

VFW POST 8760 Beaufort, SC Motorcycle Riders Group Committee Standard Operating Procedures

Formed under provisions of VFW Resolution 308 - August 2010

Purpose:

To promote and support the programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
To promote motorcycle safety programs.
To provide a social atmosphere for VFW members who share the same interest.

Formation:

Posts **8760** can approve and begin a VFW Riders Group Committee that is formed in accordance with VFW Resolution 308 approved August 2010.

Name:

The abbreviation for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Motorcycle Riders Committee shall be VFWRG. VFWRG Committees shall be referred to as Post Riders. Under no circumstances will units ever be referred to as clubs. The name of the unit shall be VFW Post **8760** Riders Group.

Membership:

All VFWRG members shall be members in good standing with either the Veterans of Foreign Wars or one of its nationally recognized auxiliaries. Each must be the legally registered owner of a properly insured motorcycle and must possess a valid motorcycle driver's license (military equivalents acceptable as well) or a rider thereto.

In order to participate in any sponsored VFW event or VFWRG event, the rider must additionally sign a waiver holding the VFW post, district, department and national headquarters and all VFW auxiliaries harmless in the event of any accident or incident. These waivers will be maintained on file by the post/district adjutant.

In order to be a VFWRG member, a comrade/sister/brother will present to the Committee Chairman proof of insurance and proof of license, and complete the waiver to hold harmless. The Committee Chairman will turn in all member names to the Post Adjutant, who will maintain a list of all VFWRG unit members. Exceptions to licensing and insurance will be granted to a passengers, who are a Partner or Spouse of an approved VFWRG Rider in good standing with the Post.

VFW Rider Supporters are authorized. Such supporter classification does not constitute membership in the VFW or any of its auxiliaries nor come with the promise of any material, financial, or political benefit to the VFWRG, its members or committee; nor to any other member at any other organizational level within the VFW, 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 the VFWRG programs and events.

Prospective supporters must, without exception, be the legally registered owner of a properly insured vehicle and must possess a valid driver's license (military equivalents acceptable as well) or a rider thereto. Motorcycle ownership is not required to be a Supporter. Membership exceptions may be made in the case of a non-licensed passenger in/on a registered and insured vehicle. In order to be a VFWRG Supporter, the person will be invited to participate by the VFWRG Committee, and will then present to the Committee Chairman proof of insurance and proof of license, and complete the waiver to hold harmless. The Committee Chairman will turn in all Supporter names to the Post Adjutant, who will maintain a list of all VFWRG Supporters.

Rider Supporters can be from any location. They do not gain any physical privileges from being a VFWRG Supporter, to include automatic entry into a canteen (such as a Men's Auxiliary member has). They could, however, be admitted to a canteen as a guest of an actual rider (who must be a **comrade/sister/brother**).

All Supporters eligible for membership in the VFW or one of its Auxiliaries must become members in good standing, and then become an actual VFWRG Member. Post Adjutants are responsible for providing the Department Headquarters with the names, addresses, and designation (comrade, sister, brother, supporter) of all VFW Riders. The Department Headquarters will provide this information to VFW National Headquarters for the purpose of an; VFW national/regional riding events or distribution of VFWRG related material. Knowledge and approval of this practice is required of any prospective Riders member.

Unit Structure:

Posts must appoint a Riders Committee to manage the VFW Riders Group. The committee shall consist of the Post Commander, Quartermaster, and three appointed members (appointed by the Commander). The three appointed members must be VFW comrades in good standing who are also Riders. The Chairman will be elected by the Committee members, and must be one of the three appointed Riders. The three appointed members have a term of one-year, but may be dismissed at any time at the pleasure of the Commander.

Individual Riders may attend Riders Committee meetings at the invitation of the Committee Chairman. Riders not on the Committee will only be allowed to speak with the permission of the Committee Chairman. Only the Committee is allowed to vote on Rider decisions, and the Committee may be overruled at any post/district regular meeting by a floor vote. The Committee will report to the post/district floor at every regular meeting, as do all committees.

The Post Quartermaster shall handle all funds of the Riders. Riders units will not have officers to include a Treasurer. The Quartermaster will institute a separate accounting column in his post ledger for the Riders, and all undesignated Rider income and expenses must be accounted for in

that column. All Rider expenditures and income producing events must be pre-approved by a post floor vote, as presented to the floor by the Riders Committee.

Riders may hold designated fund-raisers (such as poker runs) for their post with pre-approval of the post floor. When fund-raisers are held, the purpose of the fund-raiser must be clearly stated and advertised, such as for the Post General Fund, or the VFW National Home etc. Monies secured from such fund-raisers must be accounted for by the Post Quartermaster in the appropriate column of his ledger. For example, funds raised for the VFW Home would be accounted for in the Relief Fund column, or funds raised to improve post facilities would be accounted for in the Building Fund column.

Expenditure and receipt of funds (to include solicitation of and fund-raising activity) shall be in accordance with the VFW National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. The Committee Chairman will exercise such supervision over VFWRG members as will insure the protection of the VFW name and property. Disciplinary actions will be handled as with any comrade/sister/brother action. The Committee may adopt rules and regulations governing the structure and conduct of their VFWRG as do not conflict with those issued by higher authority. Such rules and regulations shall become effective upon their approval by the sponsoring post/district. District Commanders will include VFWRG's in their post inspections to insure they are complying with this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Logos, Apparel, and Patches

An approved standard Post 8760 Beaufort, SC Patch will be available for purchase by all VFWRG Riders identical between (post/districts). The back patch of a jacket or vest will be a single patch. Comrades will wear the VFW Cross of Malta, sisters will wear the Ladies Auxiliary Cross of Malta, and brothers will wear the Men's Auxiliary Cross of Malta. The words "VFW Riders" at top and "Post 8760 Beaufort, SC" at bottom will be standard. Under no circumstances will three-piece patches or "rockers" be used.

A second approved standard Patch will be available for purchase. It is to be worn on the right side front of the Jacket or Vets indicating the Riders Name, Handle or Nickname and Post Number. The name of the post town may also be included on the patch at Post discretion.

Supporters will wear American Flag, with the words "I Support VFW Riders Group wrapped around it.

Members will be dressed in a manner that promotes a positive image for The Veterans of Foreign Wars, particularly when operating in Committee activities or interacting with the community. No VFWRG shall allow the use of patches or apparel using offensive or political language in conjunction with any patch or apparel using any VFW logo or trademark. The Post/District Commander or Committee Chairman may forbid individual Riders from participating in any single VFW-sponsored event if their apparel is inappropriate.

Miscellaneous

Each VFW subordinate organization operating a Riders Committee must adhere to the policies herein and those passed down from proper authority. Failure to comply with these issued

standard operating procedures will cause the Committee to be disbanded. Under no circumstances will VFW **comrades/sisters/brothers** operate under any other rules than this SOP and the approved post/district additional rules, if applicable. Posts/districts will not support, operate, or provide assistance to any subordinate motorcycle organization unless governed by this SOP and the approved post/district additional rules, if applicable. All post/district additional rules are subordinate to this SOP, Post By-Laws, District By-Laws, Department By-Laws, and the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. Riders units may cooperate in functions with other like-minded motorcycle organizations for patriotic purposes, such as the Patriot Guard Riders, Rolling Thunder or American Legion Riders.

As with canteens, the State Commander may suspend the activities of any VFWRG for the good of the organization.

In order to dissolve a post VFW Riders Committee, the post must have a 2/3 vote on the post floor at a regular meeting. If dissolved, all Rider designated funds will devolve to the post general fund.

Under no circumstances will Riders units participate in functions operated by or participated in by "outlaw" clubs.

This SOP may be amended by Post, District or Department Headquarters as required.

I, _____ have read and fully understand the above By-laws. I promise to adhere to and respect these By-laws. I will represent this club with a professional, and proud attitude.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____