (Voting VFW Member) one year

The Treasurer is responsible for funds management, budget tracking and engages with the District Quartermaster who is directly responsible for depositing of all incoming funds and dispersing payouts via Expense Vouchers from the Treasurer. Additional responsibilities include merchandise accountability, purchasing and disbursement directly or through a designated / appointed individual. The Treasurer is the custodian of property (Patches, caps, hoodies, flags and merchandise) associated with the District's Warriors Store. The Treasurer is a voting member of the BOD.

**Sergeant at Arms**, 1 elected position (Voting VFW Member) one year

The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for maintaining the orderly conduct of all District Warriors members at all District Warriors functions or any function that the District Warriors participate in. The Sergeant at Arms shall perform such other duties as the BOD may assign. The Sergeant at Arms is a voting member of the BOD.

**Senior Road Captain**, 1 appointed position (Voting VFW Member/Auxiliary Member)

The Senior Road Captain is responsible for appointing Road Captains, Road Lieutenants, scheduling, planning, resourcing, and managing all organization rides; to include fund raising; with the assistance of all Road Captains. The Senior Road Captain shall be responsible for obtaining and distributing District Warriors flyers. It is recommended that all Road Captains be certified by the American Red Cross in First Aid & CPR. The Senior Road Captain shall perform such other duties as the BOD may assign. The Senior Road Captain is a voting member of the BOD.

**Secretary**, 1 appointed position –Non-Voting BOD VFW Member / Auxiliary Member)

The Secretary is responsible for maintaining an accurate account of all meetings. The secretary shall perform such other duties as the BOD may assign. The Secretary is not a voting member of the BOD.

**Public Affairs Officer**, 1 appointed position (Non-Voting BOD VFW Member/Auxiliary Member)

The PAO is responsible for serving as public affairs official sponsor for events and shall perform such other duties as the BOD may assign. The PAO is responsible for publications, newsletters, and monthly upkeep of the social roster. The PAO is not a voting member of the BOD.



**Chaplain**, 1 appointed position (Non-Voting VFW Member/ Auxiliary Member)

The Chaplain is a non-denominational appointed position. The Chaplain is the spokesperson for ministry and morale services. The Chaplain is responsible for all ministry services during General Membership meetings and shall perform the "Blessing of The Bikes" before organization rides. The Chaplain shall perform such other duties as the BOD may assign. The Chaplain is not a voting member of the BOD.

Past District Warriors Presidents are considered "Honorary Members" of the BOD but are not voting members.

## **SECTION 11: ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICES, ELECTED AND APPOINTED**

### **General Election Guidelines:**

There will be an election held every year in May to select incoming BOD officers. The President, on the date of election, but not later than the first BOD meeting in July, will appoint the BOD officers to their appointed positions. There is no limit on the number of consecutive terms an officer may be elected.

### **Election Committee:**

The District Warriors BOD shall designate an Election Committee not later than the April BOD meeting to certify the May election results and report the results to the State President. The Election Committee shall be composed of not less than two (2) members of the District Warriors who are not candidates in the election nor related to the candidates. Each member voting in the election shall return their ballot to the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall certify the votes cast for each office, but will not, in any instance, identify to a non-member of the Election Committee how any member voted. There will be no proxy or absentee voting. All Department of Colorado Warriors in good standing in the VFW and the Warriors is entitled to one vote within their respective Districts for District elections.

### **Order of Nominations/Elections:**

The order of Nominations and Elections for the BOD shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms. Nominations shall be conducted at the VFW District Warriors General Membership meeting in April and will remain open until the General Membership meeting in May at which elections will be held.

### **Voting:**

All District Warriors members in good standing and present at the meeting, shall be entitled to one vote. The District Commander and District Quartermaster shall by virtue of their office, each be entitled to one vote. A majority vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect.

**SECTION 12: COLORADO DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIONS**

The Colorado State VFW Warriors Council of District Presidents will consist of the District VFW Warriors Presidents, one District Chapter member per District, and State VFW Warriors President and Vice President.

The State VFW Warriors President represents the District VFW Warriors Presidents, with the mission to liaison with the Department of Colorado Warriors and VFW and reports to/through the Colorado Council of District VFW Warriors Presidents.

The VFW Department Commander hereby recognizes the Colorado VFW Warriors Motorcycle Organization and is charged with the responsibility and authority to implement, change and enforce established policies and procedures.



Carol Thomas,  
State Commander  
Department of Colorado  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Attested to by



Jesse Eastburn  
State Adjutant/Quartermaster  
Department of Colorado  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States