

MOTTO: SERVICE NEVER ENDS

MVOC Mission

We work to improve the well-being of communities, veterans, former military people, and their families by encouraging brotherhood and camaraderie. Military Veterans of Cuenca (MVOC) was created by those who dedicated their life to improvement via military discipline and training. MVOC helps military veterans by campaigning for meaningful job, education, healthcare, safe housing, and relationships. Our two events are Memorial Day and Veterans Day. MVOC stresses the sacrifices made for liberty and prosperity on Memorial Day. We salute the flag and remember the events that occurred throughout the conflict. We focus on the ideals of liberty, hope, and solidarity. Veteran's Day is to celebrate all veterans from all countries. The members of the MVOC are united in their desire to enhance the Cuenca area community via life-changing, immutable, and vital programs, services, acts of compassion, free of hierarchy and discrimination.

MVOC Vision

MVOC offers a variety of services to military veterans, including secure housing, education, meaningful employment, and friendships. A supplementary service point has been established to help veterans with impairments. MVOC members emphasize the sacrifices made to promote liberty and prosperity. During these designated days, wartime experiences are commemorated, and the flag is raised to honor its symbols of liberty, unity, and optimism. MVOC members are not organized in a hierarchical or biased manner; rather, we are motivated by the same aim of improving the Cuenca community through charity deeds, programs, services, and long-term initiatives.

MVOC Values

- MVOC extends a warm welcome to both present and former military personnel, striving to facilitate their successful reintegration into their respective communities.
- MVOC supports unselfish service.
- MVOC promotes equal opportunity, justice, education, citizenship, and military duty through memorial events.
- MVOC prioritizes family and community engagement to meet the unique requirements of each community.
- MVOC advances its mission by training, mentoring, and leading future leaders.
- MVOC honors past military sacrifices to ensure future generations remember them.

MVOC Charter

1.Objective:

- The MVOC will promote amicable relationships between the United States and Ecuador.
- Protect democracy and preserving memory of military conflicts.
- Service to promote camaraderie.
- Create a culture that values community service and member help.

2. **Powers** of MVOC includes forming a constitution, ordinances, and rules to achieve its aims.

- Create and personalize our insignia.
- Establish and manage officers to fulfill tasks.
- Create newsletters, social media posts, and publications to provide guidance and direction to members.
- Take appropriate actions to fulfill the organization's objectives.

3. Non-discrimination:

MVOC's policy prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, or gender.

4. Intellectual Property Rights:

The organization holds exclusive rights to the terms "MVOC" and "Military Veterans of Cuenca." Insignia, website, emblems, cards, and public facing publications are under its exclusive control.

5. Political Activities: - Candidate advocacy for public office is prohibited. MVOC has a nonpolitical role.

6. Annual Report: Members will receive an annual report documenting the organization's operations, but will not be made available to the public.

MVOC Constitution

Article I: Location and Name

Situated in Cuenca, province of Azuay, Ecuador, this organization is known as MVOC (Military Veterans of Cuenca).

Article II: Civilian Organization

MVOC is a civilian organization unaffiliated with police or military operations. None of the members of the group hold military ranks or titles. MVOC does not support or endorse any candidate for public office and will remain apolitical.

Article III: Formation

MVOC stipulates that there must be a minimum of 10 members in good standing. This includes current military members, former military members and their spouses and children.

Article IV: Eligibility

Individuals who have EITHER served in the Armed Forces of the United States or an allied nation OR have been the spouse (or child) of a veteran who served in the armed forces of the United States or an allied nation are eligible to join MVOC. For veterans, an honorable discharge or other than dishonorable discharge is required.

Article V: Department Organization

All acts that comply with MVOC principles and standards must be ratified by the Executive Committee and subsequently ratified by 2/3 voting members.

Article VI: Amending the Constitution-

A two-thirds majority of active MVOC voting members is required to amend the constitution. In

the same format as these documents, proposed revisions must be submitted via email to the Executive Committee. These revisions are then reviewed by the Executive Committee and if approval is granted, the suggestions will be voted on by the entire membership. A 2/3 majority will be required to pass any amendments.

MVOC BY-LAWS

Article 1: MVOC Executive Committee

Section 1: Succession: In the event of a resignation, demise, or dismissal from their position, Executive Committee members shall be replaced. This new position holder will fulfill the remainder of the term. This applies to all positions except The MVOC Commander who will be succeeded by the Vice Commander. Assumption of that new position will be within 30 days. Voting on any of the other positions will occur in 30 days.

Section 2: Monthly meetings will be open to all members. Occasional meetings may be called by the MVOC Commander with sufficient advance notice. Upon written request by Executive Committee members, the MVOC Commander shall convene intermittent meetings. The elected Executive Committee will function for operations and daily needs.

Section 3: Quorum: A quorum of the Executive Committee is a minimum of three members. The MVOC Commander will vote in the event of a tie.

Section 4: Committee Appointment: The MVOC Commander will appoint committees with the support of the Executive Committee. The subsequent monthly meeting, after these appointments, will announce the membership of the committees. All committees answer to the MVOC Commander or Vice Commander.

Section 5: Delegation of Duties: To ensure efficient oversight and coordination, the Executive Committee assigns responsibilities to sub-committees.

Section 6: Decision Authority: - Member elections, eligibility, and conduct are matters that are determined by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is composed of five officers (MVOC Commander, Vice Commander, Treasurer, Historian, and Chaplain). The MVOC Commander will vote only when a tie vote needs a tie breaker.

ARTICLE II: Officer Duties

As the executive commander of the MVOC, the MVOC Commander is tasked with enforcing the organization's bylaws and constitution.

Section 1: **MVOC Commander** of the Executive Committee will provide direction and leadership. Additional responsibilities encompass tasks that enhance the overall efficiency and success of the organization. The MVOC Commander will not vote unless there is a tie vote.

Section 2: **Vice Commander** assumes the role of an indispensable intermediary in various domains, representing the MVOC Commander. As requested by the Commander, preside over

the Executive Committee meeting while exhibiting leadership qualities and facilitating communication, acts as chairperson of the Outreach Committee and of the Events Committee. They advocate for community participation and engagement.

The Vice Commander shall be responsible for securing the meeting space, ensuring members pay for their meals, and maintaining an efficient operation.

The Vice Commander will assume the actions of the MVOC Commander within 30 days of that position being vacant.

Section 3. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer is accountable for the organization's funds. While distributing funds, the Treasurer will ensure that all financial transactions adhere to predetermined regulations. The Treasurer shall at each monthly meeting provide all members with an update of the organization on the total funds, details of revenue received, details of expenses incurred, and any external projects undertaken. Furthermore, as directed by the MVOC Commander, the treasurer furnishes prompt updates to foster open and responsible communication.

Section 4. **Chaplain:** The Chaplain is responsible for conducting divine and nonsectarian services and counseling other members as deemed necessary. This includes facilitating a moment of silence during monthly meetings and observing the members' religious ceremonies. If Robert's Rules of Order needs enforcement, the Chaplain will act accordingly.

Section 5: **Historian:** Documents monthly meeting minutes, oversees and maintains all social media accounts and websites associated with the MVOC, and performs any other duties delegated by the Executive Committee.

Article III: Oath of Office

Only Veteran members in good standing may serve as MVOC Commander or Vice Commander. Any member in good standing shall be eligible to serve as an officer of MVOC.

All Executive Committee Members will swear this oath:

On my honor, I will do my best to serve God, my country, and Ecuadorian and US laws in Ecuador. I'll always aid people. I will remain morally upright and mentally awake and promise to honor my country, the US Constitution, and the MVOC Constitution, so help me God. I will trust and serve the MVOC. I freely take this oath and shall fulfill my office duties on this (day) of (month) of the year (year)

Article IV: Finance

Finance specifies that the MVOC shall generate income via annual membership dues, merchandise, events, and other authorized channels. The Treasurer shall insure that:

-Revenue: The Executive has selected sales of merchandise and annual membership dues as the main sources of revenue. Donations are always encouraged. The MVOC Executive Committee is responsible for determining the following year's annual dues for Premium membership as

reflected in the By-Laws. Under no circumstances shall the Post hold or suppress perpetual dues more than what has been notified to the public. The annual dues for the following calendar year must be remitted to the Treasurer. The Treasurer will designate payment methods.

- The MVOC Executive Committee will determine the annual dues amount for the following year. The annual dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee. The MVOC Commander will have the authority to retain or withhold any excess per capita dues.

- Yearly dues are needed for the contract year. For example, 2024 needs to be paid before 31 December, 2024. The subsequent year may be paid in full or monthly increments.

- **Expenses:** Any transaction of over \$50 will be approved by 2/3 majority of the voting membership. The Executive Committee must have a 2/3 majority of the executive committee to approve all payments of less than \$50. If emergent, the Executive Committee may pay out funds without a meeting but with 2/3 majority communicated by WhatsApp or email. The MVOC Commander will be voting only when a tie breaking vote is required.

All Expenses shall be limited to those directly of the MVOC organization, US Veterans Day, or US Memorial Day.

-**External Initiatives:** Both the executive committee and members in good standing may initiate projects throughout the year, allowing voting and non-voting members to make charitable donations. Initiatives will operate independently and autonomously, seeking donations for affiliated activities.

Article V: Membership

Section 1: Belonging to and retaining a voting membership in the MVOC requires that the member be in good standing. All dues payments must be current.

Section 2. MVOC maintains a **two-tiered membership** system.

Non-Voting members: There are No required dues. A non-voting member may attend and participate in the meetings. They may serve alongside the dues paying members.

Voting members: A member may vote if their dues are current and their position is in good standing. All members should be involved in the forums. MVOC requests the members' views and ideas. As a benefit, members in good standing may receive discounts on merchandise and other MVOC events.

Section 3: Members' Responsibilities

Attire: All members are asked to don attire that is casual professional for monthly meetings and patriotic attire and head wear for all events.

Dues: Members are considered delinquent if their dues are not paid by the end of the year. Reinstatement to voting membership status will occur upon payment of the dues. Pro-rated dues may be paid when requested.

Article VI: Modifications

The Executive Committee and voting members in good standing may amend these documents

at any time by a vote of two-thirds. Such amendments must be communicated to the MVOC Commander before the next meeting. Submit these suggestions within 10 days after the meeting and in a similar format to this one provided.

APPENDIX:

APPENDIX 1: DUES

Dues may be changed annually. Year 2024 dues are \$50 in one payment. Alternative payment arrangements can be made with the Treasurer.

APPENDIX 2: DECORUM

Decorum and conduct in the meetings will follow Roberts Rules of Order. A modified version is used below but the full version is found at <http://www.rulesonline.com>

High Points of ROBERT'S RULES of ORDER

Art 1. Introduction to Business

Art 2. What precedes argument

Discussion of issue will be limited to three minutes

Cross talk and Interruptions will not be permitted

Proper courtesy is expected and if discourteous, the member might be ejected

Art 3. Get the floor

Art 4. Sharing the Floor

Art 5. Call for a vote with motions and resolutions

Art 6. Passing the new issue of consideration or tabling the issue for further discussion