

# **BLUE KNIGHTS® INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT**

## **MOTORCYCLE CLUB, INC., OKLAHOMA IV**

### **BYLAWS**

#### **ARTICLE I**

##### **PURPOSE**

**SECTION 1.01:** The Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc., Oklahoma IV, also known as Blue Knights ®, Oklahoma Chapter IV is hereinafter referred to in these Bylaws as Chapter IV. Chapter IV is an affiliated member of the Blue Knights® International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc., 38 Alden Street, Bangor, Maine 04401, hereinafter referred to in these By-Laws as International.

**SECTION 1.02:** Chapter IV shall have and follow Bylaws as presented by the Board of Directors and voted on by the general membership; however, in no case will any business of Chapter IV be done in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of International. Where specific issues are not addressed by Chapter IV Bylaws, but are addressed by International Bylaws, the International Bylaws will apply.

**SECTION 1.03:** The purpose of Chapter IV is:

- To promote a better image of motorcycling
- To promote social fellowship, harmony, and closer personal friendships among the membership
- To assert a wholesome influence on the public toward respect for motorcycling and public relations for Police Agencies in the State of Oklahoma

#### **ARTICLE II**

##### **MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 2.01:** Membership in Chapter IV shall be divided into the following categories:

- 1) Regular Members
- 2) Associate Members
- 3) Honorary Members
- 4) Life Members
- 5) Special Honorary Member.

All membership qualifications will be as defined by the International Articles of Incorporation and bylaws.

**SECTION 2.02:** The tenure of all memberships, with the exception of Life Members, is from January 1st to December 31st or any portion of the intervening period.

**SECTION 2.03:** Honorary Members will be voted on by the general membership. They must first be nominated, in writing, by a Regular or Associate Member of Chapter IV. Each Honorary Member must receive a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote at the meeting. If a Honorary

Member is removed from Chapter IV for disciplinary reasons, Chapter IV will offer to buy back any Blue Knight paraphernalia, at fair market price.

**SECTION 2.04:** Applicants for Regular and Associate membership to Chapter IV will be accepted under the following criteria:

- 1) Must be sponsored by one member in good standing.
- 2) Must apply in person, with dues, at a meeting of Chapter IV, with the sponsor present.
- 3) Must ride on at least two Chapter IV rides made up of at least two members within 90 days of making application for membership.
- 4) Must be nominated for membership to Chapter IV by a member in good standing.
- 5) Must receive 2/3 vote of the members present and eligible to vote.

**SECTION 2.05:** Membership in Chapter IV shall terminate:

- 1) Upon the death of member
- 2) Failure of member to pay annual dues for Chapter IV and International on or before the due date
- 3) Submission of a written or verbal resignation by member to a Chapter IV Officer
- 4) For cause in accordance with International or Chapter Bylaws

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **DUES**

**SECTION 3.01:** Chapter IV will collect annual Chapter and International dues. Dues will be \$30/fiscal year or part of fiscal year. For new membership, \$25 (or pro-rated part as per International rules) goes to International and the remainder is kept by the Chapter. For renewal membership, \$20 goes to International and the remaining part is kept by the Chapter. Any changes in Chapter IV dues will be proposed by the Board and voted on by the members present at the November meeting and eligible to vote. The International dues will be as set forth by the International.

**SECTION 3.02:** The fiscal year will run from January 1st to December 31st.

**SECTION 3.03:** Renewing members must pay their required dues prior to December 20th of each year. Members renewing after that date will pay a \$7.50 surcharge.

**SECTION 3.04:** New members must submit their application and dues for Chapter IV membership in person at a Chapter IV meeting (refer Sec. 2.04). If membership is granted, new members will receive a new member kit consisting of an International crest, pin and decal, a copy of the Chapter IV by-laws, a membership list, a ride schedule, and anything else that may be deemed necessary at the time of their joining.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 4.01:** The Board of Directors will consist of eight (8) members. The officers of Chapter IV, constituting the Board of Directors shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President as well as three (3) additional directors or if Secretary and Treasurer are held as one office then four (4) additional directors who must be elected from the Regular membership of the Chapter.

**SECTION 4.02:** Only regular members may hold the office of President and Vice-President. An Associate Member may hold the office of Secretary, Treasurer or Director, if no Regular Member is willing to run for that office. Honorary or Special Honorary Members may not hold any elected position on the Board of Directors, but may hold an appointed position (e.g.: Ride Captain, Quartermaster).

**SECTION 4.03:** The duties of the Officers are as follows:

**4.03.1: President:** The President shall be the executive officer of the Chapter. He shall preside at all meetings of Chapter IV and of the Board of Directors. He shall be an ex-official member of all committees, except the nominating committee. He shall have the power to call meetings of the Board of Directors as required, and shall make full and complete reports on the actions of the Board of Directors to the membership, as required. The President will also have the ability to spend up to \$100 for club business without the member's approval.

**4.03.2: Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall aid and assist the President in conducting meetings, and in the absence of the President, he shall have the full powers of the President. Should the office of President become vacant during the elective term, the Vice-President will assume the office of the President, with all responsibilities. He will be responsible for the membership recruitment program, and will submit necessary documents to the International in regards to membership recruitment awards.

**4.03.3: Secretary:** The Secretary will keep accurate records of all business transacted at the membership and the Board of Directors meetings. He shall maintain an up to date attendance log of all meetings and Chapter IV rides/activities. He shall give adequate notice to all members of any special meetings of Chapter IV. He shall keep an accurate record of the membership of Chapter IV, and collect all yearly dues and application forms.

**4.03.4: Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all Chapter IV funds. He shall keep accurate records of all Chapter IV financial transactions. He shall make a full report of the financial status of Chapter IV at each monthly meeting. He shall insure that any legal related tax or revenue issues are completed as required by law.

**4.03.5: Directors:** The Directors will carry out such functions and duties as may be assigned to them by the President throughout the year.

**SECTION 4.04:** In the event that any position, with the exception of President, becomes vacant during the term, the Board of Directors may appoint a qualified member for the remaining portion of the elected term.

**SECTION 4.05:** The Board of Directors will appoint, as needed, a Ride Captain. If no member is available, then a spouse may be appointed. The Board may, throughout the year, appoint other positions as they deem necessary. Any member may hold these appointed positions. They will serve as advisors to the Board, but will not have a vote at Board meetings.

**SECTION 4.06:** Officers and Directors are required to attend a minimum of six (6) meetings a year, and ride and participate in a minimum of 50% of the pre-planned rides, or events, per year, with the Chapter. Exceptions will be allowed to Officers and Directors who, because of their primary Law Enforcement job requirements, are unable to attend due to their shift assignment or other related duties. If an officer or director is not able to maintain this obligation, a vote by the Chapter may be initiated for removal of office.

## ARTICLE V

### ELECTIONS AND VOTING

**SECTION 5.01:** At the September meeting, a nominating committee shall be formed to seek candidates for the Board of Directors for the following year. Nominations will begin at the September meeting.

**SECTION 5.02:** The committee will present the nominations at the October meeting, at which time any further nominations will be taken from the floor. Nominations will be closed prior to the conclusion of the October meeting.

**SECTION 5.03:** The committee will publish the list of nominations by mail, or on the Chapter IV web site.

**SECTION 5.04:** Voting for the Executive Officers and the members of the Board of Directors will be done by ballot or email during the month of November. All Officer / Board of Director positions will be 24 month terms.

**SECTION 5.05:** In case of a tie and there are more than two nominees for same position, then a run-off vote will be conducted by the members present at the meeting to determine the winner. If only two nominees for the same position are tied, the Chairman will place the names of the nominees involved in the tie, in a container. The Chairman will then draw a name to determine the winner. This procedure will be done at the meeting, before all members present.

**SECTION 5.06:** Following the announcement of the results, all nominees will have the right to examine the ballots and/or the counting of the committee, if they so wish. Ballots will be held for 30 days. Prior to the close of the December meeting, a motion will be entertained to destroy all the ballots.

## ARTICLE VI

### VOTING

**SECTION 6.01:** All Regular, Associate, Honorary, Special Honorary and Life Members in good standing shall have the right to vote on general business submitted to them by the Chapter IV Board of Directors or as presented at the general meetings. The Presiding Officer's vote shall only be counted in the event of a tie vote. There shall be no voting by proxy at any Chapter IV meeting.

**SECTION 6.02:** The Presiding Officer at any meeting where a vote of the members is taken shall make the determination whether a particular member is in good standing and thus eligible to vote. If the Presiding Officer makes such a determination at the meeting, the determination shall be subject to a vote of the membership qualified to vote if the Presiding Officer's ruling is questioned.

## ARTICLE VII

### MEETINGS

**SECTION 7.01:** The General Meetings of Chapter IV will be held at a time, date and place to be determined at the preceding meeting. The Secretary will notify all members if there is any change to the meeting place, time or date.

**SECTION 7.02:** Five (5) members, including the President or Vice President, will constitute a quorum

for Chapter IV meetings.

**SECTION 7.03:** Roberts Rules of Order will govern all meetings, unless inconsistent with these Bylaws or the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of International.

**SECTION 7.04:** A majority vote of those present and eligible to vote is required to pass any motion on general Chapter IV business at the meetings.

**SECTION 7.05:** The Board of Directors may decree that only members and their families may attend certain Chapter IV meetings or functions. In such cases, guests will not be permitted.

**SECTION 7.06:** Board of Directors meetings will be attended by the Board members only, unless otherwise specified by the President.

**SECTION 7.07:** Chapter IV recognizes and acknowledges spouses and friends of the membership. They are welcome and encouraged to attend and provide input at the general meetings and scheduled rides.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **DISCIPLINE**

**SECTION 8.01:** If any member of Chapter IV becomes aware that another member of Chapter IV has not maintained a standard of conduct acceptable to Chapter IV, he shall provide full details to the Chapter IV President and/or Vice President.

**SECTION 8.02:** The President will thereafter appoint a committee of three (3) regular members, consisting of the Vice President and two (2) other regular members, to conduct an investigation into the allegations. If the member who is being investigated is the Vice President, the Secretary will fill his position on the committee. The investigation will include an interview with the complainant and the respondent. Prior to the interview, the respondent will be advised in person or in writing (certified mail) of the allegations/complaints against him. The Vice President will report the findings of the committee to the President within thirty (30) days.

**SECTION 8.03:** If the complaint is unfounded the matter will be dropped and the complainant and the respondent will be so advised by the President.

**SECTION 8.04:** If the complaint is founded the committee will recommend appropriate disciplinary action in their report to the President. The President will review the report with the committee and when appropriate disciplinary action is agreed upon; the President will advise the respondent and will carry out the said disciplinary action. Notification to the respondent will be done by registered mail.

**SECTION 8.05:** If the respondent feels that the action taken is not justified, he may appeal to the Chapter Board of Directors by presenting his appeal to the Board in writing, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the notice of said action.

**SECTION 8.06:** The Board will hear such appeal at the next Board meeting or, if necessary, they will convene a special meeting. The appeal will be resolved by a secret ballot.

**SECTION 8.07:** The President will advise the members of the outcome of all investigations and/or appeals at the following membership meeting.

**SECTION 8.08:** The respondent may appeal the Board's decision to International as per the International Bylaws Article X, Section 10.02. Such appeal must be filed with International within thirty (30) days of the final Chapter Board decision.

**SECTION 8.09:** The President will advise International in writing should any member's membership be revoked, providing full details of the incident and any investigation

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **WEARING OF COLORS**

**SECTION 9.01:** The wearing of the Official Blue Knights Colors is a revocable privilege, given to the members, and non-members, in good standing with Chapter IV and the International.

**SECTION 9.02:** The location of the official Blue Knights Colors on a vest or jacket will be as follows:

- 1) The large Blue Knights Crest will be worn on the back of the vest or jacket and will be centered.
- 2) The Blue Knights logo, (top rocker) will be worn above the large crest on the back of the vest or jacket.
- 3) The Oklahoma IV logo, (bottom rocker) will be worn below the large crest on the back of the vest or jacket.
- 4) If the small Blue Knights Crest is worn on the front left of the vest or jacket, the "Officer/Director" patch maybe worn approx. 1" above.
- 5) The Midwest Regional Conference Patch will be worn on the right side of the vest even with the small Crest on the left side.

**SECTION 9.03:** No other patches other than the Official Blue Knights patches will be worn on the back of the vest or jacket.

**SECTION 9.04:** Other patches on the front of the vest or jacket must be in good taste and displays no negative comments. It will be asked to be removed after a Chapter IV vote, in the event the Chapter feels that the patch does not meet these requirements.

**SECTION 9.05:** A Non-Member, (spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend etc.) may wear the Official Blue Knights Colors but must be in the company of a Blue Knight while wearing the colors, and sign an official Blue Knights Oklahoma IV release form.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 10.01:** These Bylaws, or any part thereof may be amended or repealed at any business meeting of Chapter IV by a 2/3 majority vote of those present and eligible to vote (members only), providing that a motion has been duly made and seconded at the meeting prior to the vote, and that notice of the motion and proposed amendment have been published in the Chapter IV newsletter or web page prior to the vote.

**SECTION 10.02:** Upon approval of the amendment, the Secretary will advise International of the changes, and will provide members with an updated copy of the Bylaws.

**Blue Knights Oklahoma IV P.O. Box 1985 Duncan, Oklahoma 73534**

**Non Member Waiver**

I \_\_\_\_\_, a non-member of the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club of Oklahoma IV, in Duncan Oklahoma, agree without recourse to the following rules and regulations of the purchase and wearing of any and all patches, pins, etc. bearing the name or insignia of the Blue Knights.

- 1) That the non-member must always be in the company of a member of the Blue Knights while wearing the official Blue Knights colors or patches, and that the Wearing of the colors or patches is a revocable right given to you by the Blue Knights Oklahoma IV.
- 2) That the purchase and cost of the patches, pins etc. is the non-members responsibility, however, those patches, pins etc. once purchased become the sole property of the Blue Knights, Oklahoma IV Chapter.
- 3) Upon leaving the Blue Knights Oklahoma IV for any reason whatsoever, including but not limited, to being removed for the good of the club, the nonmember will return to the President or Officer of the Blue Knights Oklahoma IV any and all patches, pins, etc bearing the name or insignia of the Blue Knights. The Non-member will then be reimbursed on a pro-rated basis for the cost of the items returned.
- 4) The above non-member agrees that in the event the patches, pins, etc. in the possession of the non-member are not returned within **15 days** after separating from The Blue Knights, then the Blue Knights Oklahoma IV will take legal action against the above signed non-member to have those items returned to the club.

**By signing this document the non-member agrees to waive any and all rights to any patches, pins, etc. bearing the name or insignia of the Blue Knights and fully understand that these patches, pins, etc. belong exclusively to the Blue Knights Oklahoma IV.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_