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# *****of the*****

# *****Blue Knights International Law Enforcement*****

# *****Motorcycle Club, Inc.*****

# *****North Carolina Chapter 10 of Orange/Alamance Counties*****

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**Preamble**

**We, the law enforcement officers in and around the counties of Orange and Alamance, in the State of North Carolina, in order to form a more perfect union among law enforcement officers and the community, establish this chapter to ensure tranquility amongst all, provide for the education of motorcycle safety and awareness, promote the philanthropy of charity, secure the joys and blessings of our common interests and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club of North Carolina (Orange/Alamance Counties) Chapter 10.**

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**Article 1**

**Charter**

**Chartered as a local chapter by the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc. on July 29, 2015.**

**Article 2**

**Name**

**The name of this Chapter shall be *The Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club - North Carolina Chapter 10 of Orange/Alamance Counties.***

**Aliases: Tarheel Regulators**

**Article 3**

**Authority**

**Section 1: This Chapter is a recognized chapter of the international organization, Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.**

**Section 2: This Chapter is affiliated with the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc. and adheres to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc.**

**Section3: This chapter will establish By-Laws to govern administrative and procedural matters. The By-Laws shall not conflict with, be inconsistent and/or contradictory to those of the International Constitution. By-Laws may be adopted, amended, or temporarily suspended by a majority vote present at a Chapter meeting where a Quorum is present.**

**Article 4**

**Purpose**

**Section 1: Purposes – The purposes of this Chapter, hereinafter referred to as Blue Knights North Carolina 10, shall be:**

**1.1. to provide for the mutual assistance, enjoyment, entertainment, education, physical, mental and social benefit of its members and the general public.**

**1.2. to promote, and advance the sport and recreation of motorcycle riding and the safety of motorcycle riding, to serve the interests of motorcycle owners and riders.**

**1.3. to develop a fraternal spirit amongst law enforcement officers and the general public.**

**1.4. to borrow money and/or capital, contract debts and make contracts necessary or incidental to the operation of the Chapter.**

**1.5. that no part of the net earnings of the Chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers, directors or other private persons, except the Chapter shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes of the Chapter.**

**2 Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Chapter shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a chapter exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).**

**3 Upon dissolution of the Chapter, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Chapter, dispose of all of the corporate assets in such manner, or to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purpose as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization(s) under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Superior Court of the County in which the principal office of the Chapter is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization(s) as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.**

**Article 5**

**Address**

**The address of the main office or headquarters of the Chapter is: P.O. Box 225, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278. The address may be subject to change for reasons deemed necessary by the Chapter. In such case, once an address has been determined, a majority vote of the executive is required and recorded.**

**Article 6**

**Membership**

**Membership shall follow the rules and regulations of the International criteria as stated in the International Constitution and By-Laws. There shall be five (5) membership classifications:**

1. **Regular**
2. **Associate**
3. **Honorary**
4. **Special Honorary**
5. **Member-At-Large**

**The rights, titles, and interest of any member in and to the Corporation shall cease upon termination of his membership. No member shall be entitled to share in the distribution of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the Corporation.**

**Article 7**

**Membership Eligibility and Classifications**

**The following membership classifications and eligibility are established in accordance to the International Constitution and By-Laws:**

**Section 1: Regular - Except as otherwise provided in this Section, all 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.**

**2 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.**

**3 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 fulltime 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 honorary separation from all departments.**

**4 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.**

**5 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.**

**6 Each Regular member must be properly licensed to drive a motorcycle by the State or Province in which he resides and must own a motorcycle, excepting, however, that persons who otherwise qualify as Regular 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. Any Regular member who because of an injury or medical or physical condition is unable to continue riding a motorcycle, may retain his/her membership as a Regular member.**

**Section 2: Associate - Except as otherwise provided in this Sections, all 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. Any Associate member on May 24, 1983 shall have the right to continue as an Associate member if he meets all other requirements.**

**2 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 A person may also qualify for Associate membership as per Article IV, Section A, Paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Constitution.**

**4 Each Associate member must be properly licensed to drive a motorcycle by the State or Province in which he resides and must own a motorcycle, excepting however, that persons who otherwise qualify as Associate members, but do not own (a) motorcycle, may become members if they have plans to own a motorcycle and they do in fact acquire ownership rights in a motorcycle within six (6) months of their acceptance as a member.**

**5 Any Associate member, who because of an injury or medical or physical condition is unable to continue riding a motorcycle, may retain his/her membership as an Associate member.**

**Section 3: Honorary - 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. Honorary membership in any given chapter may not exceed more than ten percent (10%) of the previous year’s membership of Regular, Associate and Life members.**

**Section 4: Special Honorary - Special honorary members 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.**

**Section 5: Member-At-Large - Persons who qualify for membership in one of the four previous membership classes of the International may be granted Member-At-Large status by the Chapter Board of Directors if such persons reside at least fifty (50) miles from the nearest chapter headquarters or when a chapter has no headquarters, its mailing address. The Chapter Board of Directors may grant memberships-at-large without limit.**

**Article 8**

**Executive Committee**

**Section 1: Executive Committee – The Executive Committee shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.**

**Section 2: Eligibility – Executive Committee must hold Regular membership status. An Associate member may hold the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and of a Director provided that there are no Regular members available to hold those positions.**

**Section 3: Nominations – The Executive Committee shall be nominated by ballot or electronically at the November (odd year) meeting or a date in the same month to be determined in absence of a monthly meeting.**

**Section 4: Election – The Executive Committee shall be elected by ballot and electronically at the December (odd year) meeting or a date to be determined in the same month in the absence of a monthly meeting with a majority of the vote cast for that office.**

**Section 5: Term – The Executive Committee shall serve for two years and their term of office shall begin January 1 (even year) and end on December 31 (odd year).**

**Section 6: Vacancy – If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice-President shall assume the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.**

**2 Vacancies in any other office shall be filled by a special election by ballot or electronically for the remainder of the unexpired term.**

**Article 9**

**Board of Directors**

**Section 1: Responsibility - The business and property of each chapter shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors who shall be elected annually or bi-annually by the chapter members to hold office until the next annual meeting of the members or until the election or qualification of their respective successors.**

**Section 2: Composition - The Board of Directors shall consist of Chapter President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, (hereinafter, the Executive Committee) and Immediate Past President, as well as three (3) additional directors, or if the Secretary and Treasurer are held as one office then four (4) additional directors, who must be elected from the Regular membership of the Chapter at the biennial or any special meeting.**

**2 An Associate member may hold the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and or a Director provided that there are no Regular members available to hold those positions.**

**3 The members of the Chapter may establish other positions to be held by elected Chapter members for the conduct of Chapter business.**

**4 Provisions of these Bylaws relating to the conduct of business by the International Board of Directors shall apply to actions of any Chapter Board of Directors so far as applicable.**

**Article 10**

**Supreme Court**

**Section 1: Purpose -** The Supreme Court may, from time to time, be tasked with the interpretation and intent of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc. and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Blue Knights of North Carolina Chapter 10. The sole responsibility of the Court is to research, interpret, deliberate and render the best decision. The Constitutions and By-Laws of the Blue Knights International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club and the Blue Knights of North Carolina Chapter 10 are designed as guidelines of procedures for the operation of the chapter.

***Section 2: Appointment -*** The Supreme Court shall be composed of three members. Members will be appointed by the Executive Committee. Appointment is for life unless removed by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors or no longer a member of the chapter.

2 Candidates for consideration for appointment must sign a Declaration of Understanding. This document states that a candidate has read the Constitutions and By-Laws of the Blue Knight International Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club, Inc. and the Blue Knights of North Carolina Chapter 10 and have a basic knowledge of the same.

3 Each Member of the Court will sign an Oath of Confidentiality.

4 One member will be appointed as the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice will write the opinion of the court and present it to the Executive Committee for public release.

**Section 3: Procedures** - The operations and procedures will be set forth in the By-Laws of the chapter.

2 To protect the sanctity of deliberations and to ensure fair and impartial rulings, all proceedings are closed sessions.

3 Members of the Court are empowered to question and/or make inquiries to any party related to the subject matter at hand only for the purpose of resolution and deliberation in order to support their final opinion.

4 The opinion of the Court is final and binding but is appealable.

**Section 4: Appeal** - A decision may be appealed. In the event of an appeal, one member of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors will serve as an additional member of the Court. The Chief Justice will preside but will not submit an opinion. After review of the original motion and the appeal, the decision rendered is final.

**Article 11**

**Dues**

**Section 1: International - All new Regular, Associate, Honorary, or Special Honorary members shall be assessed a first year membership and initiation fee of twenty-five dollars ($25.00 \*) payable to the International. It shall be the responsibility of the Chapter Secretary to collect the individual member’s dues and submit such funds to the International. The annual assessment for renewals of membership shall be twenty dollars ($20.00\*) and submitted to the International headquarters no later than January 31 of each year. Member’s-at-Large dues shall be five dollars ($5.00) additional to cover those costs over and above chapter memberships. All dues fees include a two dollars ($2.00) subscription to the Blue Knights News. Members who fail to renew their membership on or before such date of each year shall be considered new members and assessed a twenty-five dollars ($25.00) membership fee. International headquarters will issue to all paid up first year new members one patch, one decal, one pin, and an International membership card. Upon termination of membership from a chapter, all such items shall be returned to the chapter. Yearly membership cards will be issued to all renewed members.**

**\* Amount may be changed at the International level. The change will take effect after a vote and will be announced to all chapters.**

**Section 2: Chapter - Membership dues shall be set forth by the majority vote of active Chapter members (Auxiliary Unit members excluded).**

**2 Both International and Chapter dues shall be due no later than January 15.**

**Article 12**

**Voting**

**All Regular, Associate, and Honorary members in good standing may vote on matters of chapter business.**

**2 Voting on business matters of the Chapter may be conducted in the format of live (members physically present such as at Chapter meetings) or electronically. To vote electronically, the issue must be placed on the agenda and approved by the Executive Officers.**

**3 There shall be no voting at any meeting or special meeting of the members of the Chapter in the absence of a Quorum.**

**4 There shall be no voting by proxy.**

**Article 13**

**Auxiliary Unit**

**The creation and formation of an Auxiliary Unit may be exercised by the Chapter to enhance the purpose and mission of the chapter. No member of the Auxiliary Unit may vote on Chapter business and/or matters.**

**Section 1: Membership - The unit may consist of spouses, those in a romantic relationship and legally recognized partners, of any membership classification as listed in Article 6.**

**Section 2: Termination - Upon divorce and/or separation of the relationship, the membership of the Auxiliary Unit shall be terminated immediately.**

**Section 3: Dues – Membership annual dues shall be $20.00 per year. Any change in the dues shall be presented before the Chapter. A Quorum must be met and a majority vote attained to change the previous set membership dues amount.**

**Section 4: Representative – Members of the Auxiliary Unit may nominate a member to be the lead representative Unit and present them to the Chapter. The election of the representative will be declared upon a majority vote of the Chapter members.**

**Section 5: Dues – Chapter dues shall be $25.00 per year. International dues shall be the amount as set forth by the International office.**

**Article 14**

**Meetings**

The Chapter shall declare a specific day in which to meet on a monthly basis to conduct and discuss Chapter business. The date shall be agreed upon by a majority vote of members.

**Section 1: Special Meetings**

Special meetings may be called by a vote of the Chapter Board of Directors or upon the written petition of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the Board of Directors.

**Article 15**

**Amendments and Ratifications**

**Section 1: Constitution - The Constitution may be amended by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the members present and entitled to vote at any meeting or special meeting. No such vote shall be effective unless the Board of Directors shall have first adopted a resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing it to be submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members entitled to vote. Written notice setting forth the proposed amendments or a summary of the changes to be effected by such amendments shall be given to the membership as provided in the bylaws.**

**2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, changes in the Registered Agent or Office set forth in Article 3 may be implemented in accordance with the procedures permitted in the By-Laws of the Chapter.**

**3 There shall be no amendments to the Constitution, which would alter the purpose of the Chapter to operate as an organization whose members are principally involved in law enforcement occupations nor be inconsistent or contrary to the Constitution of the International.**

**Section 2: By-Laws - The Board of Directors shall have the power to make, alter, amend and repeal the By-Laws of the Chapter by affirmative vote of a majority of the entire Board, provided however, that any such amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the voting membership of the Chapter at the next meeting or special meeting of the membership. Such amendments by the Board of Directors are effective until and unless they are disapproved by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the members present and entitled to vote at the annual or special meeting next following the amendment so made by the Board.**

**2 There shall be no amendments to the By-Laws which are inconsistent or contrary to the purpose of the Chapter to operate as an organization whose members are principally involved in law enforcement occupations nor inconsistent or contrary to the By-Laws of the International.**

**Section 3: Amendments by the Board of Directors - The amendment must be on the agenda of the Board of Directors meeting and must be passed by 2/3 majority vote of members present and eligible to vote at the Board of Directors meeting. No amendment will be accepted from the floor.**

**The amendment will then be forwarded to the Board of Directors for immediate action.**

**2 The amendment is then subject to any membership approval as specified in Sections 1 and 2.**

**Article 16**

**Ratification and Adoption**

**The Ratification of the Charter Members shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the Charter Members and the Chapter so ratifying the same.**

**Done by the unanimous consent of the Charter Members present the Thirteenth Day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen. In Witness whereof, We have hereunto subscribed our names,**

