



**THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
CONSTITUTION**

Preamble:

For God and Country, we associate ourselves as members of the American Legion Family (The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion), constituting the American Legion Riders 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 all 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 Goodwill on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;

To participate in parades and other ceremonies which are in keeping with the aims and purposes of the American Legion;

To promote motorcycle safety education programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion Family members with the same motorcycle interests;

To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

AUTHORIZE TO ORGANIZE

The American Legion Riders was authorized by the American Legion National Executive Committee in 2007 with a resolution. Subsequent resolutions passed by the American Legion National Executive Committee continues to authorize and update the mission of the American Legion Riders program.

The American Legion Riders was authorized as a department program by The American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee in 2015. This Constitution and By-Laws re-affirms the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota as a department program in keeping with the aims and purposes of the American Legion.

**ARTICLE I
Name**

Section 1. The name of this program shall be The American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota

ARTICLE II
Nature/Objectives

Section 1: The American Legion Riders (ALR) is a program of the American Legion formed through a common interest in motorcycling with the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Junior members, and Sons of The American Legion of all ages, collectively known as “The American Legion Family”.

Section 2: The American Legion Riders promote, support, and participate in programs of the American Legion Family and participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the aims and purposes of the American Legion.

Section 3: The American Legion Riders promote motorcycle safety programs.

Section 4: In keeping with the American Legion aims and purposes, the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota shall be non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE III
Organization

Section 1: The American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota shall be organized at the department level as a program of the American Legion, Department of Minnesota.

Section 2: The American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota shall be organized in Districts identical to the Department of Minnesota under the jurisdiction of the corresponding Districts of The American Legion and in Chapters under the jurisdiction of the local Posts of the American Legion and shall bear the name of the Post as follow: American Legion Riders Chapter of [Post Name] Post No. _____ Department of Minnesota

Section 3: ALR Chapters may represent themselves informally as Chapter (post number) – with the post name or location. The Chapter is required to represent themselves as part of the authorizing/sponsoring Post.

Section 4: Posts at-large are not authorized to organize an ALR chapter. Individual members of an at-large post, unit, or squadron may join an ALR Chapter of an established Post if allowed by the individual chapter.

Section 5: The Department Executive Committee of the American Legion, Department of Minnesota shall have jurisdiction over all Chapters and Districts of the American Legion Riders organized by any Post or District of the American Legion in this Department.

Section 6: American Legion Riders Chapter 122 of Louis Lequier Post 122 of Deer River Minnesota is recognized as the first Chapter within the Department of Minnesota.

ARTICLE IV
Eligibility

Section 1: Membership of the American Legion Riders shall be open to any verified and currently paid member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion. Each Chapter is responsible for verifying the membership status with each membership year.

Section 2: Members shall establish and maintain ALR membership by owning individually or through marriage, a life partnership or a long-term relationship, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by Minnesota State Laws.

Section 3: Chapters may allow membership for those who have relinquished ownership or ridership of a motorcycle because of age, disability, or injury to continue as a member of the American Legion Riders.

Section 4: Chapters may allow current members of the American Legion Family to join their ALR Chapter as supporting members. Individual chapters determine if supporters have voting rights and the extent that they may participate in Chapter meetings.

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 1: The elected officers of the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota shall be: Director, Assistant Director, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2: The appointed officers of the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota at the discretion of the Director are: Sergeant-at Arms, Chaplain, Parliamentarian, and Road Captain.

Section 3: The Immediate Past Department ALR Director is considered an officer of the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota whose term shall coincide with the current Department ALR Director.

Section 4: Elected officers shall hold the position for a 2-year term with the elections being held in odd-numbered years commencing with the terms of the American Legion, Department of Minnesota.

Section 5: The appointed officers shall serve 1-year terms with reappointment allowed.

ARTICLE VI

Executive Committee

Section 1: Between Annual Conventions, the administrative power of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Riders shall be vested in the Department ALR Executive Committee whose voting members shall consist of the elected officers and District ALR Representatives from each ALR District in the Department of Minnesota. All other Past Department ALR Directors shall be members of the ALR Department Executive Committee with voice, but no vote. The District ALR Representative or designee must be at the meeting to cast their vote.

ARTICLE VII

Apparel of the American Legion Riders

Section 1: The American Legion Riders back patch, as copyrighted and sold by The American Legion Emblem Sales division, is authorized for wear by all current members of the ALR.

Section 2: No ALR member shall wear any item showing support for any motorcycle club or its supporting clubs affixed to any item bearing the American Legion Family identifiers and should refrain from wearing the support gear while wearing anything bearing American Legion Family identifiers.

Section 3: No item depicting nudity or displaying profanity will be worn on the American Legion Rider vest or anywhere else on the clothing while wearing The American Legion identifiers.

Section 4: Please refer to the By-laws Article II of the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota for full details regarding the apparel of the American Legion Riders.

ARTICLE VIII Chapter Organization

Section 1: Those who desire to form a Chapter of the American Legion Riders shall make an application to the Post of The American Legion in which they reside for application for authorization. Upon approval of The American Legion Post membership, the Chapter shall be organized.

Section 2: The minimum membership for forming a Chapter of the American Legion Riders shall be five (5).

Section 3: There shall be no more than one Chapter of the American Legion Riders for each Post of The American Legion.

Section 4: The Officers of each Chapter of the American Legion Riders may consist of: Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, Chaplain, Ride Captain, and other officers as such may be required upon approval of the sponsoring Post.

- A. Chapter leadership shall use the title of Director and Assistant Director or Chairman and Vice-Chairman. No other titles are allowed.

Section 5: The Commander of the Post of The American Legion with which the Chapter is affiliated shall appoint one or more Post members as liaisons to promote communication between the Chapter and the Post.

Section 6: All officers and members of the ALR Executive Committee of each Chapter shall be elected on a regular basis and should conform, if possible, with the election of the Post officers of The American Legion. Said elections shall be subject to final approval by the sponsoring American Legion Post with which the Chapter is affiliated.

ARTICLE IX Finances

Section 1: The revenue of the Department ALR organization shall be derived from sources as may be approved by the Department ALR Executive Committee.

Section 2: The ALR Director or Secretary/Treasurer will provide financial reports to the Department ALR Executive Committee at each of the ALR Department meetings.

Section 3: The Department ALR operating accounts will have individual signatories to include two of the following: the Department Director, the Department Secretary/Treasurer, and another Department ALR officer may be designated by the ALR Department Executive Committee.

Section 4: The Department ALR Secretary/Treasurer will provide an annual budget for approval by the Department ALR Executive Committee at the annual MN ALR Romp. and then to be approved by the American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee.

Section 5: If additional expenditures need to occur, authorization may be done via regular scheduled meeting or by electronic communication.

Section 6: The Department ALR Secretary/Treasurer will prepare and submit to the Department of Minnesota an annual financial bank/checking account statement to the Department Comptroller. The annual financial statement will be available for review by the American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee at their pre-convention meeting in July.

ARTICLE X Annual Convention

Section 1: An Annual Convention of the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota meeting shall be held annually for the purpose of electing Department ALR Officers, passing resolutions, and for such other purposes as may be necessary. The Department ALR Director shall issue a Call to the Annual Convention to each District ALR Representative, Chapter, and Department ALR officers not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Convention.

Section 2: Each District ALR Representative shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 3: The District ALR Representative may appoint a designated replacement with proper notification to the Department ALR Director or Department ALR Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 4: Representatives from five (5) Districts and a majority of Department ALR Officers shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5: Voting shall be done in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 6: All actions of the American Legion Riders Annual Convention are subject to ratification and approval of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota Executive Committee.

Section 7: Except as noted in this Constitution and By-Laws, the parliamentary authority shall be Roberts Rules of Order, the most recent edition.

Section 8: The date and location of the Department ALR Annual Convention may be the same weekend and location as The American Legion Department of Minnesota Annual Convention.

Section 9: If, in the event, due to an emergency, National or State, it is for any reason impossible to convene the annual Department ALR Convention, the American Legion Riders Department Executive Committee, if it can be convened, shall be the legislative body for that year-shall elect Department ALR Officers and transact all necessary Department ALR business.

ARTICLE XI Minnesota ALR Romp

Section 1: The Purpose of the ALR Department Executive Committee meeting to be held during the Minnesota ALR Romp shall be to:

American Legion Riders
Department of Minnesota

- A. Install Officers
- B. Approve the annual budget
- C. Other such matters as allowed by this constitution and by-laws

ARTICLE XII

Fall Conference Meeting

Section 1. An ALR Rider meeting shall be held at a date and time as determined by the ALR Department Executive Committee. The Fall Conference may be held in conjunction with the Department of Minnesota American Legion Fall Conference, or at another location as determined by the ALR Department Executive Committee.

Section 2: Focus of this gathering should be educational in nature for members of the American Legion Riders as well as members of the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion.

ARTICLE XIII

Electronic Meetings

Electronic meetings including teleconference and or other electronic communications may be held for all Committees at all levels of the organization. The meetings must be properly authorized in the Standing Rules and treated as though it were a meeting at which all members who are participating are actually present. The minutes will be recorded by the Department ALR Secretary/Treasurer or the appointed ALR Committee Secretary.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended by the delegates to the annual American Legion Rider Convention held at the Department of Minnesota American Legion convention by a two-thirds vote of the membership present comprising at least a quorum and ratified by The American Legion Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. No such amendment shall conflict or be inconsistent with National Executive Committee Resolutions or Department of Minnesota Resolutions.

Section 3. In the event of any inconsistency at any time between the provisions of the National Resolutions and of the ALR Department of Minnesota Constitution, the National or Department provisions shall govern.



**THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA
BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I
Duties of Department Officers**

Section 1: **Department ALR Director:** The Director shall be elected at the Department Annual Convention in odd-numbered years. The Director shall be the executive head of the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota, with full power of the Department ALR Executive Committee. The Director shall appoint as necessary committees and commissions subject to the ratification of the Department ALR Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as are usual and incident to the office.

Section 2: **Department ALR Assistant Director:** The Assistant Director shall be elected at the Department Annual Convention in odd-numbered years. The Assistant Director shall act as representative of the Department Director on all matters referred to them, and shall, at the Director's request preside over meetings of the Department American Legion Riders and perform other such duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 3: **Department ALR Secretary/Treasurer:** The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected at Department Annual Convention in odd numbered years.

- A. **Secretary Duties:** Shall, with the assistance of Department ALR Director, give notice of all meetings of the Department ALR Executive Committee, shall conduct the correspondence and keep the records of the Department ALR organization, including lists of names, chapter numbers and addresses of all chapters in the Department and lists of members, officers and committeemen, and shall keep the minutes of all Department ALR meetings, shall notify the Department ALR Officers and Committeemen of their appointment and subject to the direction and control of the Department Director and the Department Commander, and shall perform other such duties as are usually incident to their office. The position shall also be authorized in the event of the death or resignation of the Director to summon the Department ALR Executive Committee for the election of a successor.
- B. **Treasurer Duties:** Shall propose a budget to the Department ALR Executive Committee based on estimated income and shall report on the condition of all the Department ALR finances when called upon by the Department Director and shall perform such other duties as are usually incidental to the office.
 - a. Provide annual financial bank reports to the Department Comptroller.
 - b. Provide the approved annual Department of Minnesota ALR budget to the American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee for ratification.

Section 4: **Department ALR Chaplain:** The ALR Chaplain shall be appointed by the Department Director at the Annual ALR Department Convention. The ALR Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by the National Organization, The American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee, or Department ALR Executive Committees from time to time. The ALR Chaplain shall also act in an advisory and supervisory capacity over Chapter Chaplains and perform other such duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 5: **Department ALR Parliamentarian:** The Parliamentarian shall be appointed and advise the Director on questions of parliamentary procedure, review resolutions for proper form, serve as a parliamentary resource for all Chapters and Districts in the Department, serve as a member of the Department ALR Executive Committee and shall perform other such duties as assigned by the Department Director.

- A. Department Judge Advocate: The Department ALR Executive Committee and/or the Department Director or designee should consult with the Department Judge Advocate on such organizational or legal issues that may be deemed necessary.

Section 6: **Department ALR Sergeant-at-Arms:** The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be appointed by the Department Director at the Department ALR Annual Convention. The ALR Department Sergeant-at-Arms shall be in charge of the Department ALR colors, serve as provost of the Department ALR Executive Committee and the annual meeting. They shall perform other such duties as may be assigned by the Department ALR Director.

Section 7: **Immediate Past Department ALR Director:** The immediate Past Department ALR Director shall serve as a member of the Department ALR Executive Committee.

Section 8: **Department ALR Road Captain:** The Road Captain shall be appointed by the Department Director at the Department ALR Annual Convention. The Road Captain shall coordinate runs and lead the state runs in formation riding or parades for events established by the Department ALR organization. The Road Captain will enforce all rules of safe motorcycle operation and group riding. The Road Captain may select assistants to assist in special tasks and may chair appropriate activities committee as directed by the Department Director or executive committee. The Department Road Captain is available as an advisor to all MN ALR chapters when needed.

Section 9: **District ALR Representatives:** All ten (10) District ALR Representatives shall serve on the Department ALR Executive Committee as their District's representative and are entitled to the same privileges as all other Department ALR Executive Committee Members.

ARTICLE II

Apparel of the American Legion Riders

Section 1: The American Legion Riders back patch, as copyrighted and sold by The American Legion Emblem Sales division, is authorized for wear by all current members of the ALR.

Section 2: Except as otherwise stated in this section, no other back patch or back patch design is authorized for wear as an ALR emblem.

Section 3: Patches on ALR Vests:

A: The American Flag shall be worn as the uppermost patch on the Rider's vest. No other patches or pins are allowed to be above the American Flag on the vest, in accordance with flag etiquette.

B. Back patches will be as follows:

1. Any Chapters that have patches and top rockers prior to the approval of the SOP on August 1, 2016, can continue to be grandfathered in as long as the chapter remains organized.
2. Bottom rockers, bars, and ribbons are not allowed.
3. All Chapters organized after August 1, 2016, will wear the large oval back patch purchased from the American Legion Emblem Sales division. Embroidery consisting of 1 line above the emblem and a maximum of 2 lines below the emblem is allowed.

C. 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, flag, posters, or advertisements.

ARTICLE III

Standing Committees

Section 1: The following ALR Standing Committees are established: National Mission Run, Minnesota Veterans Assistance (Fund 85) Run, and Minnesota ALR Romp. Ad-hoc committees may be formed at the discretion of the Department Director and approval of the Department ALR Executive Committee.

Section 2: Each ALR Committee will be responsible for the planning, execution, and follow-up for each of their respective missions.

Section 3: Each ALR Committee should report to the Department Director and Department ALR Executive Committee the results of each mission.

Article IV

Approved Resolutions and Mandates

Section 1. Any resolution and/or mandate adopted by convention action shall not be changed during the year of its adoption and it shall continue to govern the Department ALR unless changed by convention action.

Section 2. Any resolution and/or mandate of the Department ALR or Department ALR Executive Committee, which establishes a policy of a continuing nature and has the effect of governing actions of the ALR Department, shall be set forth in a pamphlet that will be supplemental to the Constitution and By-Laws, and which shall be part of the governing rules and regulations of the Department ALR.

Section 3. The policy pamphlet shall be kept up to date and changed as resolutions and/or mandates are changed.

ARTICLE V
Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Department ALR Executive Committee at the Department ALR Convention and are subject to ratification by The American Legion Department Executive Committee.

Section 2. No such amendment shall conflict or be inconsistent with The American Legion National or Department Resolutions or The American Legion National or Department Constitution and by-laws.

Section 3. In the event of any inconsistency at any time between the provisions of The American Legion National or Department governing resolutions and of the Department ALR By-Laws, the National and/or Department provisions shall govern.

Created on July 12, 2024, in Willmar, MN.

Revised on September 14, 2024, in Legionville Education Center, Brainerd, MN.

Approved by the Department of Minnesota ALR Executive Committee on September 14, 2024, in Legionville Education Center, Brainerd, MN.

Ratified by the American Legion Department of Minnesota Executive Committee on October 24, 2024, in St. Cloud, MN.