

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS DEPARTMENT OF
NEW JERSEY**

Constitution



PREAMBLE We as the American Legion Riders 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 true spirit of Americanism; To preserve the memories of our current and former members of The American Legion and the associations of our members and our forefathers of all Wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and goodwill on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principals of justice, freedom and democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our brotherhood by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; To adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principals for which The American Legion stands; And to assist in carrying on for God and Country.

PURPOSE The American Legion Riders are formed to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as a family oriented motorcycling activity for members of The American Legion, The 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 New Jersey.

ARTICLE II - NATURE

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

Section 2. The ALR will uphold the declared principles of The American Legion as well as conform to and abide by the rules, regulations and decisions of the department, post, or other duly constituted governing body.

Section 3. The American Legion Riders shall represent the virtues, values, ethics, and morals of The American Legion in support of freedom, democracy, and the safety of our citizens. Affiliations of ALR programs with other groups and organizations that subscribe to the principles of and oppose our form of government by promoting anti-Americanism, anti-establishment, or pro-criminal culture shall not be permitted.

Section 4. Members of the ALR will 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 American Legion programs in the community.

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

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

ARTICLE III - ORGANIZATION

Section 1, The ALR are organized at the Post levels inclusive. Each chapter exists at the discretion of the sponsoring Post. The chapter officers and executive committee are responsible and accountable to the sponsoring Post.

Section 2, The American Legion Riders programs shall abide by The American Legion Department Constitution & Bylaws, as well as the established ALR Bylaws approved by the sponsoring Post.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. All members of the ALR must further demonstrate current individual membership in good standing in The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. Members will not hold membership in more than one chapter of ALR at one time.

Section 3. In addition to sections 1-3 above, members must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle, 600cc or above.

Section 4. All operators must be properly licensed and insured per their state rules and regulations.

Section 5. All the ALR, membership cards will be provided by either the sponsoring Post or the ALR Chapter of that Post.

Section 6, **"Support," "Volunteer," and/or "Honorary" Categories. American Legion Rider "Supporter" status is a Post determination granted only to those Legion Family members who go "beyond the call" to support the ALR program.**

Supporting, honorary, or volunteer categories are allowable—but only for current members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, or The Sons of The American Legion. At the discretion of the Post the decision to provide them with limited voting privileges or other privileges, or an identifying “support” patch, is discretionary. Further, the post may decide to restrict any association with the American Legion Riders to motorcycle owners and operators only. Under no circumstances will non-Legion Family be offered the status of supporter, honorary member, or volunteer. (American Legion Riders Recommendations from National, August 5, 2016)

ARTICLE V - WEARING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION EMBLEM

Section 1. The patch wear is an intensely personal statement by our members, the Chapter or Department should not tell a Rider how to arrange his or her patches, or what they can or cannot wear, unless such arrangement or display brings discredit upon the ALR program, implies an improper association with an outside organization, or infringes on our trademarks. (American Legion Riders Recommendations from National, August 5, 2016)

Section 2. The only recognized American Legion Riders Emblem and Logo authorized are those sold through The American Legion Emblem Sales. No use of rockers touching the ALR patch are allowed because touching the ALR patch violates the trademark laws protecting the ALR patch. (Resolution 19, adopted by National on October 14 – 15, 2020).

ARTICLE VI - WEARING OF VESTS AND JACKETS

Section 1. Members in good standing shall be authorized to wear the ALR small and large patches on a vest, or jacket. When wearing both patches the small patch shall be worn on the breast (either side) and the large patch shall be worn on the back.

Section 2. The large patches are available, and will be sold, to members of the ALR. The large and small patches are available for purchase from The American Legion, Emblem Sales, at 888-453-4466

Section 3, The approved American Legion Riders patch is the Legion Eagle in an oval or circled patch that says American Legion Riders.

Section 4. All authorized large and small patches will have NEW JERSEY embroidered on them.

Section 5. When the American flag is worn, it must be the highest patch on the left. Members should have a POW/MIA patch on the right or left breast.

Section 6. No **property, percentage or MC patches**. We are members of The American Legion Family, not a bike club. We are veterans who ride motorcycles and enjoy associating with our families and other veterans.

ARTICLE VIII - DETERMINE ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1. **The elected officers of the State ALR will be the Director, Asst Director, Treasurer, Road Captain and five (5) District Chairpersons. Appointed positions are The Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Historian, Membership Chairperson, or any other American Legion DEC approved position, may be added either by appointment, or election, at the discretion of the State ALR/Chapter. (See section 5, page 3 of Resolution 19 states; The American Legion Riders officers shall be called Chairman, Vice Chairman, Director and assistant Director.)**

Section 2. Between State ALR meetings, the administrative power of the State ALR shall be vested in the Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. Between Chapter meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Executive Committees.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCES

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

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

Section 3. The Chapter must provide a monthly financial report to the sponsoring Post Executive Committee.

Section 4, The Post Finance Officer or Commander must be a signatory on all accounts. (From National Headquarters)

ARTICLE X - EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION

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

Section 2. Any member of the ALR may be expelled, or suspended for cause after an appropriate hearing and by the majority vote of the general membership, at a regular chapter meeting. (i.e. - for behavior unbecoming a Legionnaire).

Section 3. The initial start of the appeal process will begin at the Chapter/Post level and shall follow the same procedure as is stated in The American Legion Department of New Jersey Constitution and Bylaws, Article IV. The member has the right to appeal his/her decision to the Region, with the final stopping point being with the State ALR/Department Executive Committees.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDEMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any *Chapter*, Region or the Department ALR Committee at any time no later than 60 days prior to the annual convention and shall be forwarded to the Department Adjutant who shall give notice thereof to all Chapters in the Department at least 30 days prior to said convention. The ALR Department Executive Committee shall have authority to propose amendments to this Constitution upon notice to all Chapters in the Department given at least 30 days prior to said convention. Such amendments shall be considered recommended upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the delegates present at any session.

Section 2. Amendments to this Constitution proposed at the annual convention of which the notice as required by Section 1 of this article shall not have been given, shall be adopted only by the unanimous consent in writing of all delegates duly elected to serve at said convention, whether or not in attendance at said session at which such amendment is voted upon.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. The program existing under these by-laws is to be known as The American Legion Riders, Department of NEW JERSEY, Post Name and Post Number.

Section 2. The name and nature of this program is set forth in the constitution.

ARTICLE II - STATE ALR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

Section 1. The officers

- a. 1 State ALR Director
- b. 1 State ALR Asst Director
- c. 1 State ALR Secretary
- d. 1 State ALR Road Captain f. 1 State ALR Chaplain
- g. 1 State ALR Sgt-at-Arms h. 1 State ALR Historian
- h. 5 Regional Directors

and any other Department approved position, may be added either by appointment, or election. Each officer shall be at least 18 years of age and shall hold their office for a term of one year. The Director and Asst Director may succeed his or her self for an additional one year term. The Section caucuses will meet Wednesday prior to the opening of the Department Convention for the purpose of election of officers and resolutions. The individual candidate receiving the largest number of votes for a particular office shall be declared elected.

Section 2. In the event of a vacancy in the office of State ALR Director, the State ALR Asst Director shall make recommendations on who should fill said vacancy for the balance of the term to The American Legion Department DEC for consideration. The Department Executive Committee of New Jersey has final say in who will fill any subsequent vacancy of any elected ALR office or position.

Section 3, A vacancy shall exist when an officer is absent from state ALR Executive meetings due to resignation, incapacity due to illness or injury, or for a continuous period of three (3) consecutive unexcused absences considered detrimental to the interest of the ALR Executive committee.

Section 4. One individual will be elected in each region as Regional Director. Each of the Regional Directors shall be elected for a term of two years, and shall not be eligible to succeed themselves after serving a full term.

Section 5. Any officer may be removed upon vote of the State ALR Executive Committee when they judge that it is in the best interests of The American Legion.

Section 6. The ALR, Department of New Jersey shall be divided into five (5) geographical regions to correspond with the five (5) Department Vice Commanders to be determined by the state ALR Director and ALR Executive Committee with the approval American Legion Department of New Jersey DEC, the area of each may be adjusted from time to time by The American Legion Department of New Jersey DEC.

Section 7. Any member may attend all State ALR Executive Committee meetings, but only the State ALR Executive Committee and the Regional Directors has a voice and a vote.

Section 8. The State ALR Executive Committee shall be made up of the elected officers and the Regional Directors.

Section 9. A majority of the State ALR Executive Committee constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings.

Section 10. All State ALR Officers and Directors that were elected by the members must be approved by The American Legion Department of New Jersey DEC prior to taking office.

Section 11, All Past Department ALR Directors shall be members of the Department American Legion Riders Executive Committee with voting privileges.

ARTICLE III - DUTIES OF THE STATE OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

Section 1. Duties of State Director. It shall be the duty of the State Chairman or Director to preside at all meetings, have general supervision over the organization. The Chairman or Director shall make an annual report covering the business of the State ALR for the year, make recommendations for the ensuing year, which shall be read at the annual State Convention, and a copy thereof immediately forwarded to Department. The Director shall perform such other duties as directed by The American Legion Department of New Jersey DEC.

Section 2. Duties of State Asst Director. The State Asst Director shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Director in his/her absence, or disability of, or when called upon by the State Director.

Section 3. Duties of State Secretary. The State Secretary shall have charge of and keep a full and accurate record of proceedings of all meetings, keep such records as Department organizations may require.

Section 4. Duties of State Road Captain. The State Road Captain shall plan all tours, runs, activities, and events; lead the state in formation riding and parades; arouse interest in activities; encourage all rules of safe motorcycle operation and group riding. Additionally, the Road Captain may select assistants to aid in special tasks prior to the ride and may chair appropriate activities committee as directed by the State Director or ALR Executive Committee. If there is not a Sergeant-at-Arms (appointed or elected) in the State, the Road Captain will keep order at all meetings.

Section 5. Duties of the Asst. Road Captain. The State Asst Road Captain shall plan all tours, runs, activities, and events in the event the State Road Captain is unavailable; lead the state in formation riding and parades; arouse interest in activities; encourage all rules of safe motorcycle operation and group riding. Additionally, the Asst Road Captain may select assistants to aid in special tasks prior to the ride and may chair appropriate activities committee as directed by the State Director or ALR Executive Committee. If there is not a

Sergeant-at-Arms (appointed or elected) in the State, the Asst Road Captain will keep order at all meetings.

Section 5. Duties of the State Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain order at meetings and gatherings and assist the Road Captain in encouraging all rules of safe riding during sponsored events; and perform such other duties and/or chair such committees as may be assigned by the State Director, or ALR Executive Committee.

Section 6. Duties of State Historian. The State Historian shall be charged with the individual records and incidents of the State and Chapter members, and shall perform other such duties as may properly pertain to the office, or as may be determined by the State Director or ALR Executive Committee.

Section 7. Duties of State Chaplain. The State Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Riders and will offer divine, but nonsectarian, service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., and adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by National or Department.

Section 8. Duties of a State Regional Directors. The State Regional Directors will assist new chapters that wish to form. Visit each chapter in the region to ensure compliance to the State ALR mandated By-Laws. Ensure that all state information is given to the chapters in their region. Report on the region at all State ALR Executive Committee meetings.

ARTICLE IV - STATE ALR MEETINGS

Section 1. State ALR Executive Committee meetings will be held at all The American Legion DEC meetings, State Convention or any other time or place set by Department, or by the State Director.

Section 2. Through the Regional Directors, State ALR conventions will have business voted on by delegates, and in the delegate's absence alternates, which will be elected by the Chapters. Attendance and voting by a delegate may be by written proxy to a delegate or alternate holding membership in the same Chapter of the delegate giving such proxy. No member of the Department DEC shall hold any proxy.

Section 3. A letter from each chapter must be mailed to Department five (5) days prior to the event, stating who the elected delegates and alternates are. Chapters that don't send letters, or if elected delegates and alternates do not sign in, even if other members from the Chapter are in attendance, that Chapter will not have a vote.

Section 4. Notice of meeting(s), or events, will be sent to the Chapters by Department, State Officers, or Regional Directors in advance of the meetings, or events.

ARTICLE V - REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Section 1. There shall COVER THE SAME AREAS AS Department Vice Commanders and will be assigned as such by the state Director.

Section 2. Regional Directors shall be elected as provided in Article II, Section 1 of these By-Laws and by one of the following methods:

- a. At the Department Convention by the delegates from the respective Region, in which event the rules for the Department Convention shall govern, or,
- b. At a caucus of the State ALR Convention delegates, to be held not earlier than 30 days prior to the Department Convention, at a time and place as designated by the Regional Director. The Regional Directors shall notify each Chapter Director within his Region of the place, time, and purpose of such caucus, and at least ten days prior thereto. Such notice will be given by first class mail. In turn, each Chapter Director shall notify the delegates and alternates to the Department Convention of the place, time and purpose of the Regional Caucus. A majority of the votes of the accredited delegates present and voting shall be necessary to elect a Regional Director.
- c. Or, by the duly qualified delegates and/or alternates, assigned by each Chapter to the Regional organization, at a Regional meeting to be held as set forth in Subsection (b) A majority vote of the accredited delegates and/or authorized alternates in the Regional organization, present and voting shall elect a Regional Director.

Section 3. State ALR Constitution and By-Laws shall determine the method of election to be used in the respective regions.

Section 4. In the event that a Regional Director fails to function or does not perform the duties prescribed for him or her to the satisfaction of his State ALR Director and The American Legion Department of New Jersey DEC, or fails to attend two successive American Legion Department of New Jersey DEC meetings without giving reasons for his absence there from, the State ALR Director, with the consent of The American Legion Department of New Jersey DEC, may declare the office vacant.

Section 5. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Regional Director, the State ALR Director, or his duly appointed representative, shall call a meeting composed of one representative from each Chapter in the Region, such representative to be appointed by the Chapter Director. These representatives shall elect a member of the Region, who shall serve the unexpired term of said office. For the purpose of said special election to fill the vacancy, each representative shall cast the same number of votes to which his Chapter was entitled in the last regular Department Convention.

Section 6. Each Regional Director may appoint as many Assistant Directors as needed according to the size of the region. All appointments must be approved by the State ALR Executive Officers.

ARTICLE VI - Chapter Delegates

Section 1. Chapter Delegates and alternates to a State ALR, convention, regional gathering, or other activity, shall be elected by ballot at a regular meeting of the Chapter, which will be held prior to the date of such event. All delegates and alternates shall be at least 18 years of age.

Section 2. Each Chapter will be entitled to 2 delegates and 2 alternate delegates.

Section 3. Alternate(s) will vote only if the delegate(s) cannot attend the State ALR meeting, convention, regional gathering, or other activity.

ARTICLE VII - Department ALR Appointments

Section 1. The Department ALR Director, immediately upon taking office each year, shall appoint committees, or commissions, for the furtherance of State ALR/Chapter programs with the approval of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. Such committees shall consist of persons, and the chair thereof, as designated by the Department ALR Director with the approval of the Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Department ALR Director shall be EX-OFFICIO member of all committees he/she appoints and upon leaving office; all committees appointed by him/her shall be dissolved.

ARTICLE VIII - RESOLUTIONS

All resolutions to change these By-Laws must be written in The American Legion format and forwarded to the ALR Regional directors for review. Resolutions will then be forwarded to Department Headquarters 60 days in advance of the DEC meeting. Headquarters will review the resolutions for proper format and forward to the DEC members and Regional Directors with any accompanying documentation 30 days in advance of the DEC.

ARTICLE IX - NOTICES

Section 1. Every Department member shall furnish the Department ALR Secretary a valid email if available and mailing address, and telephone number, only if a Chapter Membership Chairperson has not been appointed, or elected.

Section 2. The Department ALR Secretary shall cause notice of the annual election to be given at least two weeks prior thereto.

ARTICLE X - RULES OF ORDER

All proceedings of the Department ALR shall be conducted under and pursuant to Roberts' Rules of Order (Newly Revised)

ARTICLE XI - LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITIES

Section 1. The New Jersey American Legion Riders (including all Posts Level Chapters within The American Legion , Department of New Jersey) shall not incur nor cause to be incurred, any liability or obligation whatsoever – which shall subject any; members of The American Legion, Department, County, Post, other Post ALR, subdivision, or other individuals, corporations or organizations to a liability of any fashion.

Section 2. Each individual Post/Chapter will be responsible for insurance.

Section 3. The sponsoring post shall review and ensure that liability insurance coverage is sufficient and available to cover the post/chapter itself.

Section 4. All ALR members must show proof of license and individual motor vehicle liability insurance coverage for any ALR event.

Section 5. The American Legion Department of New Jersey is not responsible or obligated to purchase special-event coverage for any ALR ride or event, it is the individual Post/Chapters responsibility to purchase insurance to cover events or multi-day runs.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

The only items that maybe changed, or amended, by a vote of two-thirds of the members of this Chapter attending a regular Chapter meeting are: the time of the meeting, date of the meeting, dues and how many constitute a quorum.