

2009

Buffalo Soldiers
Motorcycle Club of
Central Maryland

A MARYLAND
CORPORATION
INCORPORATED
JULY 01, 2001



[CHAPTER BYLAWS]

Central MD is one chapter of three in Maryland, one of forty plus in the USA a club of the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Clubs (NABSMC). The NABSMC has also expanded its boundaries outside of the USA and is now International, with a chapter in Nova Scotia. The NABSMC is the fastest-growing motorcycle club (M/C) in the country (if not the world). BSMCCMD was formed in June of 2000 by four individuals, near the Baltimore area. Today, our numbers have risen to Seventy (70), despite competition from a large number of M/Cs in the Greater Baltimore and Central Maryland area.

I Name:

- The name of this association is; Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club (“M/C”) Central Maryland (herewith “The Club”).
- The Club is a non-stock, not for profit corporation, incorporated July 1, 2001, under the laws of the state of Maryland.

II History & Origin:

- The Buffalo Soldiers M/C Central Maryland was founded by Luis A. Valdés.
- The Buffalo Soldiers M/C Central Maryland was formed in June of 2000 with its clubhouse being located at 4715-17 York Road in Baltimore Maryland.
- The founders, and charter members, were:
Denise R. Kirkland
Reuben E. Lawson Jr.
Calvin L. Murphy
Luis A. Valdés
- The club’s first organizational meeting was held on June 16,2000 at the clubhouse. At that meeting the following were made officers for five years (so as to maintain consistency in direction):
Luis A. Valdés (President)
Reuben E. Lawson, Jr. (Vice President/Legal Counsel)
Denise R. Kirkland (Treasurer/Interim Secretary)
Calvin L. Murphy (Business Manager)

III Purposes:

The Buffalo Soldiers M/C Central Maryland was formed for, *but not limited to*, the following purposes;

- To preserve of the rich legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries.
- To provide charitable support to selected non-profit organizations in the Central Maryland and Southeast Pennsylvania areas.
- To provide positive role models for our youth.
- To eradicate the “bad biker” image.
- To provide fellowship to motorcycle riders.
- To have fun with the people we enjoy being with that have similar interests.
- To provide support and leadership to the community.
- To be part of the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers M/C Clubs, Inc (NABSMC).

IV Membership

The following classes of membership are available;

- **Section 1. Regular Membership**

Any male or female, 25 years old or older, that owns a motorcycle over 750cc, or rides with a member in good standing, shall be qualified to become a member upon completion of a six (6) month probationary period, payment of the initial dues and shall continue as a member upon paying the annual dues. The amount, method and time of payment of dues shall be determined, and may change, from time to time, by the association's bylaws. Regular members may hold elected, or appointed offices.

A membership in the association may be held only by a person qualified to be a member of the association and may not be transferred. No purported assignment or transfer of a membership shall pass to any person.

In the event a member shall cease to be a member of the association, the member shall have no rights or privileges on account of the membership or vote or voice in the management or affairs of the

association, other than the right to participate in accordance with law in case of dissolution, and shall, within 30 days following cessation of membership;

1. Re-apply for membership within 30 days. In which case any outstanding capital obligations accrued to that point may be;
 - paid in full
 - waived by the sitting directors. Additionally, the three (3) month probationary period can be waived at the discretion of the directors.

2. Require the association to purchase the membership, the price for which will be determined by the board of directors of the association as the lesser of its original purchase price or its book value, on either the date of cessation or the date of payment, as determined by the board of directors of the association except that payment must occur within two years after the cessation of membership. Additionally, the member shall return all colors to the club the price for which will be determined by the board of directors of the association as the lesser of its original purchase price or its book value, on either the date of cessation or the date of payment, as determined by the board of directors of the association except that payment must occur within two years after the cessation of membership.

If the member does not accept one of these options, with evidence provided in writing to an officer of the association, within 60 days from termination or withdrawal of membership, the association may cancel the membership on its books and demand return of the colors with no reimbursement for the colors.

Any other capital accounts in the association of a member who is terminated or withdraws shall be handled in accordance with the policies established by the association in its bylaws or by its board of directors.

No member shall have an interest or right, direct or indirect, in or to the properties and assets of the association except on dissolution. The property rights and interests of the members on dissolution shall be equal and shall be determined in the proportion that each membership bears to the total number of memberships issued and outstanding in the association after repayment, to the extent possible, to the members of all other equity capital accounts of any kind in the association held by the members.

- **Section 2. Associate Memberships**

Associate memberships shall be available to any male or female, 25 years old or older, that are riders, or non-riders who adhere to the association's purposes as outlined in Article II.

The cost of such membership shall be one-half (1/2) the current regular membership. Associate members shall be subjected to the same three (3) month probationary period as regular members.

Associate members shall wear colors identical to regular members. Associate members may not hold elected offices, but may hold appointed offices as deemed necessary by the board of directors of the association. Associate members may attend regular club meetings, but cannot vote on official association business.

In the event an associate member shall cease to be a member of the association, the associate member shall have no rights or privileges on account of the membership or vote or voice in the management or affairs of the association, and shall, within 30 days following cessation of membership;

1. Re-apply for associate membership within 30 days. In which case any outstanding capital obligations accrued to that point may be;

- paid in full
- waived by the sitting directors. Additionally, the three (3) month probationary period can be waived at the discretion of the directors.

2. Require the association to purchase the membership, the price for which will be determined by the board of directors of the association as the lesser of its original purchase price or its book value, on either the date of cessation or the date of payment, as determined by the board of directors of the association except that payment must occur within two years after the cessation of membership. Additionally, the associate member shall return all colors to the club the price for which will be determined by the board of directors of the association as the lesser of its original purchase price or its book value, on either the date of cessation or the date of payment, as determined by the board of directors of the association except that payment must occur within two years after the cessation of membership.

If the associate member does not accept one of these options, with evidence provided in writing to an officer of the association, within 60 days from termination or withdrawal of membership, the association may cancel the membership on its books and demand return of the colors with no reimbursement for the colors.

Any other capital accounts in the association of an associate member who is terminated or withdraws shall be handled in accordance with policies established by the association in its bylaws or by its board of directors.

Additional provisions specifying the rights and obligations of associate members shall be contained in the bylaws of this association pursuant to, and in accordance with, the laws of Maryland.

Section 3. Life Membership

Any male or female, 35 years old or older, that has completed 10 contiguous years of service to the club and has remained in good standing throughout those 10 years, shall be qualified to become a Life member. The Life member will be exempt from annual dues upon payment of a single fee – to be determined by the Club. But will still be subject to any, and all, National fees and dues. The amount, method and time of payment of the single fee shall be determined, and may changed, from time to time, by the association's bylaws. Life members may hold elected, or appointed offices.

Section 4. Honorary Membership

Any male or female, 25 years old or older, that has rendered outstanding service to the club and community may be approved by a majority vote by the Club at a regularly scheduled meeting. The Honorary membership will be voted has remained in good standing throughout those 10 years, shall be qualified to become a Life member. The Life member will be exempt from annual dues upon payment of a single fee – to be determined by the Club. But will still be subject to any, and all, National fees and dues. The amount, method and time of payment of the single fee shall be determined, and may changed, from time to time, by the association's bylaws. Life members may hold elected, or appointed offices.

- **Section 5. Social Memberships**

At no time shall the number of social memberships exceed 20% (twenty percent) of the Regular Membership. Social memberships shall be available to any male or female, 25 years old or older, that are non-riders who adhere to the association's purposes as outlined in Article II.

The cost of such membership shall be one-half (1/2) the current regular membership. Social members shall not be subjected to the same three (3) month probationary period as regular members.

Social members shall wear the small set of colors. Social members may not hold elected offices, but

may hold appointed offices as deemed necessary by the board of directors of the association, or the President. Social members may attend regular club meetings, but cannot vote on official association business.

In the event an social member shall cease to be a member of the association, the social member shall have no rights or privileges on account of the membership or vote or voice in the management or affairs of the association, and shall, within 30 days following cessation of membership;

3. Re-apply for social membership within 30 days. In which case any outstanding capital obligations accrued to that point may be;
 - paid in full
 - waived by the sitting directors. Additionally, the three (3) month probationary period can be instituted at the discretion of the directors.

4. Require the association to purchase the membership, the price for which will be determined by the board of directors of the association as the lesser of its original purchase price or its book value, on either the date of cessation or the date of payment, as determined by the board of directors of the association except that payment must occur within two years after the cessation of membership. Additionally, the social member shall return all colors to the club the price for which will be determined by the board of directors of the association as the lesser of its original purchase price or its book value, on either the date of cessation or the date of payment, as determined by the board of directors of the association except that payment must occur within two years after the cessation of membership.

If the social member does not accept one of these options, with evidence provided in writing to an officer of the association, within 60 days from termination or withdrawal of membership, the association may cancel the membership on its books and demand return of the colors with no reimbursement for the colors.

Any other capital accounts in the association of a social member who is terminated or withdraws shall be handled in accordance with policies established by the association in its bylaws or by its board of directors.

Additional provisions specifying the rights and obligations of social members shall be contained in the bylaws of this association pursuant to, and in accordance with, the laws of Maryland.

IV Officers:

- Elected Officers:

The following compose the elected officers (and executive committee) of the BS M/C Central Maryland:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

- Business Manager
- Appointed Officers:
The following compose the appointed officers of the BS M/C Central Maryland:
 - Road Captain
 - Run Coordinator
 - Chaplain
 - Quarter Master
 - Sargent-At-Arms
 - Legal Counsel
 - Safety Officer
 - Historian
 - Tail Gunner

Election/Term of Office:

- The term for elected offices shall be two years.
- There will be no term limits.
- The term for appointed offices are at the discretion of the President.
- Nominations for elected officers will be entertained at the November meeting at the end of a term.
- Elections will take place at the December meeting prior to the end of a term.
- The first election for officers will be in 2006.
- Removal of elected officers shall be by executive committee and voted by membership.

Removal From Office:

- An Executive committee shall be formed, from the elected officers, to remove any officer from their elected, or, appointed position and voted on by membership.
- The President may remove an appointed officers from his office only after meeting with the Executive Board to discuss removal and obtaining quorum at that meeting.

Reasons for Removal:

- TBD

V Uniform:

- Formal Uniform;
 - Black shirt with black pants and black vest along with bandana.
- Informal Uniform;
 - TBD

VI Member's Responsibilities:

- Pay dues
- Attend meetings
- Participation in club activities and club supported activities
- Carry yourself as positive role model when representing the BSMCCMD
- Treat others with respect.

VII Dues:

- Dues are due by January 15th of every year
- Currently the annual dues are \$120.00/year for non-charter members \$100.00/year for charter members
- Dues, if paid in full by January 15th, will be reduced to \$100.00/year for that year. They must be paid by the 15th in order to qualify for the discount. If mailed to the Treasurer, it must be postmarked by the 15th, no exceptions.
- Dues may also be paid in two installments:
 - \$60.00 January 15th
 - \$60.00 June 15th
- There are currently no fines for late payment of dues.

VIII Officer's Responsibilities:

- **President:**
 - provides overall leadership to the club and officers
 - chairs monthly meetings
 - heads the executive board when formed
 - represents the chapter at NABSMC meetings
 - settles club related disputes both internal and external
 - mentors new members
 - authorized to sign checks
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)
- **Vice President:**
 - provides leadership to the club and officers
 - chairs the monthly meetings in the absence of the president
 - executive board member
 - represents the chapter at NABSM meetings
 - authorized to sign checks
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)
- **Treasurer**
 - provides leadership to the club and officers
 - chairs monthly meetings in the absence of the president and vice president
 - executive board member
 - maintains accountability of all chapter funds
 - collects dues, revenue generated from fund-raisers, profits from quartermaster related activities, etc.
 - disperses money for club approved expenditures
 - director of fund-raising
 - servers as back-up quartermaster
 - must be one of the two signatures on all checks
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)
- **Secretary**
 - provides leadership to the club
 - chairs monthly meetings in the absence of the president, vice president, and treasurer
 - executive board member
 - records and maintains record of all chapter meetings including all financial transactions
 - disseminates club information to club members
 - maintains club roster

- notifies membership of special events
 - back-up to the treasurer
 - authorized to sign checks
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)
- **Business Manager**
 - provides leadership to the club
 - chairs monthly meetings in the absence of the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary
 - executive board member
 - primary liaison between the chapter and other M/C clubs
 - maintains list of activities and keeper of the run list
 - responsible for ensuring that all members are aware of upcoming runs/events
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)
 - provides travel and lodging information to membership and assists with reservations when possible
 - buys blocks of tickets from other M/C functions when authorized by club
- **Legal Counsel:**
 - appointed by the president
 - provides leadership to the club
 - reviews all legal documents, contracts, etc. before the club obligates itself
 - executive board member
 - coordinates/validates all club elections
 - provides legal advise as necessary
 - maintains bylaws
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)
- **Safety Officer:**
 - appointed by the president
 - provides leadership to the club
 - provides safety tips to membership
 - conducts bide inspections at the beginning of all rides and on request
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)
- **Quartermaster:**
 - appointed by the president
 - provides leadership to the club
 - coordinates the procurement and distribution of all items sold by the club including club colors, hats, etc.
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)
- **Run Coordinator:**
 - appointed by the president
 - provides leadership to the club
 - assists business manager to maintain the run list and provides travel/lodging information to the membership
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)
- **Sargent-At-Arms:**
 - appointed by the president
 - provides leadership to the club
 - maintains order at meetings

- security chief at our events
- also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)

- **Chaplain:**
 - conducts non-denominational prayer before and after meetings and runs
 - coordinates with Treasurer and Secretary to make arrangements for flowers, etc... for funerals
 - visits/calls sick members
 - provides spiritual guidance and/or counseling to the club
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)

- **Road Captain:**
 - appointed by the president
 - provides leadership to the club
 - leads club on runs
 - plans route/rest stops for club runs
 - provides directions to visiting clubs
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)

- **Tail Gunner:**
 - appointed by the President
 - provides leadership to the club
 - tails club on runs
 - ensures safety of four-wheelers on runs
 - assists Road Captain on runs
 - may be asked to assist Road Captain in planning runs/stops
 - also bound to Member's Responsibilities (see VI. Member's Responsibilities)

IX National Communications:

- The President and Vice President are voting members on the National Association of Buffalo Soldiers M/C Clubs, Inc (NABSMC).
- The President and Vice President are responsible for communicating to the club, all relevant NABSMC business.
- There are times when NABSMC issues arise, in which the President and Vice President will not/cannot communicate anything to the club – this is acceptable.

X Voting:

- Voting can be done by any member in good standing.
- Voting for officers, can only be performed if a quorum (3/4 of the membership) is present.
- Until membership increases, the President will abstain from voting to prevent deadlocks.

XI Membership Disciplinary Procedures:

Guidelines

Members will be allowed three (3) violations from the date of the first offense within one year (365 day period). If no other violations occur with the year after being issued a first written warning, the slate is wiped clean.

Any violations against the code of conduct (as outlined above) will be handled in the following manner, using the following disciplinary actions:

- .. First Written Warning
- .. Second Written Warning
- .. Third and Final Written Warning
- .. Termination

First Written Warning

The President and another officer will meet with the member to discuss the undesirable conduct and a first written warning is issued. The member will then sign the first written warning, attesting that the warning was provided.

NOTE: A member's refusal to sign the first written warning does not make the warning invalid.

Second Written Warning

If the problem persists, the Executive Board issues a second written warning to the member that:

- Describes the problem
- Specifies the immediate and sustained improvement that is expected
- Establishes a time period for improvement
- Advises the member that additional corrective action will occur. If the member fails to correct the problem within a specified time period;
 - o Each incident of misconduct, which results in corrective action, will not be handled separately.
 - o Successive or multiple issues will be viewed as cumulative for determining what level of corrective action will be administered.
- The member will lose their voting rights for ninety (90) days from the date of the warning.
- The member will then sign the second written warning, attesting that the warning was provided.

NOTE: A member's refusal to sign the second written warning does not make the warning invalid.

Third and Final Written Warning

If the problem is not corrected within the specified time period, the Executive Board issues a final written warning to the member that:

- Describes the problem
- Specifies the improvement that is expected
- Advises the member that termination will occur if the member fails to correct the problem and improve.
- The member will lose their voting rights for one year from the date of the warning.
- The member will then sign the third written warning, attesting that the warning was provided.

NOTE: A member's refusal to sign the third written warning does not make the warning invalid.

Fourth Written Letter and Termination

When a member has failed to correct the deficiency, the member is terminated.

XII Amendments:

(When listing amendments, refer to section being amended).

- Added: Section XI Membership Progressive Disciplinary Procedures. 04/04/2006
Adopted:
- Re-numbered: Article IV Membership.
04/25/2006 Adopted:
- Added: Section 5. Social Membership in Article IV Membership.
04/25/2006 Adopted:

XII Acknowledgements:

I hereby attest that my membership, in the Buffalo Soldiers M/C Central Maryland, will be governed by the foregoing bylaws. I do hereby attest with my signature;