

CONSTITUTION – DOGS OF WAR VETERANS’ MOTORCYCLIST ASSOCIATION

1. NAME

The name of the Association is Dogs of War Veterans’ Motorcyclist Association, abbreviated as Dogs of War VMA or referred to simply as Dogs of War. In this Constitution it will be referred to as the Association.

2. TYPE

The Association fall under the so called “Fraternal Motorcycle Clubs and Interest Groups” as defined in the SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIKER COUNCIL ALLIANCE (SANBCA) protocol 11.5.

3. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Dogs of War Veterans’ Motorcyclist Association

Dogs of War VMA is a Bush War Veterans’ Motorcyclist Association with its Headquarters situated in Bloemfontein, Free State Province, South Africa.

The Association’s emblem consists of a map of Africa featuring a drawn Skull within its borders. Africa is the place where the South African security forces, including the soldiers of the former South African Defence Force (SADF), made a stand during the 1966 – 1989 bush war.

Worn on the front of their cut off jackets (cuts) members display the insignia of the units they served in. A half-rocker with the letters GBNF (Gone But Never Forgotten) is worn on the left hand side on the front as a reminder of the brothers that have paid the ultimate price with their lives as well as those that still carry the battle scars of war.

Club Omuthiya

Club Omuthiya is the Bush War Veterans Club situated in Tempe, Bloemfontein in the Free State Province, South Africa. The club was founded by former members of 61 Mechanised Battalion who were based at the Omuthiya Base during the South African Bush War.

Their emblem consists of an Acacia Thorn Tree, also known as the Omuthiya Tree found in that area of Namibia where the base was situated. The emblem displays the Omuthiya Tree and a Dagger with three Lightning Flashes emblazoned across it. This Dagger with Lightning Flashes was the operational bar awarded to the 61 Mech soldiers that took part in cross border operations in Angola during that war.

After an arduously fought war we are aware that some of our buddies still cannot cope with the effects of war due to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and are therefore deprived of a quality life. Together with the Association Club Omuthiya would like to use the Buddy Project to be able to identify such war veterans and assist them wherever possible.

Buddy Project

The Buddy Project is a support initiative and friendship network launched by Club Omuthiya. Club Omuthiya started the Buddy Project in 2016. With their first Gala Evening they sold 280 tickets and raised R55 000.00. Some vets of Club Omuthiya were bikers and invited local Bike Clubs to buy tickets. These bikers were impressed with what Club Omuthiya did and approached Club Omuthiya and committed themselves to donate towards the Buddy Project from their annual club events. Soon they started to donate funds and in support of this the biker members of Club Omuthiya decided to start a Veterans' Motorcyclist Association called Dogs of War.

In August 2017 Dogs of War hosted the first Buddy Run in Bloemfontein. The Run was held at the School of Armour, Tempe. They received sponsors to cover all their costs and had 150+ bikes that attended with the Club Omuthiya members doing all the duties to successfully host the event. In total they collected R16000.00 for the Buddy Fund from gate entries alone.

On the 11 August 2018 the National Buddy Run of Dogs of War, as it became known, raised R51000.00 for the Buddy Project. With this sort of support the Buddy Project will continue to grow each year.

The combined aim of the Association and Club Omuthiya is to use the Buddy Project towards helping bush war veterans in need. All funds raised will be dedicated to assisting veterans dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other medical problems and disabilities.

The riders of the Association are volunteers that ride for the cause. They are bikers that choose to use their time and finances to reach out to their former buddies and who are prepared to go the extra mile for veterans in need. The Association is not a Motorcycle Club (MC) and does not display a MC in the patch; neither do they adhere to traditional Motorcycle Club rules. They ride to advance the well-being of veterans in need. Amongst the volunteers of Dogs of War are former experienced, battle-hardened soldiers and their associates that respond to the needs of their struggling brothers in arms.

4. INDEPENDENT LEGAL PERSONALITY

- 4.1 The Dog of War VMA is formed with the intention that by this Constitution, its objectives and its activities the Association shall be a body corporate or "universitas" having separate legal "persona" with perpetual succession, and with the capacity to acquire and hold property for itself and apart from its members and the individual members shall have no right in or to any property or other assets of the Association.
- 4.2 Any obligation incurred by or for or on behalf of the Association shall be incurred for the Association itself and to the exclusion of the individual members.
- 4.3 Under no circumstances shall the assets of the Association or any part thereof be distributed to members in the form of a dividend or a share cut of profits or remaining funds and in the event of the Association being dissolved, the assets shall be handed over to such a body as the EXCO may decide.
- 4.4 The Association may sue or be sued in its own name and the right of decision to sue or to defend any suit shall vest in the EXCO of the Association.
- 4.5 The Association may open banking accounts in its own name and for its different sub structures to be operated by members appointed in writing to do so by the EXCO.

4.6 The property and other assets of the Association shall vest in the Association, which shall hold such assets for itself as distinct from its individual members and the individual members shall have no right in or to any property or other assets of the Association.

5. VISION

To be the most effective Veterans' Motorcyclist Association in South Africa to serve those who served and those who they served in perpetuity, at long last through an eventual line of succession by Nobles.

6. MISSION

- Riding in aid of Veterans
- Finding ways to fund the Buddy Project
- Building good relationships in our areas
- Identifying veterans in need, determining what the need is, resolving the needs
- Establishing and funding projects
- To put biking back into biking through brotherhood and by following the old school biker rules of etiquette

7. OLD SCHOOL BIKER RULES OF ETIQUETTE

- First rule of Old School – RESPECT
For yourself and others. You have to give it to earn it. No one owes you anything.
- Second rule of Old School – HONOUR
Stand tall, keep cool, be proud. Stand behind what you say with action.
- Third rule of Old School – LOYALTY
Be faithful, steadfast and true to the Dogs of War Veterans' Motorcyclist Association, brothers and sisters. Let there be no questions on where you stand.
- Fourth rule of Old School – HONESTY
Be truthful to yourself and others. Do not lie, cheat or steal. A biker's word is his bond.
- Fifth rule of Old School – INTEGRITY
Do what you say you will do. Be where you say you will be.
- Sixth rule of Old School – TRUST
All bonds are built on trust. It can take years to build and seconds to lose. To be trusted, you must first prove to be trustworthy.
- Seventh rule of Old School – COURTESY
Courtesy costs you nothing and gives you everything. Behave in a polite, considerate and respectful manner.

- Eighth rule of Old School – CHARITY
Willingly help those in need. Protect the weak. Aid the ill, poor and helpless. Not just your brothers and sisters, but everyone.

8. COMMAND STRUCTURE

National Head Quarters (NHQ):

Executive Committee (EXCO):

National Commander – Norman Delport (Bloemfontein)

National Master Chief – Reg Walkerley (Bloemfontein)

National Gunnery Sergeant – Hendrik Steyn (Virginia)

National Master Sergeant – Pieter Stapelberg (Bloemfontein)

HQ support personnel:

National Adjutant – Marinda Walkerley (Bloemfontein)

National Chaplains – Tommy Lessing (Bloemfontein) and Andre Olivier (Pretoria)

National Public Relations Officer – Dean Gilbert (Jeffreys Bay)

National Financial Officer – Eldridge van Niekerk (Port Elizabeth)

The Dog Chapters in the various regions will have members in the following posts who will be accountable to the EXCO:

Master Chief – He is the Dogs of War equivalent of the President of a motorcycle club

Master Sergeant – He is the Dogs of War equivalent of the Sergeant at Arms of a motorcycle club

Platoon Commander – He acts as co-ordinator in towns, villages and suburbs in large Metros and a Platoon Commander can act as the Master Chief's second in command (the Dogs of War equivalent of the Vice President of a motorcycle club)

Road Boss - He is the Dogs of War equivalent of the Road Captain of a motorcycle club

9. NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

To date there are ten Dogs of War Chapters throughout South Africa namely in the following areas:

Limpopo

Pretoria

Johannesburg South

Molopo

Vaal

Goldfields
Central Free State
Eastern Cape
Garden Route
Western Cape

10. STANDING OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES (SOPs)

10.1 Command and control

The EXCO is responsible for command and control of the Association making use of the subordinate command structures indicated in paragraph 8 of this Constitution.

The EXCO is elected at an AGM.

The EXCO appoints the HQ support personnel.

An Association AGM must take place once a year, normally to coincide with the annual National Buddy Run. Only Master Chiefs may attend, speak and vote at an Association AGM or SGM on behalf of their Chapter. A quorum at an Association AGM is 51% of the number of Master Chiefs who must be present in person. Every individual, except for the founder members as per paragraph 11 of the Constitution, will have one vote per item. In the case of a tie of votes, the National Commander has the casting vote. If an Association AGM cannot be held due to circumstances beyond the EXCOs control, an electronic vote for the EXCO positions must be called for and one of the Chaplains must then act as the electoral official to control and verify the process.

The EXCO may call a Special General Meeting (SGM) at any time for a specific purpose and such meeting may be conducted as an electronic meeting. The EXCO must convene a SGM within fourteen days of receipt of a written request to do so signed by at least 51% of the number of Master Chiefs at the time.

All Dogs of War Chapters must have their own AGM which must take place during the first half of each and every year. During the AGM the Master Chief and other office bearers must be elected to hold office until the next AGM. Elections are subject to ratification by the EXCO.

The EXCO may regulate the finer details regarding Association meetings in a Standing Working Procedure (SWP) written for this purpose on condition that such SWP is not in any way in conflict with this Constitution.

10.2 Membership

The Dogs of War Veterans' Motorcyclist Association respects the protocols of the South African National Biker Council Alliance (SANBCA). In accordance with this and as a so called "fraternal motorcycle club & interest group" as defined in the protocols, the minimum hang around/ride along period of 3 month with the closest grouping of the Association will be required from a biker wanting to join the Association. After this period the biker can then apply for membership and will then be required to ride as a Dogs of

War prospect for another 3 months, after which time he can then be considered to be patched as a full member.

The full patch Association members within a Chapter will be required to decide, by unanimous vote, whether or not to allow a ride along to prospect and whether or not to allow a prospect to be fully patched.

Any biker who has left another motorcycle grouping of whatever type, will be required to serve a compulsory "cooling off period" of a minimum of 6 months before he can join the Association.

Everyone joining the Association will be required to complete and sign a membership application form which includes certain undertakings and personal information.

Everyone joining the Association will be required to pay an once off fee to the Buddy Project, an once off enrolment fee and an annual membership fee as determined from time to time at an AGM.

A hang-around is the official biker's name for a person who is trying to get to know a motorcycle group for the purposes of becoming a prospect at that group. You can spend time with a motorcycle group and hang out with them every night and not be considered a hang-around. When you become a hang-around with the Association, this will be called a ride-along period and it is then formally acknowledged that you are at a stage where you want to learn more about the Association for the purposes of prospecting for the Association. A ride-along with the Association will be required to wear a black leather "cut" (leather waist coast without sleeves) without anything anywhere on it.

A prospect is the first level of membership any person may attain. Someone must transition from being a ride-along to being voted in as prospect. The purpose of the prospecting with the Association is for the prospect to get to know the Association and for the Association to get to know and trust the prospect as a brother in the Association. A prospect with the Association will be given the GBNF side rocker, buddy project tag and an embroidered prospect chest badge to wear on front of his black leather cut. A prospect with the Association will wear only the outer circle of the full Dogs of War patch on the back of his cut.

A noble is a patched member of the Association who have not completed military service/other qualifying active service and have a sincere dedication to helping veterans. A Dogs of War Noble member wears a Noble badge on the right hand front side of his/her cut.

A wife/life partner of a patched member of the Association may be patched as a Noble by following the application process, but will not be required to ride along or prospect. In the event of this Noble member also riding a bike, she will always be regarded to be under the supervision of her Association member husband/partner and in terms of SANBCA protocol 3.9 she will not be regarded as an "independent rider". When the Association membership of her husband/partner is terminated, her membership will also automatically terminate, except if her Association member husband/partner passed away, in which event she will have the choice to remain an honorary member of the Association.

A scout is a member of the Association in an area where no Dogs of War chapter has yet been established. A scout falls under the NHQ for command and control purposes and a Master Chief can be appointed by the EXCO to act as Scout Chief to liaise directly with all scouts as their leader.

10.3 Establishment of a Dogs Chapter in a new area

When a new member who joins lives in an area where a chapter of the Association has not yet been established, such member will be known as a scout, wear such an identification tag on his right chest and will have no appointment in any post.

A scout will fall under the command and control of the Scout Chief who will report directly to the EXCO.

The Scout Chief will liaise with the Bikers' Controlling Body in the area where a scout lives and rides in order to inform such body of the scout's presence.

As soon as six or more scout independent keyholders, as defined in SANBCA protocol 3.9, are present in an area, the Scout Chief and EXCO will assist with the process to establish a chapter following the steps prescribed in the SANBCA protocols and the protocols of the area's Bikers' Controlling Body. The EXCO, in consultation with the Scout Chief, will tentatively appoint members to the posts of Master Chief and Master Sergeant for initial command and control purposes, but all appointments within the chapter will be decided about by the members of the chapter at the first AGM of the chapter.

10.4 Financial management

The appointed National Financial Officer (NFO) is responsible for all financial matters of the DOW. He is responsible for the bookkeeping and manages the bank account(s) of the DOW.

A Master Chiefs wanting to open a bank account for his Dogs of War chapter can only do so in the name of Dogs of War VMA (followed by the official name of the area) and only with the prior written permission of one member of the EXCO and the NFO.

Master Chiefs are accountable to the EXCO and the NFO for all financial matters within their chapters at all times and must be able to provide a financial report and/or bank statement when requested to do so. They must also provide all required information and/or documents when needed for an audit.

Dogs of War funds may not be kept in personal banking accounts after four months of this Constitution coming into effect.

10.5 Communication

The National Public Relations Officer (NPRO) is a distinctive management function which helps establish and maintain lines of communication between the Association and the public. The NPRO will assist in event co-ordination and with the relevant commander manage a committee for a project in a particular area. He will negotiate with possible sponsors. He will handle and/or co-ordinate all press releases and social media platforms, including the website, of the Association. As NPRO he will report directly to the EXCO and he will have the National Webmaster at his disposal at all times.

10.6 Dress and insignia

Every member will always conform to the Association's dress code at the time and respect the Patch and Insignia (Colours) of the Association.

When a member joins the Association, he/she pays an enrolment fee, whereafter the Association provides him/her with the Association's Colours which remains the property of the Association.

A member who leaves the Association must surrender his/her Association Colours and any items that denote membership of the Association. The enrolment fee or any other fee(s) paid, irrespective of what it was called at the time, do not constitute a "purchase" of the Association's Colours and is never refundable.

A member is not allowed to represent or ride for another motorcycle club or grouping – no "dual patching" is allowed.

The Association's Colours can be removed at any time by the EXCO or Chapter, following due disciplinary process flowing forth from the Code of Conduct. When Colours are removed it must be returned to the NHQ as soon as possible and may not be re-issued without EXCO's prior written consent.

When a member resigns, his/her Colours must be returned to his/her Master Chief and the member's Master Chief must ensure compliance by using his Master Sergeant if need be. The Master Chief must return the Colours to the NHQ as soon as possible and it may not be re-issued without EXCO's prior written consent.

10.7 Code of conduct

10.7.1 Purpose of this code

10.7.1.1 The purpose of this code of conduct is to have a uniform code of conduct to which all members are subject to.

10.7.1.2 The contents of this code will be made available to any member that requests same.

10.7.1.3 This code is drawn to ensure that all members are aware of the conduct that is expected from them.

10.7.1.4 The contents of this code are always subject to the Vision, Mission and Rules of Etiquette as set out in the Dogs of War Veterans' Motorcyclist Association's Constitution.

10.7.2 The Code

10.7.2.1 Always conduct yourself in such a manner which is required and expected from a veteran soldier, or a Noble who has joined the Dogs of War Veterans' Motorcyclist Association.

10.7.2.2 No crude language will be tolerated.

10.7.2.3 No rude behaviour towards other members or any member of the public will be tolerated.

10.7.2.4 No public drunkenness will be tolerated.

- 10.7.2.5 Always obey all traffic regulations when on public roads.
- 10.7.2.6 Always show respect towards other people, irrespective of race, gender or religion.
- 10.7.2.7 When spoken to by any other member of Dogs of War regarding unacceptable conduct, the person spoken to must heed the request without any hesitation.
- 10.7.2.8 Always respect your brothers and sisters.
- 10.7.2.9 Always treat other Dogs of War and members of the general public in the same way you would like to be treated.
- 10.2.2.10 Always be aware of your surroundings. Be aware when there are children present or in the vicinity, and ensure that all your actions and language are acceptable.

10.7.3 General

- 10.7.3.1 Always bear in mind that all members of the Dogs of War Veterans' Motorcyclist Association are individuals with their own personalities and character.
- 10.7.3.2 No two persons will ever be the same, and each one of us should be allowed to be ourselves, without the fear of breaking any rules.
- 10.7.3.3 Always bear in mind that the members are mostly war veterans and bikers, or at least one of the two, which may lead to actions and/or language which are not always 100% refined.
- 10.7.3.4 All behaviour is not regulated or prescribed, but good manners and taste should always prevail.
- 10.7.3.5 When travelling in a group, or when attending a Dogs of War social occasion, always subject yourselves to the authority of the leader / organizer.

10.7.4 Disciplinary meeting code

A disciplinary meeting code can be set by the EXCO in a Standing Working Procedure (SWP). All regional SWPs regarding disciplinary matters must be ratified by the EXCO before it can be put into use.

10.8 Standing Working Procedures (SWPs)

The EXCO may regulate the finer details regarding Association matters in a Standing Working Procedure (SWP) written for this purpose on condition that such SWP is not in any way in conflict with this Constitution.

A Master Chief may regulate the finer details regarding Association matters within his chapter in a Standing Working Procedure (SWP) written for this purpose on condition that such SWP is not in any way in conflict with this Constitution.

11. FOUNDER MEMBERS

The Association's founder members, Norman Delport and Reg Walkerley, will always be recognised as life long honorary members of the Association. The founder members may participate in any way their experience can be utilised for the benefit of the Association or in furtherance of its objectives. They may attend meetings of the EXCO and any AGM as well as any SGM or any other Meeting and will be entitled to speak thereat. They are not obliged to pay annual membership and they do have a vote at all meetings - they will each be entitled to a 26% vote. They can intervene in any form when the well-being of the Association is at stake and proclaim an Association State of Emergency to rectify and save the name of the Dogs of War. The founder members will further be allowed to be mentors to members and veterans in certain areas of expertise.

12. AMENDMENTS AND REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution can only be amended by majority vote at a SGM that has been convened for the specific purpose or by majority vote at an AGM where the proposed change has been placed on the agenda prior to the meeting.

Signed by the members of the Executive Committee of the Association at Bloemfontein on _____ to be in full force and effect as from this date.

NATIONAL COMMANDER

NATIONAL MASTER CHIEF

NATIONAL MASTER SERGEANT

NATIONAL GUNNERY SERGEANT