



American Legion Riders

Motorcycle Association

Purpose

- To participate in parades and other ceremonies which are in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion.
- To promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest.
- To use our Association to promote and support the programs of the American Legion

Bylaws

The following paragraphs comprise the bylaws of the American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association, a Program of the American Legion, as approved by the attending Chapters at the National Chapter Officers Meeting during the 2005 Great Lakes Romp, Fowlerville, Michigan, and promulgated by the American Legion Riders Board of Advisors and the Nation American Legion Riders Information Center.

This document is intended to serve as a standard for the bylaws of all Chapters of the American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association, aka, Legion Riders, aka, Riders, aka ALR, henceforth referred to as the ALR. Individual Chapters may, at their option, elect to carry their own set of standing rules or, alternatively, to adopt those herein, augmented through amendment to reflect their local requirements. In either case, the governing rules for any Chapter of the ALR must be no less stringent than the bylaws contained herein [ref: Paragraph 10].

1. **Membership:** There are two recognized "classes" of involvement with the ALR as defined below.
 - 1.1. **Full Members** Prospective full members in the ALR **must** meet requirements in Paragraphs (1.1.1), (1.1.2) and either Paragraph (1.1.3) or Paragraph (1.1.4) below, without exception:

- 1.1.1. Must be a current member in good standing in the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion.
- 1.1.2. Must not at any time hold membership in more than one Post-level Chapter of the ALR.
 - 1.1.2.1. This provision does not preclude a member from holding office in any Governing or Guiding Chapter organized from amongst groupings of Post-level Chapters, including County, District, Department, Regional, or National Chapters, as seen fit by any commensurate organizational level within the American Legion. This is in keeping with the constitution and structure of the American Legion and its family of organizations (*see Paragraph 10.3*).
 - 1.1.2.2. ***Phase in:*** Members holding multiple memberships ***at the time of adoption of Paragraph 1.1.2*** may maintain their multiple memberships until such time as renewal is required at ***any*** Chapter in which the member maintains membership. At this time, the member must select the single Chapter at which they will remain a member, letting all other memberships lapse.
 - 1.1.2.2.1. Paragraph 1.1.2.2. as written becomes obviated and shall be stricken one year following the adoption of Paragraph 1.1.2. The clause of the first sentence of Paragraph 1.1.2.3 referring to this paragraph shall be stricken, and all remaining paragraphs under Paragraph 1.1.2. shall be sequentially renumbered at that time.
 - 1.1.2.3. Following the grace period established in Paragraph 1.1.2.2, any member found to be in violation of Paragraph 1.1.2 must immediately select their home Chapter and relinquish membership in any others upon discovery.
 - 1.1.2.4. Any member refusing to relinquish membership pursuant to Paragraph 1.1.2.3 shall be expelled from the discovering Chapter. Such expulsion does not preclude the member from remaining at any other Chapter at which they hold membership

- AND EITHER -

- 1.1.3. Must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle of at least 350cc (21.4 CI) engine displacement and must possess a valid driver's license in their state of residence (military equivalents acceptable as well).

- OR -

- 1.1.4. Must be the legal spouse of an ALR member in good standing within the Chapter of application.

- 1.2. ***Chapter Supporters*** Chapters, at their own discretion, may allow Chapter Supporters (aka "Supporting Members").

- 1.2.1. The Chapter Supporter classification does not constitute full membership in the ALR, but is intended as a means to provide recognition to those who show strong support to the ALR Chapter.
 - 1.2.2. Prospective Chapter Supporters must, without exception, meet the requirements of Paragraph 1.1.1 above.
 - 1.2.3. All articles of clothing worn by Chapter Supporters displaying the ALR emblem must also contain the words "I support" or "Supporter".
 - 1.2.4. Pursuant to Paragraph 1.2.1, the conferring of "Chapter Supporter" status must not be made in connection with the promise of any material, financial, or political benefit to the Chapter, its members or its officers; nor to any other member at any other organizational level within the ALR; nor must there be any similar gains for the honoree through the conferring of "Chapter Supporter" status.
 - 1.2.5. Chapter Supporters may be issued a membership card which clearly denotes their status as a Chapter Supporter.
- 1.3. ***Continuous Years of Membership*** Chapters, at their option, may provide benefits based on age and ALR membership longevity. In support of this, formal means of tracking a member's affiliation with the ALR are contained in these bylaws.
- 1.3.1. Chapters are encouraged, but not required, to consider non-concurrent (pursuant to Paragraph 1.1.2) membership in other ALR Chapters when determining length of membership.
 - 1.3.2. Each Chapter shall maintain membership records sufficient to establish the continuous length of time any member has been affiliated with that Chapter of the ALR. These records are to minimally include:
 - 1.3.2.1. Date member joined Chapter
 - 1.3.2.2. Record of membership renewals
 - 1.3.2.3. Date of separation from Chapter
 - 1.3.3. A copy of these records shall be provided to any member surrendering their membership in the Chapter, whether voluntary or not, within thirty (30) days of their written request for same.
 - 1.3.4. A copy of this record shall be provided to other Chapters upon written request of the subject Chapter.
 - 1.3.4.1. Written request must include a signed statement of consent from the subject member.
 - 1.3.4.2. No statement regarding the character of the member's membership shall be provided to the requesting Chapter unless explicitly indicated in their request.
 - 1.3.5. This section constitutes a courtesy to the membership. No Chapter of the ALR shall be held legally accountable for any deficiencies in record

keeping which impede a member's ability to establish continuous years of affiliation when leaving one Chapter for another.

2. **Organization:** The ALR is a Post- or Department-Level Program of the American Legion.

2.1. Each Chapter exists at the discretion of the sponsoring Post.

2.2. In certain Departments, the ALR is also recognized and Chapters may be further grouped and/or organized by the Department. In these Departments, additional regional and/or Department-level by-laws may be adopted to which the individual Chapters are subject, unless said by-laws violate the following principles:

2.2.1. The Post remains the organizational level at which any ALR Chapter having individual members exists. The Post is the "atomic level" of the ALR.

2.2.2. Pursuant to Paragraph 2.2.1 above, no Chapter of the ALR can exist without a sponsoring Post, unless such Chapter is comprised only of officers and representatives selected from members in good standing at Post-level Chapters, and with the purpose of advising or governing the represented Post-level Chapters.

2.2.3. Pursuant to Paragraph 2.2.1 and Paragraph 2.2.2 above, no individual can be an ALR member without affiliation with a Post-level Chapter; i.e.: no "at-large", District, Department, or National ALR members can exist without also being a registered and recognized member of a Post-sponsored ALR Chapter, having fulfilled applicable Chapter requirements for membership.

3. **Officers:**

3.1. **Officers of the Chapter:** Each Chapter of the Association must have elected officers. Officers must first be members of the Chapter, having fulfilled the requirements as laid out in Section I above, and fulfilling any additional requirements for membership as determined by the Chapter and Post, District, or Department.

Other titles may be substituted for those cited in this document, per the discretion of the Chapter, and pursuant to any requirements of National, Departmental, or Regional Legion rules governing the subject ALR Chapter.

There are required offices as well as those which can be filled at the discretion of the Chapter, defined as follows:

3.1.1. *Required Offices*

3.1.1.1. Director:

- 3.1.1.1.1. Serves as Chief Administrative Officer of the Chapter and presides over all meetings.
- 3.1.1.1.2. Supervises all affairs of the Chapter.
- 3.1.1.1.3. Performs such other duties as directed by the general membership.

3.1.1.2. Assistant Director

- 3.1.1.2.1. Assumes the duties of the Director in his/her absence.
- 3.1.1.2.2. Assists the Director in the performance of his/her duties when called on to do so by the Director.

3.1.1.3. Secretary

- 3.1.1.3.1. Keeps a full and accurate record of all proceedings at the meetings.
- 3.1.1.3.2. Keeps membership records as may be required by the general membership.
- 3.1.1.3.3. Provides detailed minutes of prior meeting at each regular meeting.

3.1.1.4. Treasurer

- 3.1.1.4.1. Responsible for all finances of the Chapter.
- 3.1.1.4.2. Disburses and collects funds as directed by the general membership, pursuant to Paragraph 6 below.
- 3.1.1.4.3. Provides detailed financial reports at each regular meeting.
- 3.1.1.4.4. Provides financial audit data to the sponsoring Post if requested.

3.1.1.5. Sgt. At Arms/Run Coordinator

- 3.1.1.5.1. Responsible for all logistics of organized runs of the Association, including determination of dates, times, routes, and meeting places for those taking part in a run activity.
- 3.1.1.5.2. Appoints, directs, and dismisses assistant road captains and/or security personnel as may be required by activities and/or circumstances of the Chapter.
- 3.1.1.5.3. Responsible to plan for the safety of Chapter members during participation in any run or activity; and to plan for the safety of other participants in any Chapter-sponsored run or activity.
- 3.1.1.5.4. Maintains order during chapter meetings.
- 3.1.1.5.5. Ensures eligibility of those participating in Chapter elections, and ensures ineligible persons are not allowed to participate in

the vote.

3.1.2. *Discretionary Offices*

3.1.2.1. Historian

- 3.1.2.1.1. Compiles and maintains records to document activities of Chapter, including written and photographic documentation.
- 3.1.2.1.2. If the Chapter is so equipped, the Historian may also serve as webmaster.

3.1.2.2. Membership Chairman

- 3.1.2.2.1. Relieves Secretary of responsibility for maintenance of membership records as may be required by the general membership.
- 3.1.2.2.2. Collects membership dues as determined by the Chapter by-laws, and provides same to Treasurer on a regular basis.
- 3.1.2.2.3. Reviews and/or collects eligibility documentation as required by the general members, sponsoring Post Executive Board, Department, or State and Local laws.
- 3.1.2.2.4. Provides detailed membership reports at regular meetings of the Chapter.

3.1.2.3. Chaplain

- 3.1.2.3.1. Provides invocation at regular meetings or other activities as may be required by the general membership.

3.1.3. *Additional Roles* The Chapter may, at their discretion, appoint or elect individuals to fulfill various other roles required for operation of the Chapter. These appointments or elections may be intended to relieve Chapter Officers of certain of their roles, or to fulfill Chapter-specific requirements.

- 3.1.3.1. These roles and the manner of filling them must be defined in the Chapter Bylaws at inception or through amendment.
- 3.1.3.2. Examples of such roles include separation of the Sgt. at Arms and Run Coordinator duties; addition of Communications or Liaison Officer; Webmaster, Store Keeper, Road Captains, etc.
- 3.1.3.3. These individual roles will be considered Chapter officers or committee chairmen at the discretion of the Chapter, and as defined within the Chapter bylaws.

3.1.4. *Considerations for Office* Any full member in good standing, having fulfilled the requirements of Paragraph 1.1, are eligible to serve in any

office of their Chapter, with the following exceptions:

- 3.1.4.1. Pursuant to Paragraph 1.1.2, no one shall hold office in more than one Post-level Chapter of the ALR. This provision does not preclude a member from holding office in any Governing or Guiding Chapter organized from amongst groupings of Post-level Chapters, including County, District, Department, Regional, or National Chapters, as seen fit by any commensurate organizational level within the American Legion. This is in keeping with the constitution and structure of the American Legion and its family of organizations (*see Paragraph 10.3*).
- 3.1.4.2. To ensure that prospective members are fully aware of the personality of, and issues at their Chapter, no member having been so for less than one calendar year shall be considered for any office of their Chapter, unless the Chapter itself has been in existence for less than one calendar year. In the event that no members fulfilling this requirement are available or willing to serve, compliance to Paragraph 3.1.4.2 is waived in favor of survival of the Chapter.

3.2. Officers of the District and/or Department Where so organized, Districts and/org Departments will have officers as required and designated by the organizing District or Department. These officers will have oversight of the affiliated Chapters as defined by the Chapters within the District and Department, or as required by the American Legion Department officers.

3.3. ALR National Advisory Board

- 3.3.1. **Charter** The ALR National Advisory Board was created by majority vote of Chapters represented at the 2003 National Chapter Officers Meeting.
- 3.3.2. **Purpose** The ALR National Advisory Board shall act as a non-governing committee to help support the growth of New Chapters and to collect and distribute other information to assist existing chapters. This is not to be construed as the existence of a national governing or ruling organization over any other Chapter, but is intended to collectively offer advice and assistance in the formation and management of ALR Chapters.
- 3.3.3. **Membership** The National Advisory Board currently staffed by the following officers:
 - 3.3.3.1. Original members of the National Advisory Board elected at the 2003 National Chapter Officers Meeting:
 - *Director:* Bill Kaledas
 - *Asst. Director:* Keith Jones
 - *Secretary:* Bernie Dare
 - *At-Large:* Chuck Dare
 - 3.3.3.2. Additional member of the National Advisory Board appointed by the elected officers:

- *Communications:* Pat Babcock

3.3.4. **Tenure** The ALR National Advisory Board serves until recalled by majority vote of Chapters represented at any National Chapter Officers Meeting.

3.4. National American Legion Riders Liaison

3.4.1. The National American Legion in Indianapolis, IN (National) may, at its discretion, appoint one or more liaisons to the ALR to facilitate program publicity, communication between The American Legion and the ALR, or other purposes as deemed necessary by The American Legion.

3.4.2. A National ALR Liaison is not an ALR member, unless fulfilling Paragraph 1.1 and Paragraph 2.2.3 above. Further, a National ALR Liaison, as an officer of The American Legion, is not required to be an ALR member in order to fulfill the requirements of his/her office.

4. **Elections:** Officers serve at the discretion of the Association Membership; therefore, regular elections must be held to select officers from amongst the members in good standing.

4.1. Officers of the Chapter shall be elected through an annual nominating and balloting process as determined by the general membership and defined within the Chapter bylaws.

4.1.1. Election of officers will take place annually, at such time as determined by the general membership and reflected within the Chapter bylaws.

4.1.2. A nominating method will be employed as determined by the general membership and reflected in the Chapter bylaws.

4.1.2.1. Only those members of the Chapter in good standing (fulfilling Paragraph 1.1 and any local requirements) at the time of nominations shall be allowed to make a nomination.

4.1.2.2. Only those members of the Chapter in good standing (fulfilling Paragraph 1.1 and any local requirements) at the time of nominations and who will fulfill requirements for officers (Paragraph 3.1.4) by the time elections are held shall be allowed to accept a nomination.

4.1.2.3. Determination of eligibility shall be made by the Sgt. At Arms using membership records of the Chapter and whatever means of identification of the member as deemed necessary by the general membership.

4.1.3. A balloting method (show of hands, secret ballot, etc) shall be consistently employed as determined by the general membership and reflected within the Chapter bylaws.

- 4.1.3.1. Only those members of the Chapter in good standing (fulfilling Paragraph 1.1 and any local requirements) at the time of election shall be allowed to vote.
 - 4.1.3.2. Determination of eligibility shall be made by the Sgt. At Arms using membership records of the Chapter and whatever means of identification of the member as deemed necessary by the general membership.
 - 4.2. Where two or more Chapters exist in a Department (State), and those Chapters have elected to further organize into a Department-Level program, the practices of that Department will prevail for the naming of state officers, if any. If the Department wishes to impose no practice, then State Officers will be named by a manner that is in agreement between the Chapters involved.
5. **Meetings:**
 - 5.1. Meetings will be held at a date, time and location as determined by a majority vote at the Chapter organizing meeting.
 - 5.1.1. Meeting date, time and location may be changed by majority vote at any regular Chapter meeting
 - 5.2. Seven members will constitute a quorum.
 - 5.3. Meetings will be conducted under “Roberts Rules of Order”. (*ref: www.constitution.org/rror/rror--00.htm*)
6. **Finances:** Finances of each Association Chapter will be from Association membership dues or such other sources, as approved by the membership.
 - 6.1. Chapter finances will be held in such manner as allowed by the rules of the sponsoring Post.
 - 6.2. As a Post-level activity of the American Legion, it is recognized that all funds and property of the Chapter is ultimately property of the Post, and must be reported and/or surrendered upon demand of the Post Executive Board.
 - 6.3. As a Post-level activity of the American Legion, the Chapter enjoys the tax-exempt status of the Post and must manage its finances in accordance with applicable Federal (IRS), State, and local laws applicable to nonprofit organizations.
 - 6.4. Disbursement of funds will be only those authorized at any regular meeting of the Chapter. As noted above, each Chapter is a nonprofit organization and may only disburse funds in a manner in accordance with all Federal (IRS), State, and local laws applicable to nonprofit organizations.
7. **Expulsion:** Methods for the expulsion or suspension of members are outlined below.

7.1. Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Chapter by a majority vote of the general membership at a regular Chapter meeting.

7.1.1. Such expulsion does not preclude the individual from joining at another Chapter

7.1.2. Pursuant to Paragraph 2.2.3, the individual is no longer a member of the ALR upon expulsion from a Chapter; unless or until said individual is a member in good standing within another Chapter.

7.2. Any member no longer fulfilling the requirements of Paragraph 1.1 is immediately expelled from full membership in the ALR until such time as the requirements as outlined Paragraph 1.1 are again fulfilled.

8. **Charter Membership:**

8.1. Each State Chapter may determine eligibility for Charter Membership within its own State Chapter and/or within the individual Chapters within its Department.

8.2. The designation of "Founding Member" is reserved to honor those members who originally founded the ALR and will not be substituted for the designation of "Charter Member".

9. **Chapter Designation:**

9.1. Each Chapter will be designated by the Department (State) in which the majority of its members reside. Chapter designations may be further broken down into District and Post (i.e.: Michigan Chapter 16th District Post 396).

9.2. At no time shall a Chapter refer to itself or present itself as an M/C.

10. **Governing Rules:** Each State Chapter may elect to adopt a set of standing rules to govern its Membership or, at the Chapter's discretion, amend these by-laws to fit their local requirements.

10.1. These standing rules or amended bylaws shall be no less stringent than those contained herein.

10.2. These standing rules or amended bylaws shall contain the stated purpose for the ALR, as defined in the introductory language of these bylaws.

10.3. These standing rules or amended bylaws must not be in conflict with the National Constitution, or with the bylaws of the American Legion, Department, Sponsoring Post, or with Federal, State, and local laws.

11. **Amendment:**

11.1. *National Bylaw Template*

11.1.1. The bylaws as set forth in this document shall be amended only through motion, second, and majority vote of Chapter representatives in attendance

at the annual National Chapter Officers Meeting.

11.2. *Department, and/or District Bylaws*

- 11.2.1. The standing rules or bylaws set forth by Department or District organization of ALR Chapters shall be amended by those means set forth within the applicable standing rules or bylaws.
- 11.2.2. Where means of amendment are not explicitly defined, amendment shall be made through motion, second, and majority vote of representatives selected from the Chapters within the Department or District.

11.3. *Chapter Bylaws*

- 11.3.1. The standing rules or bylaws set forth by the Chapter shall be amended by those means set forth within the applicable standing rules or bylaws.
- 11.3.2. Where means of amendment are not explicitly defined, amendment shall be made through motion, second, and majority vote of members in attendance at any regular Chapter meeting.

12. **Uniform:**

12.1. *The American Flag*

- 12.1.1. When worn by an ALR member, the Flag must not be subjugated by any other emblem or standard on the item of apparel to which it is affixed.
- 12.1.2. When worn by an ALR member, the Flag must not be obscured or covered by any other emblem or standard on the item of apparel to which it is affixed.
- 12.1.3. Established standards for the display and wearing of the Flag must be observed:
 - 12.1.3.1. When worn on the shoulder of a garment, the field of stars must be forward, as if the Flag is carried into the wind on a pole.
 - 12.1.3.2. When worn on the back or front of a garment, the field of stars is to be on the left.
 - 12.1.3.3. When worn in conjunction with one (1) flag of another organization, sovereignty, territory, or nation, the Flag must be in a numerically superior (to the left of the other flag when viewed from the front).
 - 12.1.3.4. When worn in conjunction with several flags of other organizations, sovereignties, territories, or nations, the Flag must be worn in the center and above any other flag in the grouping.
 - 12.1.3.5. No graphic or slogan is ever to appear across the Flag.
 - 12.1.3.6. The Flag is never to be worn on the seat of the pants, or on any other location that could be considered disrespectful to the Flag

12.1.4. When worn garments bearing the Flag are to be discarded, the Flag is to be removed from the garment and retired in a manner appropriate to the Flag of The United States of America.

12.2. *The ALR Back Patch*

12.2.1. The ALR Back Patch, configured as put forth by the Founding Members and available through The American Legion Emblem Sales, is to be worn by all members of the ALR in good standing.

12.2.2. The Back Patch must be the dominant feature of the back of the garment upon which it is worn; i.e., the ALR back patch must not be subjugated to the patch of any M/C or motorcycle owners' group.

12.2.3. If desired by the Chapter, the following lower rocker configurations may be worn with the Back Patch, assuming the listed provisions are met:

12.2.3.1. The designation *Veteran* is only to be worn by those who satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1.1 and can produce a DD214 indicating they have served on Federal active duty during the periods of conflict prescribed for Legion membership, were honorably discharged, and are members in good standing of The American Legion. A current, valid Legion membership card shall suffice as evidence of these requirements

12.2.3.1.1. Members who are Veterans but do not fulfill the requirements for membership in The American Legion should not wear the Veteran rocker. See the applicable of Paragraphs 12.2.3.2 or 12.2.3.3 below.

12.2.3.2. The designation *Squadron* is only to be worn by those who satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1.1 and are members in good standing of the Sons of The American Legion. A current, valid SAL membership card shall suffice as evidence of these requirements.

12.2.3.3. The designation *Auxiliary* is only to be worn by those who satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1.1 and are members in good standing of The American Legion Auxiliary. A current, valid Legion Auxiliary membership card shall suffice as evidence of these requirements.

12.2.3.4. The designation *I Support* is only to be worn by those who have been elected as Chapter Supporters. These individuals may not wear any of the aforementioned rockers regardless of their military status or Legion membership type, unless and until such time as they satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1.1.

- 12.2.4. It is recommended and the intent of these bylaws that those who are not Full ALR Members and have not been elected as Chapter Supporters do not wear the ALR Back Patch.
- 12.2.5. Specification of the garment upon which the Back Patch is to be worn is left to the discretion of the individual Chapters.

12.3. *Dress*

- 12.3.1. Each Chapter is free to set the standards to which Chapter members are attired, unless superseded by the oversight of a formally recognized Regional Chapter's requirements, pursuant to the following:
 - 12.3.1.1. The ALR is a program of The American Legion, and as such, members are representatives of The American Legion. It is strongly recommended that members dress in a manner that promotes a positive image for The American Legion, particularly when operating in group activities or interacting with the community.
 - 12.3.1.2. The ALR Back Patch and other related articles of clothing incorporate The American Legion emblem, and must be worn in a manner consistent with The American Legion emblem requirements.

12.4. *Control and Surrender of Items Incorporating Emblem*

- 12.4.1. Since items incorporating the ALR emblem are available to the public through The American Legion Emblem Sales, there is no mechanism by which to restrict their use and display by non-members.
- 12.4.2. There is no mechanism by which the ALR can legally reclaim items incorporating the ALR emblem from those ex-members who choose to sever their relationship with the ALR.

