

THE KNOW LETTER

2018

This "KNOW-LETTER" is intended to serve as a guide to new members (and others) to provide general information about Wind & Fire Motorcycle Club Inc. References herein to Club philosophy are idealistic – rather as guidelines – and do not carry the absolute tone of the Club's three- page By-Laws.

SCOPE: Wind & Fire MC Inc. is an international motorcycle club that unites firefighters, active or retired, who ride Harley-Davidson® / American Made motorcycles. Firefighters from paid, volunteer, and private departments are considered. Retired means that the member is qualified as retired by his/her fire department. Past service alone does not equate to being "retired." While Wind & Fire MC views firefighters with a broad scope, an individual chapter of Wind & Fire MC may have specific requirements as per the desires of its chapter members. In other words, the chapter might require that all of its members belong to the IAFF, to a local VFD or that all be members of a single fire station or department. This theme of scope, "broad" for Wind & Fire MC and "specific by designed" for the chapter, carries throughout the Club. The intent of the dual notion of "broad" and "specific" is to enable the Club to be open to all firefighter-riders and at the same time grant members the option of molding a local chapter to fit their local needs as long as the chapter maintains a membership of at least 50% full members. (50 % firefighters).

Wind & Fire MC carries the "broad" scope even further through its Associate Membership classification. The only requirement for Associate Membership, besides the dues, is sponsorship by a Full Member. Associate Members are mostly significant others of Full Members – thus both firefighter and family & a Harley Davidson / American Made motorcycle are linked. Consistently the percent of Wind & Fire MC Associate Members who are either "firefighters with other brand bikes" or "Harley Davidson / American Made riders that are not firefighters" has held at about 2%.

On occasion some non-member "expresses" concerns that the Club alienates the brotherhood of firefighters by being Harley-Davidson® / American Made. With the Wind & Fire MC Associate Member policy anyone can be sponsored into Wind & Fire MC...though they would still be joining a Harley® / American Made club.

The Harley-Davidson® / American Made requirement of Wing & Fire MC is not tied to the any motor company.

LIFETIME/REVOCABLE (FOR CAUSE) MEMBERSHIP: Every membership in Wind & Fire MC is a lifetime / revocable membership with one-time dues. Once you are in, you're in. For those who drop out of the motorcycle scene, membership status will be designated as "inactive." This membership design is part of the approach that permits the Club's very affordable lifetime-membership. "For Cause" refers to a member's action causing a negative impact on the club; requires a review of two national officers. On a request to have our Colors' returned, the Club will return the cash value of the Colors'.

COLORS: Every motorcycle club has its colors. "Colors'" means both the logo and the club color scheme. By design, so as not to duplicate another club's colors, Wind & Fire Motorcycle Club Inc. is a 2 - piece patch club with a 3-color scheme consisting of Red, Light Blue & Black. Club patches feature an outside

black border, adjacent red border, and inside light blue field. For uniformity and quality control all such patches must to be obtained from Wind & Fire MC International, unless otherwise approved by the Club president. The right to wear Wind & Fire MC colors' requires approval of the Club.

CHARITY: A secondary focus of Wind & Fire MC Inc. is charity. The International lends support to chapter-held charity events through its Charity Credit program. There is no obligation for members to be charity-active but the Club views such involvement as a win-win situation. Often members discover that they get as much joy out of aiding someone as does the recipient! The focus of the Club's several dozen annual charity events are often to aid burn-injured children or terminally-ill kids. Any donation to the Club designated as charitable is transferred 100% to that charity. The Club's Charity Director coordinates Wind & Fire MC charity activity. For additional information contact Bruce at brent4@gmail.com

No Wind & Fire MC Inc. is NOT a tax defined "Charity." Why not? "Charity status" requires a massive amount of bookkeeping. It would be impossible to accurately obtain the data from our events held internationally...firefighters hate paperwork. Wind & Fire Motorcycle Club is more "charity" than most charities.

HONORARY MEMBER: During the month of April one Harley Davidson / American Made motorcycle rider, who has done something outstanding for the Club or for the motorcycling community, is selected to be an Honorary Member. Any member can make a nomination by contacting the Wind & Fire MC Vice President at jbergstrom@windstream.net . Existing members of Wind & Fire MC are disqualified from being nominated.

AWESOME: Although the Club has over 5,000 members they are not that visible among the huge number of riders that exist. "Wind & Fire MC" might just be you, solo or with a couple of your friends, on a day ride. Then the Club sometimes does things on an awesome scale. A few years back through a simple mail-request, members came together with enough money to pay cash for a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle. The bike was intended for Dave Barr – being that he was without a ride at the time – in recognition of the fantastic example he has set and the aid his foundation had given to others. Dave, being Dave, was extremely grateful but wouldn't take the gift. (Not into "bait and switch", the Club sent every check back to its donor.)

Another awesome effort respectfully honored the 343 FDNY Firefighters lost at the Twin Towers. On the one-year anniversary of the September 11th attack, Wind & Fire MC was the **first** group at Ground Zero. The Club was on site with 350 bikes at 0001 on 9-11-02. That was the start of a symbolic ride accompanying FDNY members from New York, NY to Colorado Springs, CO for the annual International Association of Fire Fighters Memorial Ceremony wherein the 343 names were etched into the memorial. In conjunction with this event, in London, U.K. a Wind & Fire MC ceremonial ride was held with members attending from several countries. At Colorado Springs the caravan to the IAFF ceremony grew to 700 motorcycles and 100 fire apparatus. Months prior to the events over 200 Wind & Fire MC members pledged that "no matter what" they would be there on the ride; that pledged list of names was sent to FDNY. During the Club's FDNY remembrance ride 3,000 Wind & Fire MC Firefighter Memorial pins were given out free to supporters. Just after the pack left on September 12th, 2002, Ray Feasel, one of the Club's road guards, was killed in Newark, NJ. Ray is remembered in a special "343+1" patch and "343+1" decal. Major support – without asking for recognition – was given to the run by Harley-Davidson Inc. That support included loaned motorcycles, meals at dealerships, FD H-D caps, and a partial funding of the Feasel costs associated with Ray's funeral.

Wind & Fire MC Inc. is awesome in its reach. As of 2018 the Club stretches into all but one state in the USA and into 22 countries. Wind & Fire MC is recognized worldwide by every major motorcycle club. So, when you view the Club and the patch you wear, think beyond your local city, state or country.

WHO'S WHO: The complete list of Club Officers is contained on the website www.windandfiremc.org and in the newsletter. Incidentally, becoming an officer is based on an applicant's interest and desire to volunteer time; an officer's geographical home-area is simply a random factor. Short bios on each of the Club Officers can be found on the website.

Jerry Eibert, a 30-year veteran of Santa Barbara County FD, IAFF local #2046, founded Wind & Fire MC. The event occurred in April 1991 when John Denning, RIP, a retired El Monte Battalion Chief, whole heartedly agreed to the idea. The Wind & Fire name and original artwork was created by Jerry Eibert. Jerry picked up the road name "Evo Red" in 1989 while participating on the inaugural Run for The Wall. Evo Red has penned a considerable number of stories and articles for the motorcycle media – the majority of which reference Wind & Fire MC. Jerry's 1986 red H-D Softail – bought new in 1985 and ridden 343,000 miles through 18 countries – was also tagged with the name "Evo Red".

John Denning, W&F MC member #0002, is the past and original Wind & Fire MC Newsletter Editor. JD was the driving force to create a Wind & Fire MC Maltese back patch. JD picked up the road name B.O.B. (not Bob) / "Best of the Best" on the 10th Anniversary Tour of the USA which was at 9,000-mile ride. JD past away in 2013. JD was a huge loss to our club.

John (JR) Robbins the first Club President in Club history, Central-Sierra Chapter Director, and also the webmaster. JR joined the Club while still active with the California Department of Forestry as a CDF Assistant Chief. JR picked up the little-known road name "One-Brake" while on the 10th Anniversary Tour of the USA...by riding 8,000 mile of the route with only a front brake. JR's wife, Carol, rides her own Harley Dyna everywhere along with JR. She picked up the road name "Paws" on the 10th Anniversary Tour after having her gloved-hands rain-died black several times enroute. As Wind & Fire MC members JR & Carol each have ridden their own bikes over 300,000 miles. JR retired assistant chief from CalFire has over 40 years in the fire service and continues to be our Club President.

John (JB) Bergstrom is Vice President and Finance Officer. JB, the first Vice President in Club history, has been riding for the past 38 years. John retired in February 2006 after spending 29 years with the Fire Department in Carson City Nevada. JB now lives in Arkansas.

Eddy Styven, a station captain with the Antwerp, Belgium FD, was the Club's first European Board Member. Notably Eddy speaks five languages. Eddy's wife, Resi, travels along everywhere Eddy rides.

Terry Porter (Skipper) is our Club Road Captain. Skipper and his wife Red Light have ridden across the USA more times than you can count. When you ride on the RTR or RFTW events you will see both of these members there.

Shannon Turner has stepped up to help the Club President and Vice President in the ever-increasing administrative work load of Wind & Fire MC International. Shannon is our new International Sgt.at Arms. Shannon lives in Oregon.

Wild Bill is our national WFMC historian. Bill enjoys riding and has crossed the USA many times. Bill took the historian potion from Mary Walker. Bill has taken on the project of keeping track of the many things

that our club does. If you want to be part of the permanent record of our club contact Wild Bill at histornian.wfmc@sbcgloblal.net

Charity Director Bruce Reibly and '4 rallies in one year' coordinator Gary Lovell see that you get recognized for what you have been doing. Contact Gary and Bruce and let them know what you are doing.

Amiee Moyers from the Portland area, member #0028, was the "First Lady Firefighter" to join Wind & Fire. A firefighter & paramedic when she joined, Amiee on one of her longer putts rode her FXR up the Alaska-Canada highway.

Richard Shearing from the Hampshire Fire Brigade England, member #0044, was the first member from outside the USA.

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell was the first person named as an Honorary Member since then we have had 19 honorary members.

USE OF CLUB LOGO: The Club has a unique logo that is registered. Members are allowed, after receiving written approval of the Club President, to produce items that contain the Club logo. Two of the main considerations during review for approval are maintaining the quality & integrity of the logo artwork and preventing duplication of the existing items available from Wind & Fire MC. Merchandise produced by Wind & Fire MC that is available on the Wind & Fire MC Order Form is the major funding source of the Club. If a member for instance wants to create an Event T-shirt or a Chapter T-shirt, the proper tact is to send the artwork to the Club President for approval before going to print. If you want a Wind & Fire MC T-shirt, buy it from the national.

PROTOCOL: Within the subculture of motorcycle clubs there are some understood codes of behavior that apply to wearing club logos. Wind & Fire MC is a 2 – piece patch club and respects these codes. The rocker shaped patch worn below the Wind & Fire MC Maltese back patch – are very significant among motorcycle clubs. Individual rocker wording must be approved by the Club President to insure respect for existing clubs/rockers and to avoid conflicts. W&F MC does not permit members to wear 3-piece-patches; Wind & Fire MC colors are 2-piece: Maltese and one bottom rocker. Only Wind & Fire MC patches are allowed worn on the back with the Wind & Fire MC Maltese. Wind & Fire MC Officer Patches, International & Chapter, must adhere to a uniform standard that has been developed by the Club. No support patches or decals for other motorcycle clubs are allowed to be worn in conjunction with any Wind & Fire MC logo. All Wind & Fire Motorcycle Club Inc. logo items that contain the "MC" – except Club coins – are designated for use by members only. Consult the Club's Sgt.-at-Arms for additional protocol.

"9-11 343" PATCH: This simple patch – small though highly visible – is the Club's effort to never forget the tragic Fire Service loss on 9-11-2001 of 343 New York Firefighters. Anyone, may wear the "9-11 343".

CHAPTER NOTES: Chapter membership is not a requirement but is encouraged. A chapter must not have more than 50% Associate members. The first chapter in the USA: Santa Barbara Chapter – the Santa Barbara County area of California. First Chapter outside the USA: Chapter Malmö Sweden – the city of Malmö. Largest Chapter USA: The Houston Chapter – over 100 members (Spring 2006).

Largest Chapter Event USA: Rocky Mountain Chapter's "Ride to Remember", a firefighter memorial motorcycle run from Denver to the International Association of Fire Fighters annual memorial ceremony in Colorado Springs. The 2002 event produced a caravan of 700 motorcycles and 100 fire apparatus. Largest Chapter event outside the USA: Chapter Malmö and Chapter Lund's combined charity event in Sweden that primarily benefits the Lund University Hospital Children's Clinic. Annually over 300 riders participate. National Wind & Fire MC Rally in Hill City SD is hosted by the Original Illinois Chapter has consistently hosted and organized the Wind & Fire MC National Rally held during Sturgis Bike Week held in Hill City, SD. In 2017 this event we passed on to the Black Hills Chapter.

CLUB NAME: The ampersand "&" is proper in Wind & Fire Motorcycle Club Inc. not the word "and." So then why is the Club's web address "windandfiremc"? It's because the internet does not permit the use of "&" in an address. Wind stems from the riding phrase "In-the-wind"; Fire is the heart of "firefighters" thus Wind & Fire MC was born.

POLITICS: No politics! The Club's membership is solely drawn together by the international family of the Fire Service and the love of motorcycling. The closest the Club comes to being political is to show support for motorcyclist rights. So why have we picked politician as the Honorary Member of the Club? Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Senator Dave Zien were chosen because they are bikers, a political advocate of motorcyclist rights, and a living example of freedom.

WEBSITE: Wind & Fire Motorcycle Club Inc. can be found at www.windandfiremc.org. The passwords for entry into the "Members Only" section appears in the Welcome Letter sent to new member's...otherwise, contact the club.

MONEY: Club books are open to anyone. Any member can request a copy of the spreadsheet records of all income and expenses. No one in the Club gets paid. Club income from membership and merchandise is used for operational costs. Included in operational costs, depending on availability of funds, patches, pin, awards and postage to mention a few. Any money received as a donation to charity – as opposed to being designated "to support the Club" – is given 100% to charity. The small amount left is use to help our club grow, some is held for a rainy day.

CORPORATE (Regional) Wind & Fire MC RALLIES: The goal of these regional events is to bring members together at a larger than chapter level. Corporate Rallies are coordinated through the Corporate Rally Coordinator John Bergstrom at jbergstrom@windstream.net (Eastern, Western, Southern and National)

Besides serving as a social venue the rallies are a funding source for Wind & Fire MC Inc. Hosting chapters are offered a share of the net profit. Presently there are four Corporate Rallies: The National Rally in the Black Hills South Dakota during Sturgis Bike Week, The Eastern Rally, The Southern Rally in Texas and The Western Rally in Carson City, Nevada.

CHARTER MEMBERS: There are only 100 Charter Members. These 100 members financially supported the Club's first major update, a revamping of the Maltese logo from the hand-drawn original to the present computer-generated image and helping the Club become financially stable.

CHARITY EVENTS: There are many charitable motorcycle events hosted by our Club chapters annually. Notice of these events is announced on the Wind & Fire MC website calendar and in the newsletter. Wind & Fire MC Inc. supports chapter charitable events through "The Credit Program" that includes: low cost event patches, pins, and other items to the hosting chapter.

If for some reason a sponsored charity event does not show a profit The International will help defray the loss. Charity Events are coordinated through the Charity Director Bruce Reibly berent4@gmail.net

HIGH DOLLAR & SPECIAL STUFF: The single most expensive items on the Order Form is the Club Flag, some items not on the Order Form are: a Maltese crest ring, and an assortment of engraved items for your motorcycle. Wind & Fire MC flag, the challenge coin (check the webpage) The flag is an embroidered banner, 26 inches by 40 inches, similar in design to the rectangular membership patch. The price is the approximate production cost including insured shipping. There are two other flags sold by Larry Bebee of Fresno Area Firefighters Chapter. One is large silk flag and the other is a small motorcycle flag. Contact Larry direct.

A Wind & Fire MC bike logo statue was sculpted & cast by noted artist Jean Cherie using the lost wax process. Traditionally the piece is given at the National Rally as the “first place poker run award”. (Production costs have skyrocketed for the casting process. An original version was priced at \$250. The slightly larger, present version can hardly be produced now-a-days at three times that cost!) The sky rocketing prices have caused us to discontinue using the Bronze.

MERCHANDISE & MEMBERSHIP: Everything listed on the Wind & Fire MC Order Form has to be purchased by mail through Wind & Fire Motorcycle Club Inc., PO Box 8633, Bodfish, CA 93205. No credit card accepted. Checks or Postal Money Orders; amounts in US Dollars – should be made to Wind & Fire MC. Checks must list a USA Bank through which the funds are available. Sending cash, US Dollars sometimes sent by overseas members, is OK.

Got a question? USA membership questions should be directed to JR directly at 209-769-7408 or jr.wfmc@sbcglobla.net.

TO UPDATE OUR CLUB DATABASE and UPDATING YOUR CONTACT INFO: The Club maintains a Membership Database; please relay any changes in your listed information by contacting PO 8633 Bodfish, CA 93205, wfmcpo6066@hotmail.com or 760-379-4941 or JR President at jr.wfmc@sbcglobal.net or cell 209-769-7408

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: Free off the Club website or “hard copy” subscription: \$18 for 2 years – 8 issues Mike “Spanky” Bratton, editor; PO Box 23 La Mesa, CA 91944 phone 619-415-6258 email spankywindandfire@gmail.com

SIGNED BY

John Robbins

John (JR) Robbins
International President

SIGNED BY

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