

Resolution No. 201

FAMILY RATE

WHEREAS, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is committed to increasing membership to maintain a powerful voice in the nation's care of veterans; and

WHEREAS, many post Vietnam-era veterans who are eligible for the VFW are also married to eligible veterans; and

WHEREAS, these younger eligible veterans have family expenses that may prevent them from both paying the full dues amount; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, to create a family plan for eligible married veterans that is 75% of the amount that would be paid by each member individually, both in annual and lifetime memberships.

Submitted by Department of Wyoming
To Committee on FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

Resolution No. 202

INCLUSION OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS IN VFW MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, military working dogs (MWDs) have served alongside members of the armed forces with unwavering loyalty and dedication, contributing significantly to the safety and success of missions; and

WHEREAS, MWDs have saved countless lives through their expertise in detecting explosives, locating enemy combatants, and providing crucial support in various operational environments; and

WHEREAS, military working dogs have displayed remarkable bravery and sacrifice in the face of danger, often placing themselves in harm's way to protect their human counterparts and fulfill their duties and distinction; and

WHEREAS, the bond between service members and their military working dogs is deeply cherished and emblematic of the camaraderie and companionship forged in the crucible of service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the invaluable contributions and sacrifices of military working dogs aligns with the mission and values of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to honor the service and advocate for the welfare of veterans and their families; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, shall extend membership eligibility to honorably discharged military working dogs with appropriate documentation of their service record and veterinary records confirming their status as retired service animals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW shall establish provisions for military working dogs to be recognized within VFW chapters, including ceremonies, events and memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW shall advocate for the welfare and well-being of retired military working dogs including support for programs and initiatives aimed at providing medical care, rehabilitation and adoption services to ensure a dignified and comfortable retirement for these deserving animals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the VFW shall work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders including military branches, governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations to raise awareness about the contributions of military working dogs and to promote policies and legislation that uphold their rights and recognize their service to our nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, urging swift and decisive action to implement the provisions outlined herein and to ensure the full integration of military working dogs into the fabric of the VFW community.

Submitted by Department of Maryland
To Committee on FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

Resolution No. 203

MOTORCYCLE CLUBS, GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

WHEREAS, prior to the adoption of Resolution No. 308 at the 111th National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States August 23, 2010, motorcycle clubs, groups and associations existed as units of Posts with authority of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; and

WHEREAS, these units be they a motorcycle club, groups or associations have been operating for periods since 2003 (in the case of VFWCA MC) under the authorization signature of John J. Senk, Jr. then Adjutant General under the command of then Commander-in-Chief Edward S. Banas, Sr., Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; and

WHEREAS, these units have been vital to bridging the gap and enticing membership between war veterans of all eras; and

WHEREAS, these units have not caused any discredit to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States nor the sponsoring Posts; and

WHEREAS, temporary coordination between these motorcycle club, groups and associations may have and was required prior to the establishment of said clubs, groups and associations with members of the "Confederation of Clubs" for the purpose of ensuring the safety of riders and no further contact after such coordination has existed; and

WHEREAS, there is a pride in the current existence of these motorcycle club, groups and associations that has been instilled for years and has brought pride and comradeship amongst our younger members; and

WHEREAS, the name of the VFWCA MC be officially changed to the VFW MC to show national participation as ONE club. All new charters will grow from existing chartered chapters and follow the VFW Club Bylaws and VFW National Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, these units have existed and are controlled under Sections 708 and 709 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Bylaws; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, that those motorcycle club, groups and associations that existed with authorization from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States prior to the adoption of Resolution 308 at the 111th National Convention be allowed to continue to exist providing they adhere to the guidelines as provided for in Sections 708 and 709 of the National Bylaws.

Submitted by Department of California
To Committee on FINANCE & INTERNAL ORGANIZATION