



Blue Knights®
Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club



Massachusetts Chapter XIII
“South Shore Chapter”
By-Laws

As amended January 2012 and January 2018

ARTICLE I

NAME & PURPOSE

Section 1 – The name of this association is the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club - Massachusetts Chapter XIII (South Shore Chapter) which is hereafter referred to as the “Chapter”.

Section 2 – This chapter is chartered by the Blue Knights International Motorcycle Club, Incorporated, which is a non-profit IRS section 501(c)10 fraternal organization headquartered in Brewer, Maine; hereafter referred to as “International”. This chapter shall have its own bylaws, however in no case shall any chapter bylaw be in conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws of International.

Section 3 – The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a fraternal and social motorcycle club for law enforcement personnel and associated professionals.

Section 4 – The official seal and patch of the chapter shall be a shield shaped seal/patch with a yellow border and light blue center. The word “Massachusetts” is located in the top arc and “South Shore Chapter” on the bottom. The light blue center features a cloaked medieval knight with a drawn sword pointing down and a shield bearing a heraldic cross. The words “Blue Knights” “XIII” and “MC” are located in this area.



Section 4 – The International seal and Chapter seal shall only be utilized on materials approved by the Board of Directors which may also be referred hereafter as the “BOD”.

Section 5 – The official address of the Chapter shall be the mailing address of the current president. Mail and other Chapter business may be directed to the Secretary at another address as may be deemed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP & DUES

Section 1 – Membership classifications shall mirror those stated in the International Bylaws as close as possible. The rights, titles, and interest of any member in and to the Chapter shall cease upon termination of his/her membership. No member shall be entitled to share in the distribution of the chapter assets upon the dissolution of the Chapter.

Section 2 – Membership classifications shall be:

(1) Regular membership - Regular members must be persons who are full time (32 hours per week minimum) employees of a governmental law enforcement agency or department. Such employment must be the primary source of employment of all Regular members. All Regular members must have arrest authority.

Persons receiving disability income or job reclassification due to injuries received while engaged in law enforcement employment or who are receiving retirement income for full-time employment, as herein defined by a governmental law enforcement agency or department are eligible for Regular membership although they are not presently employed by such a law enforcement agency or department.

Persons who have served twenty (20) years or more and have been a Blue Knight for one (1) year or more, who have taken a retirement option and have taken a separation from law enforcement employment, under honorable circumstances, and will at some time receive retirement income for full-time employment, as herein defined, by a government law enforcement agency or department are eligible for Regular membership although they are not presently employed by such a law enforcement agency or department. The person must provide letters of proof of honorable separation from all departments.

Persons who are presently Regular members for one (1) year or more and have served fifteen (15) years or more with a law enforcement agency or department who have for any honorable circumstance, taken a separation from an agency or department are eligible for Associate membership although they may not be employed by a law enforcement agency or department. The person must provide letters of proof of honorable separation from all departments.

Persons who are presently Regular members for five (5) years or more and have served ten (10) years or more with a law enforcement agency, who have for any honorable circumstance taken a separation from their agency, are eligible for Associate membership, even though they are no

longer employed by a law enforcement agency. The person must provide proof of honorable separation.

(2) Associate membership - Associate members must be Persons who are employed on a part time basis (less than 32 hours per week, minimum 96 hours per year) by a governmental law enforcement agency or department and receiving monetary compensation for such employment. All Associate members must have arrest authority. Persons who have been employed on a part time basis (less than 32 hours per week, minimum 96 hours per year) by a governmental law enforcement agency or department for fifteen (15) years or more and have been a Blue Knight for five (5) years or more, who have taken an honorable separation from his/her law enforcement agency or department (reasons - health, retirement, age, or injury) are eligible for Associate membership although they may not be employed by any law enforcement agency or department, and are not receiving retirement compensation. They must provide letters of proof of honorable separation.

(3) Honorary Membership - Honorary members must be persons who have substantially contributed to the promotion of the Chapter and to the purposes for which the Chapter is organized. The President shall call for a committee to review and recommend suitable candidates. A 2/3 majority vote of the general membership shall be required to approve a Honorary member. The total number of Honorary members in the chapter may not exceed more than ten percent (10%) of the previous year's membership of Regular, Associate and Charter members.

(4) Special Honorary Membership (Chapter Chaplain) - Special honorary membership may be granted to an ordained member of a recognized religious order for the position of Chapter Chaplain. This is limited to one (1) per chapter and will not affect the chapter's ten percent (10%) honorary limit.

(5) Charter Members are those members who were initial members of this chapter when it was chartered in 1993 and have maintained continuous membership with International and this chapter. Charter Membership is restricted to the following founding members of Mass. Chapter XIII: James Perri, Philip Ryan, John LaPan, Michael Feeley, Alan Waletkus, Richard Wall, Willard Boulter, Carl Kemp and Richard Ryan.

Section 3 – Each member must be properly licensed to drive a motorcycle by the State or Province in which he/she resides and must own a motorcycle, except however, persons who otherwise qualify as Regular or Associate members, but do not own motorcycles, may become

members if they have plans to own a motorcycle and do in fact acquire ownership rights in a motorcycle within six (6) months of their acceptance as members.

Section 4 – Any member, who because of an injury or medical or physical condition is unable to continue riding a motorcycle, may retain his/her current membership as long as they remain current with their dues.

Section 5 – The tenure of membership shall be from January 1 or the first scheduled meeting in each calendar year through December 31st of that year. Tenure of Honorary Members shall be at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Section 6 – Dues for the membership shall be assessed as follows:

New Members & Renewals – Dues shall be the amount currently assessed by International plus fifteen (15) dollars which will go to the chapter. *(revised 1/18)*

Charter Member Renewal - See Section 8 of this Article

Section 7 – Dues shall not be pro-rated and shall be due and payable thirty (30) days prior to the last regularly scheduled meeting of each year. Dues shall be considered in arrears after the last regularly scheduled meeting of the year and shall be assessed a \$10 late fee.

Section 8 – Charter members as herein recorded in Section 2(5) of this Article who have maintained their chapter membership continuously and who are retired from law enforcement shall have their international dues paid by the chapter for as long as they elect to maintain their membership.

ARTICLE III

ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 – The administration of this chapter shall be vested in the Board of Directors (BOD).

Section 2 – The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the elected officers of the Chapter. The President shall be the ex-officio chairman of the Board of Directors. The immediate past president shall be given emeritus status on the Board provided the immediate past president is a member in good standing of the chapter. The immediate past president shall serve in an advisory capacity for one year and shall not have the power of vote.

Section 3 – The Board of Directors shall have supervision of and responsibility for all affairs and property of the Chapter. The BOD shall have the power to transact or cause to be transacted all business for and on behalf of the Chapter. The BOD shall have the power to accept, reject, suspend and expel members after proper investigation.

Section 4 – The procedure for any action or business unless specifically described to the contrary shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order and/or informal civil procedure.

Section 5 – The President and Board of Directors may establish such committees as they deem necessary for the operation of the Chapter. Such committees shall choose a Chairman within that committee and all duties and powers shall be at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 1 – The officers of the Chapter shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three (3) Directors; all of whom shall be elected by majority vote of the membership.

Section 2 – Elected officers shall serve a term of office for two (2) years commencing on January 1 and ending on December 31 two calendar years thereafter. Any vacancy in an elected office shall be filled by the Board of Directors at any meeting but only for the unexpired portion of said office.

Section 3 – The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter and shall preside over all meetings. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nomination / Election Committee. The President shall be the co-signer with the Treasurer on all legal instruments. He shall have a vote only in cases where there is need of a tie breaker.

Section 4 – The Vice President shall, in the event of the absence of the President, perform all duties of that office. The Vice President shall also handle all matters regarding membership, applications and verification of eligibility of membership. The Vice President shall be the chief recruiting officer.

Section 5 – The Secretary shall keep records of all business transacted at all meetings. The Secretary shall give adequate notice of all meetings, pendency of dues, and disseminate information to the membership in a timely fashion. The Secretary shall keep records of attendance at meetings and all other chapter events. In all cases the Secretary shall be considered the Agent of Service for the Chapter.

Section 6 – The Treasurer shall be entrusted with custody of all Chapter funds which shall be deposited into Chapter accounts in the Chapter's name. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of all receipts and disbursements. The Treasurer shall make a full report of the financial status of the Chapter at the monthly meeting and, upon request, at any meeting of the BOD.

Section 7 – The position of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined and held by one person. In such an event, the Board of Directors shall have the option of calling for a special election to elect

an additional Director who shall serve as long as the position of Secretary and Treasurer are combined.

Section 8 – The President with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors may appoint members in good standing to serve in the positions of Quartermaster, Ride Captain and Sergeant at Arms. These positions shall be referred to as “Appointed Officers”.

ARTICLE V

SALES

Section 1 – The Quartermaster shall be responsible for all purchases of Blue Knights merchandise as represented in the Sales Book. The Quartermaster shall also be responsible for the sale and purchase of all articles which shall benefit the Chapter or its members.

Section 2 – The Quartermaster shall maintain and accurate inventory of all items in his/her custody. The Quartermaster shall answer directly to the President and upon reasonable notification shall respond to inquiries of the Board of Directors. At no time will the Quartermaster have surplus merchandise greater than specifically outlined by the President.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Section 1 – The presence of seven (7) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting regular business. This shall include no less than four (4) members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 – No voting on any matter by proxy shall be permitted.

Section 3 – Regular monthly meetings shall be conducted at a time and place as designated by the Board of Directors. Notification of regular meetings shall be promulgated by the Secretary by telephone, postal mail, electronic mail or website.

Section 4 – The Board of Directors shall meet at a time and place as designated by the President. Additional or Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held within seven (7) days of the call of the President unless otherwise agreed upon, or by three (3) members of the Board of Directors, or by five (5) chapter members. The Secretary shall give notice of any such call by telephone, postal mail or electronic mail to all those having an interest in any such special meeting of the Board. At all such special meetings, a majority shall constitute a quorum. General members may observe Board of Directors meetings however they may not vote.

ARTICLE VII

REIMBURSEMENTS

Section 1 – The President, or in his absence, his designee, shall be reimbursed for representation of the Chapter at the Spring and Fall North East Conference business meetings as well as the International Board of Governors meeting. Reimbursement shall be the entire cost of the registration package for one (1) person plus the cost of one (1) nights lodging, except when such event is held within seventy five (75) miles of Plymouth, at which time reimbursement will not include lodging.

Section 2 – The Secretary and Treasurer shall be reimbursed for expenses to the extent that such expenses are deemed usual and customary to the proper completion of their elected duties. Expenses shall be reimbursed upon submission and approval of expense receipts.

Section 3 – Any other requests for reimbursement with appropriate receipts by an officer or other member of the Chapter must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to it being submitted to the general membership for approval. No “blank checks” shall be issued.

Section 4 – If at any time the Treasurer of the Chapter is unable to sufficiently reimburse any mandated expense, the Treasurer shall immediately notify or cause to be notified, the President. At the next possible opportunity, the President shall notify or cause to be notified, the general membership. Until the general membership takes action on the matter, reimbursement of all expenses shall cease.

ARTICLE VIII
ELECTIONS

Section 1- Elections for Chapter officers shall be held during the last regularly scheduled monthly meeting of Chapter (generally the December meeting) at the regular meeting place of the Chapter unless otherwise designated.

Section 2 – All nominees for office shall be members in good standing as determined by the Treasurer with the Board of Directors thirty (30) days prior to the last scheduled meeting of the year.

Section 3 – Nominations for office will occur at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting two (2) months prior to the scheduled election meeting of the Chapter (generally the October meeting). The Secretary shall give adequate notice to each member with regard to this nomination meeting and the elections. Adequate notice shall be deemed adequate by posting it on the Chapter website and sending an electronic mail to all members in good standing at their Email address of record.

Section 4 – A Nomination / Election Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. This committee shall consist of up to four (4) volunteer general members of the Chapter. A Chairman shall be appointed within the committee by the committee members. Duties of the committee shall include but not be limited to recording the names of the nominees for all elected offices, sending timely notices to the membership in regards to nominees, voting procedures, obtaining election ballots and supervising the ballot and election process in addition to any other duties deemed necessary by the Nomination / Election Committee or the Board of Directors.

Section 5 – Nominations will be taken from the floor by the President at the October meeting. The nominee's names and intended office shall be turned over to the Nomination / Election Committee. The Secretary together with the Nomination / Election, with the approval of the Board of Directors shall print or cause to be printed a ballot for the purpose of election of Chapter Officers.

Section 6 – Each member in good standing shall receive an approved ballot by mail. Ballots shall be returned to the Nomination / Election Committee on or before the day of the last regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the year (December). At the close of the balloting, the President

shall officially close the voting process. The Nomination / Election Committee shall then be dismissed to tally the votes and report their findings to the President.

Section 7 – The term of elected office shall be for a period of two (2) years commencing on January 1st immediately after the election meeting and ending on December 31st two calendar years thereafter. Any vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by a vote of the majority of the Board of Directors, but only for the unexpired term of the vacant office to be filled.

ARTICLE IX

CONDUCT

Section 1 – At no time will intoxication be considered permissible or acceptable by this organization. Any violation of this section will be considered grounds for immediate suspension of member status and upon review of the facts by the Board of Directors, possible termination of membership from the Chapter.

Section 2 – Members, especially elected officers shall, at all times, work in the best interest of, and to further the growth and success of the Chapter.

Section 3 – In all cases regarding discipline, suspension or termination of membership, Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail unless otherwise stated in these bylaws.

ARTICLE X

BYLAWS

Section 1 – These bylaws may be amended. Proposed amendments may be submitted to the Bylaws Review Committee which shall consist of volunteers assigned by the President. Amendments shall be assessed by the Bylaws Review Committee before being presented to the Board of Directors. When the Board of Directors approves a proposed amendment, it shall be submitted to the Secretary who shall forward the text of the proposed amendment to the general membership at least thirty (30) days prior to any scheduled vote. A vote of a 2/3 majority is required to amend these bylaws.

Section 2 – The Board of Directors shall have the right to incorporate rules & regulations which shall cover areas not included in these bylaws.

ARTICLE XI

SELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS

Section 1 – The following guidelines are established to assist in the process of selecting applicants for Honorary Membership.

- a. Only Regular or Associate members on the Board shall be involved in the process of selecting Honorary members;
- b. Established guidelines shall be in effect for one (1) year and cannot be changed until the next years Honorary member(s) are determined;
- c. In the event only a few points separate individual candidates, the final decision will be based on personal interviews of the candidates;
- d. The Board of Directors reserves the right to fill any vacancy available in the roster for Honorary membership and all decisions of the BOD are final.

Section 2 – Candidates under consideration for Honorary membership must meet the following threshold:

- a. Be associated with or a major contributor to the Chapter for at least one year after the date of application;
- b. Possess a valid motorcycle operator’s license;
- c. Own a motorcycle

Candidates meeting this threshold will then be judged using the following categories and weighted point scale:

Seniority – contiguous years the candidate has been associated with the Chapter	30 pts
Attendance at the past 12 meetings	25 pts
Attendance on Chapter rides	15 pts
Participation (not mere attendance) at Chapter functions	15 pts
Attendance at Chapter functions	10 pts
Attendance at other Blue Knight functions	5 pts

While the Vice President will keep a record of each applicant’s attendance, it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to make the Vice President aware of all functions, events and meetings the applicant attends.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names on this 17th day of January, 2018.



President



Vice President



Secretary / Treasurer



Director



Director



Director



Director