

CONSTITUTION OF SOUTH MISSOURI CHAPTER OF VHPA

SOUTH MISSOURI CHAPTER

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

This Association shall be known as the “South Missouri Chapter of the VHPA, hereafter referred to as the “Chapter” and “VHPA”. It is an organizational chapter for all helicopter pilots who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era, (1961 – 1975). *The South Missouri Chapter of VHPA is organized as an independent entity, completely separate from the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association national organization.*

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The Chapter is dedicated to the objectives of the VHPA and to the fulfillment of the following purposes:

- a. To enhance and accredit the cohesiveness, esprit de corps, and traditions of valor of rotary wing aircrews that flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam era.
- b. To seek out, using whatever means available, individuals who piloted rotary wing aircraft in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era and inform them of the existence of the Chapter and of VHPA and encourage all eligible individuals to become members.

ARTICLE III – OPERATION

Section I. The Chapter shall operate on a calendar year basis and shall maintain its headquarters at Fair Grove, MO.

Section II. The Chapter shall operate as a not for profit organization.

Section III. An annual audit shall be conducted either by individuals or a recognized agency appointed by the Chapter Council.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

Section I. Meetings shall be held at least once a calendar quarter.

Section II. Meeting locations shall rotate throughout the Chapter area and shall be held at a place and time selected by the Chapter Council.

Section III. The Chapter Council shall announce the preliminary or final date and place of the next meeting during the current meeting, and shall follow up that announcement by any combination of written, telephonic, or e-mail notification. In addition, the Chapter Newsletter, if constituted, shall advise of meeting information.

Section IV. In the event the next meeting location or schedule must be changed, all members shall be advised by any combination of written, telephonic, or e-mail notification. In addition, the Chapter Newsletter shall advise of meeting information.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section I. Membership is open to all helicopter pilots who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era, (1961 – 1975).

Section II. Members shall be classified as General, Associate, or Honorary. To be recognized as an active member in the General classification, the member must be in good standing and current in his dues to the Chapter.

Section III. Membership classification definitions are as follows:

- a. General membership shall be conferred upon an individual eligible for membership who pays a specified amount of dues, annually, as directed by the Chapter Council and approved by the Chapter Council.
- b. Associate memberships shall be conferred to distinguished persons, such as aviation pioneers, guest speakers and aviation dignitaries. In addition, Associate memberships may be granted to those persons who have had a significant impact on helicopter operations, as it existed during the period of conflict in Southeast Asia, and upon the pilots of those aircraft. Associate memberships may also be bestowed upon fixed wing aviators, living in the geographic area, who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam era. Associate memberships shall be approved by the Chapter Council.
- c. Honorary membership shall be conferred to those persons, not otherwise eligible for membership, who have made significant contributions to the Chapter, or to service personnel. Honorary membership shall be approved by the Chapter Council.

ARTICLE VI – ORGANIZATION OF THE CHAPTER

Section I. The officers of the South Missouri Chapter shall be:

- a. President

- b. Vice President (who shall be President-elect and shall succeed the President)
- c. The immediate Past President
- d. Secretary
- e. Treasurer

Only the offices of Secretary and Treasurer can be held by one individual.

Section II. The Chapter Council shall consist of:

- President
- Vice President
- Immediate Past President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Section III. Holding office or other positions of influence and trust shall be limited to eligible General members, as defined in this Constitution.

Section IV. Responsibility and Authority of the Chapter Council:

- a. The Chapter Council shall be the governing body of the Chapter. It shall be responsible for the management of the affairs of the Chapter, including funds, programs and regulations. It shall have the authority to approve budgets, authorize expenditures, seek and accept contributions and approve meeting sites and program arrangements.
- b. A majority vote of the Chapter Council shall prevail in all matters pertaining to the Chapter. At its discretion, with the exception of specific matters stated herein, some matters may be submitted to the general membership for approval.
- c. The Secretary or Treasurer shall have a vote only as a tiebreaker. The Secretary shall have priority for the tie-breaker vote.
- d. In addition to business conducted at the scheduled Chapter meetings, the Chapter may make conference calls, as needed, for the purpose of conducting Chapter business. The President shall have the authority to authorize such conference calls as deemed necessary. Prior to authorization, the President shall coordinate with the Treasurer to ensure operational funds are available to cover the costs.
- e. The Chapter Council shall delegate authority and functions to the Secretary or Treasurer or specific members of the Chapter.
- f. The Chapter Council shall perform such other duties as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section V. Committees

- a. The Chapter should have the following standing committees whose duties and responsibilities are outlined in the job descriptions and policy statements approved by the Chapter Council:
 - a. Historical
 - b. Membership
 - c. Program/Planning
 - d. Community Service
- b. Vacancies for the chairmanship of all committees shall be filled by appointment by the President.
- c. All appointments to a chairmanship of a committee shall be ratified by the Chapter Council.

ARTICLE VII – VOTING

Section I. All general members are entitled to vote.

Section II. Attending general members in good standing are eligible to vote and shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all scheduled meetings of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VIII – CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by the following procedures:

- a. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Chapter Headquarters or any Chapter Officer at least sixty (60) days prior to a scheduled meeting.
- b. The Chapter Council must approve the proposed amendment(s).
- c. The adoption of the amendment(s) at a scheduled meeting of the Chapter is by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at the business session.

This Constitution was adopted 10 November 2009