

Starting a Chapter of The American Legion Riders



LEADERSHIP EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT


The Beginning of the American Legion Riders

In the fall of 1993 Chuck (Tramp) Dare shared a dream with then Post Commander (Polka) Bill Kaledas at the American Legion Post 396 in Garden City, Michigan. Watching their post be used for a Harley Owners Group (HOG) meeting, an idea came about to start a motorcycle association that would operate within the American Legion. The idea was simple, provide an atmosphere where Post, Auxiliary and S.A.L.. members, who shared an enthusiasm for motorcycles, could come together for the benefit of Veterans and their families. The ALR was meant from inception to be a family-oriented group, and 31 years later is one of the strongest family friendly organizations in the US.

Resolution 5


Resolution 5 (May 5-6, 2021)

Redefines and clarifies The National
American Legion position with respect to
The American Legion Riders



ALR Guidelines under Resolution 5


RESOLVED CLAUSES:

1. All members of the ALR shall be current members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary.
 2. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain ALR membership by owning, individually or through marriage, 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.
 3. ALR programs may allow for continued ALR membership for those ALR members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury or other reasons outside the ALR member's control.
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ALR Guidelines under Resolution 5

4. ALR programs may allow current members of The American Legion family to join ALR chapters as supporting members.
5. The only approved titles for ALR officers shall be chairman and vice-chairman or director and assistant director.
6. All ALR members shall maintain the image of The American Legion, protect The American Legion's Emblems, which symbolizes the integrity and principles of The American Legion and if wearing Emblem items then the Emblem items will be American Legion authorized Emblems.

ALR Guidelines under Resolution 5

7. 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.
 8. The ALR chapter should strive to represent the virtues, values, ethics and morals of The American Legion in support of freedom, democracy and the safety of our citizens.
 9. 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.
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ALR Guidelines under Resolution 5


10. All ALR members shall obey the laws of their respective state and/or the state(s) in which they ride.

11. 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

ALR National Committee

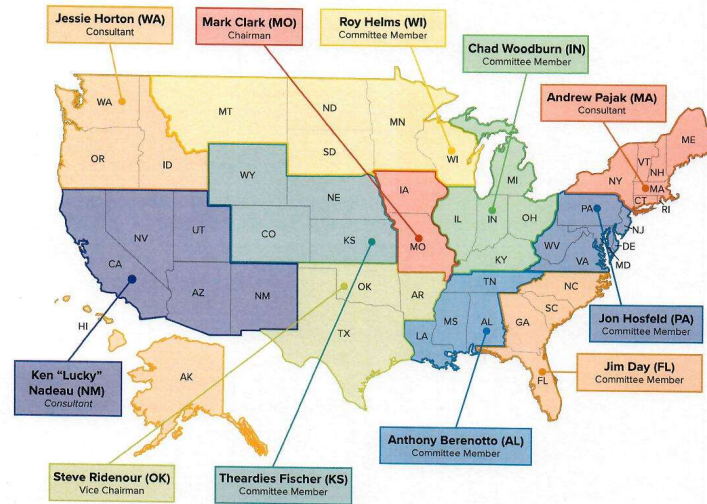
The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee reports to The Internal Affairs Commission.

The Chairman is appointed annually by the National Commander upon recommendations from the Departments Advisory Committee members and is selected from across the 5 regions.





National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee



Name and Department	Position	Email	Departments Covered
Mark Clark (MO)	Chairman	mandclark@comcast.net	MO, IA
Steve Ridenour (OK)	Vice Chairman	ridenours@sbcglobal.net	AR, OK, TX
Jon Hosfeld (PA)	Committee Member	jonhosfeld@hotmail.com	PA, WV, VA, DE, MD, NJ, DC
Jim Day (FL)	Committee Member	jday4x4@icloud.com	FL, GA, SC, NC
Chad Woodburn (IN)	Committee Member	chad.t.woodburn@gmail.com	IL, IN, OH, MI, KY
Roy Helms (WI)	Committee Member	roy.helms@sbcglobal.net	WI, MN, SD, ND, MT
Anthony Berenotto (AL)	Committee Member	aberenotto@gmail.com	AL, MS, TN, LA
Theardies Fischer (KS)	Committee Member	tmanultra@gmail.com	KS, CO, WY, NE
Andrew Pajak (MA)	Consultant	dwpajak@gmail.com	RI, CT, MA, NH, VT, ME, NY
Jessie Horton (WA)	Consultant	jesse.horton@icloud.com	AK, HI, OR, WA, ID
Ken "Lucky" Nadeau (NM)	Consultant	nadeau@lanl.gov	AZ, CA, NM, NV, UT
Mike Wilson (NJ)	Consultant	nmw7152@hotmail.com	Puerto Rico, France, Phillipines, Mexico
Joseph Gladden (MD-SAL)	SAL-ALR Liaison	Joegladd123@aol.com	
Kathy Daudistel (KY-ALA)	ALA-ALR Liaison	kathyd@twc.com	

First Steps of a Chapter

A beginning Chapter should have a minimum of 5 members willing to serve as Charter Members and Officers. Once a group has confirmed they would like to organize they should contact the sponsoring post's Commander and request a place on the next meetings agenda. The Post will put it out to the membership for a vote to approve the formation of an ALR Chapter. Upon a successful vote of affirmation, the Group lead will reach out to the Dept ALR Chair for specific chapter instructions.


It is the Post's responsibility to see that the Chapter's operating document, the Constitution and Bylaws, are drafted and have been approved by the members of the sponsoring Post. A financial institution must be agreed upon with the Post Finance Officer where a Savings and Checking account would be held for the Chapter. The access to this account must include the following, The Chapter Director, Vice Director, Treasurer, and Post Finance Officer.

Operating Documents

The Iowa American Legion Riders are a Post level program.

The Department Committee is made up of a Chairperson and two Vice Chairs each appointed to a three-year term, renewed by each year by the incoming Department Commander that provide advice and guidance to each Chapter in the Department. Individual Chapters report directly to the Post Commander, with guidance from the Department ALR Committee, Internal Affairs, and the Dept Commander and Adjutant.

Note: Chapters operate under the Post's EIN or Tax ID number, it is the Post Finance officer's responsibility to ensure the Chapter is operating in accordance with the rules of a 501(c)19 organization.



Department of Iowa Specific Information

Department of Iowa Resolution 1 Dated June 27, 2015

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Iowa, in Department Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled at Department headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa, June 27, 2015, That The American Legion Riders shall be a post level program within the Department of Iowa; and be it further

RESOLVED, That effective with the passage of this resolution, Resolution 1 of February 2005 authorizing state officers of the American Legion Riders is hereby **rescinded**; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there shall be no state level officers or positions other than the Department Executive Committee approved American Legion Riders Committee; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That there shall be no other state level American Legion Rider activities or events other than informational meetings conducted by the Department American Legion Riders Committee at the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Convention or other meetings deemed necessary by the Committee.

Department of Iowa Specific Information

Department of Iowa Resolution 2 Dated June 27, 2015

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of Iowa, in Department Executive Committee (DEC) in regular meeting assembled at Department headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa, June 27, 2015, That The American Legion Riders shall be a post level program within the Department of Iowa; and be it further

RESOLVED, That effective with the passage of this resolution, Resolution 1 of February 2003 authorizing a state charter chapter and mandated Constitution & By-Laws is hereby rescinded; and be it further


RESOLVED, That all American Legion Rider Chapters must be a program sponsored by a Post of The American Legion and shall uphold the declared principles of The American Legion as well as conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the Post; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department recommends Posts and Chapters adopt the guidelines and recommendations established by the National Executive Committee (NEC), including Resolution 35 of the NEC of October 2007 as amended by Resolution 32 of the NEC of May 2011; and be it further

Department of Iowa Specific Information

Department of Iowa Resolution 2 Dated June 27, 2015

RESOLVED, That the Department Executive Committee further recommends the following guidelines be adopted by the Post and Chapter:

1. Each Chapter shall develop a Chapter Constitution and By-laws following the guidelines passed by resolution of the National Executive Committee and the Department Executive Committee.
 2. Proposed Chapter Constitution & By-Laws must be approved by a two thirds vote of the prospective members before being submitted to the Post for approval.
 3. The Constitution & By-Laws of the American Legion Riders Chapter and all amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws must be approved by sponsoring Post.
 4. No patch or other attachment depicting vulgarity, profanity or nudity, shall be affixed, attached to or displayed on any item displaying American Legion or American Legion Rider identifiers.
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Department of Iowa Specific Information

5. No American Legion Rider member shall be a member of a 1% Motorcycle Club or subscribe to the ideology of any 1% Motorcycle Club or their support clubs.

6. No patch or other attachment depicting support or affiliation with a 1% Motorcycle club or their support clubs shall be affixed, attached or displayed on any item displaying American Legion of American Legion Rider identifiers.

7. The sponsoring American Legion Post shall be responsible for federal regulations regarding non-profit corporations and finances. and be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion Rider Chapters shall abide by The American Legion Constitution and By-laws as well as the established Post, Department and National directives; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion National Headquarters and The American Legion, Department of Iowa, shall maintain general oversight of the American Legion Rider program, the proper use of the name and emblem of The American Legion, and compliance with the National and Department Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion.

ALR Constitutions and Bylaws

Why do we require a Constitutions and Bylaws?

A C&BL provides stability and order to the Chapter. The widespread use of similar C&BL documents unifies the Department and Chapters in operation and reporting.

Other forms of organizational documents

Standing Rules

Post Rules



“Stricter Standards” Rule

A few examples of additional Post or ALR Standing Rules.

Chapter officers may need post Exec Board approval.


A Chapter may specify minimum personal insurance requirement levels, training requirements for Officers or Road Captains, or specify a uniform of the day for certain events.

However: Less strict standards than what Department or National has set forth, thereby creating conflicting SOPs or CB&Ls are not valid.

ALR membership cannot be open to non-Legion Family, and any other less strict membership rules are never valid.




Accountability

- ALL ALR chapters and groups must be affiliated with a single hosting Post
 - A Department approved CB&L is required; any other document is not sufficient.
 - Riders are a program of the Post and are not a separate organization.
 - Rider Chapters enjoy the same tax-exempt status 501(c)19 as the hosting organization.
 - The host Post's Federal ID Number shall be used on ALR all bank accounts.
 - Chapters are responsible to hold regular elections. Duly elected officers are then installed by the post.
 - ALR officers may be removed/changed at any time by the post commander, general membership, and/or executive committee.
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Chapter Responsibilities

ALR organizational documents, and any changes, must be approved by the post to be in effect.


ALR Finances:

- A Riders Chapter may have a separate bank account.
 - The Post Finance Officer must be named on all accounts.
(This does not mean this person has authority to approve or disapprove expenditures.)
 - Riders may need to provide both a financial report and an activities report as dictated by their post
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Officer's Duties

All Chapter Officers have a sworn duty to operate in the best interest of the Chapter & their Posts.

They are responsible to actively recruit new members, encourage and promote members interests, encourage members to fill officer's positions, train their replacement of the duties of the job, and to proactively communicate clearly with the Chapter members as well as American Legion Post Officers.



Officer's Duties

Director - The Director will serve as Chief Administrative Officer of the Chapter and will preside over all meetings. The Director shall have general supervision over the affairs of the Chapter and shall perform all other duties as directed by the membership. The Director shall be responsible for appointing replacements for vacancies due to death, resignation or any other reason in elected and appointed offices. The Director shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of Chapter funds. The Director may be responsible for an annual report to the Post covering the business of the Chapter for the year, and recommendations for the ensuing year, which shall be read at a Post meeting.

Officer's Duties

Assistant Director. Will assume the duties of the Director should the Director not be available. Will assist the Director in performance of all duties as called on by the Director. The Assistant Director should also provide assistance in Membership Recruiting as well as working with the Ride Captains to insure Liability Waivers are obtained and on file.

Officer's Duties

Secretary. Will keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings of Chapter meetings and will provide copies of same to the membership for approval. Copies of previous meeting minutes should be provided upon request (if made during a meeting). After the end of the calendar year, the Secretary will combine the previous years minutes for reference in order to be archived.

Officer's Duties

Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have charge of all finances and see that they are safely deposited in a local bank or banks and shall report at the Chapter meeting the condition of the finances of the Chapter. Making such recommendations as may deem expedient or necessary for the good of the Chapter. The Treasurer shall present a regular report at each regularly scheduled meeting for approval by the membership. The Treasurer and Director or Vice Director shall sign all checks disbursing the monies of the Chapter. The Treasurer shall insure that the Post Finance Officer is a signatory on all accounts of the Chapter and provide a yearly report of all financial transactions to the Post.

Officer's Duties

Membership Chair. shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the membership of the Chapter, including the recruitment of new members, reinstatements and eligibility of members, and shall be responsible for maintaining all membership records. The Membership Chair will provide a report at each regularly scheduled meeting of the status of membership.

Officer's Duties

Historian. Shall maintain the individual records and activities of the Chapter and shall perform such other duties as may properly pertain to the office as may be determined by the Director. Photographic history shall be preserved on behalf of the Chapter.

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 from time to time. The Chaplain will be responsible for notifying Department Membership Director of deceased or sick call members.

Officer's Duties

Sergeant-at-Arms. Will preserve order at meetings, introduce guests at all meetings, assist with the set-up of meetings and other activities. They may be asked to verify membership eligibility of those attending the meetings and voting in elections; 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 Director.

Officer's Duties


Ride Captain. Will be the logistics person in charge of the organized runs of the Chapter. The Ride Captain(s) will determine dates, times, routes, and meeting places for those taking part in a run activity.

The Ride Captain may at any time appoint assistant road captains or take any other measures necessary to help warrant and the safety of group during the run.

The Ride Captain shall have sole authority to cancel a scheduled run if circumstances warrant and must report his reasons for so doing to the Director. This officer shall also be responsible for Motorcycle safety training and education within the Chapter.

Officer's Duties

Immediate Past Director – Shall serve in an advisory and mentorship role. Past Chapter Director is a wealth of experience and knowledge. They shall oversee the recruitment and training of prospective new Chapter Officers by facilitating training opportunities from National, Department, & District sources. They will also encourage Chapter membership participation in their respective Legion Family meetings.



Meeting Format

Regular American Legion Meeting Format from Officer's Guide will be adapted and used for ALR Meetings.

Roberts Rules of Order shall be observed.

Informal Meeting format may be used when Quorum is not reached, but absolutely no motions, votes or financial expenditures can be approved during an informal meeting.

Sign in sheets may be used for all ALR Meetings, and they may be kept with the written meeting minutes.

At a minimum, a roll call of officers must be performed at the start of each meeting.

The American Legion Riders

Questions

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