

Riders of the Third Degree



{-sample state-} Grand Chapter
Landmarks and Constitution

Founded in {-sample location-}
{-sample date-}



RIDERS OF THE THIRD
DEGREE {-sample-}
FOUNDING GRAND CHAPTER

LANDMARKS AND CONSTITUTION

{-sample date-}

Founding Members

Founding Associates

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Riders of the Third Degree Founding Intentions and Landmarks

Dedication

The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter is dedicated to aiding and assisting all Masonic Charities in the State of {-sample state-} and under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of {-sample-}

Commitment to Riders of the Third Degree Organization

The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter is committed to the Riders of the Third Degree Intentions and Landmarks. No Article within this set of Grand By-Laws or the affiliated Chapter By-Laws shall violate those Intentions and Landmarks or the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of their Jurisdiction.

The Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association is committed to providing Masonic Charity, Brotherhood, and Fraternity to the Masonic Community and its affiliated appendant and concordant bodies.

Pledge of Membership

It is the pledge of the membership of this Grand Chapter and its affiliate Chapters to support and abide by the Founding Intentions and Founding Landmarks, and these Founding By-Laws of The Riders of the Third Degree Organization in addition to the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of their Jurisdiction.

It is the pledge of the membership to obey, without reservation, all laws, edicts and orders imposed by the Riders of the Third Degree Organizational By-Laws and Founding Intents and Landmarks or the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of their Jurisdiction.

It is the pledge of each Member to conduct himself and his business as a Mason and in direct accordance to the Founding By-Laws and Original Intent and Landmarks of the Riders of the Third Degree.

It is the pledge of the Chapter President and Officers to Found and support a Charities Fund in their state to contribute to the relief of Masonic Charities within their Jurisdiction. It is also promised that the Grand Chapter will not allow any other charity or monetary donating function to take precedence over the Charities Fund.

It is the pledge of the President and his Officers to rule and guide their state Chapters with Equal regularity, and to base all decisions in direct accordance with Intentions and Landmarks of the Riders of the Third Degree, the Grand Chapter, and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of their Jurisdiction.

Riders of the Third Degree Founding Intentions

Founding Intentions of the Riders of the Third Degree 2013

To become a Riders of the Third Degree Member, or to form a Chapter of Riders of the Third Degree, you must be a Mason first. You must then promise to support the goals and purposes of the Riders of the Third Degree Organization.

The sole founding goal and purposes of the Riders of the Third Degree is to support Masonic Charities. This will be done autonomously in each state by the founding of a Charities Fund from within the Grand Chapter of the state. This Charities Fund is the first and foremost purpose of granting a charter for any Grand Chapter. The Riders of the Third Degree is being founded to support Masonic Charities of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of their Jurisdiction. No other charity or any other object of monetary support, from any Riders of the Third Degree Grand Chapter, or any affiliated Chapter, or any member should take precedence over the Charities Fund which supports only Masonic Charities the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of their Jurisdiction. These Masonic Charities are defined by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of their Jurisdiction.

The second purpose of founding the Riders of the Third Degree was to promote fellowship and unity among Brother Masons who ride motorcycles.

The third purpose of the founding of the Riders of the Third Degree was to introduce Freemasonry to the world of motorcycling and to introduce the world of motorcycling to Freemasonry.

No affiliate Chapter or member of any affiliate Chapter shall recruit motorcycle riders for the purpose of increasing the Riders of the Third Degree numbers in membership. The Riders of the Third Degree shall not allow any member of any outlawed organization(s) or any motorcycle club(s) that considers itself to be a one percent (1%) club to become a member of any Chapter of Riders of the Third Degree, nor will any member of the Riders of the Third Degree associate with any member(s) of any outlawed organization(s) or any motorcycle club(s) that considers itself to be a one percent club while wearing Riders of the Third Degree emblems.

No Riders of the Third Degree Grand Chapter shall have any say, or any rule or authority over, or any vote in, the business of another Grand Chapter. Each State Grand Chapter is autonomous of one another. Autonomous, being defined as; ruling and governing their own state business and activities in accordance with the due boundaries of Freemasonry of their state, first, then within the due boundaries of these Riders of the Third Degree founding By-Laws and founding landmarks of the Riders of the Third Degree; exceptions to this being noted in Landmark IV – Grand Chapter Jurisprudence.

Only the Founding Grand Chapter of the Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association may charter another Grand Chapter in another state into existence upon the promise given by the Chapter that it will adhere to these Landmarks and the Riders of the Third Degree Founding By-Laws, making changes to the By-Laws only necessary to resolve any conflicts in these By-Laws and Landmarks with their Grand Lodge By-Laws, rules or edicts. No other changes to the founding By-Laws should be made to appease any personal or Grand Chapter preferences. The Landmarks of the Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association may not be altered without express written consent of the Founding Grand Chapter of the Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association. No single person shall issue charters to new Grand Chapters. They must be chartered by the Founding Grand Chapter.

Landmark I – Masonic Charity

Section 1.01

The main purpose of the Riders of the Third Degree is Masonic Charity, in addition to the purposes of promoting motorcycling to the Masonic Fraternity and promoting the Masonic Fraternity to motorcycling.

Section 1.02

Some organizations limit which Masonic Charities that they will donate to. It is not the purpose of the Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association, as an organization, to define which Masonic Charities that their Jurisdictional Grand Chapters or affiliate Chapters will donate to.

All charity donations will go to worthy Masonic Charities that are defined by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of each Jurisdiction. This is not to say that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of a Jurisdiction will dictate what charities the donations go to, but to say that the donations will only go to approved Masonic Charities.

Landmark II – Grand Chapter Creation

Section 2.01

All Jurisdictional Grand Chapters of the Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association shall be Chartered at the dispensation of the Founding Grand Chapter. No other Chapter or Grand Chapter shall be allowed to Charter a Jurisdictional Grand Chapter in any Jurisdiction.

Section 2.02

All Jurisdictional Grand Chapters must have approval, in writing, from their Jurisdictional Most Worshipful Grand Lodge in order to incorporate. This must be provided along with the Application for Charter.

Section 2.03

All Jurisdictional Grand Chapters must be one of two types. They must either be a Grand Chapter, which is a “controlling Chapter” for their entire Jurisdiction, or they must be a Presidents’ Council consisting of all of the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the constituent Chapters in their Jurisdiction.

Section 2.04

Once a Jurisdiction has reached five or more Chapters, including the existing Grand Chapter, the existing Grand Chapter must notify the Founding Grand Chapter and submit the Petition for forming a Presidents’ Council. Once this has been approved, the Jurisdiction’s Grand Chapter will revert to a Presidents’ Council and operate as such going forward. Failure to do this may result in the Grand Charter being arrested. The exception to this is if a vote is taken by the Presidents and Vice Presidents of all of the Chapters in the Jurisdiction for the Grand Chapter to remain. Such a vote will be taken and submitted, in writing by each Chapter, to the Founding Grand Chapter.

Section 2.05

When petitioning to Charter a Grand Chapter there is a nominal fee due when submitting the paperwork to the Founding Grand Chapter. This fee is \$50; fifty percent (50%) of which is placed into the Charities Fund of the Founding Grand Chapter.

Landmark III – Grand Chapter Transfer

Section 3.01

In the event that a Grand Chapter “goes dark”, the affiliate Chapters in that Jurisdiction thirty (30) days to notify the Founding Grand Chapter that there is no longer a Grand Chapter in their Jurisdiction and the date that the existing affiliate Chapters will be holding a conclave to determine who the new Grand Chapter will be or that the Jurisdiction will be reverting to a Presidents’ Council.

Section 3.02

If the existing affiliate Chapters cannot meet within ninety (90) days in order to determine who the new Grand Chapter will be, or they cannot reach a consensus within ninety (90) days, then the Jurisdiction will automatically revert to a Presidents’ Council.

Section 3.03

Once the new Grand Chapter has been named, or the Jurisdiction has reverted to a Presidents’ Council, the Jurisdiction will have ninety (90) days to submit its new/revised Landmarks and Constitution to the Founding Grand Chapter to be kept on file.

Landmark IV – Grand Chapter Jurisprudence

Section 4.01

In the event that a dispute arises between Jurisdictions, a council will be convened of all of the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Grand Chapters, this council may meet and resolve the issue via electronic means such as e-mail, not directly involved, to resolve the dispute.

One appeal of this ruling will be possible, if requested, however the outcome of that appeal will be binding and final. In the event that one, or more, of the Jurisdictions do not wish to abide by the ruling, they will be asked to forfeit their Grand Charter and all rights to membership in addition to their Grand Charter being arrested.

Section 4.02

In the event that a dispute arises between Chapters in a Jurisdiction or between one or more Chapters and the Grand Chapter, it will be resolved at the “lowest level”. This means that the Grand Chapter has the final say.

The exception to this section is in cases where the Grand Chapter for a Jurisdiction is violating the Founding Landmarks and Intentions of the Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association. These violations will have thirty (30) days to be corrected or the Grand Charter of the Jurisdiction will be arrested and either granted to another Chapter or converted to a Presidents’ Council Charter.

Section 4.03

In the event that the actions of a Jurisdictional Grand Chapter brings disfavor upon the name of the Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association a council will be convened of all of the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Grand Chapters, this council may meet and resolve the issue via electronic means such as e-mail, not directly involved, to resolve the issue.

One appeal of this ruling will be possible, if requested, however the outcome of that appeal will be binding and final. In the event that one, or more, of the Jurisdictions do not wish to abide by the ruling, they will be asked to forfeit their Grand Charter and all rights to membership.

Landmark V – Chapter Creation

Section 5.01

It shall be the responsibility of each Jurisdictional Grand Chapter to Charter affiliate Chapters within its Jurisdiction.

Section 5.02

Affiliate Chapters within a Jurisdiction shall not be based upon geographical or socio-economic location, such as county or city. The Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association is not a motorcycle club. Any group of assembled Masons may be allowed to petition to form an affiliate Chapter of the Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association whithersoever dispersed within a Jurisdiction.

Section 5.03

Jurisdictional Grand Chapters may not Charter an affiliate Chapter within another Grand Chapter's Jurisdiction.

In the event that a Jurisdictional Grand Chapter does not respond to requests from an assembled group of Masons who have been attempting, for ninety (90) days or more, to Charter a Chapter, they may contact the Founding Grand Chapter for special dispensation to affiliate with an outside Jurisdictional Grand Chapter. An investigation shall be conducted as to why the Jurisdictional Grand Chapter has not responded to the request and a finding shall be made.

If an approval is made for an affiliate Chapter to join an outside Jurisdictional Grand Chapter this existing affiliate Chapter may be required to join their Jurisdictional Grand Chapter should the Jurisdictional Grand Chapter status revert to another Chapter or to a Presidents' Council. This change of Jurisdiction will be worked out amongst the Grand Chapters with the Founding Grand Chapter mediating as necessary.

Landmark VI – Grand Chapter Records

Section 6.01

It shall be the responsibility of each Jurisdictional Grand Chapter to keep their own rolls and affiliate Chapter rolls.

Section 6.02

It shall be the responsibility of each Jurisdictional Grand Chapter to transmit a copy of the names of each of their affiliate Chapters and the membership numbers of the same to the Founding Grand Chapter for its rolls.

This is not for the Founding Grand Chapter to “keep tabs on” the Jurisdictional Grand Chapters, but to post on the web site(s) for the association.

Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter

By-Laws

The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter shall have a separate and distinct set of By-Laws apart from the Landmarks and Constitution. This facilitates the amendment of both the Grand Constitution and the individual Chapter By-Laws without affecting the other. In addition, this facilitates an easier transition of the Grand Constitution in the event that the Founding Chapter should go dark or choose to surrender the Grand Charter to another Chapter.

Constitution

Article I – Name

Section 1.01

This organization shall be known as The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter. The Riders of the Third Degree is a non-profit organization, even if they do not obtain recognized 501(c)(3) status as recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service. The Founding Grand Chapter meeting place will be: {insert address here}.

Section 1.02

The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter shall be the governing Chapter for all Riders of the Third Degree affiliate Chapters in {-sample state-}, and shall have jurisdiction over membership of any and all {-sample state-} affiliate Chapters as described in this Constitution.

Section 1.03

The Right for Chapter chartering throughout the State of {-sample state-} is reserved for future consideration by The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter.

Section 1.04

The Riders of the Third Degree Arizona Founding Grand Chapter reserves all rights to issue or deny any and all use of any future copyrighted Riders of the Third Degree patch and or logos and trademarks to any Chapter that has been designated a charter by The Riders of the Third Degree Arizona Founding Grand Chapter and reserves the right to revoke the charter or copyrighted patches of any Chapter(s) and/or members to which a patch has been issued within the boundaries of the State of {-sample state-}, or by whom violates the Constitution of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge {-sample-} and or the By-Laws of The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter, or governs themselves in an un-Masonic manner, and/or brings disgrace to or embarrassment to any Chapter of The Riders of the Third Degree or any Blue Lodge, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge {-sample-} or any other Masonic body within The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter's jurisdiction.

Article II – Purpose

Section 2.01

It shall be the goal and the objective of The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter to create a Charities Fund and use it to contribute to the aid and relief of the Masonic Charities of their Jurisdiction, to encourage their membership to remain in good standing in the records of their Blue Lodge, to engage in proper conduct, and reasonable legal activities to persuade the public opinion of the desirability of The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter. It shall be the objective of the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter to obtain proper, reasonable and legal means whereby we may protect the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter from any threat caused by person(s) outside or within any affiliate Chapter. It shall be the objective of any and all affiliate Chapters to file in writing to the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter within five (5) business days; any potential that may violate any section of this Constitution or the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge {-sample-}.

Section 2.02

This association shall not engage in political, religious or any activities that promote separation rather than unity, or cause disharmony within the affiliate Chapter. It is the duty of the President and/or Vice President to curtail any activity within his Chapter that may cause disharmony within the Chapter.

Section 2.03

No Member shall wear support apparel for any outlaw (1%) club, local, or national MC. There will be ***no exceptions***; any violation will result in immediate expulsion of the members(s). No member shall wear any Riders of the Third Degree logos, insignias, patches, or any item that identifies them as a Riders of the Third Degree inside an outlaw (1%) clubhouse, or while associating with an outlaw (1%) club. The Riders of the Third Degree are not an outlaw (1%) club, nor are they an outlaw (1%) support club.

Section 2.04

It shall be the objective of each affiliate Chapter to contribute to the relief of the Masonic Charities within the boundaries of their Jurisdiction, by founding a Charities Fund within their state. The proceeds of this fund shall be used solely for the purpose of contributing to the aid and relief of Masonic Charities. The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter shall have no other charity or charities, or monetary, or fund raising devices, that shall take precedence over the Charities Fund.

Section 2.05

It shall further be an objective of this association to receive, manage, invest, expend or otherwise use any funds and property of this association to achieve the objectives set forth in this constitution and for such additional purposes and objects not inconsistent therewith as will further the interest of this association, and its members directly or indirectly.

Article III – Membership

Section 3.01

Chapter Membership shall be composed of Master Masons duly recognized by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge {-sample-}. This may include Master Masons who are not within the jurisdiction of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of the State of {-sample state-} as long as they are duly recognized by the same. Chapter Members are the only members that have voting rights within an affiliate Chapter.

Section 3.02

Affiliate Chapter Associates may be composed of non-Master Masons, members of Appendant/Concordant bodies that are not Masons, such as Order of the Eastern Star, Amaranth, Jobs' Daughters, etc., or non-Masons. Chapter Associates do not have voting rights within an affiliate Chapter. Chapter Associates, and may not hold an elected or appointed Officer's position. Chapter Associates may, however, serve on Chapter committees at the discretion of the affiliate Chapter President.

Section 3.03

Upon approval of the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter petitions for membership in the Riders of the Third Degree can be accepted from those who have successfully petitioned a Blue Lodge recognized by The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge {-sample-}, upon the Lodge's acceptance of their petition. EA and FC Masons accepted into the Riders of the Third Degree cannot vote or hold Office or, in the future, wear any future trademarks, patches or items identifying them as a Riders of the Third Degree Chapter Member until they have completed their Master Mason Degree and will be known as Chapter Associates.

Section 3.04

Members accepted into the Riders of the Third Degree who are not yet Master Masons are required to complete their unfinished degree work within one (1) year of membership. Riders of the Third Degree who are not Master Masons and have been unable to complete their Master mason degree within one (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.

Section 3.05

There shall be no restrictions applied to the membership of The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter or affiliate Chapters in accordance with the type or make of their highway legal motorcycle a member should ride, The {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter or Affiliate Chapters shall not exceed 20% of non-riding members; non-riding members will be Chapter Associates and have no vote on Chapter activities.

Section 3.06

No affiliate Chapter shall have in its Chapter, as either a Chapter Member or a Chapter Associate, any member of a clandestine lodge or a Mason that is considered to be “irregular” by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of {-sample-}

Section 3.07

No affiliate Chapter shall include as a Chapter Member anyone who is not a Master Mason in good standing in the records of his Lodge, or any petitioner whose petition has not been accepted by a recognized lodge of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge {-sample-}.

Section 3.08

It shall be the responsibility of the President of the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter to ensure the present Grand Master of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge {-sample-} will be made an Honorary Member of the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-}. This Honorary Membership is a non-voting member within the affiliate Chapter.

Section 3.09

It shall be by the order of the President of the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter only, that any Chapter President may waive the Initiation fee for any current Worshipful Master within their region with no obligation due to the Founding Grand Chapter.

Section 3.10

Each Chapter Member of the Riders of the Third Degree shall have equal rights and privileges in connection with attending meetings and the participation in the deliberations of such meetings. Each affiliate Chapter shall have up to three (3) delegates, which shall attend one (1) meeting per year of the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter. The delegates attending the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter meeting shall discuss and vote to correct issues and resolve any disputes within the State of {-sample state-} pertaining to or involving interpretations of the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter on state issues. There shall be no proxy votes. These delegates shall have no power in making additions or amendments to this founding Grand Constitution.

Section 3.11

New member applications will be read only at the monthly stated meetings. At this time the application(s) will be turned over to the investigating committee. Upon the committee's investigation and their findings being reported back to the Chapter President, will the new member application(s) be voted on by the Chapter membership. This will be a thirty (30) day process and will be a majority vote by secret ballot.

Section 3.12

Each affiliate Chapter may set their own initiation fees and Chapter Dues. This will cover one (1) year membership and will reserve a patch, logo, or trademark of the Riders of the Third Degree. A percentage of the monies above the cost of acceptance of a new member shall be invested in the state's Charities Fund as outlined in Article XIII.

Section 3.13

For future reference; after a patch, logo, or trademark is developed: If for any reason a member no longer desires to be a member of the Riders of the Third Degree that member will be given one-half (½) of the purchase price of the Riders of the Third Degree patch, logo, or trademark when the patch, logo or trademark is returned in good condition with their membership card and all written materials such as, but not limited to, the Chapter By-Laws and the Grand Constitution. Patches, logos and/or trademarks remain property of Riders of the Third Degree Arizona Founding Grand Chapter.

Section 3.14

Each affiliate Chapter is required to provide each Member with a copy of the Chapter By-Laws and Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Grand Chapter Founding Landmarks and Constitution at no additional cost, beyond the cost of Initiation Fees and/or Dues to its Members.

It is the responsibility of the Secretary of the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Grand Chapter to send out updates to the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Grand Chapter Founding Landmarks and Constitution to the affiliate Chapters. This may be in electronic format or in paper format. If it is done in paper format, enough copies must be provided for each Member of the affiliate Chapter.

Section 3.15

Each affiliate Chapter must provide the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Grand Chapter a roster of their Members and keep this up to date by providing updates within thirty (30) days of any changes, in writing.

Article IV – Retirement

Section 4.01

Due to age or medical reasons a Chapter Member may apply for retirement. Upon acceptance they give up voting rights, but may attend functions and will retain any patch, logo, or trademark that they have in their possession. Dues may be waived by a membership majority vote. A retiree can apply for reinstatement with majority vote of membership.

Section 4.02

Due to age or medical reasons a Chapter Associate may apply for retirement. Upon acceptance they may still attend functions and will retain any patch, logo, or trademark that they have in their possession. Dues may be waived by a membership majority vote. A retiree can apply for reinstatement with majority vote of membership.

Article V – Officers

Section 5.01

The President of the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter shall be the General President of the Riders of the Third Degree Motorcycle Association of {-sample state-}. He shall enforce all provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws. The President shall have the power to establish such committees necessary, provided that there shall be an auditing committee. The President may determine the order of business and shall regulate all debates and the conduct of the members. The President or his appointee shall be the sole Officer to issue charters new Grand Chapters of other States upon their promise to abide by and adhere to the Founding Intentions and Landmarks and these Founding By-Laws, and any and all issuing of new Grand Chapters is reserved for the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter President or his appointee. All affiliate Chapters petitioning to be Chartered must submit a copy of their Chapter By-Laws along with their Petition for affiliation.

Section 5.02

A Chapter petitioning for affiliation must have at least five (5) members and maintain a membership of at least five (5) members at all times. All five (5) members of any Chapter petitioning for affiliation must be Master Masons. The minimum Officers of a Riders of the Third Degree chapter petitioning for affiliation must be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Road Captain or a Sergeant at Arms. The Officers of Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter shall be the Grand Board of Officers for Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} affiliate Chapters. Officers must attend eight (8) stated meetings per year to maintain position.

Section 5.03

The Vice-President, in the absence of the President, shall preside and perform all duties pertaining to the office of the President, except issue Charters to Chapters petitioning for affiliation, and render any and all assistance as may be required.

Section 5.04

The Secretary shall keep current records of the proceedings of the association and shall keep a separate account and register for each member of the association. 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 {-sample state-} Riders of the Third Degree, the Secretary shall receive any and all funds donated to the Charities Fund 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 5.05

The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the association, including the Charities Fund, 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 association. 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 meetings. He shall keep a separate account of the Charities Fund. The Treasurer shall take over the duties of the President in the absence of the President, Vice President and Secretary.

Section 5.06

The Road Captain(s) will have the duty of ensuring that all members' motorcycles are in compliance with {-sample state-} State laws, and each member is condition to participate on the ride. The Road Captain(s) will also be responsible to work with a committee and organize runs; he/they will also be responsible for routing the run and providing all members with directions. The Road Captain(s) will also be responsible for informing others who ride with the Chapter of what is expected and the intended route. The Road Captain(s) will inform the other members when it is time to ride. In the event that an affiliate Chapter does not have a Road Captain, the Sergeant at Arms shall perform this duty.

Section 5.07

There shall be two trustees who will serve as activity directors; they will work under the authority of the Road Captain(s) to organize runs and assist in perform his/their duties. Will communicate with other future Chapters, coordinate any meetings with other future Grand Chapters, and handle all public relations. If the Road Captain(s) cannot participate one or both of the Trustees will perform the duties of the Road Captain(s). State Trustees will oversee Masonic Charity business when the affiliate Chapter Trustees receive requests for aid from any Masonic Charity in their state. There shall be no committees formed or appointed or allowed of non-Riders of the Third Degree Chapter Members to handle any of the Masonic Charity business of the Riders of the Third Degree.

Section 5.08

The Sergeant at Arms shall ensure that all By-Laws are respected; members conduct themselves in an orderly manner, and that the intentions of the association are carried out in the best interest of the organization. The Sergeant of Arms shall be responsible for accommodating visiting brethren, superintending the membership during meetings, and assisting the Guardian of Membership, if the affiliate Chapter has one. The Sergeant of Arms will also accompany the President and the Vice President while on rides and events.

Article VI – Elections and Officers

Section 6.01

The four (4) primary Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) are in elected positions. Majority vote by secret ballot is the method of election. This election will be held in January at the stated meeting for the next year term. These four (4) primary Officers will be elected by members present to a one (1) year term. All terms are from February 1st to January 31st of the following year. If within this same year one (1) of the four (4) primary Officers resigns there will be a special election by the members present to fill this position for the remainder of that term.

No Officer shall “automatically” move up, without a vote of the members, they must fulfill their obligation to the office in which they are elected. In the event that the members vote that an Officer move up, they must also vote to fill his vacated position

Section 6.02

In the event any Officer or Trustee makes the decision to step down and remain a member, they shall be allowed to do so.

Section 6.03

Officers who are unable to attend annual meetings or special elections may vote by write-in-ballot. Write-in ballots must be delivered to the secretary no later than fourteen (14) days prior to any election.

In the event any affiliate Chapter has fewer members than required, they will then be allowed ninety (90) days to find members to fulfill the requirement. After ninety (90) days of unfulfilled offices they will become part of the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter, or become a part of another existing Chapter at the will and pleasure of the Grand Chapter President. Concessions shall be made until the membership requirement is fulfilled. Then the affiliate Chapter shall then be re-instated.

Section 6.04

The Road Captains and Sergeant at Arms will be appointed Positions. Trustees will be the same.

Section 6.05

Members interested in holding office will submit an application to the Secretary forty-five (45) days prior to the elections. The Secretary will announce all names at each stated meeting held before the election date.

Section 6.06

After a Chapter is founded with its founding Officers and has been in existence for three (3) years, any member who desires to serve in any elected position must have a minimum of two (2) years membership with the Riders of the Third Degree Chapter.

Section 6.07

The following affiliate Chapter Officer positions, appointed, may be available in addition to the mandatory ones, but not limited to, in any given affiliate Chapter depending on their By-Laws:

- ❖ Sergeant at Arms
- ❖ Road Captain(s)
- ❖ Guardian of Membership
- ❖ Chaplain

Article VII – Charges and Disputes

Section 7.01

A grievance committee will be appointed by the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter President to hear any and all charges or disputes from affiliate Chapters and make report to the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter for a decision or resolution. The decision of the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter is final and no dispute of the decision will be heard. It is also important to note that just because an accusation has been made does not mean that the accused is guilty. All accused are assumed to be innocent until proven guilty.

- i. Whenever charges are preferred against any Member or Officer of an affiliate Chapter by a member of that Chapter, the charges shall be filed in writing with the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter Grievance Committee.
- ii. No member or Officer of any Chapter shall be tried unless the Secretary or the Sergeant at Arms has served him with a written copy of such charges specifying the nature of the offense of which he is accused. The accused shall be required to appear before the Grievance Committee for a hearing, at the time and place designated by the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter. The accused may select only one member, in good standing within his Chapter, to assist him in his defense, and the charging party may select one member, in good standing with his Chapter, to assist him in the presentation of evidence in support of the charges.
- iii. A Member of one affiliate Chapter shall have the right to file charges against a Member of another separate affiliate Chapter. Such charges must be filed with the Secretary of the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter, and the Secretary will set a date for a hearing.
- iv. If charges filed against any Member are sustained by the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter, the Members of the Chapter in question shall render judgment and impose disciplinary action. The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter shall forward a written copy of findings to the affiliate Chapter.
- v. Upon the filing of charges that are of such magnitude and seriousness as to jeopardize the interests of the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter or one of its affiliate Chapters the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter may suspend such Member(s), Officer(s) or Chapter(s), pending hearing.
- vi. In the event that the charges rise to the level of a Masonic Offense, the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter, or the affiliate Chapter, must contact the Blue Lodge of the Member in the event that the Member is found guilty. It is then up to that Member's Blue Lodge to determine if they would like to pursue Masonic charges against him.

Article VIII – Meetings

Section 8.01

Each affiliate Chapter shall set its own stated meeting date, however, each Chapter must meet at least once a month unless stated otherwise in their Chapter By-Laws and have received approval from the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter. The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter shall have two Grand Chapter meetings per year in addition to any Chapter specific meetings outlined in their Chapter By-Laws. These meetings will be held the first Saturday in April and the first Saturday in October. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Roberts Rules of Order. All Grand Chapter members are required to attend at least one (1) of the two (2) Grand Chapter meetings in addition to their Chapter meetings. At least one (1) elected Officer from each affiliate Chapter must attend at least one (1) of the two (2) Grand Chapter meetings. Any Officer who cannot attend must notify the President, Vice-President, or Secretary of his absence.

Section 8.02

All future affiliate Chapters will have one (1) business meeting per month with a monthly report sent to the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter Secretary.

Section 8.03

The {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter will send a quarterly communication to all future Chapters to distribute to the member of their Chapter.

Section 8.04

Special business or regular stated meetings be attended by Members only. Exceptions to this Section can be made for Special Event meetings, non-stated or special business meetings, where guests may be invited to participate in or otherwise support the planning and execution of an event.

Section 8.06

The meeting place and designated time can be changed when deemed necessary by the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter President or by the majority of the Members of the Founding Grand Chapter.

Section 8.09

The order of meetings should be as follows:

- i. Opening of Meeting call to order (Sergeant of Arms)
- ii. Introductions of Officers (Sergeant of Arms)
- iii. Opening prayer.
- iv. Visitors introduced by the Member who brought them if not a stated meeting.
- v. Minutes read by the Secretary, new applications read.
- vi. Announcements from the Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice President.
- vii. New Members are welcomed by all existing Members at that time.
- viii. Then any announcements from the President will be done and any communication in regards to other Chapters.
- ix. The Road Captain(s) will then inform all Members of any rides that are upcoming so that there can be a general vote as to participation.
- x. The floor is open for any announcements.
- xi. Closing prayer.

Meeting room is cleaned before departure.

Section 8.10

As affiliate Chapter Associates may be present at Chapter stated meetings, Masonic business will not be conducted at a Chapter states meeting, nor will any mention of any of the Secrets of a Master Mason.

Article IX – Mandatory Runs

Section 9.01

There shall be a minimum two (2) scheduled annual runs or events. {insert run here}, {-sample state-} and future events and fundraisers to support the Charities Fund in the future. The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter may call additional runs or events as agreed upon by the membership. It is a mandatory requirement for each Member to participate therein and support the Charities Fund events, runs and fundraisers.

Article X – Funerals

Section 10.01

Each future affiliated Chapter shall attend the funeral of any Member of that Chapter or his immediate family. Three (3) Funeral Members shall be sent to funerals of other Chapters at the expense of the Chapter.

Section 10.02

At the request of a Blue Lodge, an affiliate Chapter, or multiple affiliate Chapters, may be asked to be present at the funeral of a Masonic non-member as representatives of the Riders of the Third Degree.

Article XI – Logos and Property

Section 11.01

The Chapter Secretary will order, hold, and distribute, under the order of the Chapter President or his appointee, any and all future logos, patches, trademarks and all other items with the “Riders of the Third Degree” logo or name for the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter.

Section 11.02

The logo, patch or trademark shall identify the State of {-sample state-} as the origin of the Chapter on the back of a black or brown leather vest. Grand Chapters will wear a “Grand Chapter” patch. A Masonic emblem of a square and compasses will be displayed on the left side of the front of the vest under a United States flag, if one is worn, and may be worn in conjunction with another emblem, such as a state patch. Honorary Members will wear honorary logos, patches trademarks or other identification as deemed necessary at the time the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter decides to issue the same.

Section 11.03

The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter has the authority to suspend Officers/trustees, or arrest the Charter of any affiliate Chapter within its Jurisdiction. In the event the Officers/trustees are suspended, or the Chapter Charter is arrested, all of its funds, books, papers, and other properties shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter, who shall hold them for reorganization. If no reorganization occurs within a period of six (6) months, such funds shall be transferred to the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter to be donated to the Charities Fund.

Section 11.04

All items with the Riders of the Third Degree name, image, likeness, et al. are the trademark of Riders of the Third Degree Arizona Founding Grand Chapter.

If a Member leaves a Chapter for any reason other than Retirement, they will be required to return all Riders of the Third Degree trademarked items to their affiliate Chapter or the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter.

Section 11.05

Only the founding members of the Riders of the Third Degree Masonic Riders Association shall be allowed to wear a “Founder” patch in conjunction with their Chapter patches.

Article XII – Motorcycles and Riding Order

Section 12.01

All motorcycles must be on the road and attend the first run unless excused by the Chapter President. Chapter Members and Chapter Associates participating in runs are required to have their state required insurance, current license plates, and ensure that their motorcycles are street legal or conform to the State of {-sample state-} vehicle standards.

Section 12.02

All Chapter Members and Chapter Associates are responsible to maintain their motorcycles, and ensure that they are in safe running order.

Section 12.03

When a chase vehicle is required, the Road Captain(s) or Sergeant at Arms will go over route and safety with the driver of the chase vehicle or vehicles.

Section 12.05

The Sergeant of Arms shall ride at the back of the group. If anyone breaks down, he will be responsible for communicating this to the Chapter Officers in the front.

Article XIII – Finances

Section 13.01

Twenty-Five percent (25%) of a Chapter's Initiation Fees will be payable to the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter to be placed into an escrow account to be donated to the Grand Lodge Charities Fund on an annual basis. The dues of Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} affiliate Chapter shall be set by the affiliate Chapter and included in the monthly report to the {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter Secretary.

Section 13.02

Each affiliate Chapter shall submit five dollars (\$5.00) per capita tax per member annually by the 1st day of March to the Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter to support the Charities Fund.

Section 13.03

When petitioning to Charter an affiliate Chapter there is a nominal fee due when submitting the paperwork to the {-sample state-} Grand Chapter. This fee is \$50; fifty percent (50%) of which is placed into the Charities Fund of the {-sample state-} Grand Chapter.

The Riders of the Third Degree {-sample state-} Founding Grand Chapter

Signed on this Date: _____{insert date here}_____

[illegible]