

WISCONSIN BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC. CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ORGANIZED MARCH 1967—INCORPORATED MAY 1968

PURPOSE: DEDICATED TO THE UNITY, SOCIABILITY, AND THE GOOD FELLOWSHIP OF BMW MOTORCYCLE OWNERS.

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 Members shall be the age of majority, own and operate a Bayerische Motoren Werke Cycle, hereafter referred to as a “BMW” **or be the sole designated passenger of a member-owner (Passed 1-15)**. Authorized BMW dealers are exempt from personally owning a BMW motorcycle.
- 1.2 All motorcycle operators must have valid liability insurance and a valid motorcycle operator’s license to participate in riding events.

SECTION 2 APPLICATION FOR OPERATOR and/or PASSENGER MEMBERSHIPS (1-15)

- 2.1 After complying with Article 1, Section 1, and submitting an application, applicant will fulfill Section 2.2 within 12 months. **(Passed 6/1/05)**
- 2.2 Prior to being voted on, an applicant must attend two regular club business meetings, and ride a BMW in two published club rides. **(Passed 6/1/05)**
*Sponsor requirement removal **(Passed 12-7-18)**
- 2.3 Prospective member will be excused from the meeting for the purpose of open discussion of his/her membership. A vote by secret ballot will then be taken. Three (3) no votes will constitute rejection. Upon acceptance and payment of initiation fee and dues (passenger exempt from a second initiation fee) **(Passed 1-15)**, he/she will be a member in good standing and entitled to all privileges of the Club.

SECTION 3 PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS

- 3.1 A vote and/or voice in club affairs.
- 3.2 Join in any club rides and/or events.
- 3.3 Hold office after six (6) months membership.

SECTION 4 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 A husband and wife may join the Club as a family unit. Children under the age of majority shall be considered family members. Children over the age of majority are not family members.
- 4.2 A family membership shall entitle that family to one (1) vote. Only the member or spouse may exercise that privilege.
- 4.3 A spouse may take a separate full membership with all privileges after complying with Section 2.

SECTION 5 HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 As directed by club Officers and/or Board of Directors.
- 5.2 Honorary members will not have voting privileges and may not hold office. **(Pass 4-07)**

SECTION 6 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 Life membership shall be extended to all Charter Members and thereafter to any member voted on by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of members present at a regular business meeting, provided said member is not guilty of any infringement of club rules and/or regulations.
- 6.2 Starting with the year 2002, any member in good standing that has accumulated twenty five (25) years of paid in full membership shall be considered a “Life Member” provided said member is not guilty of any infringement of club rules and/or regulations. The benefit of a Life Member shall be the waiver of all future annual dues.

WISCONSIN BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC. CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP (continued)

SECTION 7 EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

- 7 The board may at its discretion, allow an exception to the requirement of owning a BMW Motorcycle. It shall be allowed that: Members in good standing, who are unable to operate a motorcycle for physical or medical reasons, may, if they so request, remain a full member after they sell their BMW motorcycle. (Passed 4-07)

SECTION 8: WITHDRAWN MEMBERSHIP

- 8.1.1 Any member in good standing, who for personal reasons is unable to attend meetings or stay in good standing, may submit his/her reasons to the Board of Directors, who shall decide if the member is entitled to a withdrawn membership. Withdrawn members shall not violate any by-laws or decisions of the Club. They shall surrender all rights in the club and all property of the club and shall not take part in any club business or activity. Withdrawn members may again become active, only upon approval by the Board of Directors and by complying with Article I, Section 1 (4-07)
- 8.1.2 A member in good standing disposing of his/her BMW for any reason shall be given one (1) year to purchase another BMW. After one (1) year he/she shall withdraw from the club until another BMW is purchased. (Passed 4/6/07)
- 8.1.3 Dues shall be kept current during the one (1) year grace period

SECTION 9 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

- 9.1 A member may be expelled for unbecoming conduct. Charges must be made in writing and the accused member given a hearing before the Board of Directors. The Board shall take evidence and report its findings and decision to the membership at a regular business meeting. The membership may veto the Board's decision by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present. The vote shall be taken by secret ballot. Terminated members shall surrender all rights in the Club and all property of the Club.

SECTION 10 RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

- 10.1 Any member may resign by written notice to the Secretary.
- 10.2 Any member resigning or having his/her membership terminated by expulsion or by death, or for any other reason, surrenders all rights in the Club and all property of the Club.

ARTICLE II ELECTED OFFICERS, OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES

The Officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Two Year Trustee, One Year Trustee (receding Two Year Trustee), and Board Member at Large. These seven officers shall constitute The Board of Directors. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be two (2) year terms with the positions of President and Secretary being elected on years alternating with the terms of Vice President and Treasurer. The remaining positions shall be elected annually with the exception of the One Year Trustee. (Passed 10/3/25)

SECTION 1 PRESIDENT

- 1.1 To preside at all meetings of the members.
- 1.2 To appoint any person or committee not otherwise ordered by the Club.
- 1.3 To personally represent the Club on proper occasions and in business contacts when feasible.
- 1.4 To assist all other Officers when necessary.
- 1.5 Deleted 7-1-2005

SECTION 2 VICE PRESIDENT

- 2.1 To perform the duties of the President in his/her absence, or when the President wishes to step down from the chair.
- 2.2 To keep and maintain the mileage and point system records.

WISCONSIN BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC. CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ARTICLE II ELECTED OFFICERS, OFFICIALS AND THEIR DUTIES (continued)

SECTION 3 SECRETARY

- 3.1 To keep the minutes of the regular business and board meetings.
- 3.2 To perform such duties that generally falls to that office.
- 3.3 To maintain correspondence as directed by the president.
- 3.4 To audit the financial records along with the trustees.
- 3.5 To perform other duties incidental to the office and as directed by the President.

SECTION 4 TREASURER

- 4.1 To collect dues from all members.
- 4.2 To collect all other money due the Club.
- 4.3 To make payments from the Club funds when so ordered by the Club.
- 4.4 To report financial status of the Club once a month at meetings.
- 4.5 To deposit all money on hand in the Club bank account.
- 4.6 To sign all checks drawn on the Club's bank account. **(Passed 6/1/05)**
- 4.7 To perform other duties incidental to the office.
- 4.8 To be personally responsible for all banking penalties due to negligence on his/her part. Said negligence to be determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5 TRUSTEES

- 5.1 To audit Club financial records at least twice per calendar year; **(Passed 3-4-09)** Once during the 2nd quarter and once during the 4th quarter each year.
- 5.2 To promote the general welfare of the Club and to perform such other duties incidental to the office.

SECTION 6 BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE

- 6.1 Attend all board meetings as a representative of the Membership.
- 6.2 Cast his/her vote at times when required at board meetings as directed by the Membership.
- 6.3 To promote the general welfare of the Club and to perform such other duties incidental to the office.

SECTION 6 PUBLISHER/EDITOR (not a board member)

- 6.1 Publisher/Editor shall be elected annually. He/she may be present at board meetings but shall not carry a vote. He/she shall write, edit and publish club newsletters as they see fit but in no way be detrimental to the Club or its members.

SECTION 7 WEBMASTER (not a board member) **(Passed 8/6/04)**

- 7.1 Webmaster shall be elected annually. He/she may be present at board meetings but shall not carry a vote. He/she shall edit, publish and maintain the official club web site as they see fit but in no way be detrimental to the Club or its members.

SECTION 8 CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE (not board members)

- 8.1 The Constitution Committee shall consist of four (4) members. Committee members shall be elected for a two (2) year term with two (2) members being replaced annually. Their purpose is to review, edit and recommend changes. Changes will only be made with the approval of the membership in accordance with Article VIII.

SECTION 9 RALLY CHAIR (not a board member) **(Passed 4/6/07)**

- 9.1 Rally Chair shall be elected annually. He/she may be present at board meetings but shall not carry a vote. He/she shall hold rally meetings for the "Rally Committee" and update the membership as necessary.

WISCONSIN BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC. CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

SECTION 10 SOCIAL MEDIA ADMINISTRATOR (not a board member) **(Passed 11/3/17)**

- 10.1 Social Media Administrator shall be elected annually. He/she may be present at board meetings but shall not carry a vote. He/she shall edit, and maintain the official Social Media sites as they see fit but in no way be detrimental to the Club or its members. Social Media type sites are, but not limited to; Facebook, Instagram, etc. (Club Web Site is not included.)

ARTICLE III ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

SECTION 1 DATES OF ELECTIONS AND INSTALLATION

- 1.1 Nominations will be at the October and November meetings by members in good standing (see Section 2.2 below). The Secretary shall notify the membership of the nominations within ten (10) days after the November meeting with an absentee ballot. This notification shall be by Email or Postal Mail. **(Passed 10/3/25)**
- 1.2 Elections will be at the December meeting. (No nominations.)
- 1.3 Installation of Officers will be at the January meeting

SECTION 2 METHOD OF ELECTING

- 2.1 All Nominees must be members in good standing (see 2.2 below) and have been in the Club at least six (6) months. The Secretary shall have a paper ballot with the names of the Nominees ready for the voting procedure. Any nominee receiving more than 50% on any ballot shall be declared the winner. In the event there are more than two (2) Nominees there may be run-off ballots. On each run-off ballot the candidate with the least votes shall be eliminated. Ties will have a separate run-off when necessary. All ballots will be secret. This voting procedure shall apply to all offices in the order set forth in Article II. **(Passed 8/5/11)**
- 2.2 A Member in good standing has their dues current and paid in full. Article I requirements must be current and fulfilled.
- 2.3 Each Member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- 2.4 Absentee ballot voting is acceptable providing it is submitted in writing to the Secretary before the voting commences. Official Ballot must be used. Second ballot instructions may be given. Voter's name and address must be on envelope. **(Passed 8/5/11)**

SECTION 3 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- 3.1 To remove an Officer from office, charges must be presented in writing to the Board of Directors, who after deliberation shall report its recommendation to the Club. A two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Members present at a regular business meeting, who are entitled to vote, shall be required to remove an Officer from office.
- 3.2 Any Officer who shall miss two (2) consecutive meetings without a valid reason (reason to be decided valid or invalid by a vote of the Members at a regular business meeting) shall be adjudged derelict in their duties and will automatically be replaced by a temporary officer. The position will be officially filled at the next regular business meeting.

SECTION 4 VACANCIES

- 4.1 No office shall remain vacant for more than one (1) meeting.
- 4.2 In the event of a vacancy, the ranking officer shall call for a special election to fill the vacancy.

WISCONSIN BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC. CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECTION 1 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT

- 1.1 The President, from the list of Members in good standing shall appoint all committees and representatives except the Constitution Committee. The President also has the right to remove any appointee.
- 1.2 House committee, consisting of three (3) members, one of which will act as Master at Arms. This committee will have supervision of the clubhouse or meeting place and be responsible for maintenance and order of the Club and for fixtures and furniture.
- 1.3 Sunshine Committee shall send out greetings to members and spousal types for birthdays, weddings, and births. Appropriate messages will also be sent in cases of sicknesses and/or deaths.
- 1.4 Tour Directors shall be appointed for one (1) month and have charge of all club tours and rides during that month, subject to such orders as the Club may give. A minimum of two (2) group rides must be presented to the Club and must be in the newsletter at least one (1) published month before the ride. Tour Director shall appoint an assistant to assist in the rides and road activities and also to act in his/her absence. Tour Directors shall escort club members riding in a group at a safe and/or posted speed.
- 1.5 American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) Representative shall be appointed for a three (3) year term starting in 1972.
- 1.6 National BMW Club Representatives shall be appointed for a three (3) year term starting in 1972.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

SECTION 1 TIME AND DATES

- 1.1 Regular meetings shall be held on the first Friday of each month, January through December, unless otherwise notified by the newsletter. The President or the Board of Directors may call special meetings. Notification must be given to the membership by mail or telephone, a minimum of two (2) days in advance.
- 1.2 Time of meetings shall be set by the Board of Directors and shall remain the same for the entire year.

SECTION 2 QUORUM

- 2.1 Members in good standing, holding twenty five percent (25%) of the votes that may be cast at any meeting, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 3 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Meetings are to be conducted in accordance with "Roberts Rules of Order" in so far as they apply to the constitution.

SECTION 4 ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 4.1 Roll call of Officers and Members.
- 4.2 Introduction of prospective members and guests.
- 4.3 Minutes of the previous business and board meetings.
- 4.4 Treasurer's report and bills.
- 4.5 Reports of Officers, Committees and Correspondence.
- 4.6 Applications and voting on new memberships.
- 4.7 Unfinished business.
- 4.8 New business.
- 4.9 Collection of dues.
- 4.10 Good of the order.
- 4.11 Adjournment.

WISCONSIN BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC. CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ARTICLE VI FEES, DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

SECTION 1 INITIATION FEE

- 1.1 The initiation fee shall be set at the December board meeting by the outgoing and the newly elected Officers, subject to approval by the membership at the next regular business meeting.

SECTION 2 DUES

- 2.1 The dues shall be set at the December board meeting by the outgoing and the newly elected Officers, subject to approval by the membership at the next regular business meeting.
- 2.2 New member's dues shall become due upon acceptance into the Club, but will be prorated for the remaining calendar year.
- 2.3 Any member three (3) months behind in dues shall be considered not in good standing and shall be notified by the Treasurer in writing with a duplicate copy retained in the Club files.
- 2.4 Any member four (4) months behind in dues shall automatically be expelled from the Club.
- 2.5 Any member in good standing who is temporarily physically disabled may upon recommendation of the Board of Directors be exempt from payment of dues during the period of disability.

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENTS

- 3.1 Any additional assessments over and above regular dues must be approved by a majority of Members at a regular business meeting.

ARTICLE VII SPECIAL DISBURSEMENTS OF CLUB FUNDS

SECTION 1 CASES OF NEED

- 1.1 The Board of Directors may recommend to disburse funds to a member in good standing when a case of real need arises.

SECTION 2 POLITICAL

- 2.1 The Board of Directors may recommend to disburse funds to a political cause or candidate that has motorcycling as an interest.

SECTION 3 APPROVAL OF SPECIAL DISBURSEMENTS

- 3.1 Recommendations for special disbursements must be approved by a minimum of six (6) board members (with a seven (7) member Board). It must then be presented at a regular club meeting in the minutes of the board meeting and accepted by a majority of the members present.

WISCONSIN BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC. CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS (CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS)

SECTION 1 PROPOSALS BY THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

- 1.1 Proposals shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board (BOD) at least sixty (60) days prior to the motion being put before the Membership for a vote.

SECTION 2 PROPOSALS BY MEMBERS

- 2.1 Proposals by members shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board and to the Constitution Committee at least sixty (60) days before the motion will be put before the Membership for voting.

SECTION 3 NOTICE TO AMEND

- 3.1 A notice of a motion to amend the Constitution must be mailed to all Members in good standing at mailing time, by the Secretary, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the voting date. It must state the exact nature/wording of the amendment.
- 3.2 Proposals must be in the exact wording that will be submitted to the membership for voting.

SECTION 4 VOTING ON AMENDMENTS

- 4.1 Amendments shall carry a majority of seventy five percent (75%) or greater of the votes cast at a regular business meeting. A minimum of thirty five percent (35%) of the total membership must vote. Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- 4.2 Absentee ballot voting is acceptable providing it is submitted in writing to the Secretary before voting commences. It must give vote instructions and reason for his/her absence.

ARTICLE IX GENERAL

SECTION 1 CLUB NAME, BADGE and/or EMBLEM

- 1.1 The club name, badge and/or emblem may not be used in personal or commercial advertising or for any other purpose unless approval of the Membership is first obtained.

SECTION 2 COMMERCIALISM and/or FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 Members shall not enter into, or involve the Club in any commercial negotiation or financial responsibility without specific approval of the Executive Board and the Membership.

WISCONSIN BMW MOTORCYCLE CLUB INC. CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ARTICLE X ETHICS & GENERAL RULES GOVERNING CLUB RIDES

SECTION 1 EQUIPMENT

- 1.1 No BMW shall be unnecessarily loud so as to detract from the Club or attract attention to a Club ride.
- 1.2 Everyone on club rides shall wear helmets.
This includes drivers, passengers and/or guests.
- 1.3 BMW's shall be as clean as weather conditions permit while on club rides.
- 1.4 There shall be no excessively altered or chopped BMW's.

SECTION 2 CLOTHING

- 2.1 Clothing shall be worn that will not detract from the Club or attract attention to the Club.

SECTION 3 GROUP RIDING

- 3.1 No more than two (2) abreast where the law permits.
- 3.2 Passing on the right is not permitted.
- 3.3 Headlights shall be on while riding.
- 3.4 Intervals shall be kept between pairs and individual riders.
- 3.5 When making turns, be sure the driver behind you knows where you turned. Wait on the turn if he/she is out of sight.
- 3.6 Obey all laws.
- 3.7 In case of mechanical or other trouble, signal so others can pass it on to the rest, so the entire group can stop.
- 3.8 If stopping is required, be sure you are completely off the highway and onto the shoulder of the road.
- 3.9 Reassemble on the far side of town when the group gets split in a town.
- 3.10 Be sure you know routes and destinations if possible.
- 3.11 At gas stops, fill up, pay up, and pull out of the way.
- 3.12 Don't litter. Keep stop and rest areas clean.
- 3.13 When parking. Keep BMW's grouped and take as little parking space as possible.
- 3.14 When stopping to eat or drink, don't cause disturbances.
- 3.15 In the event of any trouble, remember, we came as a group and we should leave as a group.
- 3.16 Stunt riding, hill climbing and wheelies are prohibited on club rides.
- 3.17 Be Ladies and Gentlemen at all times when representing or riding with the Club.
- 3.18 Always promote a good image of Motorcycling and Motorcyclists.

ARTICLE XI DISSOLVEMENT

SECTION 1 CLUB DISSOLUTION

- 1.1 In the event of dissolution of the Wisconsin BMW Motorcycle Club Inc., all assets of the Club will be equally divided among the Members.
- 1.2 Any physical property will be sold with the Members having first option to purchase said property. Proceeds will go into the treasury as an asset.
- 1.3 Members are defined as those being in good standing with all dues paid in full and current.