



## MINNESOTA REGION GOVERNING BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be VIPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION, MINNESOTA REGION, hereafter referred to as VOA MN.

### ARTICLE II OBJECTIVE

The objective of this organization shall be to promote the preservation and enjoyment of the Dodge/SRT Viper; to preserve the history of the same; to encourage other owners to join in the effort; and to offer an active year-round program of events that meet the above-mentioned objectives, as well as those of its membership.

### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

#### SECTION 1 – Membership Definitions

- A. An Active Member shall be defined as an individual of at least 18 years of age paying one membership fee, listed with the National Business Office.
- B. Membership in this organization shall be limited to persons who are current registered owners of a Dodge/SRT Viper. Ownership shall be verified through the applicant identifying the VIN number of their registered vehicle on the application for Club membership. Former Dodge/SRT Viper owners as well as friends of the VOA MN would be allowed to join VOA MN as Associate members at the discretion of the Regional Board of Directors.

- C. All present owners of a Dodge/SRT Viper within the United States of Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, or the province of Manitoba, Canada shall be eligible for VOA Minnesota Regional membership, provided he or she can document ownership/residence, and upon receipt of the application and dues payment, will be considered a member in good standing.
- D. Annual membership is in effect between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. New members joining after October 31<sup>st</sup> will be considered Active Members for the upcoming year.
- E. VOA Minnesota Regional annual dues above those required by the National VOA must be set prior to October 31<sup>st</sup> for the following year. Each member will receive an invoice on or before December 1<sup>st</sup> for the coming year, payable on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> for any annual dues above those required by the National VOA.

## **SECTION 2 – Membership Application**

- A. Applications for National membership shall be submitted to the National VOA Business Office, accompanied by the dues. If the applicant is unsure about the Region selection, the National Business Office will make the regional assignment. The following link is used to apply for membership:  
<https://driveviper.com/join/join.php>
- B. Additional information on the membership process including benefits and features can be found at: <https://driveviper.com/join/>
- C. National membership renewal notices shall be sent by the National Business Office to Active Members. Membership will lapse if dues are not paid when due.
- D. VOA Minnesota Region Associate Memberships are available to current and former Viper owners, as well as friends of VOA MN, at the discretion of the Regional Board of Directors. Current Viper owners are encouraged to be a member of the National Viper Owners Association, but are free to join the club as Associate members at the discretion of the Board of Directors. A VOA MN Associate Membership does not afford the bearer any rights and/or privileges available through a National VOA Membership (i.e., no right to a National VOA Membership number, no right to receive Viper Quarterly, no right to attend NVE, no right to the National VOA Website forums, and no right to any other privilege, either specified or non-specified, as awarded through a national VOA Membership). A VOA MN Associate Membership will carry a regional annual fee of Fifty-five (\$55.00) Dollars US funds per year, and upon receipt of the application and dues payment, will be considered a member in good standing. Applications for Associate Memberships are available on the club website at [www.minnesotavipers.com](http://www.minnesotavipers.com).

### **SECTION 3 – Membership Expulsion**

The National or Regional Boards, upon their own initiative may bring expulsion charges against any member for conduct detrimental to the welfare of the Club. The affected member shall be notified in writing with a full statement of the reasons by first class mail sent to their last known address. Within thirty days of mailing the charges, the member may request a hearing before the National or Regional Board of Directors by mailing such a request to the National Business Office for National expulsion issues, or to the VOA MN Regional President for regional expulsion issues. If a request for hearing is not received within 30 days, the National or Regional Board of Directors may decide whether to terminate the membership. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held at a place to be determined by the National or Regional President. The hearing shall be informal and the rules of evidence shall not apply.

Following a hearing, the National or Regional Board of directors shall decide whether to terminate the membership. The National or Regional Board of Directors may, with or without a hearing, take action less than expulsion, to include rejection of the charge(s), reassignment of the member, reprimanding the member, or such other action as may be appropriate. The decision of the National or Regional Board of Directors is final and cannot be appealed.

If membership is terminated, all membership rights, including prepaid dues, shall be forfeited. Any member expelled, or who resigns after expulsion charges have been brought, is barred from any class of membership for life.

### **SECTION 4 – Membership Rights and Privileges**

- A. Only Active Members have the right to vote in National/Regional elections and to hold National/Regional offices, except a Dodge Dealer/Owner who may not hold Office at the Region President level or higher. Only one Active Member per household may vote in National/Regional elections if only one membership fee has been paid. If more than one membership fee is paid per household, then each paid membership fee conveys the right for one Active Member ballot in National/Regional elections.
- B. All Active Members have the right to attend and participate in all VOA MN activities. Active Members are allowed to bring one guest to activities unless an event is billed as a “family and/or friends” event. Active members are allowed to bring others to “family and/or friends” events.
- C. All club events that take place in member homes shall be “Adults Only” unless the host directs the club otherwise. Underage family members of the hosts or other guests of the hosts are exempt from club rules.
- D. All Active Members may attend open meetings of the National/Regional Board of Directors as observers if space permits. Observers may voice opinions and enter

into discussion at such meetings if invited to do so by the National/Regional Board of Directors. An observer may not make or second a motion, nor vote on any action taken by the National/Regional Board of Directors.

- E. Active Members may write the National/Regional President at least 45 days prior to a National/Regional Board of Directors meeting, stating matters they wish brought before the National/Regional Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE IV REGIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- A. The Regional Board of Directors shall run the VOA MN, set VOA MN policy, and conduct VOA MN business.
- B. The Regional Board of Directors shall be comprised of four (4) officers, three (3) officers if the same individual serves as both Regional Treasurer and Regional Secretary. A regional officer's term shall be two (2) years in length and will commence on January 1<sup>st</sup>, terminating on December 31<sup>st</sup> two (2) years hence.
- C. Term limits for the Regional President shall follow the guidelines as presented within the National By-Laws.
- D. Regional Board of Director member responsibilities include being a current year Club member in good standing, a willingness to attend meetings, and a willingness to volunteer and contribute to the Club.
- E. Club decisions will be made by a "vote" of the Regional Board of Directors. Two (2) members of the Regional Board of Directors constitute a quorum. A majority vote by ballot, either in-person or by proxy, of the Regional Board of Directors is needed to pass motions regarding future events, spending of Club funds in excess of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), and issues brought forward at Regional Board of Director meetings. It is the responsibility of the Regional President to determine the type of vote to be used.
- F. It shall be the responsibility of the Regional Board of Directors to organize, schedule, and promote events, activities, and/or meetings for the enjoyment of the general membership. These events, activities, and/or meetings shall occur once a month, at a minimum, during the months from May through November.
- G. The Regional Board of Directors shall meet bi-annually, at a minimum, to conduct the business of the Club. The Regional Board of Director meetings shall be open to the general membership, and the schedule for these meetings shall be indicated on the VOA MN calendar.

- H. Any regional officer may resign by providing written notice to the Regional Board of Directors prior to the resignation date. Such resignation shall become effective on the date as specified within the written notice. The Regional President, or Regional Vice-President (should the Regional President be the position rendering resignation), shall name a successor to fill the vacated position (s). The resigning officer, prior to resignation, must turn over all VOA MN records and/or property to the designated successor.

## **ARTICLE V REGIONAL OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1 – Officer Descriptions**

- A. VOA MN Club officer positions shall include at a minimum the offices of Regional President, Regional Vice-President, Regional Treasurer and Regional Secretary. A single individual may serve as both Regional Treasurer and Regional Secretary. The above officer positions constitute the Regional Board of Directors and shall perform the duties prescribed in the bylaws using the parliamentary authority adopted by the organization. Current VOA MN officers shall be identified on the VOA MN web site.
- B. Regional President – Subject to the direction and control of the membership and Regional Board of Directors, he/she shall see that the resolutions and directives of the membership and Regional Board of Directors are carried into effect except in those instances in which the Regional Board of Directors assigns the responsibility to some other person. He/she shall preside as chairman at all Regional Board of Director meetings, and shall act as the National VOA representative at presidents’ meetings. The cost incurred by the Regional President to attend these meetings is not subject to reimbursement by the Regional Treasurer. The Regional President shall be the direct contact with Chrysler Corporation, Dodge, and Team Viper relating to VOA MN business. The current Regional President shall establish the official mailing address of VOA MN.
- C. Regional Vice-President – The Regional-Vice President shall be responsible for assisting the Regional President with running VOA MN. Should the Regional President be unable to attend a National/Regional Board of Directors meeting, presidents’ meeting, or VOA MN event, he/she may designate the Regional Vice-President to attend in his/her place.
- D. Regional Treasurer – The Regional Treasurer shall be responsible for paying all VOA MN bills and maintaining a detailed accurate financial record of VOA MN finances. The Regional Treasurer shall be required to present a detailed report at each Regional Board of Directors meeting, and to publish a financial summary

- during each year-end general membership meeting. An official set of financial records has been established and the Regional Treasurer shall be responsible for entering expense data into these records. The records shall be available for reference when requested. The bank checking account signature card shall include the Regional Treasurer and at least one other VOA MN Officer's name.
- E. Regional Secretary – The Regional Secretary shall be responsible for the recording of information at the Regional Board of Directors meetings and for maintaining historical VOA MN records.
  - F. Additional Regional Officers – VOA MN may elect as many regional officers as are deemed necessary to assist with orchestrating the various activities to the benefit of the general membership.
  - G. Any Active Member in good standing with VOA MN may self-nominate, and/or be nominated, for any regional officer position with the exception of the offices of Regional President and Regional Vice-President. Regional President and/or Regional Vice-President candidates must be a member in good standing with the National VOA as stated within the National By-Laws.

## **SECTION 2 – Officer Elections**

- A. Nominations for all Regional Officer positions will be solicited from the general membership via e-mail by the current Regional Secretary during the month of August prior to the end of the current term. It shall be the responsibility of the Regional Secretary to prepare a ballot to be e-mailed, and/or sent by mail through the USPS, to Active Members and to the Regional Officers prior to September 31<sup>st</sup> of that same year. The official ballot shall accompany members to the year-end meeting, which is to be scheduled prior to October 31<sup>st</sup> of that same year.
- B. During the business portion of the general membership year-end meeting the current Regional President shall once again open the floor to additional nominations for all officer positions. Members in attendance shall add any nominated individuals to the current ballot form aligned with the proper officer title. Once the nominating process has been completed the Regional President will close nominations and the members shall mark their ballots.
- C. The Regional Secretary shall collect all ballots from the participating membership. The Regional Secretary and Regional Treasurer, Regional Vice-President if the same individual holds the title of Regional Secretary/Treasurer, shall individually count and tally the votes for each officer position. Individuals receiving the majority of votes for each officer position shall have been elected to that officer position for the following two (2) year term. The Regional Secretary shall then certify the ballots and announce the results of the election process to the membership in attendance. After certification, the ballots shall be sealed and retained by the Regional President for safekeeping. If the National Board of Directors does not order a VOA MN ballot inspection during their annual

meeting, the VOA MN ballots may then be destroyed following notification that the National Board of Directors meeting has occurred.

- D. In the event of an uncontested election where only one nominee is identified for any officer position the election process must proceed with active members voting, or choosing to abstain from voting, for the individual (s) identified on the ballot. Any individual must receive a majority of the votes cast to be elected to an officer's position. Should the nominee not receive a majority of votes cast the Regional President must coordinate a Special Election following the process identified above to fill the vacancy of that position. This Special Election must be completed prior to the end of the Regional President's current term.

## **ARTICLE VI CLUB COMMUNICATIONS**

The MN Region of the National VOA web site will be the official means of communication between the VOA MN Board of Directors and VOA MN members. This web site will contain information about local VOA MN events (past and future) and other articles and facts about regional and national Club news. Technical articles will be included if written by Club members or Team Viper. Technical articles will not strive to compete with national newsletters or magazines already printing such articles.



## **ARTICLE VII MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. VOA MN was founded as a regional Club of the National VIPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION in January 2014.
- B. All VOA MN Club members and Regional Board of Directors members are accountable for their own actions and speech at all VOA MN functions, and shall be careful to be "good representatives" of the VOA MN at all times.
- C. Except for the VOA MN Club newsletter, there shall be one VOA MN address designated as the VOA MN address for all correspondence. The VOA MN newsletter may have a separate address.
- D. The Parliamentary authority used during Regional Board of Director meetings shall be the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, unless stated otherwise in the By-Laws.

- E. Once approved as hereby stated, the VOA MN By-Laws may only be changed by a majority vote of the Regional Board of Directors.
- F. A current copy of the VOA MN By-Laws shall be available on the VOA MN web site: [www.MinnesotaVipers.com](http://www.MinnesotaVipers.com)



## APPROVALS

| <u>Board of Directors Position</u> | <u>Name</u>  | <u>Date</u> |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------|
| President                          |  | 10/7/2021   |
| Vice President                     |  | 10/7/21     |
| Secretary <sup>1</sup>             | Mary Aspin   | 10/7/2021   |
| Treasurer <sup>2</sup>             | James Malli  | 10/7/2021   |

<sup>1</sup> The Secretary may be the same individual as the Treasurer.

<sup>2</sup> The Treasurer may be the same individual as the Secretary.