



**Department of Vermont
American Legion Riders
Constitution
Approved 9 September, 2012**

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 one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligations 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 oriented motorcycling activity for the members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion.

Article I --- Name

The name of this program shall be **The American Legion Riders, Department of Vermont.**

Article II --- Nature

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

Section 2. The ALR upholds the declared principles of the American Legion as well as conforms to and abides by the guidelines and decisions of the National organization of the American Legion.

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

Section 4. Members of the ALR are to avoid any perception of being a “motorcycle club” or “biker club”. Rather the focus of the membership is for the enjoyment of motorcycles and comradeship and furthering Legion programs in the community.

Section 5. The ALR will improve the public’s perception of the motorcycling community by promoting the honorable nature of the service to one’s community, state, and nation through the sport of motorcycling.

Section 6. Members of the ALR will comply at all times with the motor vehicle safety, licensing and insurance laws or regulations of the state in which operating.

Section 7. Under no circumstances may a Chapter’s Constitution contradict that of the Department.

Article III---Organization

The ALR is organized at Post Level. Each chapter exists at the discretion of the sponsoring post. The chapter officers and executive committee are responsible and accountable to the sponsoring post executive committee. Chapters shall be identified with the number of the sponsoring Post.

Article IV---Membership Eligibility

Section 1. Eligibility for basic membership in the ALR shall be as prescribed by the national constitution of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion.

Section 2. All members of the American Legion Riders must further demonstrate current individual membership in the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or the Sons of the American Legion.

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

Section 4. In addition to section 1-3 above, members must be a legally registered, licensed and insured owner of a motorcycle or the spouse of said owner, also being a member of the American Legion in good standing.

Section 5. All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws.

Section 6. All members will obey the motor vehicle laws in any state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

Section 7. ALR chapters **may** allow continued membership for those who have been **continuous** full members in good standing who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury, or other reasons outside the member’s control.

Section 8. Supporters – ALR Chapter may allow for supporting members. Supporting members must be and continue to be a current paid member of the Legion Family (Legionnaire, SAL, AUX.). Dues to be determined by each Chapter. Supporters may have a voice and can serve on or chair any supporting committee but do not have a vote at any ALR State function and can hold no officer position. Supporters may wear a back patch stating Chapter and location and must state they are a supporter.

Article V-----Wearing of American Legion Rider Emblem

Section 1. The American Legion Riders patches, as copyrighted and sold by the American Legion’s Emblem sales division, are authorized for wear by all current members of the ALR.

Section 2. No other ALR patch design is authorized for wear.

Section 3. Department standards for patch sales should be on file with Emblem Sales.

Section 4. If department or Post identifying information is to be embroidered on the patch, Emblems sales must have on record authorization from Department Adjutant that such specific identifying information may be used on the patch.

Section 5. Use of rockers or patches physically attached to the ALR patches are not allowed due to trademark laws.

Article VI --- State Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the State ALR Executive Committee are; Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Sergeant at-Arms, Road Captain and Safety Officer, who will be elected annually. Public Relations Officer/Historian, Chaplin, Web Master and other positions as deemed necessary may be appointed by elected Officers after elections and will be voting members of the Executive Committee. Between State meetings, the administrative power of the State shall be vested in the State Executive Committee, whose voting members shall consist of all Officers for the current year and Past State Directors.

Article VII---Finance

Section 1. The revenue of the Chapter shall be derived from such membership fees or dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Chapter Executive Committee. Dues are not a requirement at the National level and are optional at all other levels.

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

Article VIII – Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the National Constitution and the Department of Vermont Constitution. Any amendment to the National or Department of Vermont Constitution that is in conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provision of the State of Vermont ALR constitution and By-Laws to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. This constitution may be amended at the Winter State meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the Chapter delegates attending such regular meeting provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the immediate preceding meeting. Further, that traditional mail or electronic mail notices shall have been sent to all Directors addresses of record at least 30 days in advance of the date which such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said Directors that at such meeting there will be a proposal to amend the Constitution.