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**WESTERN CONNECTICUT HOG, INC.**

*Harley Owners Group*



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**WESTCONN HOG**  
***CHARTER & OPERATING POLICIES***

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**Sponsored by:**  
**Yankee Harley-Davidson**  
**488 Farmington Avenue**  
**Bristol Connecticut 06010**  
**Phone: (860) 583-8484**

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*Effective Date: June 15, 2023*

*Western Connecticut HOG, INC*

*AKA: Westconn*

*Established 1986*

**ARTICLE I PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Harley Owners Group H.O.G.® is to bring members together for the common interest of promoting local motorcycling activities. The goal of each Chapter is to generate an increased level of enthusiasm for riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles. The local Chapter is intended to be a family-oriented organization.

**ARTICLE II PREAMBLE:** The Harley Owners Group is an organization founded and sponsored by Harley-Davidson Incorporated. On September 2, 1986, Western Connecticut HOG (aka: Westconn) was established and was later incorporated on August 15, 1987. This Chapter upholds the most current edition of the H.O.G.® Chapter Charter in all its related business and activities. At the sole discretion of the Sponsoring Dealer, these policies and guidelines may be amended at any time. This document was created by Chapter members, & approved by our Sponsoring Dealer. This document shall be adopted and serve as the operating policy, guidelines, and by-laws for Western Connecticut H.O.G.® Chapters and must be available to all Chapter members. It supersedes any prior editions or writings, rendering them null and void. It is recommended that this document be reviewed annually. The term Primary Officer(s) and Executive Board are used interchangeably in this document.

**ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE BOARD:** The Executive Board shall consist of the Sponsor, Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, & Treasurer. Any candidate seeking a position on the Executive Board must be a member in good standing. Executive Board meetings may be called by the Sponsor or the Director as needed. The duties and responsibilities of the Chapter Officers shall be as follows:

- **Director:** Shall uphold this document, conduct Chapter meetings and coordinate the responsibilities for each Chapter Officer.
- **Assistant Director:** Shall be responsible for promoting membership, membership orientation, membership retention, and keeping the Chapter members informed of H.O.G.® programs.
- **Treasurer:** Shall be responsible for collecting and disbursing Chapter funds, reporting financial transactions to the Sponsoring

Dealer, remain in compliance with all revenue recording and reporting requirements.

- Secretary: Shall be responsible for administering and maintaining meeting minutes, annual reports, membership reports, insurance & legal documentation, event releases, and enrollment releases. These permanent records shall be kept at the Sponsoring Dealership.

**ARTICLE IV TERMS FOR PRIMARY OFFICERS:** The Primary Officers include Director, Assistant Director, Secretary and Treasurer will each serve 2-year terms. The change from a one year term to a two year term will commence in January 2024. The new term for Director and Treasurer will commence on January 1 of every odd year. The new term for Assistant Director and Secretary will commence on January 1 of every even year.

**ARTICLE V DISCRETIONARY OFFICERS:** The following Officer positions are optional and at the discretion of the Sponsoring Dealership. The duties and responsibilities of the Discretionary Officers include the following.

- Activities Officer: Assist in planning and administering Chapter events.
- Ladies of Harley Officer: To encourage female members to take an active part in Chapter activities.
- Head Road Captain: Assist in the planning of routes for Chapter rides.
- Editor: Assembles and organizes all forms of Chapter communications in conjunction with the Sponsor.
- Safety Officer: Provides Chapter members with information relating to safety and training.
- Photographer: Obtains and organizes Chapter images for use in Chapter communications and history.
- Historian: Prepares and maintains the history of the Chapter.
- Membership: Assists the Assistant Director and Chapter Secretary in membership duties.
- Webmaster: Organizes material for the Chapter web site and social media.

All Discretionary Officer positions will be filled by volunteers. There are no term limits. Any Westconn member in good standing can volunteer for these positions. Any member interested in a Discretionary Officer position shall notify the Director. If there is more than one member interested in the position, the Executive Board will select the most suitable volunteer. If appropriate, the Executive Board may assign two members as co-chairs to any Discretionary position.

**ARTICLE VI MEETINGS:** Chapter meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at a time & location determined by Yankee Harley and the Westconn Primary Officers.

**ARTICLE VII DUES:** The Chapter dues will be determined by the Primary Officers.

**ARTICLE VIII ALCOHOL:** The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited during any motorcycle riding event.

**ARTICLE IX QUORUM:** A quorum shall consist of twenty percent (20%) of the total number of Chapter members. No official Chapter business may be conducted at any meeting without a quorum present.

**ARTICLE X NOMINATIONS:** Any Chapter member in good standing can self-nominate or be nominated by another member for any open Primary Officer position. An unopposed nominee may be awarded the position at the Sponsoring Dealer's discretion. If no one is nominated for an open Primary Officer position, the Sponsoring Dealer may make the appointment in conjunction with the Executive Board. If more than one member seeks the same Primary Officer position, a ballot will be created for an election. The nominee name(s) will be provided to the Sponsoring Dealer before the election. If the Sponsoring Dealer amends the nominee(s), the nominee will be notified of any changes before ballots go to the membership.

**ARTICLE XI ELECTION PROCESS:** During September of each year, the Executive Board will notify the membership that an election is forthcoming for the positions of either Director and Treasurer or Assistant Director and Secretary, as applicable by year. The nomination and election process shall follow the schedule listed below.

- During October, the Chapter will accept nominations for the open Primary Officer positions.
- During November, voting will take place as described below under “Ballots.” The Director will establish an election committee to tabulate the votes, if required.
- During December, as soon as practical, the votes will be tabulated by the election committee.

**ARTICLE XII BALLOTS:** During the month of November, if an election is required, ballots will be made available as soon as practical to each Chapter member. Ballots shall include the nominee names, office sought, ballot due date, address of the Sponsoring Dealer, & a space for members to write in their National H.O.G.® Membership Number. Ballots shall be distributed via email to each member. Any member without an email shall contact the Secretary to obtain their ballot. Any ballot submitted without a valid Membership Number that corresponds to our National Membership Roster or submitted improperly will be deemed invalid by the election committee. Ballots shall be returned to the Sponsoring Dealer via U.S. mail with “Ballot” marked on the outside envelope. In lieu of mailing the ballot, it may be dropped off at the Dealer in the designated location.

**ARTICLE XIII TABULATION PROCESS:** Voting is anonymous. Ballot accountability is established by Westconn members only providing their National HOG Membership Number. The tabulators shall utilize a spreadsheet that only shows the National H.O.G.® Membership Numbers. If there is a tie, the Sponsor will determine the best course of action. The tie may necessitate another election. After the votes are tabulated, the Secretary will be notified of the results. The Secretary will promptly notify the membership & Dealer of the final election results. During the December Chapter meeting, the Executive Board will formally introduce any new Officer(s). The official duties for any new Officer(s) will commence on January first of the New Year.

**ARTICLE XIV OFFICER ABDICATION:** If any Primary or Discretionary Officer abdicates their position for any reason, the Sponsor and Primary Officers shall best determine how to back-fill the position(s). The Sponsoring Dealer will be notified of any Officer changes.

**ARTICLE XV DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS:** Disposition of Chapter assets upon dissolution of the local H.O.G.<sup>®</sup> organization shall be made in the following manner. After all Chapter expenses have been paid, any remaining assets shall be donated to a charitable organization. As a standard practice in the course of regular business, Westconn does not make charitable donations to any organizations.

**ARTICLE XVI DISCLAIMER:** While the Chapter may be affiliated with H.O.G.<sup>®</sup>, it remains a separate, independent entity/group of individuals responsible for its actions. All Harley Owners Group<sup>®</sup> members and their guest(s) participate voluntarily and at their own risk in H.O.G.<sup>®</sup> and H.O.G.<sup>®</sup> Chapter activities. The Sponsoring Dealer, Sponsoring Dealership, H.O.G.<sup>®</sup> and Harley-Davidson Motor Company<sup>®</sup>, its subsidiaries and distributors and local Chapter Officers are and shall be released and held harmless by the member/guest for any injury or loss to the member/guest or to his or her property which may result from participation in H.O.G.<sup>®</sup> and H.O.G.<sup>®</sup> Chapter activities. This means that each and every member of the local Chapter and their guest(s) have no ground for legal action against the Sponsoring Dealership, H.O.G.<sup>®</sup>, Harley-Davidson Motor Company<sup>®</sup>, its distributors and its subsidiaries, the local Chapters and their respective agents and employees for any injury resulting to them or their property.

**ARTICLE XVII APPLICABLE LAWS:** If any part of this document should be deemed invalid for any reason whatsoever under any applicable laws having jurisdiction over the subject matter of this document, then that part shall be considered deleted from this document and the rest of this document shall remain valid and in full force and effect.

**Executive Board Revisions:** May 2023

**Dealership Approval:** June 2023

## ***A brief history of Harley Davidson...***

Harley-Davidson Inc. is an American motorcycle manufacturer headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Founded in 1903, it is one of two major American motorcycle manufacturers to survive the Great Depression along with its historical rival, Indian



Motorcycles. The company has survived numerous ownership arrangements, subsidiary arrangements, periods of poor economic health and product quality, and intense global competition to become one of the world's largest motorcycle manufacturers and an iconic brand widely known for its loyal following. There are owner clubs

and events worldwide, as well as a company-sponsored, brand-focused museum.

Harley-Davidson is noted for a style of customization that gave rise to the chopper motorcycle style. The company traditionally marketed heavyweight, air-cooled cruiser motorcycles with engine displacements greater than 700 cc, but it has broadened its offerings to include more contemporary VRSC (2002) and middle-weight Street (2015)

platforms. Harley-Davidson manufactures its motorcycles at factories in York,

Pennsylvania; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Manaus, Brazil; Bawal, India; Pluak Daeng, & Thailand. The company markets its products worldwide, and also licenses and markets merchandise under the Harley-Davidson brand, among them apparel, home décor and ornaments, accessories, toys, scale models of its motorcycles, and video games based on its motorcycle line and the community.

