

**THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
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 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.

CREED For God, for country, for our freedom, for those who serve, for those who have served, for POW's and MIA's, for their families and ours, for our community, we ride for all.

ARTICLE I - NAME The name of this program shall be THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS, Department of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE II - NATURE

Section 1. The American Legion Riders (ALR) is a program for members 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 ALR maintains and protects the image of The American Legion at all times through appropriate wearing 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. 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 The ALR are organized at either the Department through 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/Department Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

Section 4. In addition to sections 1-3 above, members must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle, 250cc or above, or an immediate family member of the legally registered owner.

Section 5. All operators must be properly licensed and insured per their state rules and regulations.

Section 6. Riders that have a physical limitation that prevents operation and/or ownership of a motorcycle can remain active members; however, they must have been a member of the ALR, Department of Pennsylvania for a minimum of two continuous years.

Section 7. All the ALR, Department of Pennsylvania membership cards will be provided by The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE V - WEARING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION EMBLEM

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

Section 2. No other back patch, or back patch design, is authorized for wear.

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

Section 4. Use of rockers, or patches, physically attached to the ALR back patch is not allowed, due to trademark laws.

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, Department of Pennsylvania Emblem Sales, at 717-730-9100.

Section 3. All authorized large and small patches will have PENNSYLVANIA embroidered on them.

Section 4. A rocker patch should be worn beneath the large ALR patch, indicating the chapter name and post number, with a maximum of ¼ of an inch between the rocker and the patch, but not touching.

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. Other patches and pins may be worn on the front of the vest, or jacket. Nothing is permitted on the back, except the large patch and rocker. Offensive patches are strictly prohibited.

Section 7. No property or percentage patches. We are members of The American Legion, not a bike club. We are veterans who ride motorcycles and enjoy associating with our families and other veterans.

ARTICLE VII - WEARING OF APPROVED HEAD GEAR The only head gear permitted to be worn at formal American Legion meetings is the service cap.

ARTICLE VIII - DETERMINE ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the State ALR will be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Road Captain. 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.

Section 2. Between State ALR meetings, the administrative power of the State ALR shall be vested in the State ALR 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 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 fees shall be fixed and determined by the State ALR/Chapter.

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

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, followed by the Region, with the final stopping point being with the State ALR/Department Executive Committees.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

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.