

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS OF DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS PROGRAM RULES PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

The American Legion Riders, Department of Illinois, are members of the Legion family who are also motorcycle enthusiasts. They support their communities, veterans and also the pillars of the American Legion. They come from all walks of life and from the membership in the American Legion, Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. The Riders were formed:

To promote the aims and purposes of the American Legion and its family of programs.

To promote motorcycle safety and provide a social atmosphere for those who belong.

To participate in parades and veterans functions and charity events, especially those that help veterans and those who serve our nation.

We are a family oriented group and not an M/C Club. We are an association that believes in and supports the core values and principles of our parent organization The American Legion.

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ARTICLE I

PURPOSE: To ensure that the American Legion Riders (ALR) operate in accordance with the Department of Illinois rules and procedures and operate within the guidelines of resolution 35 as adopted October 17-18, 2007, Resolution 32 “Amendment to Resolution No 35”, NEC, May 4-5, 2011 and Resolution 5 “Guidelines for the American Legion Riders National Program”, NEC, May 5-6, 2021 which suspended and rescinded Resolution No. 19 “ Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Riders (ALR)”, NEC Oct. 2020, as well as any future amendments or rewrites of this resolution.

Section 1: MEMBERS

1. The Advisory Committee shall be appointed and approved by the Department Commander. Divisions 1,2,3,4 and 5 shall have a representative. The committee will be chaired by a Chairman and Vice Chairman to be appointed by the Commander.
2. Term will be rotated with experienced members always serving with new members.

Section 2: QUALIFICATION

1. Must be a member in good standing of the American Legion.
2. Must be a Director or Past Director of a Chapter.
3. Must be a full member of the American Legion Riders and not a supporting member.

Section 3: COMMITTEE SELECTION

1. Committee will be appointed by and serve at the discretion of the Commander of the Department of Illinois and its officers.

Section 4: DUTIES

1. Chairman
 - a. Charged with supervision of the committee and American Legion Rider program for the Department of Illinois and reports directly to the Commander and Department officers.
 - b. Sets agenda for all committee meetings.
 - c. Shall ensure all Chapters follow department rules and procedures.
 - d. Ensures all functions follow national guidelines.
 - e. Ensures articles are published in Department newsletter.
 - f. Keeps state ALR Chapters at the forefront of respect for the American Legion.
 - g. Makes certain reports are submitted in a timely manner.
2. Vice Chairman
 - a. Follows chapters and membership with division representatives.
 - b. Communicates with chapters regarding events and safety through divisions.

- c. Makes reports and administration to Chairman.
- 3. Division Representatives
 - a. Keeps focused on chapters in division and districts in his/her area of responsibility.
 - b. One of these individuals may be asked to become adjutant/secretary for committee to keep notes on meetings and proceedings.

Section 5: Meetings

- 1. Quarterly meetings will be scheduled as needed – October, January, April, with one meeting either in June or at the time of the Department Convention open to all members statewide at a site to be selected by the committee in conjunction with the Department.
 - a. Notes will be taken and sent to the Commander for each of the quarterly meetings. These notes after the Commander’s review will be put on the Department website under the ALR link.
 - b. Also, these notes may be filed if necessary under the commissions’ reports or the committee Chairman may wish to draft a separate report for that.

ARTICLE II DISTRICT LIAISON FOR ALR

Section 1: Qualification

- 1. Must be a full member in good standing of the American Legion Family.
 - a. Cannot be a supporting member, must be a full Legion rider.
 - b. Must be a Director or past Director of a chapter.

Section 2: Selection as Liaison

- 1. Liaison will be appointed by District Commander.

Section 3: Duties

- 1. Reports of chapters and membership to division representative.
- 2. Promotes the ALR within the district.
- 3. Assists in setting up and formation of new chapters.
- 4. Maintains communications between chapters and committee.

ARTICLE III AMERICAN LEGION RIDER CHAPTER

Section 1: Establishment of chapters

1. Chapters must have a sponsoring Post.
 - a. A letter of sponsorship is required from sponsoring post signed by the post commander.
 - b. 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
 - c. Upon receipt of this post letter and the officer roster, which is to be updated annually, the Department Advisory Committee will issue a charter recognizing the existence of the chapter.
 - d. Receipt of the Charter is official recognition by the state and is not to be construed as a national charter.
 - e. Heyworth, IL. Post will always be considered the original State Charter Chapter.

Section 2: Qualifications:

1. Must be a full member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion to become an ALR member or supporting member.
 - a. Supporting Members cannot vote or hold office.
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. A motorcycle is defined as a vehicle that meets the class "M" or "J11" requirements per the state Department of Motor Vehicles. It is up to the individual ALR member to maintain certifications and insurance.
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.

Section 3: Organization:

1. ALR Chapter is a post level program.
2. ALR Chapter exists at the discretion of the post.
3. 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.
4. Members may not belong to or hold membership in more than one chapter as a full member of the ALR.
 - a. Member may hold post level office at the same time he/she holds higher offices in ALR or Legion family.
 - b. Members are not precluded from holding any district, division, department or national office while serving as officer at post chapter level.

5. Members may be issued a membership number or card as decided by the post or chapter.
6. 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.
7. All ALR members shall obey the laws of their respective state and/or the state(s) in which they ride.

Section 4: Officers:

1. Director/Chairman, Assistant Director/Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms
2. Optional Offices – Road Captains, Chaplain and Historian

Section 5: Duties:

1. Director/Chairman:
 - a. Presides over meetings.
 - b. Chief administrator and volunteer.
 - c. Liaison to sponsoring Post, District and Division.
 - d. Supervises affairs and events.
 - e. Delegates and follows up.
 - f. Submits reports as necessary
2. Assistant Director/Vice Chairman:
 - a. Performs duties as directed by Chapter Director
 - b. Conducts meetings in Director's/Chairman's absence.
 - c. Membership Chairman.
3. Secretary:
 - a. Maintains membership records and contact information
 - b. Maintains meeting minutes and records of proceedings
 - c. Maintains Chapter by-laws and amendments
4. Treasurer:
 - a. Maintains accurate record of chapter's funds and transactions.
 - b. Makes available to sponsoring post and members.
 - c. Makes disbursements of funds when required.
 - d. Makes finance reports as required.
5. Sergeant -at –Arms and Road Captains and Safety Officers:
 - a. Plans runs along with road captains.
 - b. Helps maintain order at meetings if necessary.
 - c. Briefs members on routes and rides to ensure safety.
 - d. Drafts Safety rules for chapter.
 - e. Ensures that waivers are signed.

ARTICLE IV PATCHES AND APPAREL

Section 1: Vest

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. ALR Back Patch
 - a. Centered on back of vest
4. Small ALR Patch\
 - a. Right side front below P.O.W.-M.I.A Patch
5. U.S. Flag Patch
 - a. Left Front at what would be just above the pocket on a shirt with nothing to be above this patch.
6. State of Illinois Patch (Wear is by suggestion)
 - a. Right side below P.O.W.-M.I.A Patch
7. P.O.W.- M.I.A. Patch
 - a. Right side at what would be just above the pocket on a shirt.
8. Individual Patches
 - a. Should be veteran related.
 - b. Nothing will be worn that will embarrass the American Legion.
 - c. All patches should be positive in nature or charity and run related if not veteran related.
9. Director can restrict patches or pins that are negative or lewd or considered inappropriate. Aiguillette / shoulder cord
 - a. Riders serving on the National Advisory Committee may wear a red shoulder cord (aiguillette). Riders serving on the Department Advisory Committee may wear a gold shoulder cord. Those serving as District Liaisons or Chapter Directors may wear a light blue shoulder cord.

Section 2: Dress for Funerals and Memorial Day or Veterans Day

It would be considered appropriate that members wear dark pants, long sleeve white shirts, a black vest and the appropriate Legion headgear when attending these functions.