



Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association



Join Us! Welcome Prospective Members!

<http://mtridetoremember.org> – <https://facebook.com/MTRidetoRemember>

Are you interested in joining Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association? Do you want to know what it takes? Listed below are the criteria for becoming a member.

If you are interested in joining our group, send an e-mail to this address - join@mtridetoremember.org. You will be added to our member mailing list so you can be aware of meetings and other activities. Candidates are required to attend three Association events prior to being eligible to join the Association. This is intended to ensure that the candidate has an understanding of the association and its mission. You must keep your e-mail address current to ensure you receive all Association correspondence.

Our dues are \$20 at signup and \$10 per year thereafter (Jan – Dec) and are not pro-rated. The initial fee will include the purchase of an association patch. The remaining dues go toward funding Association goals. *In addition, you must be willing to help plan our annual MT Ride to Remember, assist with Flag Posting, and other projects we have (year round) if you live in the area. We are an Association that wants to support our Veterans in any way we can. We do not claim to be anything but an Association of Veterans and non-Veterans that like to ride and/or work toward accomplishing our goals to support Veteran issues.*

We ARE NOT a “Motorcycle Club”. Though many of our members DO ride, owning a motorcycle is NOT REQUIRED for membership. If you do ride and intend to participate in these activities, your bike must be street legal and able to maintain posted highway speeds and have at least liability insurance coverage.

You do not have to live in Helena. We expect that you will wear your patch proudly knowing what it stands for. You must maintain awareness of Veteran issues. You must be aware of the fight to recover all POW/MIAs. You must not dishonor the patch by improper behavior in public. You must help with our cause as much as you are able.

You must read and understand our mission statement and support it to the best of your ability.

You must be sponsored by a current member in good standing who will stand up for you at our monthly meeting when you are “Patched-in”. If you do not know a member please contact any member of the board.

If you have a vest or jacket with the POW/MIA logo on it, please bring this to the general meeting. This will be part of your patch-in ceremony. **The general meetings dates are posted on our website and are most often held at the Anderson Stevenson Wilke Funeral Home at 6:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month.**

Please read and be familiar with our Mission Statement and Membership Requirements Sections 3.1 – 3.6 below.

Section 2.2: Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association Mission Statement.

We are an Association dedicated to the public awareness and financial support of the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA) issue.

We are guided by the principles of freedom, sacrifice, liberty and brotherhood to ensure that we accomplish the following objectives:

- (a) Increase public awareness of POW/MIA issues by hosting and participating in community events that support the issues and concerns to which our Association is dedicated.

- (b) Generate funds that will be dispensed to various POW/MIA issues and the continued maintenance of the flags along the Helena section of U.S. Highway 287 and to support other veteran charities throughout the state of Montana.
- (c) Enjoy the camaraderie of Veterans, the joy of Patriotism, and the Spirit of Freedom we have as Americans.
- (d) Conduct safe, professional, and well represented events that will accommodate our fellow Brother and Sister patriots and all others who wish to attend.

We are committed as Directors, Board Members, General Members and other volunteers to work for the continued success and reputation of our Association.

Article III. Membership Requirements

Section 3.1: General Membership.

- (a) As an advocate for a wide range of patriotic American virtues and values, we highly encourage and welcome all who wish to join in these noble endeavors to become involved with our Association. Although many of our members do ride a motorcycle, we are not a motorcycle club. Owning a motorcycle is not a requirement. However, if you do own a motorcycle and intend on riding with the Association, your bike must be street legal, able to maintain posted highway speeds and be covered by a minimum of liability insurance to protect the other members of the ride, and you must possess a motorcycle endorsement. Membership in the Association shall be open to all whom are:
 - 1. A patriot who is in good standing as defined by the laws of the State and Nation.
 - 2. At least 18 years of age.
 - a. Riders under the age of 18 will ride at the back of the group, due to lack of experience riding with large groups at highway speeds.
 - b. Below 18 must provide signed parental consent.
 - c. Those under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.
 - 3. Be actively involved with the Association by attending planning meetings and/or posting colors, helping with fundraisers, and/or other events as frequently as possible.
 - 4. Volunteered or otherwise been present and assisted with at least two (2) events.
 - 5. Be invited as a guest of a registered member.
- (b) To become a member an applicant must fill out and sign an application and be fully aware of the Association's Mission Statement, internal business, meeting dates, obligations and general expectations. Any individual may be denied membership or expelled for the good order and discipline of the Association.
- (c) To remain a General Member in good standing, one must stay current on the \$10 annual dues, participate as a volunteer in a meaningful way in at least (2) of our events per year, wear a Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association patch on your person (e.g.; vest, jacket, hat, t-shirt, etc.) while participating in our events. The events include, but are not limited to the MT Ride to Remember 3rd Saturday in August, the annual POW/MIA Recognition Day on the 3rd Friday of September at Memorial Park in Helena, Wreaths Across America. Failure to participate in a meaningful way that contributes to the continued success of the Association during an event may be grounds for removal from the Association.
- (d) A member that has lost their standing in the Association due to non-participation (See section 3.1.c), may reapply for membership as a new member. Vetting by the Executive Board will take place in person at a Board meeting and will include the person requesting reactivation to clarify the reasons they lost their status in the first place.

- (e) We must ensure that we uphold the highest standards possible to ensure that our new members are loyal, upstanding citizens of their local communities. We welcome fellow riders from other Associations. We do not ask that an applicant disassociate themselves from another Association to be a part of this Association. Nor do we ask a new member to remove another Association patch to be a part of our Association. We require members to display a Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association member patch somewhere on their vest, jacket, or elsewhere while participating in Association functions.

Section 3.2 Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association and Member Patch

The significance of wearing the official Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association patches should not be taken lightly and, as such, should reflect a great honor. Once official membership has been granted, the new member will be presented with the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association patch at the next regularly scheduled general meeting or other appropriate time or place that may be determined by the President. This event will be a public recognition of one's desire to participate and their commitment to the Association's Mission.

Section 3.3 Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association Patch.

- (a) The significance of wearing our local Association Patch on your vest is considered formal recognition of membership. It lets all who see you know that your commitment to the Association, our goals and our Mission Statement are above reproach. The Association Patch is given to all new General Members and will be of such design and production that it is considered a controlled item and will be paid for and remain the property of the Association. No reproductions are authorized and distribution will be strictly monitored. If, at any time, it becomes necessary to expel a member from the Association, that person will be asked to remove the patch from their vest and return it to the Association. Reasons for expulsion are as follows:
 - 1. Conduct unbecoming a member of the Association, to include allegations, convictions or pending charges in civil or criminal court that may directly affect the welfare of the Association as determined by the Board of Directors.
 - 2. Member has violated Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association ByLaws.
 - 3. Member has committed act/acts that are inconsistent with the Mission Statement.
 - 4. Member has jeopardized the general welfare of the Association.
 - 5. Member has become inactive and has not participated in an event in one year, to include meetings.
- (b) A member may be terminated by a unanimous vote of the Board once a recommendation for expulsion has been brought forward. Such expulsion may occur only after said member is notified of the proposed termination in writing by the Executive Board, and is provided an opportunity to rebut the proposed expulsion.
- (c) The member being terminated has 3 business days to rebut the proposal either by way of email or a written communication (something written is mandatory) and may also request to speak via phone call or in person to the Board.
- (d) At the Board's earliest convenience after the written and possible phone conference with the member in question has occurred, there will be a binding and recorded vote as to whether the member will be expelled. This vote may take place in person and logged into the monthly minutes or in writing via email only.
- (e) At that point it is the Executive Board's responsibility to notify the member in question as to the outcome of the vote as well as their sponsor. If the member has been expelled, the President will ask for the Association patch back at that point.

Section 3.4 Placement of the Association Patch.

Once a member has received the Association Patch, that patch will be displayed on the person (e.g.; vest, jacket, hat, t-shirt, etc.).

Section 3.5 Sponsorship.

In order for a new member to be brought into this Association there must be a current member willing to sponsor them. These sponsors are responsible to the Executive Director, the Board of Directors and the General Membership and are essentially vouching for the patriotism, and general good standing in the community of their proposed member. If at any time the integrity of the new member is compromised, the President and the Board will be looking for answers from the Sponsor as much as the new member. A sponsor must ensure that only motivated, honest, patriotic Americans are inducted.

Section 3.6 Expected Participation

All members are expected to participate in as many Association functions as they reasonably can each year. However, understanding there are constraints on people’s time and budgets, at a minimum EVERY member of the Association is required to assist with at least one event each year as described in Section 3.1.(c). The Secretary will develop a tracking mechanism into their monthly and yearly record keeping that will allow for this requirement to be briefed at the annual November Board Meeting. The President will be responsible for enforcement of this policy in a timely manner.

Section 3.7 Association Dues

Association members will be required to pay a \$10 annual fee, considered dues, to help fund Association goals. These dues will be paid on a calendar year basis (January – December) and will not be prorated for new members who joined after the first of the year. All new members joining in months other than January, as well as all existing members, will be expected to pay their renewal dues of \$10 at the next January planning meeting, or as soon after as possible.

You may use the area below to keep track of the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association events you have attended:
(Events include: MT Ride to Remember, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Posting Flags, Wreaths Across America, Planning Meetings)

_____ Date: _____
_____ Date: _____
_____ Date: _____

Please complete the application below. This must be mailed to us or given to a board member for consideration at our next meeting.

Thank you for your interest in our Association!!!!

You may mail your membership application to:



Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association
P.O. Box 7693
Helena, MT 59604

Email: info@mtridetoremember.org



PLEASE KEEP THESE PAGES FOR YOUR RECORDS

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____ Road Name: _____

Birthday (for liability purposes): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Are you are in good standing in the community in which you reside? Yes No

Are you a felon? Yes No (Felony does not necessarily preclude membership, but warrants further explanation).

Please list any ongoing issues, limitations, or conflicts that may limit your participation in any of our events:

Please list any skills you have that might help the Association toward its goals:

Why do you want to become a member of Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association?

Please provide any clarification or additional comments you might have below:

Sponsoring Member's Name: _____

Please initial on the line to the right to acknowledge that you will return the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association patch if you are ever expelled from the Association for any of the reasons listed in Section 3.3 of the ByLaws, listed above. _____

*** After filling in all information, please print the form and sign on the line below, before returning it to the Association. ***

By signing below you confirm that you have read and agree to our Mission Statement and General Membership requirements.

Prospective Member's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please Note: Applications will be reviewed upon receipt by the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Eligible candidates will be patched in at a regularly scheduled planning meeting. If you have any questions, please contact your sponsor, any board member or the new member coordinator.

We are excited to have you join our Association and we look forward to working together to keep the POW/MIA issue alive in our community and bringing our Missing Service Personnel home.

