

# DEFENDERS

## NATIONAL CHARTER



17 Sep 2008

**DEFENDERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

**RECORD of AMENDMENTS**

AMENDMENT NUMBER	ARTICLE NUMBER	NAME of PERSON FILING	DATE ENTERED	SIGNATURE
1.	17.01	Bill Durie	26 Jul 04	
2.	17.02	Bill Durie	26 Jul 04	
3.	3.02	Bill Durie	26 Jul 04	
4.	8.03(b)	Bill Durie	26 Jul 04	
5.	17.01	Bill Reynolds	13 May 2006	
6.	17.02	Bill Reynolds	13 May 2006	
7.	Charter Revised	National Executive	17 Sep 2008	
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18.				

# CHARTER

## INDEX

ARTICLE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE #
1.	NAME, EMBLEM	4
2.	PURPOSE AND GOALS	4
3.	MEMBERSHIP	4
4.	MEMBERSHIP RESTRICTIONS / TERMINATIONS	5
5.	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	5
6.	ANNUAL DONATION	5
7.	COMPOSITION OF A CHAPTER	5
8.	CHAPTER EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES	6
9.	SUB-COMMITTEES	7
10.	VOTING	7
11.	NATIONAL VOTE	7
12.	QUORUM	8
13.	DISCIPLINE	8
14.	MEMBERSHIP APPEAL	8
15.	NATIONAL EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES	8
16.	AMENDMENTS	9
17.	FEES	9
18.	BY-LAWS	10
19.	GENERAL	10
	APPLICATION FORM	11
	RENEWAL FORM	12

ARTICLE 1 - NAME, EMBLEM

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- 1.01 NAME The name of the organization shall be “DEFENDERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB” here after referred to as “DEFENDERS” or “THE CLUB”.
- 1.02 EMBLEM The DEFENDERS emblem will consists of an off-white colored front-end view of a motorcycle emblazed upon a large, red maple leaf resting on a black background in the shape of a crown. An off-white banner with a black border will intersect the upper portion of the maple leaf and shall depict the name “DEFENDERS” in black capital letters. Off-white lines on the maple leaf shall represent a road receding off into the distance. There will be two sizes available, a ten-inch and a five-inch. Both will be considered the “EMBLEM” and shall not be altered in any way.
- 1.03 CHAPTER IDENTIFICATION : Chapter identification shall be in the form of a banner depicting “CHAPTER”, the number in numerical form and may include an abbreviated Provincial identification. It will be similar in style and colour. It may be worn as each Chapter decides but must not touch or be part of the ‘DEFENDERS’ “EMBLEM” in any way.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSE AND GOALS

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- 2.01 PURPOSE The purpose of the “THE CLUB” is to provide organization to motorcycle enthusiasts and to unite riders with similar goals so as to benefit all.
- 2.02 GOALS The goals of “THE CLUB” are to:
- (a) promote safe riding (driving) habits;
  - (b) assist in community development; and
  - (c) provide an annual donation to charity as outlined in ART. #6.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

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- 3.01 CLASSIFICATIONS The membership classifications are:
- (a) Regular member; and
  - (b) Ordinary member.
- 3.02 REGULAR MEMBER Any currently serving or retired member and/or spouse of a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, its Allies, the Militia and any Law Enforcement Officer may apply for regular membership. The application must be approved by a majority vote of the Chapter as outlined in ART. #10.02.
- NOTE: Retired persons must include proof of past service with their application.
- 3.03 ORDINARY MEMBER Any person other than those identified in ART. #3.02 may apply for ordinary membership. This application must be presented by two regular members in good standing. The application must be approved by a majority vote of the Chapter as outlined in ART. #10.02
- 3.04 MINIMUM AGE The minimum age for all members shall be 17 years.
- 3.05 THE TERM The term of all memberships shall be for one (1) year commencing on 1 January and ending on 31 December.

ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP RESTRICTIONS / TERMINATIONS

4.01 MEMBERSHIP RESTRICTIONS The membership of the “DEFENDERS” is designed around the Military Community, therefore the precedence for membership shall reflect:

- (a) Regular members over Ordinary members; and
- (b) the total of Ordinary members shall not exceed 49% of the total Chapter membership.

4.02 MEMBERSHIP TERMINATIONS Membership terminations shall be conducted under the following guidelines:

- (a) member may terminate his membership at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to his Chapter Executive;
- (b) memberships can be terminated by a majority vote of the concerned Chapter;
- (c) any member whose membership is revoked has the right to appeal this decision by submitting a letter to their Chapter Executive; and
- (d) the membership is not considered to be terminated until notification, in writing, is received by their Chapter President. This Chapter President must notify the National Executive Committee of this members termination of membership.

ARTICLE 5 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

5.01 Activity in this area is not restricted to participating in programs already in existence. Each Chapter shall decide which program(s) they will undertake. The following list is but a few examples;

- (a) community watch;
- (b) big brothers/big sisters;
- (c) chaperoning teen dances;
- (d) running bingos; and
- (e) organizing children’s bicycle rodeos.

ARTICLE 6 - ANNUAL DONATION

6.01 The charitable organization that the “DEFENDERS” will affiliate with is:

THE WAR AMPUTATIONS of CANADA  
CHAMPS PROGRAM

6.02 All members shall participate as much as possible in activity/events aimed at raising funds for this charity.

6.3 Chapter Treasurers will transfer all funds raised for the Charity by 15 December of the year in which the funds were collected. The funds shall be sent directly to the Charity. The National Treasurer will be advised of the amount prior to the donation being made.

ARTICLE 7 - COMPOSITION OF A CHAPTER

7.01 CHAPTER CONCEPTION Any member may form a Chapter of “THE CLUB” in their area provided that:

- (a) approval is granted by the National Executive;
- (b) the ARTICLES stated in this Charter are adhered to;
- (c) there are a minimum of six (6) members as described in ART. #3 in the same geographical area (geographical area will be a circle of one hundred, (100) kilometers in diameter) and;

ARTICLE 7 - cont'd.

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- (d) there must be an Executive Committee, which will be elected yearly from the membership, consisting of:
  - (i) President;
  - (ii) Vice-President;
  - (iii) Secretary; and
  - (iv) Treasurer.

NOTE The Secretary and Treasurer positions may be combined.

7.02 CHAPTER MEETINGS Each Chapter Executive will determine when and where the Chapter meetings will occur and will ensure that:

- (a) there is at least one (1) meeting per quarter;
- (b) an annual General meeting is held in October of each year for the purpose of electing a new Chapter Executive;
- (c) all members of the Chapter attend as many meetings as possible;
- (d) the minutes of **ALL** meetings will be sent to the National Secretary for retention;
- (e) Special or Executive meetings may be held at the discretion of the chapter President; and
- (f) prospective members may attend Chapter meetings, but must be accompanied by a member of the Chapter, who will ensure that the Executive are aware of the person's name and purpose of visit..

ARTICLE 8 - CHAPTER EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

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8.01 CHAPTER PRESIDENT The Chapter President is responsible to his members and the National Executive Committee and will:

- (a) preside as Chairperson at all Chapter meetings;
- (b) enforce all ARTICLES of the Charter;
- (c) co-sign on all Chapter financial transactions,
- (d) authorize by signature, all transactions to the National Executive Committee; and
- (e) ensure that all National Media Communications are approved by the National Executive Committee before being released.

8.02 CHAPTER VICE-PRESIDENT The Chapter Vice-President is responsible to the Chapter President and will;

- (a) provide assistance to the Chapter President as required;
- (b) assume the responsibilities and powers of the President in his absence; and
- (c) review and authorize all Chapter membership applications and renewals and forward them to the National Executive Committee.

8.03 CHAPTER SECRETARY The Chapter Secretary is responsible to the Chapter President and will:

- (a) maintain accurate minutes of **ALL** meetings; NOTE minutes are to include the names of all that are present at the meeting these minutes should be retained as a historical document;
- (b) provide information of the Chapter activities to local newspapers and approved agencies; and
- (c) maintain correspondence with the National Executive Committee.

8.04 CHAPTER TREASURER The Chapter Treasurer is responsible to the Chapter President and will:

- (a) maintain the Chapter bank accounts;
- (b) with the approval of the Chapter Executive, issue any funds that are required for the operation of the Chapter,
- (c) provide a written financial statement to the Chapter Executive at each meeting; and

ARTICLE 8 - cont'd.

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- (d) advise the National Treasurer of the amount being donated to the charity before the donation is made.

8.05 In the event of any Chapter Executive position becoming vacant before the annual General meeting, the Chapter membership may, as soon as possible, vote in a replacement to the vacated position.

8.06 It shall be the responsibility of the outgoing Executive to work with the incoming Executive to ensure a smooth and effective hand over.

8.07 All Executive positions will be for one (1) year, commencing on 1 January and ending on 31 December. A longer term of office may be allowed for any Executive position if approved by the Chapter membership and the National Executive. Elections of the Executive will take place in October

ARTICLE 9 - SUB - COMMITTEES

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9.01 The Chapter President may appoint Sub - committees as required to provide for efficient and timely execution of Chapter business.

9.02 Sub - committees may be appointed for a fixed or indefinite period of time.

ARTICLE 10 - VOTING

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10.01 All member classifications are eligible to vote on all items of "CLUB" business. The member must be present during the vote.

10.02 All matters voted on will be decided by a majority vote of the quorum present as defined in ART. #12.

10.03 The election of the Chapter Executive and acceptance or denial of membership applications may be conducted by a secret ballot.

10.04 The Chapter Executive may invoke a secret ballot vote on any issue

10.05 The Chapter membership may introduce a vote of non - confidence against any Executive, Committee or Chapter member if that person is believed to be negligent in his duties during the administration of Chapter affairs. This vote **WILL** be a secret ballot and will be carried only if the vote is 75% of the Quorum present as per ART. #12.

ARTICLE 11 - NATIONAL VOTE

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11.01 Only matters of National concern shall be voted on under this ARTICLE.

11.02 A National vote can only be conducted by the National Executive Committee and shall be accomplished as follows;

- (a) a dispatch will be sent to all Chapters stating the full details of the issue to be voted on;
- (b) the results of each Chapter's vote along with the minutes of the meeting at which the vote was recorded will be sent to the National Executive Committee within 30 days of receipt for tabulation; and

ARTICLE 11 - cont'd.

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- (c) the tabulation of all votes will be conducted by the National Executive Committee and will be deemed as final.

11.03 The National Executive Committee will have the right to by-pass ART. #11.02 on any matter deemed critical for the well-being of "CLUB" members.

ARTICLE 12 - QUORUM

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12.01 The quorum for a General meeting will be 50% of the Chapter membership.

12.02 The quorum for the annual General meeting will be 75% of the Chapter membership.

12.03 The quorum for any Executive meeting will be 75% of the committee members.

12.04 The President of the Chapter may declare a quorum present at any meeting if these ratios are not achieved, provided that, this fact and the percentage attending is recorded in the minutes.

ARTICLE 13 - DISCIPLINE

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13.01 Any member who discredits the "CLUB", shows poor conduct while displaying the "CLUB" emblem or while being known as a member of "THE DEFENDERS" will be subject to "POOR CONDUCT REPORTS" as follows:

- (a) poor conduct reports will be sent by the Chapter Executive to the National Executive Committee for action and retention;
- (b) the member must be notified by the Chapter Executive before the report is sent; and
- (c) the accumulation of poor conduct reports may result in membership termination or denial of renewal by the National Executive as per ART. #4.02

13.02 Any member who receives a poor conduct report has the right of appeal to the National Executive Committee. This appeal will be in writing and must contain all the pertinent information regarding the report.

ARTICLE 14 - MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

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14.01 The National Executive Committee will ensure all appeals from members in reference to their membership are treated fairly and justly.

14.02 Upon receipt of an appeal under any ARTICLE in this Charter, the National Executive Committee will review the details of the appeal and send it's recommendation to the Chapter Executive for action.

ARTICLE 15 - NATIONAL EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

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15.01 The National Executive Committee will consist of all Chapter Presidents of which will be elected from the assigned Chapter membership.  
Additional National Executive Members will be: National Kit / Registry and the National Treasurer, these National Executive Members should belong to the same Chapter but both positions together could change Chapters as the situation dictates.

ARTICLE 15 - Cont'd.

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The National Executive is defined as follows:

National Executive Committee

- (a) All Chapter President's (Voting Members).

Other National Executive Members

- (a) National Kit and Registry (Non voting member); and
- (b) National Treasurer (Non voting member)

15.03 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE The National Executive Committee are responsible to "THE CLUB" membership and will:

- (a) serve as an Executive Board over seeing all National business for the greater good of the Club;
- (b) oversee all National funds and expenses; and
- (c) ensure all Chapters abide by the Charter.

15.04 NATIONAL KIT / REGISTRY The National Kit / Registry is responsible to the National Executive Committee and will:

- (a) maintain a minimum balance of stock to assist a New Chapter during their forming;
- (b) assign Chapter and member registration numbers as required; and
- (c) control annual renewals and maintain an accurate and up-to-date nominal roll of all Chapter members.

15.05 NATIONAL TREASURER The National Treasurer is responsible to the National Executive Committee and will:

- (a) maintain accurate and detailed accounts of all "CLUB" funds;
- (b) receive and account for all monies sent from the Chapters;
- (c) issue funds from the National account as required; and
- (d) provide a detailed financial statement of accounts to the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 16 - AMENDMENTS TO THIS CHARTER

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16.01 Any member in good standing may bring forth a motion to amend this Charter.

16.02 Suggested amendments must be submitted in writing and must first achieve a majority vote of the Chapter membership as per ART. #10 before they are sent to the National Executive Committee.

16.03 A "National Vote", as per ART. #11 shall determine the acceptance or refusal of the suggested amendment(s). This vote is not subject to appeal and is binding on all Chapters and members.

ARTICLE 17 - FEES

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17.01 The initial membership fee will be twenty (\$20.00) Canadian dollars. This fee entitles the member to:

- (a) participate in all "CLUB" functions and activities for one (1) year as per ART. #3.06;
- (b) one (1) membership card; and
- (c) one (1) "CLUB" crest which will remain the property of the DEFENDERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB and will be surrendered to the National Executive Committee upon termination of membership. If a member remains in good standing for a period of three (3) years or more, he may retain his crest, but shall not alter, wear or use the crest in public.

ARTICLE 17 - Cont'd

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17.02 Renewal fees will be governed as follows:

- (a) renewals received or postmarked before 1 January will be five (\$5.00) Canadian dollars; and
- (b) renewals received or postmarked after 1 January will be \$10.00 , as per ART.#17.03

17.03 Depending on the changing costs of operations and “CLUB” regalia, these fees are subject to change through a majority vote of the National Executive Committee.

17.04 Chapters may set a membership and/or renewal fee in excess of the National fees. These must be included in the Chapter by-laws as per ART. #18.

ARTICLE 18 - BY-LAWS

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18.01 A Chapter may apply any by-laws voted in by the Chapter membership, provided that these by-laws do not violate any ARTICLE of this Charter and a copy of the by-laws are sent to the National Executive. All Chapter by-laws must be approved by the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 19 - GENERAL

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19.01 Although the DEFENDERS operate independently of all other existing motorcycle clubs, a close rapport should be maintained to enhance and contribute to the goals and principles stated in this Charter.

19.02 All references within this Charter to the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender.

19.03 The “DEFENDERS” and the ARTICLES depicted in this Charter are not intended to imply any endorsements or approvals by the Canadian Armed Forces, it’s Allies or any of it’s Agencies.



**DEFENDERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

**THE MEMBER**

CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_

1. I WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ASSISTANCE TO FELLOW CLUB TRAVELLERS:

- A. OVER-NIGHT LODGING ----- YES NO
- B. CAMPING OR RV FACILITIES ----- YES NO
- C. I CAN TRANSPORT A BROKEN MOTORCYCLE ----- YES NO

MY ADDRESS IS : \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MY PHONE NUMBER IS : HOME \_\_\_\_\_ WORK \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S COMMENTS IF ANY: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(MEMBER)

**CHAPTER EXECUTIVE** DID THE MEMBER:

- 1. MAINTAIN THE GOALS OF THE CLUB ----- YES NO
- 2. ATTEND 50% OF THE CHAPTER MEETINGS? ----- YES NO
- 3. PARTICIPATE IN 50% OF THE CHAPTER ACTIVITIES? ----- YES NO

**CHAPTER EXECUTIVE**

NUMBER OF YEARS REGISTERED: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 MORE \_\_\_\_\_

BASED ON THE CHAPTERS RECOMMENDATION, THIS MEMBERSHIP

**IS IS NOT**

**RENEWED**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
NATIONAL REGISTRY