

Wind & Fire M/C

New Chapter Organization

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Establishing New Chapter: Be sure to use the “new” forming a chapter form (2017)

First, you must have at least five (5) full members of Wind & Fire Motorcycle Club. If new members, you may submit all required paperwork, money, photos, etc. along with your new chapter request (form) to Wind & Fire Motorcycle Club at PO Box 8633 Bodfish, CA 93205. Before you submit your request to form a new chapter to W&F MC you need to contact the Club President (JR) at jr.wfmc@sbcglobal.net to make sure you have thought of everything and then your requested name can be reviewed and approved. This can save you time by learning from what other chapters have gone through in the past.

You will need to have at least one (1) member, hopefully the Chapter Director with an Email address. You can get the latest membership forms from the “member’s only” section of our club’s web site. These forms provide all necessary information for a prospective new member. If you are not a member you can email your request for a form to jr.wfmc@sbcglobal.net

Remember it is important to get along not only with the other Wind & Fire MC chapters in your area / state / country; but you need to go out-of-your-way to ensure that your local MC’s know what W&FMC is about and what your chapter is going to be doing. Remember Wind & Fire MC is a two-piece patch club motorcycle club.

By nature, chapters are geographic. The more chapters in a given state or area the more important it is to respect the area represented by each chapter. Chapter areas should not overlap each other. Members should contact their local chapter; what we are just saying that a chapter director should be concerned about the feelings of the Wind & Fire MC chapters next door. Chapter members: a) You don’t have to recruit members; you want the good prospective members to come to you. b) Don’t steal members from each other. c) If a member

leaves a chapter they cannot join a chapter nearby. (This follows the “don’t steal members guidelines)

Chapter name: Take time to look at the Wind & Fire MC International chapter list located on our web site www.windandfiremc.org and do not to copy another chapter’s name. Take time to contact the chapters around you and share your plans with them. Be sure you know who the other motorcycle clubs are in your area, names are important.

Chapter Name & Bottom-Rocker (Wind & Fire MC is a 2-piece patch club) The rocker can reflect your Department. You should avoid single names like Ohio, San Francisco, Fort Worth, etc., as many 1% clubs use these. The word “Nomad” or “Nomads” must not be used on a rocker. Be sure to get out and visit with your local clubs before you decide on the wording for your bottom rocker. Once you have decided on the wording for your bottom rocker, you can submit a request to the Club President for approval at jr.wfmc@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 209-769-7408 cell. Your rocker and your chapter name do not have to be the same. But in cases they are.

Goals of a Chapter: Following the ideals of the National Organization each chapter is free to establish its own rules / by-laws as long as there is no conflict between the National by-laws. The main goal is to promote comradery among members in a local area, to ride and have fun, and to provide a networking experience in a relaxed social environment. Wind & Fire MC has a secondary focus of charity. Bikers as a whole are a very fun loving and giving group and you may want to support a local club’s and / or your favorite charity. Some examples may include: local blood drives, toy runs, burn camps or serious childhood illnesses, abused families, etc.

Officers: A Chapter: This is entirely up to your chapter. You will need at least a Chapter Director / President, hopefully with E-mail. Other chapters have found by having additional officers, you can delegate some of the responsibilities; otherwise, the director tends to do everything. Too much work on the part of the chapter director can cause “burnout”. The positions and number of officers is up to each chapter, depending on chapter size and communications required with other chapter members but some examples are: Chapter Director / Chapter President communicates with National President or National Vice President and relays information backs to the members; coordinates chapter activities; and reports to our club at the national level as needed; the charity report that goes to our Charity Director is one example.

Secretary keeps minutes of meetings; may be the chapter's newsletter editor, if wanted; keeps chapter paperwork (new member paperwork, old newsletters, etc.).

Treasurer collects dues if the chapter has dues, records any monies received (including those for charities). A detailed record should be maintained of all incoming and outgoing expenses. This report should be available to the international president and chapter members for review. This position becomes more important if your Chapter puts on its own charity events. Remember the not-for-profit corporation of W&FMC Inc at the national level does not cover your chapter, we are not a 501C3. Wind & Fire MC In is not a charity. Do not except donations for a charity using Wind & Fire MC's name. If you want to incorporate at the chapter level this is something you need to look into. Because of the small amount of money that passes through a chapter, most W&F chapters are not incorporated. Keep good records.

Sergeant at Arms makes sure our Colors' are worn correctly; new members are made aware of rules, etc. If you have questions regarding the wearing of "Colors" you should contact Wind & Fire MC International Sgt. at Arms. There is also information available in the "members only" section of the Club web page.

Newsletter: If your chapter consists of different Fire Departments, or covers a large area, it is highly recommended that you have a chapter newsletter. Items of interest could be a member gets a new bike; is promoted; upcoming runs and chapter meetings and local events. Dues could be collected to cover the cost of your newsletter. Also encourage your members to submit articles to the Wind & Fire MC International quarterly newsletter. This is an easy way to get information out to your members without endless games of phone tag. The Wind & Fire MC newsletter is also available on the Club's web-page at www.windandfiremc.org in the "members only" section for free.

Whoever does your newsletter should also provide our Club's Historian with pictures and the history of your chapter. Remember; keep your chapter information current, things change as time goes by. Contact the Historian at historian.wfmc@sbcglobal.net .

Meetings: Set meetings up as you see fit. Some chapters have monthly meetings in conjunction with a ride, while others have an annual or bi-annual meeting. Remember firefighters like to eat; a good BBQ may help get them to your meeting.

Dues: Your chapter may collect dues; the amount is to be determined by your individual chapter and its needs. Your chapter may incur costs for printing, postage, patches, etc. and a small amount of money could cover these expenses. Experience has shown you shouldn't go crazy on the amount you decide to charge.

Prospects: If you approach a Firefighter or he/she approaches you to join, you may want to help them join Wind & Fire MC as an "outrider", no chapter affiliation (Wind & Fire MC Maltese Patch with the "Firefighter" bottom rocker) but no chapter rocker. Have that person ride with your chapter as a prospect before joining your chapter. It gives them a chance to see if they are compatible with you and you with them.

National Contacts: Be sure to use the latest order form 2018 which is available from the "members only" section of the web page. www.windandfiremc.org

Any questions should be directed to John (JR) Robbins, the Club President, at 209-7697408 or by email at jr.wfmc@sbcglobal.net

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