

Brothers In Arms Puget Sound Chapter By-Laws



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Brothers In Arms Puget Sound Chapter By-Laws

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I. Mission Statement

The Brothers In Arms Motorcycle Club was formed to support the members of our armed forces, past and present, create camaraderie between like-minded men and women from the military services, share in our love of motorcycling and support veteran charities and causes. The Brothers-In-Arms M/C is a non-territorial club.

II. By-Laws

The following By-Laws are for the Puget Sound Chapter of Brothers In Arms Motorcycle Club; hereafter referred to as BIAMC.

II. A. General

1. The Puget Sound Chapter of BIAMC shall develop and enforce local by-laws which adhere to the most current edition of the National BIAMC By-laws. If not specified, the National By-Laws are the approved policy.
2. The Puget Sound Chapter of BIAMC is located in Washington State and is recognized as the Original Chapter.
3. The colors of BIAMC are blue and gold.
4. The Puget Sound Chapter recognizes that family, career, and health issues may need to take precedence over Club activities. However, members are expected to balance their personal needs to take advantage of all the Club has to offer.
5. The Puget Sound Chapter must keep accurate records of all income and expenditures and file the appropriate forms as required by law.
6. The Puget Sound Chapter shall have a waiver of liability, provided by the National Executive Committee on file for all; Prospects, Probates, Patriots, and Patch Holders.
7. Before committing any Chapter resources (time, money, or members) it must be approved by the general membership (time permitting). In the event a decision must be rendered before a general meeting, the Executive Committee (E.C.) may approve.
8. All Club paraphernalia belongs to BIAMC. Club Paraphernalia is defined as items displaying the Trademarked name or images of BIAMC.
9. Membership in the Washington State Confederation of Clubs (CoC) is neither encouraged nor discouraged. Membership petition to the WA CoC will be voted on by the Chapter, and executed by the officers. With the exception of BIAMC Officers conducting official business, Prospects, Probates, Patriots and Patch Holders, shall not associate with 1% organizations (or their support clubs) except in general passing at open motorcycle events and rallies or at Confederation of Clubs meetings and functions.

II. B. Membership (Patch Holders)

1. Membership in the Puget Sound Chapter of BIAMC shall be in accordance with established policies described in the National By-laws.
2. Patch holders of the Puget Sound Chapter fall into two categories, Active and Retired.
3. All Active Patch Holders will pay Chapter and National dues at the beginning of each year. Both Chapter and National dues are payable prior to the last day of February. Retired Patch Holders are only required to pay National dues in accordance with National By-Laws.
4. All Active Patch Holders must make at least 75% of all meetings and designated Chapter functions (e.g. rides, runs, social events. Choir night is not included but highly encouraged). All meetings and designated functions will be established at the beginning of the year IAW II.L.2 of these By-Laws. Active duty personnel on deployment and reservists on active duty or drill status shall not be penalized if a meeting is missed during that time frame. Members who cannot attend a meeting or mandatory function are expected to inform the Chapter by contacting one of the Chapter Officers prior to the event. Failure to inform the Chapter will constitute an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences will be monitored on a yearly basis and may be penalized in accordance as follows:
 - a. 1st Unexcused absence: \$10.00
 - b. 2nd Unexcused absence: \$20.00
 - c. 3rd Unexcused absence: \$30.00 and may be subject to expulsion.

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5. Any member in good standing can purchase a second set of club patches.
6. Every Active Patch Holder of BIAMC will have a single and equal vote in the Chapter. No absentee ballots or proxy votes will be accepted.
7. All original members of the Puget Sound Chapter shall wear gold "Charter Member" patches with blue lettering in accordance with the National By-Laws.
8. Members achieving ten years of membership shall be designated "Life" members
 - a. Life members shall not pay National dues.
 - b. Chapter Dues will continue to be paid by the member to retain voting rites until such a time the member decides to retire.
 - c. Life members shall wear gold chevrons in lieu of Blue.
9. No member may serve as an Officer of another motorcycle organization (e.g. ABATE, HOG, CMA, AMA, etc.) unless approved by the Chapter.
10. A Patch Holder that resigns his/her membership cannot apply for reinstatement for at least 12 months and may be required to re-Probate at the discretion of the Chapter. If a Patch Holder wishes to resign his/her membership (cut patch) it is strongly encouraged that they meet with the E.C. to discuss viable alternatives before leaving the club.
11. Any member who disassociates from the Club for any reason must return all Club property, to include Patches, club paraphernalia, documents and/or records. Disassociating members shall not receive any reimbursement for said property.

II. C. Nomads

1. The membership of Nomads shall be in accordance with the policies set forth in the National Bylaws.
2. Nomads have no local voting rights but will retain the right to vote on National issues through the National Sergeant At Arms.
3. Nomads fall under the command and control of the National Sergeant At Arms and are no longer considered part of the Puget Sound Chapter.

II. D. Retirees

1. A member may elect to "retire" from the Club if he/she meets the following requirements:
 - a. Must be a member in good standing (meeting minimum standards and current on all dues).
 - b. Must have completed at least seven years of membership.
 - c. Pays National dues in accordance with National By-Laws.
2. Retired members retain their colors and are welcome at all Club functions.
3. Retired members have no voting rights.
4. A retired member who joins or affiliates with another MC shall immediately forfeit all club property.

II. E. Patriots

1. Spouses, family members, and significant others may be allowed to become "Patriot" members. Patriot membership shall be in accordance with this section, and the National By-laws.
2. Patriot members may wear a special back patch similar in style to the original club patch, and appropriate flash, in accordance with section II.K. and the National By-Laws.
3. Patriot patches are purchased, and the responsibility of, their Sponsor.
4. Patriot membership is conditional upon the membership of their Sponsor.
5. Patriot members whose Sponsor passes away, has been deployed, or are declared Missing in Action may remain a Patriot member and shall be assigned a Chapter sponsor.
6. A Patriot member who no longer meets their conditional membership requirement, and the Chapter feels there is a valid reason to allow continued membership, a waiver will be requested through the National Executive Board and President's Council.
7. Patriot members may not hold elected office and have no voting privileges. However, the Chapter may extend limited input for issues that may have a direct impact on their activity (e.g., event planning). They may also be appointed to committees and non-elected positions

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such as lead patriot. In addition, the Chapter may seek input from a Patriot member on issues pertaining to Chapter business.

8. Patriot members will not wear their cut without another patched member present. While at public events it may happen that a Prospect or Probate may serve as a Patriot's escort while separated from other patched members.

II. F. Hang-Arounds

1. The Puget Sound Chapter may have Hang-Arounds in accordance with the policies set forth in the National Bylaws.
2. Hang-Arounds are welcome at all Chapter functions, but have no membership rights. They do not pay dues or wear colors of the Club.
3. Hang-Arounds that express an interest in becoming members of the Puget Sound Chapter of BIAMC must meet with two officers as designated by the Chapter President. The purpose of the interview is to assess qualifications and to provide an understanding of what the Club is about to the potential member.
4. Hang-Arounds must demonstrate a commitment to the Club for a minimum of two months, to include attendance at two monthly business meetings before being considered for Prospect status.
5. Anyone wishing to Prospect with BIAMC shall have no obligation to any other Motorcycle Club.
6. Hang-Arounds are not assigned specific duties as they are guests of the Chapter. However, a Chapter may evaluate an individual's willingness to assist Prospects and Probates in general tasks.
7. All Hang-Arounds must complete the National membership application and have his/her eligibility verified by the Chapter Vice President, or their designee, prior to becoming a Prospect.

II. G. Prospects and Probates

1. All new associates shall serve a probationary period of at least six, but not longer than, twelve months. No part of the Hang-Around Period shall be counted as a portion of this probationary period.
2. The Prospect and Probate period is designed to allow the prospective member and Chapter members time to become familiar with one another.
3. There will be no hazing.
4. Prospects and Probates may be expected to act as servers at parties, be responsible for clean-up, motorcycle guard duty, etc.
5. Prospects and Probates shall not be required to buy anything for another member with their own money.
6. When a prospective member is asked to Prospect, he/she will pay a fee which covers the cost of patches associated with the Prospect, Probation, and Patch Holder process. These cost, can be prorated over several months if necessary, as deemed appropriate by the Chapter Treasurer.
7. Each Puget Sound Chapter Prospect will be given, and expected to follow the rules and guidelines within, their Prospect and Probate Package which will consist of:
 - a. Prospect/Probate Book and Checklist
 - b. A copy of these By-Laws
 - c. A copy of the National By-Laws.
8. Vote for membership must be unanimous. Once approved for patch over, the Chapter shall determine the time and place to patch the member.

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II. H. Officers

1. BIAMC Puget Sound Chapter shall have the following Elected Officers as required by the National By-Laws. These Officers constitute the Executive Council (hereafter known as the E.C.)
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President (VP)
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer (Note: Secretary and Treasurer may be combined and held by the same member when necessary).
 - e. Sergeant At Arms (SAA)
2. BIAMC Puget Sound Chapter E.C. may appoint other positions, such as Road Captain, Public Relations or Event Coordinator, that may serve on the E.C. as ex officio members, as needed, to assist with chapter business.
3. Elected Officers must be Active Patch Holders and shall be elected by the membership of the Chapter. Officers are expected to serve a two year term. Elections will be staggered with the President and SAA being elected during odd years, and the VP, Secretary and Treasurer being elected during even years. Elections will be held in December, with the new officers taking office on January 1st of the following year. Nominations will be taken for two months prior to the elections. Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by any Active Patch Holder.
4. E.C. members shall not be compensated in any way.
5. The President shall preside at all meetings and represent the Chapter at all functions. The President serves on the National Presidents council as the Puget Sound Chapter representative. Other than the Treasurer, the President is the only authorized check writer.
6. The Vice President will take the place of the President in his/her absence. The Vice President shall be responsible for order at meetings and oversees all committees. The Vice President will be the Chief Prospect/Probate Training Officer.
7. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings, and a record of all votes. The Secretary will maintain the membership roster, and any other records as applicable, with the exception of financial records which are the responsibility of the Treasurer. The Secretary may also serve as the Treasurer. The Secretary will be the custodian of all Chapter property.
8. The Treasurer shall maintain a record of all authorized disbursements, collection of dues, fines and fees, etc. The Treasurer is the primary check writing authority for the Chapter account. The Treasurer, with the guidance of the Chapter EC shall produce the annual chapter budget to be presented to the membership for approval before the beginning of the calendar year. The Treasurer may also serve as the Secretary.
9. The Sergeant At Arms (SAA) shall help maintain order at the meetings and assist in the collecting dues. The SAA assures the membership adheres to Chapter rules. The Sergeant At Arms shall supervise the Road Captain program. In addition, the SAA along with the Head Road Captain shall be responsible for coordinating meet times and locations for rides and runs.
10. If an Executive Office is vacated for any reason, the Executive Committee will choose a successor who shall hold the office for the un-expired term. Such appointment must be approved by a simple majority vote at the next Chapter meeting. Vacancy of the President position shall be filled by the Vice President and the Vice President position shall be filled as described.
11. Any Officer who misses three consecutive meetings without a valid excuse before each meeting will be terminated as an Officer.
12. Any Officer may be removed by a unanimous vote of the Chapter. The Chapter President will call for a special meeting for Officers removal.

II. I. Meetings

1. Monthly business meetings will be conducted a minimum of once per month. Location, Date and Time will be communicated to all active patch holders in a timely manner.
2. Chapter Executive Council meetings will be held monthly prior to the general membership meeting.

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3. Minutes of each monthly business meeting will be kept, by the Secretary. They will be typed and delivered to the Patch Holders via email prior to the next meeting. A copy of each month's minutes will be forwarded to the National S/T via e-mail to be archived in the National records.

II. J. Finances & Donations

1. The Puget Sound Chapter shall set budget policies, dues, and planned expenditures by approval of an annual budget. The budget is drafted by the Treasurer and must be approved by a majority Chapter vote.
2. The Puget Sound Chapter may make special assessments if approved by the general membership. Special assessments would be for such things as charitable donations or social events.
3. The Puget Sound Chapter may not accept donations from outside the Club except for charitable causes.
4. An audit of the Chapter's finances shall be conducted each December by at least two members without fiscal authority. Results will be forwarded to the National S/T for review no later than Jan 31st of each year.
5. The Puget Sound Chapter shall submit a Chapter roster reflecting current membership as of 31 December to the National S/T to be used as an assessment tool for National dues which are payable by Mar 1st of each year in accordance with the National Bylaws.

II. K. Cuts

1. BIAMC colors are represented officially by the Vest and Patches, hereafter referred to as "Cut". Wearing of the Cut shall be in accordance with the policies set forth in this section, and the National By-Laws.
2. Patched members are expected to wear their Cut whenever riding, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
3. Wearing of the cut while riding in an automobile is not authorized. The cut should be removed prior to getting into the vehicle and may be put on immediately after exiting the vehicle.
4. Patches are considered Club property and the loss of positive control (e.g. leaving cuts laying on a chair or bike and walking away without having a fellow BIAMC member watch them) will result in a fine of \$50.00. If a member loses their Cut, they will be fined \$50.00 and required to purchase new patches at the current price. Situations regarding the loss of patches will be considered on a case by case basis. Fined patch holders are allowed to appeal their fine to the executive committee, only on the basis of theft while the patch was properly stored (e.g. example, breaking and entering theft).
5. Prospects and Probates may wear their cuts to and from a Chapter/Club function, and when meeting their Sponsor or another Patch Holder. If it is anticipated that the Prospect/Probate will be stopping for anything other than fuel, while alone, they are not to wear their cut, but rather carry in their saddle bag.

II. L. Miscellaneous

1. The Puget Sound Chapter will hold two "Members Only" functions per year, open to Prospects, Probates, Patriots, and Patch holders.
2. Mandatory runs will be established at the beginning of the calendar year by the Head Road Captain and Sergeant At Arms and voted on by the membership.
3. Recommended changes to these by-laws must be forwarded to the Chapter Executive Committee for review and discussion. Changes must receive a 3/4 positive vote from the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting, then be forwarded to National for archiving.

III. A. Rides, Runs and Public Appearances

1. During Chapter rides, the Chapter shall ride in a staggered formation in the following order: Ride Captain, President, road guards, other Officers, Patch holders, Patriots, Probates, Prospects, Hang-Arounds, other guests, and Tailgunners/Sweeps. Patriots who ride their own motorcycles may ride in formation next to their spouse, unless member is serving as Ride Captain, Road Guard or Tailgunner/Sweep. Members riding with their Patriot will ride at the back of Patch Holders. The Ride Captain position will be filled by a qualified Chapter member

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- that has knowledge of the route and if all possible has conducted a pre-ride.
2. When riding on a public ride, or with another Club, the Chapter shall ride together as normal, or in accordance with National By-Laws, if multiple chapters are present. If there is no need for a Ride Captain or Road Guards, then those members shall ride in their normal place with the President riding up front. There will always be at least one Patch Holder who will ride in the back of the Chapter serving as Tailgunner/Sweep.
 3. When at a non-Chapter event, no Probate, Prospect, or Patriot shall be unaccompanied at any time. Patch Holders should always be aware of their surroundings and respond accordingly. When attending an event with a high threat level, as determined by the SAA or senior Officer present, Patch Holders will use the buddy system.
 4. When in public places, or in "condition unknown" situations; The Chapter President, or senior Officer present, shall always be accompanied by the SAA or a member filling that role for the event.

