

**VETERANS FOR PEACE – CHAPTER 23  
ROCHESTER, NY**

**BY-LAWS**

These by-laws were approved by the membership at the meeting on September 25, 2014 and supersede any previously adopted by-laws of Chapter 23.

**ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be Veterans for Peace, Chapter 23, Rochester, NY.

**ARTICLE II. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Chapter 23 shall engage in activities, both locally and nationally, to advance the goals of Veterans for Peace (VFP) as stated in the National VFP by-laws, as follows:

We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others:

1. To increase public awareness of the costs of war
2. To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations
3. To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons.
4. To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans for Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP IN VFP CHAPTER 23**

*Section 1. Full Membership*

Full Members of Chapter 23 shall be Veterans of the Armed Forces of the U.S. or Veterans of the Armed Forces of foreign nations. They may also be Merchant Marines or other U.S. Citizens who have served in a professional capacity with or in service to the Armed Forces of the U.S. in an area during a period of war, conflict or other hostile activity. Full Members must subscribe to the purpose, goals and ideals of VFP and pay annual dues to both the National office and Chapter 23. Eligibility for Full Membership shall be determined by additional rules and regulations adopted by the National Board of Directors.

*Section 2. Associate Membership*

Associate Members of Chapter 23 shall be members who are not veterans, but who subscribe to the purpose, goals and ideals of VFP and pay National and Chapter 23 dues. Eligibility for Associate membership shall be determined by additional rules and regulations adopted by the National Board of Directors. The number of Associate Members shall not exceed 20% of the total membership of Chapter 23.

*Section 3. Non-discriminatory Practice*

Membership may not be denied because of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or any other discriminatory category.

**ARTICLE IV. DUES**

All Full and Associate Memberships are contingent on the payment, in advance, of National and Chapter 23 dues. The amount of Chapter 23 dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting.

**ARTICLE V. OFFICERS**

*Section 1. Office and Terms*

The officers of Chapter 23 shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer who must be members of VFP and Chapter 23 and shall be elected at the annual meeting by the Chapter 23 membership. They shall hold office for a term of one (1) year and until their successor is elected.

*Section 2. President*

The President shall be the chairperson of the Executive Committee and an ex-officio member of all committees. He/she shall preside over chapter meetings, interface with the National Office, and be the foremost spokesperson for Chapter 23.

*Section 3. Vice-President*

The Vice-President shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the event of the President's absence, including acting as chairperson of the Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as may be from time to time prescribed by the President.

*Section 4. Secretary*

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of Chapter 23 Membership and Executive Committee meetings. He/she shall also see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws. He/she shall keep a register of the mailing addresses of all Full and Associate Members which shall be furnished to the Secretary by such members. He/she shall, in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as may be from time to time prescribed by the President.

### *Section 5. Treasurer*

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of Chapter 23 and for the performance of all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may be from time to time prescribed by the President. He/she shall present a Treasurer's Report to the membership at all regular meetings and shall also prepare an annual written report for the annual meeting to include information on the number of dues paying members and shall present such report at the Annual Meeting.

### *Section 6. Vacancies*

Should there be a vacancy in the Presidency, the Vice-President shall succeed to the Presidency and shall serve until the next annual meeting.

## **Article VI. Executive Committee**

### *Section 1. General Powers*

The management of Chapter 23 shall be and through the Executive Committee.

### *Section 2. Number and Qualifications*

The Executive Committee shall consist of the four (4) officers and one (1) at large member of Chapter 23. The Executive Committee may change its size subject to the approval of the membership at the next annual meeting. Executive Committee members must be Full Members of the National VFP and Chapter 23 at the time of nomination and throughout their term of office. The immediate past president of the Chapter will be an ex officio member of the Executive Committee.

### *Section 3. Term of Office*

A full term of office of an Executive Committee member shall be one (1) year. The term shall be from November 1 to October 31.

### *Section 4. Open Meetings*

Meetings of the Executive Committee are open to the membership of Chapter 23. Minutes shall be kept of Executive Committee meetings and made available to Chapter 23 members.

## **ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS**

### *Section 1. Nomination of Officers*

Nominations for officers may be made by e-mail 30 days prior to the annual meeting, with the approval of the nominee. Nominations may also be made at the annual meeting.

### *Section 2. Voting*

Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting by a simple majority (50% +1) of those eligible voters present at the meeting. Both Full and Associate Members are eligible to vote and must be current in their dues to both the National VFP and Chapter 23 prior to the annual

meeting at which they are voting.

*Section 3. At-large Member of the Executive Committee*

The nomination and election of the At-large Member of the Executive Committee shall comply with the procedures as stated in Sections 1 and 2 above.

**ARTICLE VIII. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

*Section 1. Annual Meeting*

The annual membership meeting shall be held in October.

*Section 2. Regular Meetings*

Regular membership meetings shall be held monthly or as decided by the membership.

**ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

Proposed Amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least 30 days prior to the next Annual Meeting in order to be presented for consideration by the membership at said meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all eligible voters (as defined in Article VII, Section 2) present at the Annual Meeting shall constitute full ratification of the Amendment.