

American Legion Riders of Maine

Constitution

Preamble

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Purpose

The American Legion Riders is formed to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as a family of oriented motorcycling activity for members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion.

Article 1 – Name

The name of this program shall be THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS, Department of Maine.

Article II – Nature

Section 1 The American Legion Riders (ALR) is a program for members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion members, collectively “The American Legion Family,” who share an interest in motorcycling.

Section 2. The American Legion Riders upholds the declared principles of The American Legion and conforms to and abides by regulations and decisions of The American Legion Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. The ALR maintains and protects the image of The American Legion Emblem. The emblem of The American Legion demands “that the wearer shall ever guard the sanctity of home and country and free institutions.”

Section 4. Under no circumstance shall an emblem of The American Legion be marketed, sold, or subordinated to any other organizational logo or emblem without the approval and consent of The American Legion national organization.

Section 5. Members of the ALR avoid any perception of being a motorcycle or “biker” club or gang. Rather, the focus of membership is for the enjoyment of motorcycles and comradeship and furthering Legion programs in the community.

Section 6. The ALR strives to improve the public’s perception of the motorcycling community by promoting the honorable nature of military service, and service to one’s community, state and nation through the sport of motorcycling.

Section 7. Members of the ALR comply at all times with the motor vehicle safety, licensing, and insurance laws or regulations of the state in which operating.

Section 8. Per NEC Resolution No. 37, May 4-5, 1988 ALR Chapters do not have the authority to enter into any formal association or club/council membership with any outside organization that may act or vote in any manner outside the control of The American Legion.

ARTICLE III – Organization

Section 1. The American Legion Riders of Maine is organized to support communication among the American Legion Rider Post Chapters and the American Legion Department of Maine.

Section 2. The American Legion Riders of Maine exists at the discretion of The American Legion Department Executive Committee. Each individual ALR Chapter exists at the discretion of each sponsoring Post. The chapter officers and executive committee are responsible and accountable to the sponsoring Post/Department Executive Committee.

A. Elected Officers

Section 1. The Elected Officers of The American Legion Riders of Maine will be a Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Sergeant At Arms/Safety Officer, Road Captain, Historian, Chaplain, Treasurer, Membership Chairperson, or any other American Legion Department Executive Committee approved position added by election or appointment.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Winter Meeting of The American Legion Riders of Maine. The Executive Committee, between meetings, is vested the administrative power of the ALR.

Article IV – Membership Eligibility

Section 1. Eligibility for Full membership in the American Legion Riders shall be as prescribed by the national constitutions of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain ALR membership by owning individually or through marriage, a common-law marriage, a life partnership or a long term relationship, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by the ALR member's state laws.

Section 3. Members will not at any time hold membership in more than one chapter of the American Legion Riders.

Section 4. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership owning individually or through family, a motorcycle/trike licensed, registered, and insured as required under local laws.

Section 5. Members in good standing may continue to retain full membership if they have given up motorcycle ownership involuntarily because of age, injury, health reasons or financial hardship.

Section 6. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership and dues shall be paid as required by the chapter. There shall be no district or state ALR dues.

Section 7. ALR chapters may allow "Supporters" and they must be a current paid member of the Legion Family (Legion, SAL, AUX). Dues to be determined by each Chapter. Supporters may have a voice but can only serve on supporting committees at a Chapter, they cannot hold an officer position. The number of Supporters per chapter cannot exceed fifty percent of the Rider membership. Supporters may wear a back patch stating Chapter and location.

Article V – Wearing of American Legion Emblem

Section 1. The American Legion Riders back patch, as copyrighted and sold by The American Legion's Emblem Sales division, is authorized for wear by all current members of the ALR. American Legion logos and emblems may also be authorized by the host post for wear by selected volunteers performing work on behalf of the local Post or Post programs.

Section 2. ALR members' vests should display the integrity, principles and values of The American Legion and the ALR by avoiding patches or pins with (1) explicit or offensive language and/or images and (2) political or partisan language and/or images since The American Legion is a non-partisan organization.

Section 3. No other back patch or back patch design is authorized for wear as an ALR emblem.

Section 4. Department standards and specifications for patch sales should be on file with Emblem Sales.

Section 6. If department or Post identifying information is to be embroidered on the patch, Emblem Sales must have on record authorization from the department adjutant that such specific identifying information may be used on the patch.

Section 7. No other patch, tab, rocker, text, background art or color that is in conflict with an American Legion protected trademark may be used on clothing, banners, flags, posters or advertisements.

Section 8. No use of rockers, nothing physically attached to ALR patch due to trademark laws.

Article VI – Finance

Section 1. The revenue of the State ALR/Chapter shall be derived from such membership fees, or dues, and from such other sources as may be approved by The American Legion DEC.

Section 2. The amount of such membership or initiation fees and the amount of such annual chapter dues shall be fixed and determined by the chapter and shall remain within the ALR Chapter.

Section 3. Access to ALR finance reports shall be shared with the Post Executive Committee and The American Legion Department of Maine Finance officer.

Article VII – Expulsion of Suspension

Section 1. Any member may be expelled, or suspended, from the ALR for non-payment of dues to their sponsoring Chapter.

Section 2. Any member of the ALR may be expelled, or suspended, for cause by the majority of the general membership, at a regular ALR meeting of the state/chapter (i.e. – for behavior unbecoming a member).

Section 3. The initial start of the appeal process will begin at the Chapter level, stopping at the ALR Executive Committee.

Article VIII – Amendments

Section 1. This constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the national constitution, department constitution, and Post constitution of which this chapter is a subordinate program. Any amendment to the national, department, or Post constitution that is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions or the constitution and bylaws of this chapter to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. This constitution may be amended by a vote of 2/3 of all the active members that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing. Further, that traditional mail or electronic mail notice shall have been sent to all Chapter addresses of record at least 30 days in advance of the date which such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said Chapter that each Chapter will get (1) vote per amendment. No response is a “no” response and will stand as a nonvoter.

Article VIII – Liability

Section 1. The ALR chapter’s sponsoring organization (post, district and/or department) are strongly urged to review liability insurance coverage to ensure that adequate insurance coverage is available to insure/cover the sponsoring organization, including insurance coverage for any specific special riding event.

Section 2. The American Legion Riders of Maine assumes no responsibilities for Chapters duties to their members or Post.

Section 3. No liability shall be assumed for Post Chapter ALR events by the American Legion Riders of Maine.

Section 4. That any event sponsored by the American Legion Riders of Maine shall require a participant waiver signed by all in attendance.

American Legion Riders of Maine

By-Laws

ARTICLE I - NAME

Article I – Name

Section 1. The Riders Organization existing under these By-Laws is to be known as The American Legion Riders, Department of Maine. (Hereafter “ALR”)

Section 2. The objects of the ALR are as set forth in the Constitution.

Article II — Management

Section 1. The government and management of the ALR are entrusted to an Executive Committee.

Section 2. Between the Rallies, the administrative power of the ALR shall be vested to the ALR Executive Committee for the current year as well as the immediate Past ALR Director.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall consist of all elected officers of the ALR and the past year State Director.

Section 4. Candidates should state their intention to run for office 30 days prior to Winter Rally as elections will be at the annual Winter Rally. Elected officers take office following the election. The candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes by ballot shall be elected to the respective office or offices for which they are candidates.

Section 5. Any member in good standing who have held an officer position at the Post or Department level in the Legion, SAL, or the Auxiliary. Members wishing to be a candidate should send a letter of intent to the ALR Executive Committee with a short bio and statement on why you are running for an office, be nominated, or voice verbal intent at the beginning of the Winter Rally.

Section 6. Elections are by ballot, handed out at the Winter Rally and is the first order of business. The Sergeant At Arms and Assistant Director will count ballots and results are announced at end of Winter Rally prior to the closing of the meeting.

Section 6. All vacancies existing in any elective office of the ALR from any cause other than the expiration of the term shall be appointed by majority vote of the Executive Committee during the year of the vacancy, and a person so appointed shall hold office for the unexpired term. A vacancy shall exist when a member or officer is absent from three consecutive ALR meetings, unless excused by the Director of the ALR.

Section 7. All elections of officers shall be by delegates of each post chapter. Delegates consist of one delegate for every ten paid members. Only the number of delegates present for each post chapter may vote. Number of delegates for each post chapter will be verified by the state Secretary and Membership Chairman prior to meeting.

Section 8. Only two (2) members from any Chapter may hold a position on the Executive Committee at the same time. No couples, spouses, or immediate family members may hold a position at the same time.

Section 8. All Past ALR Directors are welcome to attend Executive Committee meetings with a voice but no voting privileges.

Article III — Meetings

Section 1. The annual Winter Rally for the ALR will be held at a Chapter location determined at the Summer Rally.

- a) First business shall be notice of those running, nominations, or verbal intent of candidates followed by each candidate presenting their bio and purpose of running for an office (2 minute max). Each Chapter gets 1 ballot per 10 members, Chapter must be present to vote. In the event of a tie, another vote will take place between tied candidates.
- b) Chapter locations for Summer Rally will be presented and voted on by ballot. Interested Chapters will stand and be given 2 minutes to voice why the Summer Rally should be at their location. Each Chapter present will get one (1) vote to decide location of Summer Rally.
- c) The Winter Rally should be held at a different location each year.

Section 2. The annual Summer Rally for the ALR will be held at a Chapter location determined at the Winter Rally.

- a) Chapter locations for Winter Rally will be presented and voted on by ballot. Interested Chapters will stand and be given 2 minutes to voice why the Winter Rally should be at their location. Each Chapter present will get one (1) vote to decide location of Winter Rally.

Section 3. Items being sold at meetings must be by ALR Chapters. The Chapter hosting rally will have T-Shirt right of sale if desired. Hosting Chapter will notify Executive Committee 30 days from their Chapter being awarded meeting location and notify if they are selling items. The design must be submitted to Executive Committee 60 days prior to rally for approval. No private sellers or outside vendors, no personal profiting or personal benefit.

Section 4. The ALR Director or a majority of the Executive Committee shall have the power to call an Executive meeting within 10 days of notification.

Section 5. Five (5) Chapters present at rally constitute a quorum.

Section 6. All proceedings shall be conducted under and pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised).

Article IV --- ALR Executive Committee

Section 1. The ALR Executive Committee shall meet for organizational or other such business immediately following the close of the Winter Rally/Elections. The ALR Executive Committee shall have the power to call an Executive meeting within 10 days of notification. Five (5) members constitute a quorum.

Article V—Duties of Officers

Section 1. ALR Director- Preside over all meetings of Executive Committee and Rallies, shall have general supervision over the affairs of the program, perform all other duties as directed by the membership. The ALR Director shall be responsible to approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds, create an annual report covering the business of the ALR for the year, which shall be read at the annual meeting, and be the communicator between The American Legion Department of Maine Commander, Department Finance Officer, and Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. Assistant ALR Director- Will assume the duties of the Director should the Director not be available, assist the Director in performance of all duties as called on, perform duties or chair committees as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Secretary- will keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings of ALR meetings, keep records as the Department may require, maintain database with Chapter and member information, assist ALR Director with frequent newsletters, and perform such duties or chair committees as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Road Captain- Coordinate all state tours, runs and activities and events; lead the ALR in information in riding and parades; promote interest in activities; enforce all rules of safe motorcycle operation and group riding and perform duties or chair committees as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Historian. Shall maintain the individual records and incidents of the ALR shall perform such other duties as may properly pertain to the office as may be determined by the ALR or the ALR Director.

Section 6. Chaplain. Shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the members and will offer divine but nonsectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., and will adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the ALR from time to time.

Section 7. Sergeant-at-Arms/Safety Officer. Will preserve order at meetings, assist with the set-up of meetings and other activities, verify membership eligibility of those attending the meetings and voting in election; shall be the keeper of the flag and other ALR regalia; will perform such other duties as may be from time to time assigned by the ALR Director.

Section 8. Membership Chairperson. Shall be charged with the promotion of public support of the ALR program and activities by the establishment of proper contact with public media, and shall publish a regularly recurring newsletter of the ALR; Shall prepare and maintain the official website of the ALR.

Section 9. Treasurer- responsible for oversight of the ALR finances, signer of the checks disbursing funds as directed by the Executive Committee or by majority vote of State

membership, shall provide a detailed finance report at each meeting and rally, provide financial detail to Department Finance Officer, and assist ALR Director with annual report.

Section 10. No officer shall enter into any verbal or written contracts without approval of the Executive Committee and the membership.

Article VI --- Notices

Section 1. Each Chapter is to have an up to date Membership Roster with information on members and supporters provided to ALR Secretary in June and December annually. Rosters will contain valid e-mail addresses, mailing, addresses, phone numbers and pertinent information on members and supporters.

Section 2. The American Flag Patch shall be displayed on either side of the front of the vest providing that the stars on the patch are closest to the center of the chest and in the highest feasible position. No other patch or item shall be displayed above the American Flag.

Section 3. First time members and annual membership renewals need to provide: completed and signed membership forms; waiver of liability; proof of membership in the Legion Family; proof of up to date insurance, registration, and license showing motorcycle endorsement; and proof of ALR Chapter dues paid up to date.

Section 4. Each Chapter is responsible for an ALR financial report as requested by their Post.

Section 5. ALR Chapters are a part of the Post bearing the Chapter's name. Items purchased or donated on behalf of that Chapter may belong to the sponsoring Post. If all members in a Chapter terminate their membership to that Chapter it does not dissolve the Chapter. The ALR Executive Committee must be notified will assist with the process.

Section 6. Finances of ALR Chapters that dissolve turn funds over to sponsoring Post and ALR Executive Committee needs to be notified.

Section 7. The ALR Executive Committee will notify membership of elections or By-Laws amendments 30 days in advance of meeting or rally.

Section 8. Membership cards should state member or supporter, Chapter, location, and year. Every Chapter should utilize cards to verify membership.

Section 9. Statewide or local events should be shared with the ALR Executive Committee who in turn can share it in the Department of Maine's media avenues and newsletters.

Article VII —Disciplinary Actions

Section 1. Vulgarity, profanity, and provocative verbiage and imagery (being verbiage and imagery intended to threaten, harass, insult or frighten non-members) shall not be displayed on any item simultaneously bearing the ALR emblem or an emblem of The American Legion; provided that questions concerning same shall be presented to and decided by ALR Executive Committee.

Section 2. Any member participating or displaying in conduct unbecoming of The American Legion Family may be subject to disciplinary actions. Chapters will notify the ALR Executive Committee to deal with these matters.

Section 3. Any member suspended, expelled, or refused membership from a Chapter must receive approval from the ALR Executive Committee when seeking membership to another Chapter.

Section 4. Any member removed from a state or Chapter officer position will have their future ability to hold any officer position determined by the ALR Executive Committee.

Article VIII --- Limitations of Liabilities

Section 1. The American Legion Riders of Maine assumes no responsibilities for Chapters duties to their members or Post.

Section 2. No liability shall be assumed for Post Chapter ALR events by the American Legion Riders of Maine.

Section 3. That any event sponsored by the American Legion Riders of Maine shall require a participant waiver signed by all in attendance.

Article IV — Meetings

Section 1. These By-laws may be amended at a Rally by a vote of two-thirds of the members at the said meeting, providing that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the ALR Executive Committee by the Chapter proposing the amendments 30 days prior to the meeting.

Approved on December 11, 2021 at E-Board meeting.

STATE ALR OFFICERS 2020-2021



Director Mike Lallemand



Asst. Director Ron Wing



Secretary, Bridget Ellis



Sgt-At-Arms Carl Curtis