

Charter & Chapter Bylaws of 2nd Thief Riders

The Motorcycle Ministry of 2nd Thief Ministries, Inc.,
a Virginia Nonprofit Christian Organization



*Declaring the Good News . . .
on two wheels*

*“And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number
believed and turned to the Lord.”*

Acts 11:21

www.2ndthief.org

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Charter & Chapter Bylaws



1. ARTICLE 1 – CHARTER OF 2ND THIEF RIDERS

1.1 Vision and Purpose

The vision and purpose of 2nd Thief Riders is to encourage believers and seekers alike to experience the fullness of freedom and the supremacy of the love of God, which is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. Without Him we are “dead men walking,” incomplete and left wanting; in Him we are made complete.

2nd Thief Riders was formed out of a love for our heavenly Father and an enjoyment of the sport of motorcycling. While Riders appreciate the liberty and happiness that riding can bring, they know it is only temporary, lasting only until the ride ends. After that it is a fond memory, not something you continue to live out. Riders experience a genuine joy and freedom that is eternal and everlasting by embracing the truth found in God’s Word. Real freedom and joy comes only from a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Jesus said to us, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me.**” (John 14:6) Riders enthusiastically encourage seekers to *freely receive* God’s grace and love into their lives and believers to *rest in the fullness* of it.

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1.2 Mission

- Declare the fullness of love, joy, peace and freedom that is only found in God through Jesus.
- Provide a firm Scriptural foundation for members to effectively share the Good News.
- Using Biblical truths - assist members in finding and enjoying God's Grace for their lives *now*.
- Collaborate with Christian churches, ministries and in the marketplace for evangelism and outreach.
- Conduct biker blessings
- Organize local and multi-state motorcycle rides to support benefits, encourage and train up fellow riders and as always provide opportunity for God's divine appointments.

1.3 Motorcycle Ministry

2nd Thief Riders is a Christian Motorcycle Ministry. It is an independent, responsive, and supportive ministry that also collaborates and works with ministries, local churches and communities as led by His Spirit. We are evangelistic, reaching out to those seeking a relationship with our Heavenly Father by declaring the Good News about Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is accomplished through the use of motorcycles, motorcycle rides, outreaches, or any other inspired resources to declare the Good News through the message of the 2nd Thief. The Ministry trains up “**workmen who rightly divide the Word of Truth**” and encourages all to walk in the fullness of it. This equips riders to be prepared to give an account of the hope within them and speak the truth in love. We exist to share the Good News and edify the Body of Christ.

1.4 Chapter Memberships

2nd Thief Riders Motorcycle Ministry consists of a National Chapter and local Chapters. Upon approval of the Founder & CEO or his designee, 2nd Thief Motorcycle Ministry will grant a chapter membership to a single rider or a group of riders. A rider, or several riders from the same region or locale, may request a Chapter membership. For example, members from Fairfax, Prince William, Arlington and Loudoun Counties in VA could form a Chapter that is designated the “NOVA Chapter of 2nd Thief Riders.”

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
Hebrews 10:24-25 NKJV

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1.4.1 Criteria for Membership

- **Believer.** Every 2nd Thief Rider must be a Christian who believes and preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ and believes in the Statement of Faith as described in Article 1.4.3 of this Charter & Bylaws.
- **Affiliation with a Church or Assembly.** Every 2nd Thief Rider must be affiliated with a Church or Fellowship that believes and preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Founder & CEO affirmation final) and believes in the Statement of Faith as described in Article 1.4.3 of this Charter & Bylaws.
- **Service.** In the course of a *calendar* year every 2nd Thief Rider must attend and support a minimum of three 2nd Thief Riders National Chapter *or* local chapter sponsored outreach, event, or ride. Angel Tree is the *current* National Chapter service project.
- **Exclusivity.** 2nd Thief Riders may not be an active member of another motorcycle ministry or club and exclusively fly 2nd Thief colors.
- **Accountability.** Every 2nd Thief Rider will be accountable to: (i) Our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; (ii) The Founder of the Ministry of 2nd Thief Riders as provided for under the Chapter Bylaws.
- **Operational Costs.** There is a one time originating membership fee of \$55.00 to cover the cost of the “Colors,” processing and first year dues. There are \$25.00 dues for every calendar year after to cover web site and Ministry costs related to outreaches, events and rides.

Each Rider provides their own motorcycle and assumes responsibility for all costs incurred in it's operation. All riders are subject to the laws of their home state that govern the titling, registration, licensing, appropriate endorsements, insurance and safe operation of their motorcycles. To remain in good standing with 2nd Thief Riders and be eligible to participate in any ride, event or outreach Riders shall comply with all applicable laws.

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Romans 13:1 NKJV

1.4.2 Consideration for Membership or Chapter Designation

Every prospective 2nd Thief Rider application will be reviewed by the 2nd Thief Riders' Founder & CEO, and the National Chapter Coordinator or designee for consideration of membership. The review process may include, but is not limited to, meeting with the interested Believer and his local pastor or elder. The greatest consideration for membership will focus on the Believer's commitment to “heartily serve the Lord” in ministry through the vision and mission of 2nd Thief Rider's. The Founder & CEO's decision regarding membership is final.

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1.4.3 The Gospel of Jesus Christ and Statement of Faith

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-7

- 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;
- 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.
- 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
- 4 And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures:
- 5 And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:
- 6 After that, He was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.
- 7 After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

The Statement of Faith

- The Bible is the Word of God, that it is His Holy and Inspired Word, without error, and that it is the supreme and final authority on matters of life (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- In one God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17; John 1:1-4).
- Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:30-32). He led a sinless life, took on Himself all our sins, died and rose again, and is seated at the right hand of the Father as our Mediator and Advocate (Hebrews 10:12; Romans 10:9; Colossians 3:1; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:3).
- That all men everywhere are lost and face the judgment of God, and need to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through His shed blood on the cross (Revelations 21:8; Romans 3:23-24).
- That Christ rose from the dead and is coming back (John 21:14 ; James 5:8).

2. ARTICLE 2 – CHAPTER BYLAWS

The 2nd Thief Riders Chapter Bylaws are in place to protect the vision and mission of 2nd Thief Riders, the Motorcycle Ministry of 2nd Thief Ministries, Inc. We, the leadership, are under authority and are accountable to our Heavenly Father for His plan and purpose for this Ministry.

2.1 Personal Conduct

2nd Thief Riders are representatives of Jesus Christ and this Ministry and as such have a higher responsibility for their actions. 2nd Thief Riders must be mindful of

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their witness and conduct themselves in love. The following are considerations that a 2nd Thief Rider should be mindful of always, but especially when “flying the colors.”

- Glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in word, tongue, deed and in truth. (Psalm 34:3; 1 John 3:18)
- Not consume any alcoholic beverages or be under the influence of prescription drugs while “flying the colors” (Romans 14:19-21).
- No operating any motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs of any kind.

2.2 2nd Thief Riders’ Patch

Upon confirmation and installation of a 2nd Thief Riders Chapter, that Chapter is authorized to fly the Colors, and any patches, emblems, and other 2nd Thief Riders’ merchandise or apparel.



2.2.1 Displaying the Colors

2nd Thief Riders will only wear 2nd Thief “Colors” (full size patch) on the back of their leather vest with no other patch or logo. The “Colors” may include the name of the 2nd Thief Riders Chapter, *e.g.*, “Community Church.” Riders are permitted to embroider their individual name, moniker (non-offensive) or “life verse” across the top. The front of the vest will include an American Flag (or country of origin)

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across the left upper chest. Other appropriate personalized patches may be displayed on the front of the vest (remember this is a Ministry). All 2nd Thief Riders will display the “Colors” during all 2nd Thief Riders’ outreaches, events and rides.

2.2.2 Ownership of 2nd Thief Riders Logo, Patches, and Colors

2nd Thief, 2nd Thief Riders logos, patches and “Colors” are the exclusive property of the 2nd Thief Riders National Chapter and its use and display is restricted for 2nd Thief Riders in good standing. The “Colors” (full size patch) will never be sold/traded/given and or delivered to non-2nd Thief Riders. There is only one patch produced for each Rider.

2.2.3 2nd Thief Riders’ Website Shield

Upon confirmation and installation of a 2nd Thief Riders Chapter, that Chapter is authorized to use the 2nd Thief Riders Shield for its website.



3.0 OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

2nd Thief Riders is the Motorcycle Ministry of 2nd Thief Ministries (the “Ministry”). It operates under the leadership of the Founder & CEO through a command structure. 2nd Thief Riders Motorcycle Ministries consists of a National Chapter and Local Chapters. Each Chapter operates at the discretion of the Founder & CEO, who has ultimate responsibility for carrying out the vision and mission of the Ministry.

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3.1 Founder & CEO – Preacher

The Founder & CEO is responsible for making tangible the vision of the Ministry. He alone or his designee represents the Ministry in legal, media, and business matters as appropriate.

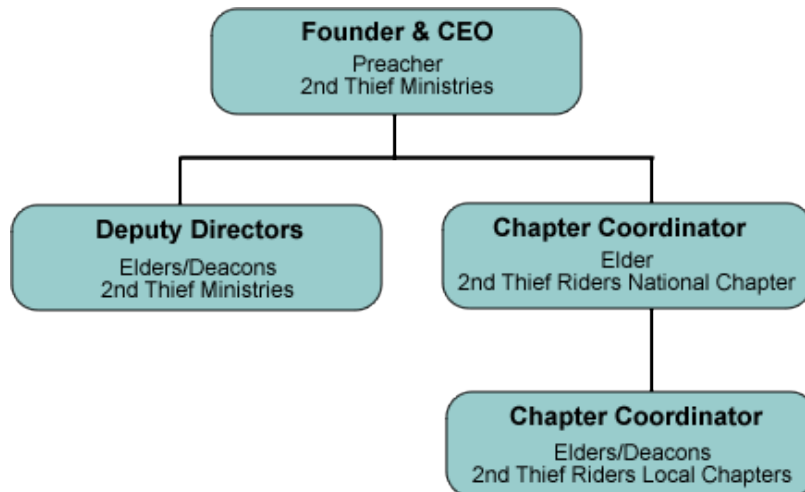
3.1.1 2nd Thief Riders National Chapter

The 2nd Thief Riders National Chapter consists of a Coordinator and members designated by the Founder & CEO and serve at his discretion. These members are accountable to the same criteria for membership as outlined in Article 1.4.1 of these Bylaws.

3.1.2 2nd Thief Riders Local Chapters

2nd Thief Riders Local Chapters are accountable to the National Chapter and the same criteria for membership outlined in Article 1.4.1 of these Bylaws applies. The organizational structure would include one elder as the “Chapter Coordinator” with a deacon being permitted to fill that position should no elder be available.

2nd Thief Ministries Operational Structure



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4.0 ARTICLE 4 – DEFINITIONS

4.1 DEFINITIONS

4.1.1 Preacher

The term “Preacher” as used in these Bylaws means a mature believer (Elder) called to a “Four-fold Ministry,” (Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJV) whose life produces “Spiritual Fruit” (Galatians 5:22-25) and who exercises with diligence the gifts of leadership and exhortation, and called to 2nd Thief Ministries. The qualifications for a Preacher are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

4.1.2 Elder

The term “Elder” as used in these Bylaws means a mature believer whose life produces “Spiritual Fruit” (Galatians 5:22-25) and operates as a leader (Chapter Coordinator) of a local chapter of 2nd Thief Riders by appointment of the Founder & CEO or his designee. The qualifications for an Elder are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7.

4.1.3 Deacon

The term “Deacon” as used in these Bylaws means a mature believer whose life produces “Spiritual Fruit” (Galatians 5:22-25) and able to operate as a leader (Chapter Coordinator) of a local chapter of 2nd Thief Riders by appointment of the Founder and CEO or his designee. The qualifications for a Deacon are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

4.1.4 Chapter Coordinator

The term “Chapter Coordinator” as used in these Bylaws means a mature believer whose life produces “Spiritual Fruit” (Galatians 5:22-25) and is appointed to leadership of a 2nd Thief Riders’ Local Chapter by the Founder and CEO or his designee. The Chapter Coordinator may by qualification be either an elder or deacon. He is accountable to our Heavenly Father as a believer and to the Founder and CEO as a brother and an appointed leader of a Local Chapter of the Ministry. He serves at the discretion of the Founder and CEO, who has ultimate responsibility for carrying out the vision and mission of the Ministry.

(1 Thessalonians 5:11-13 NIV).

The Chapter Coordinator has the authority and responsibility to effectively conduct the day-to-day operations of the Local Chapter in a manner most benefiting to that Chapter and 2nd Thief Ministries. This includes prayerfully enlisting local chapter

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members in good standing to aid with carrying out the mission and vision of the Ministry and that Local Chapter.

Chapter Coordinators need to submit any plans on any outreach, event or ride that could generate possible media coverage to the Founder and CEO or his designee for prior approval. This is an informal process and can be accomplished by email, telephone or a direct meeting. Any annual or similar outreach, event or ride that has been previously submitted and approved by the Founder and CEO, such as the local chapter Angel Tree Outreach, need not be re-submitted each subsequent time for approval.

2nd Thief Riders Ride at their own risk. The Ministry assumes no liability for any unforeseen incident (s) that may unaccommodatingly affect any member or participant at any sponsored National or Local outreaches, events or rides.

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Resolution to Amend 2nd Thief Riders Motorcycle Ministry Charter and Bylaws

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the Founder and CEO of 2nd Thief Ministries to amend by resolution the Charter & Bylaws for the operation of the 2nd Thief Rider Motorcycle Ministry as an adjunct Ministry pursuant to 2nd Thief Ministries, Inc.'s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, as well as authority under the Commonwealth of Virginia statutes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Founder and CEO of 2nd Thief Ministries, Inc. amends the 2nd Thief Riders Charter & Bylaws, effective May 15, 2009

Founder & CEO

Date

National Coordinator

Date