

2nd Thief Ministries Charter and Bylaws

The Motorcycle and Off-Road Vehicle Ministry of 2nd Thief Ministries, Inc., a Virginia Nonprofit Christian Organization



Declaring the Good News...
on two wheels...and four!

“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

1. ARTICLE 1 – CHARTER OF 2ND THIEF MINISTRIES

1.1 Purpose and Vision

The **purpose** of 2nd Thief Ministries is to encourage believers and seekers alike to experience the fullness of freedom and the supremacy of the love of God. This 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. The **vision** of 2nd Thief Ministries is that we are “Disciples making Disciples” of Jesus.

1.2. Ministry Legacy. 2nd Thief Ministries was formed out of Preacher D.A. Crane’s passion for the Lord and his enjoyment of the sport of motorcycling. While he appreciates the liberty and happiness that riding can bring, he knows it is only temporary, lasting only until the ride ends. After that it is a fond memory, not something you continue to live out. Using this truth as a springboard, 2nd Thief Riders was formed to help guide fellow riders through the Scriptures to discover a genuine freedom and joy that is eternal and everlasting. Preacher Crane knows that true freedom and joy comes only from a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. He and the members of 2nd Thief Ministries enthusiastically encourage seekers to freely receive God’s Grace and Truth into their lives and believers to rest in the fullness of it.

1.3 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.
- Assist members in finding and enjoying God’s Grace for their lives using Biblical truths
- Collaborate with churches and other Christian ministries for evangelism and community outreach.
- Organize local and multi-state motorcycle rides and off-road/overland events.

1.4 Ministries

1.4.1 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 “workman 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.

1.4.2 Off-Road Vehicle Ministry. 2nd Thief Rough Riders is a Christian Off-Road Vehicle 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 off-road vehicles, off road trips/adventures, outreaches, or any other inspired resources to declare the Good News through the message of the 2nd Thief. The Ministry trains up “workman who rightly divide the Word of Truth” and encourages all to walk in the fullness of it. This “equips” Rough 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.

1.5 Memberships

1.5.1 Riders. Membership approval is granted by the CEO, XO or Regional Directors. Chapters may consist of a single Rider or group of Riders. A Rider or Riders from an area/region or those who are affiliated with a Church or Christian Assembly, may request a Chapter membership. For example, there could be a “Tri-City Area 2nd Thief Riders” Chapter, or members of “Your Church” may form a Chapter that may be designated as the “Your Church 2nd Thief Riders Chapter.

Our vision and focus is Disciples making Disciples for Jesus. Chapter Coordinators will disciple prospective 2nd Thief Ministry members for a period of at least six months before membership is granted and the 2nd Thief Ministries Colors can be flown. The purpose of this discipling period is to ensure all new members are led by the Holy Spirit and equipped for ministry.

“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

1.5.2 Rough Riders. Membership approval is granted by the CEO, XO or Regional Directors. Groups may consist of a single Rough Rider or group of Rough Riders. A Rough Rider or Rough Riders from an area/region or those who are affiliated with a Church or Christian Assembly, may request a Group membership. For example, there could be a “Tri-City Area 2nd Thief Rough Riders” Group, or members of “Your Church” may form a Group that may be designated as the “Your Church 2nd Thief Rough Riders Group.

Our vision and focus is Disciples making Disciples for Jesus. Group Coordinators will disciple prospective 2nd Thief Ministry members for a period of at least six months

before membership is granted and the 2nd Thief Ministries Colors can be flown. The purpose of this discipling period is to ensure all new members are led by the Holy Spirit and equipped for ministry.

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

1.5.3 Criteria for Membership

- **Believer.** Every 2nd Thief Rider/Rough 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 1.6 of this Charter & Bylaws.
- **Affiliation with a Church or Assembly.** Every 2nd Thief Rider/Rough Rider must be affiliated with a Church or Fellowship that believes and preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Ministry CEO and/or Elder affirmation final) and believes in the Statement of Faith as described in Article 1.6 of this Charter & Bylaws.
- **Service.** Agreement that in the course of a calendar year attend and support a minimum of three 2nd Thief Ministries sponsored outreach, event, or rides.
- **Accountability.** Every 2nd Thief Rider/Rough Rider will be accountable to: (i) Our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; (ii) the local church or assembly where he is affiliated, and (iii) the 2nd Thief Ministries Leadership (Chapter Coordinators, Elders and CEO).
- **Operational Costs. For 2nd Thief Riders (M/M).** There is a one-time originating membership fee of \$125.00 to cover the cost of the “Colors”- patches, pin, embroidery, tailoring, shipping, handling and Ministry administrative costs (in lieu of dues). When a married couple joins 2nd Thief Ministries on the same date the cost is \$200.00. It is a \$125 cost for one spouse and a discounted \$75.00 for the other. We encourage married couples to minister together. 2nd Thief Ministries has chosen to no longer collect yearly dues. This is a faith-based Ministry. *Disclaimer* - The cost of membership is subject to change without notice. 2nd Thief Ministries reserves the right to change the cost of membership at any time. The cost of membership is based on current inventory, newly purchased materials, supplies, expenses for outside vendor services (specifically embroidery), handling and shipping. A review for the total cost of membership is conducted every calendar year.
- **Operational Costs. For 2nd Thief Rough Riders.** There is a one-time originating membership fee of \$100.00 to cover the cost of a welcome package with 2nd Thief Rough Riders merchandise (New Members/Coordinators order from catalog), shipping, handling and Ministry administrative costs (in lieu of dues). When a married couple joins 2nd Thief Ministries on the same date the cost is \$165.00. It is a \$100 cost for one spouse and a discounted \$65.00 for the other. We encourage married couples to

minister together. 2nd Thief Ministries has chosen to no longer collect yearly dues. This is a faith-based Ministry. *Disclaimer* - The cost of membership is subject to change without notice. 2nd Thief Ministries reserves the right to change the cost of membership at any time. The cost of membership is based on current inventory, newly purchased materials, supplies, expenses for outside vendor services (specifically embroidery), handling and shipping. A review for the total cost of membership is conducted every calendar year.

Every 2nd Thief Rider / Rough Rider is a member of a Ministry, not a club. Each licensed Rider/Rough Rider provides their own “street legal” motorcycle or off-road vehicle and assumes responsibility for all costs regarding upkeep and the legal operation of the motorcycle/vehicle. 2nd Thief Ministries does not incur any responsibility for the day-to-day operating costs of the local Chapters, Groups and Members.

1.5.2 Consideration for Membership or Chapter/Group Designation. Every prospective 2nd Thief Rider/Rough Rider application will be reviewed by the Chapter/Group Coordinator and Regional Director, and other Elders as appropriate 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 Ministries. Chapter and Group Coordinators will disciple prospective 2nd Thief Ministry members for a period of at least six months before membership is granted.

1.6 The Gospel of Jesus Christ and Statement of Faith

The Gospel

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/GROUP BYLAWS

The 2nd Thief Riders Chapter and Rough Riders Group Bylaws are in place to protect the vision and mission of 2nd Thief Ministries and bring honor and glory to the Gospel of Christ.

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/Rough Riders are representatives of Jesus Christ and this Ministry and as such have a high calling. 2nd Thief Riders/Rough Riders must be mindful of their witness and conduct themselves in love.

- Glorify the Lord Jesus Christ in word, tongue, deed and in truth. (Psalm 34:3; 1 John 3:18)
- Operate in love at all times. (John 13:34-35).

2.2 2nd Thief Ministries Shields/Colors



2nd Thief Ministries Shield



2nd Thief Ministries Shield (w/tools)

2.2.1 2nd Thief Riders Shield.

Upon confirmation and installation of a 2nd Thief Rider Chapter, that Chapter is authorized to fly the colors below, including any patches, emblems, and other 2nd Thief Riders' merchandise or apparel. **Shield 1** (the original 2nd Thief patch) is the *only* patch authorized to be flown as "Colors" on the back of vests. **Shield 2** may be displayed on other merchandise, banners, flyers, etc., as appropriate and approved by Chapter Coordinators or National Leadership.



Riders Shield 1: The Original



Riders Shield 2

2.2.2 Displaying the Colors.

2nd Thief Riders will only wear 2nd Thief "Colors" (full size version of **Shield 1**) 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," on the front of the vest. 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) 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.

2.2.3 2nd Thief Rough Riders' Shield.

Upon confirmation and installation of a 2nd Thief Rough Rider Chapter, that Chapter is authorized to display the Rough Riders' Shield (below) on clothing, hats, off-road vehicles and other places appropriate for ministry.



2.2.4 Ownership of 2nd Thief Ministries/Riders/Rough Riders Logo, Patches, and Colors

2nd Thief, 2nd Thief Ministries, 2nd Thief Riders/Rough Riders logos, patches and "Colors" are the exclusive property of 2nd Thief Ministries, and their use and display are restricted for Chapter Riders/Rough Riders in good standing. The "Colors" (full size patch) will never be sold/traded/given and or delivered to non-2nd Thief Riders.

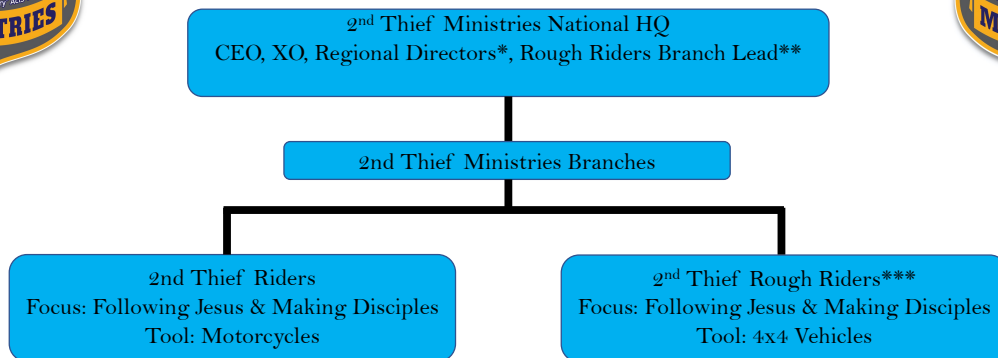
3.0 OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

2nd Thief Ministries consists of two Branches, the 2nd Thief Riders and the 2nd Thief Rough Riders, depicted in **Figure 1**. The 2nd Thief Riders is the Motorcycle Ministry of 2nd Thief Ministries (the "Ministry"). It operates under the leadership of the CEO through a command structure, with an Executive Officer (XO), Regional Directors and Chapter/Group Coordinators, depicted in **Figure 2**. Each Chapter operates at the discretion of the CEO and Elders, who have responsibility for carrying out the vision and mission of the Ministry.

2ND THIEF™



2nd Thief Ministries Headquarters and Branch Concept



*Regional Directors oversee/support all Chapters of Riders and Rough Riders in their assigned Region.

**Rough Riders Branch Lead is the lead developer of the Rough Riders Branch; works with National HQ & Chapters to promote Rough Riders activities/events and coordinate logistics and communications.

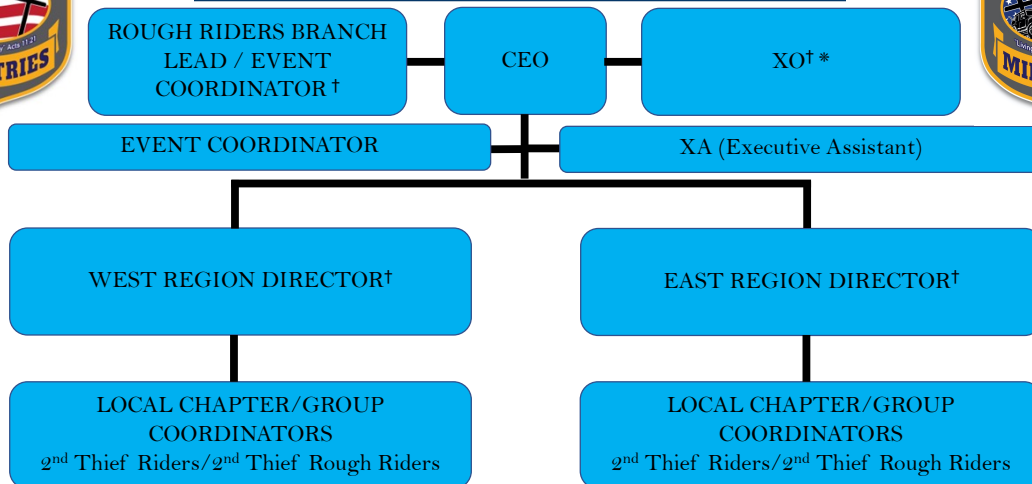
***All 2nd Thief Ministries, Inc. leaders assist with getting the word out and supporting the new Branch.

2ND THIEF™...DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

Figure 1



2nd Thief Ministries Operational Structure



†Elder

*Logistics Lead / Website Administrator

2ND THIEF™...DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

Figure 2

3.1 CEO

The 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 Executive Officer (XO)

The XO ensures synchronization of all National Ministry and Staff functions and assists the CEO in executing the vision and mission of the Ministry.

3.1.2 Regional Directors

As part of the National Leadership Team, 2nd Thief Ministries has an East Region Director and West Region Director. Regional Directors ensure the execution of the vision and mission of the Ministry through their leadership and support provided to Chapter Coordinators.

3.1.3 Local Chapters/Groups

2nd Thief Ministries Local Chapters are accountable to the National Leadership Team, and the same criteria for membership outlined in Article 1.6 of these Bylaws applies. The organizational structure may include one Elder as the “Chapter Coordinator” with a Deacon being permitted to fill that position should no Elder be available.

3.1.4 National Leadership Team.

The Ministry National Leadership Team consists of members designated by the CEO and serves at his discretion. These members are accountable to the same criteria for membership as outlined in Article 1.6 of these Bylaws.

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 “Five-fold Ministry,” (Ephesians 4:11-12 NKJV) whose life produces “Spiritual Fruit” (Galatians 5:22-25) and who exercises the gifts of encouraging leadership, with diligence, through 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. 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 & CEO. The qualifications for a Deacon are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

4.1.4 Chapter/Group 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 & CEO. 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 & CEO as a brother and an appointed leader of a Local Chapter of the Ministry. He serves at the discretion of the 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 administration of the Local Chapter. This includes prayerfully enlisting local chapter members in good standing and friends (preferably prospects) of the Chapter to aid with carrying out the mission and vision of the Ministry. This authority and responsibility remains in affect only upon the faithful observance and consistent application of the Vision and Mission of 2nd Thief Ministries.

Chapter Coordinators are required to submit any plans on any outreach, event or ride that could generate possible media coverage to their Regional Director. 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 Regional Director need not be re-submitted each subsequent time for approval. Copies of any printed articles or audio/video produced as a result of any Local Chapter outreach, event or ride is to be forwarded to the Regional Director in a diligent and timely manner.

2nd Thief Riders and Rough 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.