

HEAVEN'S SAINT M/M GUIDELINES



The books of the Bible are our By-Laws and any situation not specifically covered under one of the guidelines, will be handled in keeping with our By-Laws. God's law supersedes any law we may try to set forth.

The Heaven's Saints is not a club. We are ambassadors and ministers to His kingdom. Jesus said "whosoever will". In that same spirit, we do not require patch holders to own a motorcycle. Recognizing that we all continue to work out our own salvation, we do not require them to have attained perfection in their personal lives. We do ask that they are striving to follow our By-Laws (the Bible) with diligence. As long as they are seeking God's will for their lives, the Holy Spirit will convict them of those areas they need to change.

To further clarify, understand that, because we all wear the same patch, our actions reflect upon all of our fellow Saints. For this reason, a member can be requested to return his patch upon direction from the International President and the Board of Directors. This is not something to be done lightly, and will be prayerfully considered.

Heaven's Saint Patch Member Guidelines"(Items 3, 4, 5, and 6 must all be submitted before membership patches will be mailed.

- 1) Must be a born-again Christian
- 2) Must be 21 year of age. Exception will be made to 18, 19, and 20 years, if, in addition to the other requirements, they will submit a letter from a sponsor who is a Heaven's Saint active member in good standing who will also verify that applicant is part of a chapter where he/she is being disciplined.
- 3) Submit a letter of character reference and recommendation from **your pastor**.
- 4) Submit a letter of 500 words or less explaining:
 - a) When you were saved
 - b) What God has done in your life
 - c) What you feel that the Lord has called you to do (vision/goals)
- 5) Submit a completed and UPDATED HSMM member application
- 6) Include a one-time donation of \$70.00 as follows: (choose one):
 - _____ (Administrative fee, member patch and 10" x 12" Christian Flag, HSMM patch and Jesus is Lord patch)
 - _____ (Administrative fee, member patch and 7" x 10" Christian Flag, HSMM patch and Jesus is Lord patch)
 - _____ (Administrative fee, member patch, HSMM patch and Jesus is Lord patch – you must already have a Christian Flag)

The flag is yours to keep. The member patch, Jesus is Lord patch and the HSMM patch remain the property of the Heaven's Saints.

Heaven's Saints Support Team

This is for those who do not desire to become a patch member, but would like to support the ministry through prayer, financially, or both. We will send supporters our newsletter to keep them informed. We sincerely appreciate their prayer and support. Support Team members may purchase Christian Flags and Heaven's Saints Support patches, if desired. The Support Patch is not to be worn inside the Christian Flag.

Donations and Offerings

Each member is asked to give a \$12.00 monthly donation (Total: \$144/year). This will be collected through chapters. If there is no chapter available in a member's area, members should mail \$12 each month to Church of the Heaven's Saints, PO BOX 337 Okahumpka, FL 34762. If part of a chapter, \$6 of the monthly donation will be retained in the chapter treasury for ministry activities within the local chapter, and \$6 sent to the headquarters on a monthly basis by the chapter treasurer. The Heaven's Saints, like any other ministry, requires finances to continue operating. We try to keep this at a minimum. While we do request the above donation from members, this in no way actually covers the funds needed to operate. Therefore, we also rely heavily on the generosity of members and other supporters making offerings to the ministry beyond these membership requirements. We keep the membership requirements at a minimum with the expectation that God will supply the remainder needed through those whom He encourages to do so.

Yearly Fund Raiser

Each chapter is to hold a fund-raiser on the first Saturday in May of each year. Funds collected are to be sent to headquarters for ministry use as designated by the finance committee, which is made of the Board of Directors. Funds may be requested by submitting a "Release of Funds" form to the national office.

Other Guidelines are as Follows:

The patch with the Christian flag and the Heaven's Saints M/M patch in the lower right hand corner of the flag should be in the center of the back. The Jesus is Lord patch should be above the Christian Flag and the HSMM patch below. No other identification is necessary on our backs as to who we are. As John the Baptist said of Jesus, "I (we) must decrease so that He may increase."

A chapter will include a 50-mile radius. (Exception can be made to this in very large metropolitan areas). Should a patch member outside the area of an already established chapter desire to begin a new chapter, they can do so with approval of Headquarters. A group will qualify to establish themselves as an official chapter when they have reached 7 members. When a chapter elects their officers for the first time, this will establish that their elections be held each year at that same time.

While women are a valuable asset to the ministry, women may not serve in the capacity of chapter president, vice president, chaplain, armor bearer or road captain. The remaining offices may be filled by either men or women as may seem appropriate at the time. As to the time, place, location and frequency of meetings, each chapter can establish their own plan as to what best suites the needs in their area. Along with this, remember the more often chapters come together, the stronger they will be. A minimum would be one business meeting per month, hopefully with other activities with one another in between the business meetings. Voting is best done with a ballot placed into a basket or hat. This helps to eliminate peer pressure.

For the most part, it takes people a while to really decide if they want to be part of this ministry. They might be fired up in the beginning. Sometimes, it's just the uniqueness of the ministry that gets their attention, but when the reality of the work and dedication sets in, they may realize it's not for them. We try to allow chapters as much leeway as possible in setting up local guidelines. While prospecting should never be required, we have learned that sometimes we are rushing people in when they should be taking time to know the ministry and those involved. There is more to the Heaven's Saints M/M than riding motorcycles. It maybe wise to establish a minimum three to six month waiting period for new members in areas where there is an established chapter. Remember, anyone can wear the Christian flag. During the three month waiting period, encourage them to get involved in the chapter meetings and activities and to become familiar with the heart of the ministry by reading the newsletters, reviewing ministry materials, and if possible, by attending a Heaven's Saints rally. When a person is applying for membership in the Heaven's Saints and will be part of a chapter, it is required that the Chapter President sign the applications in the space provided. All required information should then be sent to Headquarters for approval, at which time, Headquarters will send out the member patch directly to Chapter President unless otherwise requested. No application will be considered until the complete application packet is received at HSMM Headquarters. In areas where there is no established chapter, applications should be signed by HSMM State Representative (where applicable) or International President or Vice President.

Chapter Officer's and Member's Duties/Guidelines

PRESIDENT - The office of president is established recognizing that there must be one person as an overseer of the ministry. The president is just that, an overseer and coordinator. Please do not confuse the office of president with activities planner. The president will delegate various responsibilities that may arise from outside the chapter, i.e. he would become a contact person for other ministries and the Heaven's Saints Headquarters. His responsibilities would include keeping Headquarters informed of chapter activities and to lead the chapter meetings. He also must bear a certain weight of responsibility to watch over the activities of the members. The president should be a person of integrity, sensible and able to spiritually discern the appropriate direction of the ministry. It is his job to keep the ministry on target.

VICE PRESIDENT – The office of vice president is established to assist the president in his duties, and especially to set in whenever the president is unavailable to handle his normal duties. For this reason, the vice president should keep informed and updated on all chapter activities and be available to oversee and lead chapter meetings. It is suggested that the vice president be the one responsible for taking up an offering/dues at the meetings, counting and passing them on to the Treasurer. This ensures more than one person is aware of monies collected.

SECRETARY – The office of secretary is established to take notes at meetings, and be available to review those notes at the following meeting. The secretary should keep an up-to-date listing of all member's addresses and phone numbers, chapter officers, etc; and forward this list to the national office as major revisions take place, i.e. new elections, etc. A local newsletter could be the responsibility of the secretary, if so agreed; but can also be written by someone other than the secretary who has a gifting and desire in this area. Secretary should send a copy of meetings minutes to the National President, Vice President, and State Representative, where applicable. This can be done via email or USPS.

TREASURER - The office of treasurer is established to provide the chapter with a person to handle the finances of the chapter. They would be responsible for handling any money coming into the chapter. This

includes keeping the checkbook and reconciling the balance each month. Reports on the finances should be made at each chapter business meeting. Treasurer sends a portion (\$6 of the \$12 monthly dues per member) of the collected dues on a monthly basis to Headquarters, along with a "Monthly Treasurer's Financial Report". The treasurer is also responsible for sending "Chapter Dues" and "Yearly Donations Log" report forms to the Headquarters at the end of each year (Dec. 31) as well as monthly Free Will fund donations. All forms can be obtained from Headquarters upon request.

CHAPLAIN – The office of chaplain is a very serious one. Considering that the Heaven's Saints is not a club, but a ministry, all members are ministers, and therefore, able to pray with people and seek spiritual guidance as any minister would. Not every chapter would necessarily have a specified chaplain. This office would come out of a desire of the members of the chapter to set aside someone who is specifically gifted, or perhaps, has time to devote to this area. It may be born out of a necessity in prison ministry areas or hospital visitation. Sometimes, in order to be allowed into certain areas, the office of chaplain may be required. Also, if the chapter would like to become involved in performing weddings, funerals, etc. this may become a necessary office. The office of chaplain and president are closely related. In smaller chapters, the president would probably take over the responsibilities of chaplain as far as meeting devotions, etc. In a larger chapter where the need exists, or the gifting is there, a chaplain could oversee the meeting devotions. Remember, oversee. Each member of this ministry, as a born-again believer, is capable of hearing from the Lord and seeking His wisdom. Each member can take part in leading devotions from time to time. If someone asks the Heaven's Saints chapter to minister at a meeting or service, the chaplain could organize and oversee these activities. This does not necessarily mean he would be the one to do it. The chaplain and president would work together to plan this. Remember, we are a non-denominational ministry. No one should preach church doctrine at any time. Our By-Laws are God's word. Be careful not to get into disputes over church doctrine Teach only God's word.

ROAD CAPTAIN - The office of road captain is established to provide the chapter with a person who will be in charge of guiding the chapter runs. This is to be, at all times, coordinated with the person, most likely the president, who is overseeing the entire run. There are many ways to arrive at the same destination. The road captain chooses the way and guides the riders there. The road captain should know the safest route, the stops that will be made along the way, and destination. He should inform the riders of the route and the planned stops. He should designate a staggered formation and familiarize the riders with certain hand signals that may be used. It is also the road captain's responsibility to do a visual check of each motorcycle before leaving on the ride to check for any obvious safety or mechanical problems, i.e. loose parts, etc. The road captain should have some mechanical ability, be level headed, able to make decisions for safety's sake, and sensible. We are a ministry. We represent not only the Heaven's Saints, but remember that we fly the Christian flag on our backs (Jesus' colors). We represent Jesus to the public. We are not an outlaw club. We should obey traffic laws and signals. This includes speed limits and being courteous to other drivers on the road. Be sensitive to the fact that a large group of motorcycles can inconvenience traffic at times.

The above are the major offices. Other offices can be established taking into consideration each chapter's activities and available personnel. For example, public relations, prison ministry director, activities director, fund-raising director, etc. are all specific areas of responsibility, which could actually become an office to be held. Please, also, take into consideration that a new or small chapter may have to double up on offices, or simply not fill some, until the chapter is large enough to accommodate them.

MEMBERS – The effectiveness of a chapter is increased not so much by officers, but by the members. While the officer's duties are important, they cannot be expected to carry the entire load of activities. Each person not only has the chapter duties to perform, but also other commitments that may have nothing to do with the Heaven's Saints M/M. Therefore, to be an effective chapter, each person must take upon themselves responsibility for activities within the chapter. If the officers are allowed to perform the duties listed above and are not expected beyond those duties, then they will not become overburdened with responsibilities. The members taking it upon themselves to pursue activities and planning increase the effectiveness of a chapter. The president is then able to oversee and coordinate the various activities and lead the meetings. Discussion at the meetings should include suggestions from members as to activities they would like to plan; and feedback from other members as to their desire and availability to participate. In this way, the person planning the activity can then find out if they will have adequate assistance to perform their task. For example, If some would like to visit the local jail on a regular basis, they (remembering that the Heaven's Saints is not a club, but a ministry, and therefore, we are all ministers) would go to the local jail and find out how to accomplish these visits. Once all the information has been gathered, they can then present it to the chapter at the next meeting. They may want to discuss the appropriateness of this activity for the chapter with the president. When the information is presented at the next meeting, feedback from the other members will let the person planning it know whether or not it will work. The person doing the planning must take total responsibility to see the task through. And, remember, if someone presents an idea and you agree to be a part and help, do it!! They are then counting on you to complete the task. Their decision to pursue the activity has probably been based on your agreement to assist and participate.

Another way to increase the effectiveness of your chapter is to stay focused. Try not to go off into too many different directions. If you simply pursue one area of ministry, but do it effectively and faithfully, you can accomplish much. The focus of the Heaven's Saints began as a motorcycle ministry and prison prevention outreach. However, we have not been locked into these areas with no room for variance; but keep in mind, that the reason people join a ministry, is usually because the ministry's focus is on areas of interest to them.

INTERNET USE – Please use care in the way you conduct yourself over the Internet. Be cautious using the Heaven's Saints' name or anyone's name when sending email, etc. Any email addresses should be handled with the same caution and respect for individuals' privacy that you would use with a home mailing address or telephone number. Avoid chat room discussion regarding Heaven's Saints. If someone is really interested in receiving information, they also will be willing to disclose their names and address so they can receive further information.

MEETING ATTENDANCE – Keeping all of the above in mind, meeting attendance should be a top priority. If you choose to become a Heaven's Saints member, consider this when joining. We cannot be truly effective as a chapter when we are lax about meeting attendance. Meetings are when the planning is done and information is passed on. It is your responsibility to stay informed! Do not expect anyone to keep you informed. It is much easier for you to make one call to find out information from a missed meeting than it is for someone else to call a list of people.

While it is not mandatory, it should be top priority for the officers, i.e. President, Vice President, and Chaplain of each chapter to attend the twice yearly officers meetings held in June and January. The June meeting is held at the national rally and the January meeting is held in **HELEN, GA.** If all chapter

officers cannot attend, then please send at least one representative from each chapter.

PRISON MINISTRY MEMBERS ELECT PROGRAM – Through our Prison Ministry Members Elect Program, born-again believers behind prison walls are able to obtain a limited membership to the Heaven's Saints. This membership entitles them to a certificate of membership and, upon recommendation from the Director of Prison Ministry; the person can obtain full membership once released from prison. This member elect program is based on the prisoner sending correspondence in lieu of dues while still in prison. Specifically designed membership applications are available for this purpose.

CHURCH OF THE HEAVEN'S SAINTS ORDINATION – Members who have served for 3 years may apply to the National Chaplain for ordination under the Church of the Heaven's Saints. Forms are available on the internet or by writing to Heaven's Saints M/M, PO BOX 337 Okahumpka, FL 34762

A FINAL NOTE – Once again, remember that is a ministry, not a club. We represent each other, not only our local chapters, but also Heaven's Saints members worldwide. This extends beyond our ministry activities to our daily walk in our communities, work and business. The By-laws of this ministry are the books of the Bible. Each member should be aware that the Heaven's Saints M/M retains ownership of any Heaven's Saints membership patches. Your membership in this ministry places you in the spotlight just by wearing the colors. Once you choose to wear them, whether they are on your back at the time or not, people will recognize you as a member of the Heaven's Saints. Our actions, no matter what we are doing, reflect upon each other and the Lord Jesus. It is an awesome responsibility, not to be taken lightly.