

**THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE FREEDOM RIDERS  
OF INDIANA  
CHAPTER 4**

**ADOPTED**

**MARCH 2014**

In order to establish the operating guidelines of The Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4 and to promote the mission of the organization and to ensure the continuation of the organization, this Constitution is established.

**Mission Statement** - The mission of The Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4 is to support the Constitution of the United States, serve those organizations in our communities in need of support, support veterans and their families through charitable fund raising, and riding in support of the families of those who have paid the ultimate price while defending their local communities and their country. It is also the mission to promote fellowship and camaraderie among riders as well as provide a safe riding experience for members and other participants while riding in support of the charities.

### **Article I - Name**

The official name of the organization is The Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4, hereafter referred to as TFR4.

### **Article II - Patches and Outer Wear**

There is no stipulated outerwear mandated by the organization. Vests or jackets of any color or style are left to the discretion of the member. The patches however will be placed in accordance with this document. The patches represent a variety of concepts including unity and respect, loyalty to the cause and each other as well as to our country and to those we seek to honor.

The TFR patches will be available for purchase at cost. The new member can purchase and subsequently receive their patches from the designated representative in each chapter. While members purchase TFR4 patches, it is important to remember the patches remain the property of TFR4. If a member desires to remove the patches or the patches are requested from the member due to disciplinary action, the patches return to the chapter and the cost of the patches will be refunded to the individual.

TFR4 colors will be displayed on the back of the jacket or vest by all full patch members unless otherwise stipulated. On the front left (wearers left) there will be the flag, officer patch (if appropriate) and riding name tag. On the right side there will be the "Don't Tread on Me" patch with the Chapter patch under it. If the member is a founder,

that is a member prior to December 1, 2011, the member is entitled to wear a founder patch under the chapter patch. Nothing will appear over the top of the flag.

Absolutely no member of TFR4 will wear the designation of "1%" on the vest or jacket with TFR4 patch. There will also be no patches worn that have questionable language or illustrations on it. If there are any questions regarding a particular patch and its acceptability, an officer of TFR4 will make the determination. While we would like to see all members wearing the TFR4 colors, we honor and encourage Patriot Guard Riders, VFW and ALR riders, Christian motorcycle riders, and any other group of similar interest to join with us as members or simply as participants in our events.

Individuals who are not members of TFR4 will not be permitted to wear the TFR4 colors. New members may wear the three piece TFR colors immediately upon acceptance by Chapter membership.

There is no other guidance regarding the patches members are permitted to wear on their vest or jacket. Remember what the mission of the Freedom Riders is and do not bring discredit to yourself or the organization.

### **Article III - Officers and Financing**

TFR4 will elect, from its membership, a minimum of eight (8) officers to fill the following positions: President, Vice President, Lieutenant, Sargent at Arms, Road Captain, Secretary, Treasurer, Recruiter, and Historian. The Treasurer and Secretary will not be one in the same person to ensure positive control and accountability for funds raised. There will be two individuals responsible for the control of the checkbook and the accounts for the chapter at all times. The names of these two people will be on file with the financial institution, and it will take the signature of both to release funds. Furthermore, the funds will not be released without the consent of the membership.

When there is a need for the chapter to purchase an item, the individual making the purchase will present the receipt during a normally scheduled membership meeting. The membership will then vote before reimbursement is made.

The term of service for officer positions is to be no more than 4 years and at that point an election will be conducted. The incumbent may campaign for the position if they desire

and the number of elected terms is unlimited. Should a chapter position become available, the membership will elect the replacement officer. The new officer will take their position as an officer upon the completion and tally of the vote.

Officer positions may become available through:

- a) The resignation of an officer
- b) The decision of the current officers to create a new officer position
- c) The impeachment of an officer through a 2/3 no confidence vote of the membership

The responsibility of each elected officer is generally described as follows.

**Chapter President** - conducts the business meeting, sets agendas for the meetings, and oversees the overall operation of the chapter.

**Vice President** - runs membership meeting in the absence of the President; tracks membership growth and annually reports to members the growth of the local chapter. They also maintain a roster of chapter members.

**Secretary** - maintains the roster of attendees at each membership meeting and takes the minutes for each chapter meeting and maintains a file of all meetings.

**Treasurer** - maintains control of the finances for the chapter. Receives all funds coming into the chapter and maintains the checkbook for the chapter. Prepares and delivers the financial report at each chapter meeting as well as presenting the payable accounts for vote at each meeting.

**Lieutenant** - responsible for conducting the membership meeting in the absence of the President and Vice President. Assists the Sargent at Arms in maintaining the decorum at meetings. They serve as advisors to the President and Vice President in chapter matters.

**Road Captain** - Leads all rides utilizing hand signals as necessary and maintaining control of blockers as needed during events. The Road Captain maps out the route and arranges escort from law enforcement if possible. Maintains control of all aspects of the formation during sanctioned rides. The Road Captain is also responsible for verifying the new

members ability to ride in a group. If the Road Captain is not available for verification, any officer can then step in for the ride.

Historian - this person is responsible for recording the events sponsored by TFR4 or events in which TFR4 participates. They will be taking pictures at events and maintaining the chapter's album.

Sargent of Arms - this officer is responsible for maintaining decorum during meetings and during the rides sanctioned by TRF4. The SOA will act as an advisor to officers of TFR4. The SOA is also the contact person for organizations requesting a TFR4 security presence at their event. The SOA is also responsible for the limited background check of new members.

Recruiter - The recruiter is responsible accepting friends on the TFR4 Facebook page. The recruiter is also the person to contact the Facebook friend and determine their desire to join the TFR4 organization as a full-patch member, posse or junior posse member, the desire to ride with the group, etc. The recruiter would also head up recruitment booths at events working with other member volunteers to get the word out regarding TFR4 and the mission of the organization.

#### **Article IV - Compensation of Officers**

The officer positions are voluntary positions and there will be no financial gain realized by them while in office. If there is a need for an officer, or member, to purchase an item to be used directly by TFR4 in the process of normal operation, the individual must present the receipt for the purchase to the Treasurer who will then present to expense to membership for a vote to reimburse the expense.

#### **Article V - Membership**

Membership in TFR4 is open to any individual with an interest in riding and who has a desire to become involved in the mission of TFR4 as spelled out in the Mission Statement. Diversity is the key to success of the organization and TFR4 encourages anyone with the love of riding and service and with a 350cc motorcycle or larger to participate. This is the

basis for attainment of the full patch membership status. If the spouse of a full patch member desires to participate, they then become full patch members as well.

For those who desire to become members but do not ride they are welcome to become members of TFR4 Posse. A posse member is an important part of the success of TFR4. Their ideas and thoughts are important and they are encouraged to attend and voice their opinions and concerns. A point to remember here is that the TFR4 is a motorcycle organization. As a result, the wishes of the riders are of paramount importance however, this does not discount the posse members. The size of the posse will be controlled to ensure the posse does not out-number the full patch members. Posse will have a vote and the vote will help to determine and shape the future of TFR4. The Posse votes will not outnumber full patch member votes. The decision to have a posse and how large the posse will be determined by the membership.

At the discretion of the chapter, a youth organization may be considered called the Junior (Jr) Posse. The goal is to involve the next generation of motorcycle enthusiasts in community service as well as establishing a forum to teach safe riding techniques with the goal to grow the chapter into the future. Any activity with the Jr Posse will be done under the supervision of no less than two (2) TFR4 members. The members can be full patch or Posse members. The Jr Posse will not have voting rights.

## **Article VI - Meetings**

Meeting will be convened on a regular basis and as deemed necessary by each chapter officers and membership. Meetings must be attended by a quorum of 75% of the elected officers. All meetings will be conducted using the Standard Order of Business. The meeting will be conducted as follows:

- 1) Previous meeting minutes read and approved
- 2) Reports of Officers, Boards and Standing Committees
- 3) Reports from Special Committees
- 4) Special Orders
- 5) Unfinished business and General Orders
- 6) New Business

Each meeting will have an agenda established in advance. The President will get the information to the Secretary so the agenda for the meeting can be published and distributed to the general membership.

The time and place of the meeting will be disseminated via the agreed upon media at least seven (7) days prior to the established meeting date. The events occurring immediately prior to after the meeting will be at the discretion of the chapter.

### **Article VII - Sanctioned Rides and Events**

Any ride planned, organized, and conducted by TFR4 will be considered a sanctioned event.

If a member wishes to conduct and plan a ride they may do so with the agreement of the membership. The first thing considered will be the date of the event and any potential conflicts with events already scheduled. As with any ride, the Road Captain will accompany the ride as a leader. The more control the chapter has over the ride the safer the ride will be. The best way to plan the event would be to hold it on a day when the majority of members will be available and that will then turn it to a sanctioned event.

If there are riders participating in any ride that have less than 500 miles experience riding in a group or if there is someone the Road Captain deems inexperienced, place them in front of an officer or, as a secondary location, near the rear of the group with a Road Captain.

### **Article VIII - Conflict of Interest**

The purpose of the Conflict-of-Interest policy is to protect TRF4's interest when it enters into an arrangement that might benefit the interest of an officer. In the event of a conflict, the interested party must disclose the nature of the financial interest they may have. It is up to the officers of TFR4 to determine if there is a conflict and determine the extent to which the affected member may be involved in the event. The individual may make a presentation to the officers but then shall depart the room during the discussion relating to the conflict. The officers will then make a determination as to whether a conflict exists. If a conflict is deemed to exist, the officers will exercise of due diligence in determining alternative arrangements to limit the possible conflict of interest.

## **Article IX - Amendments**

Any member of the Chapter may propose amendments or revisions to this constitution. The suggested change(s) will be presented to the Vice President for review. The Vice President will then bring the suggestion to the attention of the Chapter officers and then to the membership for review and discussion. If the suggestion has membership support and deals with a chapter specific issue, the Vice President may then call for a membership vote. A 75% vote of agreement by voting members must be achieved for the constitution to change. All Amendments to the Constitution will be posted in the back of the Adopted Constitution. Pen and Ink notations can be made at the location of the Amended Articles reflecting the amended change.

## **Article X - Drugs, Alcohol, Firearms, and Goodwill**

There will be no illegal business conducted under the banner of The Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4. Anyone conducting such business while wearing the TFR4 colors will immediately forfeit their colors. The stripping of the colors will signal the dismissal of the member from TFR4.

If a member carries a firearm they must be licensed to do so.

Respect other riders, groups and club members is of paramount importance. Each member represents TFR4 wherever they go, if they are wearing the colors. Drinking or use of illegal substances while wearing the colors of TFR4 will not be condoned..

Members are ambassadors of goodwill to the community in which they live and work. The strength of the organization does not come only from our numbers but from the support we show to each other, our commitment to one another and the commitment and support of the community. We can make a difference in the lives we touch. People establish their first impression based on what they see and the goal of TFR4 is to establish a lasting good first impression.



## **Article XI - Dissolution of the Organization**

The officers of The Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4 must recommend dissolution to the members unless they determine that, because of a conflict of interest or other special circumstances, they simply communicate the basis for dissolution. If there are no special circumstances, the membership is entitled to vote on the proposal to dissolve. If, for whatever reason, there are no members, the dissolution must be approved by the majority of the officers. The officers may condition the submission of the proposal for dissolution on any basis. All members will be notified of the meeting and the purpose of the meeting. The notification must state the purpose of the meeting is to consider dissolving the organization.

Upon approval of membership, this Constitution of The Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4 is adopted.

Date: 03/20 2014

Signed

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President  
Greg Blanton, ?

Signed

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Vice President  
Harley David West, Harley

Signed

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Sargent of Arms  
Dan Reynolds, Doc

Signed

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Secretary  
Sabrina Barton-Suhr, LPB

Signed

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Treasurer  
Tammy West, Lady Bug

Signed

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Lieutenant  
Kenneth Suhr, Taxman

Signed

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Lieutenant  
Kevin Hairel, Wrench

Signed

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Road Captain  
Stacey Schultz, Odie

Signed

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Historian  
Donna Reynolds, Mama

## Amendments to

# The Constitution of the Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4

### Amendment I -

**Article V – Membership** (modified and expanded to clarify the Posse and Jr Posse roles and responsibilities as well as their set up and operation)

#### **V(a) Full Patch Membership**

Membership in TFR4 is open to any individual with an interest in riding and who has a desire to become involved in the mission of TFR4 as spelled out in the Mission Statement. Diversity is the key to success of the organization and TFR4 encourages anyone with the love of riding and service and with a 350cc motorcycle or larger to participate. This is the basis for attainment of full patch membership status. If the spouse of a full patch member desires to participate, they then become full patch members as well. Should a life altering event take place such as divorce, severe injury, death, etc. of a Full Patch rider, the remaining partner will not be required to give up their Full Patch status. Rather they will be encouraged to continue their involvement and affiliation with TFR4. The final decision about their future involvement with TFR4 would be theirs to make.

#### **V(b) TFR4 Posse**

For those who desire to become members of TFR4 but do not ride or do not have a partner who rides and as a result is a member of TFR4, they are welcome to become members of the TFR4 Posse. The Posse plays an important role in the success of TFR4. Their ideas and thoughts are important and they are encouraged to attend meetings and voice their opinions and concerns. A point to remember here is that TFR4 is a motorcycle organization. As a result the wishes of the riders are of paramount importance. However, this does not discount the wishes and desires of Posse membership. There will be no stipulation as to the size of the Posse. TFR4 wants its Posse to have a vote and that vote will help to determine the shape and future of TFR4.

Should Posse membership grow to the point the Posse is larger than the Full Patch Member ranks, elections will be held and the Posse membership will elect representatives from their ranks to vote on its memberships behalf at TFR4 organizational voting events. Again, the number of Posse will never outnumber the number of riders voting on an issue. For this reason, the number of representatives from the Posse voting on a specific issue will never number more than half the number of full patch members in attendance for the vote. The decision as to the size of the Posse will be determined by the membership. The President of TFR4 will be responsible for making a nomination for the Posse President. Members are encouraged to make recommendations to the President. The President, with input from the officers of TFR4 will narrow the field and present the final nomination to the membership for the ratification vote. Once approved and in place the President of the Posse will be afforded the opportunity to appoint their leadership staff with the approving vote of the Posse membership.

### **V(c) Junior Posse**

At the discretion of the chapter, a youth organization may be considered called the Junior (Jr) Posse. The goal is to involve the next generation of motorcycle enthusiasts in community service as well as establishing a forum to teach safe riding techniques with the goal to grow the chapter into the future. The director of the Junior Posse will be the appointed Director of the Posse. That individual can appoint the leadership of the Junior Posse but that leadership reports back to the Posse Director. TFR4 has the final decision regarding events and actions of both the Posse and the Junior Posse. Any activity with the Jr Posse will be done under the direct supervision of no less than two (2) TFR4 members. The members can be either Full Patch or Posse members. The Jr Posse will have no voting rights except as it relates to the planned activities of the Junior Posse.

### **Amendment II**

**Article V - Membership** (paragraph of clarification added to Membership Article V regarding dissolution of a marriage and the effect it is to have on the TFR4 members involved)

Personal relationship and divorce added to membership **Article V** as last paragraph

TFR4 understands the personal relationships can come and they can go. While TFR4 has no desire to become involved with the personal relationships of our members the issue of continued membership needs to be addressed. TFR4 will not force one or the other parties to turn in their

colors as a result of the breakup however, the parties must understand the reputation of TFR4 is of first and foremost importance. If legal actions have been taken by one or the other party, TFR4 has no recourse but to adhere to that legal decision. TFR4 will do everything in its power to allow participation by both parties and expects its members to keep personal differences and issues out of TFR4 functions and events.

**Amendment III** (modified per IRS 501(C)3 audit direction)

## **Article XI - Dissolution of the Organization**

The officers of The Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4 must recommend dissolution to the members unless they determine that, because of a conflict of interest or other special circumstances, they simply communicate the basis for dissolution. If there are no special circumstances, the membership is entitled to vote on the proposal to dissolve. If, for whatever reason, there are no members, the dissolution must be approved by the majority of the officers. The officers may condition the submission of the proposal for dissolution on any basis. All members will be notified of the meeting and the purpose of the meeting. The notification must state the purpose of the meeting is to consider dissolving the organization. Finally, as the dissolution goes forward, arrangements must be made with a non-Profit 501(C)3 organization to receive the funds in the account of The Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4. The officers in attendance will determine the organization to receive the funds and the membership that is in attendance will vote accordingly. No funds will be distributed to any officer, member or affiliate of The Freedom Riders of Indiana Chapter 4.

## **Amendment IV**

**Article III - Officers and Financing** (addition of new Officer position by membership vote 6/20/22)

**Public Relations Officer** - The guardian of the group's reputation and the manager of its public image. This person is responsible for all advertisements and information related to the public. Primary responsibilities include soliciting and maintaining sponsorships and other support for the group, organize activities and events, and recruit volunteers to assist at the groups various functions. They will prepare all the written material to support group fund raising efforts and is responsible for locating the charity/veteran/etc.

To be supported by the group. They increase awareness of the group, encourage and engage donors through on-line, electronic media, and face to face solicitation, communication, and events.

#### **Amendment V**

##### **Article V - Membership** (added by membership vote 8/20/22)

While there is no probationary period for membership, there is a stipulation that to become a full path member, an applicant must engage in at least one ride with one of the group's officers and that officer must sign off on the member ensuring the safety and knowledge of the rider has been verified. This may take several rides especially if the rider is new and unsure of how to ride in a group setting.

#### **Amendment VI**

##### **Article III - Officers and Financing** (added by membership vote 8/20/22 sentence 4)

No two members residing in the same household, family or otherwise related will be on the account at the same time.

#### **Amendment VII**

##### **Article III - Officers and Financing** (Road Captain amended by membership vote)

Clarification of the Road Captain's ability to verify every rider's eligibility to ride via emailed proof of endorsement and insurance. Verification will be required as follows:

- a. When the rider first applies to be a riding member of TFR4
- b. Annually, prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>, each riding member will verify their eligibility to operate via endorsement and proof of insurance and
- c. As the Road Captain might deem necessary

## **Amendment VIII**

### **Article III - Officers and Financing** (Sargent of Arms amended by membership vote)

As TFR4 membership has agreed to afford its membership to carry weapons on sanctioned rides, the Sergeant of Arms (SOA) has been granted the ability to ensure proper compliance with State and local laws concerning the carrying of fire arms. If state requires a permit to carry, it will be the responsibility of the SOA to ensure the proper credentialing. This will be done by requesting the information from the individual or accessing public records as necessary.

## **Amendment IX**

### **Article XII - Retirement** (added by membership vote)

After three (3) years of membership, any member, in good standing may retire from TFR4 and maintain all the patches awarded by TFR4. They may also purchase a Retirement Patch, if desired.

If the individual is not in good standing or did not complete three (3) years of membership with TRF4, group patches must be returned to TFR4. This would be the case if the individual voluntarily left or if they were voted out by membership.

## **Amendment XIII**

### **Article VI - Meetings** (amended by membership vote)

With the idea in mind that TFR4 is both a charity and social organization and keeping with the understanding that family and work issues will arise which will necessitate the missing of meetings, it is the desire of the group to have as many members at meeting as possible to carry out he business of the group. Membership voted to limit the unexcused misses to 6 per year.