

## MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE:

When petitioning for membership, every applicant must affirm the following:

To support the welfare and general well being of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association. As members of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association, we shall set a good example and never bring dishonor to the Association, Freemasonry or ourselves in general. **This includes but is not limited to public intoxication at any event and/or while wearing your vest.** We pledge that we will support our fellow Widows Sons regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin, and will never knowingly bring reproach upon a fellow member of the Association. We pledge to combat any forces, which would seek to undermine or bring reproach on the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association or its members, and we shall always strive to bring respect and dignity to the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association.

It is the pledge of each New Jersey member to conduct himself, when wearing any Widows Sons patch, insignia or logo, in a legal, dignified and respectful manner in compliance to the bylaws of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New Jersey and the blue lodge in which he is a member.

Upon accepting an elected or appointed office every member pledges to rule and guide the association or chapter with due and equal regularity in the best interest of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association of New Jersey and to base all decisions on the betterment or improvement of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association.

## Article I - Constitution

SECTION 1: This organization shall be known as the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association of New Jersey, with the principle mailing address of: Widows Sons, 1422 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Dorothy New Jersey 08317.

SECTION 2: The Association shall operate under the auspices of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Assn. and will be governed by the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association of New Jersey State Coordinators Executive Board. Here after know as "The Board".

SECTION 3: The "Board" will administer all the rules and responsibilities of the State of New Jersey and will be comprised of the six elected State Coordinators and the President of each chapter. The 'Board' shall have full authority and jurisdiction over the membership and activities of any and all New Jersey based chapters, including the Grand Chapter, as prescribed in this constitution. (Grand Chapter in New Jersey means 1st chapter in New Jersey. Grand Chapter is the same as all other chapters in New Jersey). All actions taken by the "Board" will require a majority vote of Board members. In all cases each member will hold one (1) vote. If a chapter President is currently holding a position on the "Board" and in one of the, six elected positions he will serve as his chapter representative as well, but is still limited to only one vote.

SECTION 4: The right to reserve specific areas and designate boundaries for districts for future Widows Sons Chapters, is reserved for future consideration by the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association of New Jersey "Board" as appropriate.

SECTION 5: The Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association of New Jersey 'Board' reserves the right to issue or deny any and all use of the Widows Sons patch and logo to any chapter or individual within the borders of the State of New Jersey in accordance with these by-laws, and also reserves the right to revoke the charter or patches of any chapter or any of its members, it has issued within the boundaries of the State of New Jersey, who violates the bylaws of the Widows Sons, and/ or governs themselves in a manner determined to be inappropriate by the "Board".

## **Article II – PURPOSE**

SECTION 1: It shall be the objective of each chapter of the Widows Sons Riders Association of New Jersey to contribute to the relief of the widows and/or orphans of Master Masons within the boundaries of their jurisdiction set by the Widows Sons Riders Association New Jersey 'Board' as appropriate, and to donate to charitable organizations selected by the President of each Chapter. All Chapters are strongly encouraged to participate or attend at least one yearly fund raising event where the proceeds are donated to such a charity.

SECTION 2: All members should conduct themselves in accordance with the bylaws of the Widows Sons of NJ, the laws of the land, and in the conduct of a Mason

SECTION 3: The 'Board' as appropriate and all subordinate chapters shall not engage in political, religious or any activities that promote separation rather than unity, or cause controversy in the chapter or within the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association. It is the duty of the Chapter President to cease any activity within his chapter that may cause disagreement or controversy inside the Chapter or within the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association.

SECTION 4: It shall further be an object of this organization to legally receive, manage, invest, expend or otherwise use the funds and property of this organization to achieve the objectives set forth in this constitution and for such additional purposes and objects not inconsistent therewith as will further the interests of this organization, and its members directly or indirectly. No individual member will receive any compensation for the performance of any and all duties related to any office or position. Individuals will be reimbursed for expenses related to the benefit and operation of the organization if approved by its members and issued by an authorized treasurer.

## **Article III – MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1: Membership shall be open to any man pursuant to the following conditions:

- Active Member: Any Master Mason who is in good standing, from a lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey is eligible for consideration. Any Widows Sons member may not be a member of any 1% MC or 1% support MC while a Widows Son member. Active members shall have full voting rights and be able to hold office within the organization. Active members will be allowed to wear the full Widow logo and attached rockers as prescribed by the Association. Active membership is subject to vote of active members at a stated meeting.

- Probationary Member: Every new member shall be under a probationary period determined by the Chapter President, consisting of least three months and not more than one year. They are permitted to wear all patches, but must also wear a special “PROBATION” patch on the front of their cut, touching their name. This is not a hazing period; it is a time to determine that each new member is a good match for that Chapter.
- Individuals, who are Entered Apprentice or are Fellowcraft, may be allowed to become a prospective Widows Sons member (**NEVER TO BE CALLED PROSPECT**). They are not allowed to wear official front and rear square and compass patches, top rocker, or “Elvira” center patch, until completion of Master Mason degree. The EA and FC patches are to be worn in place of the square and compass on the right chest until completion of his Master Mason degree. The individual will be responsible for payment of active member dues and will be bound by all sections of the by-laws, except he will not have a vote in Chapter business, and may not be an elected officer. He may also be excluded from any chapter meeting or function at the request of any active member if approved by the Chapter officers present. Widows Sons who are not Master Masons and have been unable to complete their Master Mason degree within 1 year due to their Lodge being unable to advance them in a timely manner, must provide their Chapter with a written explanation signed by their Lodge Secretary and Worshipful Master.
- Masonic or Non Masonic non member Supporter: Any person who wishes to support a Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Riding Association is allowed to buy and wear Association approved support merchandise. Not eligible to wear the Widows patch. No voting rights, nor eligibility to hold office.

SECTION 2: A “LIFE MEMBER” is an awarded position given to a Widows Sons member for service above and beyond. Life membership is decided by a majority vote by the “Board”. Life members are not required to pay dues to their local chapter, but are still responsible for assessments to the “Board”. Additionally, they are the only members whom, should they choose to retire their membership with the Widows Sons of NJ, may retain their patches and vest. Patches/Vest will only be removed from a life member should he fail to act in accordance with these bylaws. This will be determined by a majority vote of the “Board”. Board members are automatically Life Members.

SECTION 3: “ORIGINAL” member’s patch is issued to the first 24 members. Additional awards/patches may be developed in the future should the “Board” see fit.

## **Article IV - OFFICERS**

SECTION 1: The elected Officers of the “Board” are the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and Guardian of Membership. All six have an equal vote. Chaplain and Road Captain(s) are appointed by discretion the Board President.

SECTION 2: The elected Officers of all Chapters are the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and Guardian of Membership. All six have an equal vote. Chaplain and Road Captain(s) are appointed by discretion the Chapter President.

SECTION 3: The President of the Widows Sons Masonic Riders Association of New Jersey's "Board" is the President of the Widows Sons Riders organization of New Jersey. The "Board" as appropriate shall enforce all provisions of the Constitution and bylaws.

SECTION 4: The Chapter President has full authority for his Chapter, and must obey and govern accordingly in accordance with these bylaws. He reports directly to the "Board" President.

SECTION 5: The Vice-President, in absence of the President, shall preside and perform all duties pertaining to the office of the President, and render such assistance as may be required in his absence the duties will default to the Chapter Secretary.

SECTION 6: The Secretary shall keep current records of the proceedings of the club and shall keep a separate account and register for each member of the club. He shall conduct all association correspondence under the direction of the president. He shall issue all notices when directed. He shall receive all monies paid into the club and shall record the amounts in the monthly financial record which shall become part of the minutes of each meeting and pay them over to the Treasurer, taking his receipt thereof. The Secretary shall take over the duties of the President in the absence of the President and Vice President. He shall present an annual report at the annual meeting.

SECTION 7: The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the association and shall keep regular and accurate accounts of all monies received by him. He shall pay them out by the order of the President and with the consent of the Board. He shall keep them in deposit in a bank in the name of the association and shall render a detailed report of the receipts and duly established disbursements at the annual meeting and at other times as requested by the President or by majority vote of the members present at any stated meeting. The Treasurer shall take over the duties of the President in the absence of the President, Vice President and Secretary.

SECTION 8: The Chaplain will be responsible for leading prayer at appropriate times during chapter activities. Prayers will remain non- denominational, regardless of any individual's personal faith or preference.

SECTION 9: The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for aiding and assisting the President and Vice President as directed. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall ensure that the bylaws are respected, members conduct themselves in a Masonic manner, and that the intentions of the Organization are carried out in the best interest of the membership. The revocation of Widows Sons patches and regalia is the responsibility of the Guardian of Membership, with the assistance of the Sergeant at Arms when required.

SECTION 10: The Guardian of Membership shall be responsible for accommodating visiting brethren, superintending the membership during meetings, and assisting the Sergeant-at-Arms in the performance of his duties. The presentation of Widows Sons patches and regalia is the responsibility of the Guardian of Membership, with the assistance of the Sergeant at Arms when required.

SECTION 11: The Road Captain is responsible for leading all group rides. Every member or guest (members will be responsible for the conduct of their invited guests) will follow the rules, route and

riding order as outlined by the Road Captain. Individuals whose actions threaten the safety of the others in the group will be required to depart from the group. If any individual is determined by the group to be a danger or impairs the ability of the others to enjoy riding, the President may exclude the rider from further group activities. Every rider must comply with any and all directives issued by President and Road Captain when there is any threat of harm or injury to any member or guest.

SECTION 12: A Chapter may decide to combine the tasks of the Secretary/Treasurer if they take a majority vote for the combination of the position prior to each election. In the case of one person holding the Treasurer/Secretary position, the Chapter President becomes the second check signer and is also responsible auditing the books

## **Article V – MEETINGS**

SECTION 1: Chapters will have the right to schedule their own meetings to fit their purposes. It is suggested that Chapters have a minimum of 6 meetings per year (scheduled group rides will qualify as a meeting).

SECTION 2: Members are encouraged to wear their patch or Widows Sons visible apparel to all Widows Sons meetings, functions and events, unless otherwise decided by their officers before event. Vest will always be worn on the outside visible except in extreme circumstances.

SECTION 3: Board members will be required to meet on at Sunday in February and November to conduct association business. An emergency meeting of the Board may be called by the President or Vice President at any time. All members of the Board will receive timely notice (when possible). This meeting may be conducted via conference call if required

## **Article VI – Elections**

SECTION 1: Each Chapter will hold an election of officers in January of each year by a vote of active members present at a stated meeting. Officers assume their elected positions immediately following the election results. Any active member may vote via phone, if necessary. Such phone calls must be witnessed by at least 2 chapter members. Each and every active member shall have equal voting rights within his respective chapter. No member shall hold two elected Chapter offices.

SECTION 2: Elections for the “Board” will take place annually during the Annual Communication of the Widows Sons, to be held during the February meeting of the “Board”. All nominations for positions must be submitted to the State Secretary in writing, no less than 14 days prior. Elected positions of the Board are: State President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms and Guardian of Membership. No member shall hold two elected Board offices.

SECTION 3: Any Active Member may nominate another for an elected position on the Board. However, voting will only be cast by the current Board Members, Chapter Presidents, Vice Presidents and Past Chapter Presidents. Each member gets one vote, regardless of any office he may hold or have held.

SECTION 3: Every eligible candidate for State President must have held an elected Board position, as well as completed a full term as a Chapter President. The Board may make an exception by unanimous ballot, to be voted upon at the Annual Communication.

## **Article VII – Motorcycles**

SECTION 1: All full active members should own and operate a (for street use) motorcycle capable of safe highway speeds.

SECTION 2: Any member operating an unsafe motorcycle or operating in an unsafe manner may be excluded from group rides for the safety of other riders. This will be determined by any officer present. For legality, safety concerns and enjoyment of riding, all Widows Sons members and their riding spouses and girlfriends will ride staggered and not side by side unless in Parade formation. High speed reckless riding will not be tolerated.

## **Article VIII – Logos**

SECTION 1: The Chapter Presidents will order logos (patch) for their new members exclusively from the Widows Sons Motorcycle Riders Association of New Jersey “Board” Guardian of Membership as appropriate. The oval Widows Sons logo patch, Rockers, “Original” patch, officer’s patches, and any affiliate Widows Sons related patches and pins will always remain the property of the Widows Sons Masonic Motorcycle Riders Association of New Jersey and will be returned to the Association upon demand.

SECTION 2: The full back set (patch) will consist of the chapter name black edged rocker, arched above the center oval “Elvira” Widows Sons patch and directly below the oval patch will be Masonic Riders Assn. black edged rocker. Both rockers MUST be sewn on up against the center oval patch. We are not a 3 patch club. Only the Grand Chapter will use the terms "Grand Chapter". No other patch or insignia is to be worn on the back of the vest. The “Board” will provide mandatory patch location photos with complete patch sets.

SECTION 3: Side “Original” black edged rockers are placed on left side above pocket, angled upwards towards back with center of rocker in center of side.

Member will only have ORIGINAL patch if he is one of the first 24 members in the state regardless of chapter. If a group of brothers apply at the same time and the number goes over 24, the chapter president will decide if “Original” status applies to all of those prospective members. The amount can only go over 24 once and then that “Original” count will stand for the state of New Jersey.

SECTION 4: Parade Dress defined as: Widows Sons vest, black or brown shoes or boots (not dress shoes) Long dark color pants or blue jeans, no shorts, no tank tops.

SECTION 5: Formal Dress to be worn for formal lodge presentations is defined as: Widows Sons vest over a white collared shirt, black slacks, and lodge aprons. In New Jersey, the lodge apron must always be worn as the outmost garment.

SECTION 6: At no time may a member wear vulgar or offensive clothing while wearing their Widows Sons vest.

## **Article IX – FINANCES**

SECTION 1: Annual Dues: Every member shall pay annual dues in the amount of \$25.00 to their respective Widows Sons Chapter by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Each chapter will deliver an assessment of \$10.00 per member to the Board at the February State Gathering. There will be no late fee should a member have good cause for late payment. The Chapter President of that member will approve members cause.

SECTION 2: New Chapter Charter fee is \$100

SECTION 3: New Members- Initial membership fees to the Board are \$10.00 per man, plus the cost of the required back patches. To his Chapter, he will pay his dues for that year. If the new member joins after September 15<sup>th</sup> of his first year, this includes their dues for the next calendar year.

SECTION 4: The “Board” as appropriate shall approve the disbursement of all funds from the account of the Widows Sons Riders Association of New Jersey. At the both the individual chapter level, and the “Board” level, funds may only be drawn after a majority vote of the said body. With due and timely notice, a special meeting may be called for such purpose. E-mail or conference call is acceptable.

## **Article X - CHARGES AND DISPUTES**

SECTION 1: It is the intent of these by-laws to keep peace and harmony between all members and chapters. In the event there is a dispute between members or chapters all parties involved will be directed to meet and resolve the dispute to the benefit of the Widows Sons in general. Depending on the nature and extent of the dispute, the meeting may be called at the option of the President of the “Board” and the final resolution of the “Board will be binding on all parties.

SECTION 2: Any member who disregards or disobeys a direct order by Chapter President, or State President to cease and desist, such activity will have his membership in the Widows Sons subject to termination pending a review of all facts by the officers of his Chapter. The facts will be presented by the Chapter President, in writing, to all members of the board within 30 days of the violation. Any action will require a majority vote of the all of the board members present at a stated meeting. The charged member will be permitted to address the membership at the meeting but will not vote on the outcome. A full record of the proceedings will be kept by the chapter secretary in the chapter's records. All terminations of membership require a majority vote of the Board.

SECTION 3: A board member may be voted out by a majority vote of the all of other Board members for any reason deemed, including a vote of no confidence. In such an event, the Board member will be given due and timely notice of the vote, and will be permitted to offer his rebuttal. The open Board positions will be filled by majority vote of the remaining Board officers.

SECTION 4: A Chapter Officer may be voted out by a majority vote of the Board members for any reason deemed, including a vote of no confidence. In such an event, the Chapter officer will will be given due and timely notice of the vote, and if he should decide, will be permitted to offer his rebuttal.

The open Chapter position will be temporally filled by a decision of the Board. Until the Chapter's next regular meeting, where they will hold an Election which will be presided upon by their most senior Officer

## **Article XI – PROPERTY**

SECTION 1: The Widows Sons Riders Association of New Jersey Grand 'Board' as appropriate has the authority to suspend, trustee, or revoke any Chapter's charter. In the event the Chapter is suspended, trustee, or revoked, all of its funds, books, paper, and other properties shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Widows Sons Riders Association New Jersey 'Board', who shall hold them for reorganization. If no reorganization occurs within a period of one (1) year, such funds and/or property shall be transferred to the Widows Sons Riders Association New Jersey 'Board' as appropriate.

## **Article XII - General Conditions**

SECTION 1: The New Jersey 'Board' as appropriate reserves the right to make emergency amendments or change any or all by-laws listed in this document at its sole discretion. Emergency amendments and changes to these bylaws will expire at the following Annual Communication. Notice of all amendments or changes will be provided to all members within 14 days via postal mail, email, or telephone.

SECTION 2: New legislation and amendments may be proposed by any member. If successfully passing a majority vote of his chapter, they will then be submitted to the State Secretary, no less than two weeks prior to the Annual Communication. They must be distributed by the State Secretary, or his representative, no less than one week prior to the Annual Communication. Proposed legislation must pass by a majority vote of all active members present at the Annual Communication. Each member gets one vote, regardless of any office he may hold.

SECTION 3: Affiliated Chapters may not amend these by-laws for their use. No change will be permitted that materially changes the intent or purpose of these by- laws. Any changes will be solely at the discretion of the New Jersey 'Board' as appropriate.

## **Article XIII - Female Riders**

SECTION 1: Spouses and girlfriends have the option of wearing a vest that has Widows Lady embroidered on the back in red, underneath Widows Lady at the bottom of her vest may be her spouses or boyfriends (name tag) name also embroidered in red.

**Have fun, be safe and always remember -We are all Freemasons and Brothers in the Wind.**

Adopted June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Ratified June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Amended November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011