



# American Legion Riders of Missouri

## Constitution

### PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: to promote and support programs of the American Legion; to participate in parades and other ceremonies; to promote motorcycle safety programs; to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; and to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism.

### I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the American Legion Riders of Missouri, hereinafter referred to as the "Riders".

### II. NATURE

1. The Riders is a civilian organization. Membership therein does not affect, nor increase liability for military or police service.
2. The Riders shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person or group seeking public office or preferment.
3. The Riders shall be absolutely non-sectarian.
4. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding, in accord with the law.

### III. ORGANIZATION

1. The Riders are organized as a subordinate body, as a program of and under the sponsorship and jurisdiction of The Department of Missouri, The American Legion.

2. The Riders shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, and by the Department of Missouri Executive Committee.

3. The Riders are accountable to The American Legion Riders Committee, appointed by The American Legion, Department of Missouri. Known hereafter as the Committee.

4. The Riders shall hold regularly scheduled conferences and conventions at the same time and place as The American Legion, Department of Missouri conferences and conventions.

5. Any action taken at Riders meetings shall be subject to review and approval of the Committee.

6. All activities within the Riders, Districts or Chapters shall be approved by their respective governing body.

### IV. DEPARTMENT LEGION RIDERS COMMITTEE

1. The members and chairman of the Department Legion Riders Committee, hereafter known as "Committee" are appointed by the Department Commander of The American Legion, Department of Missouri with the advise and consent of the Department Executive Committee. The Chairman of the Committee is the Advisor and he chairs all Committee meetings. He may make reports to and from the Department and as such is the liaison between the Riders, and the Department Commander. Terms of the members shall be as prescribed by the Department Executive Committee.

2. All actions of the Legion Riders Committee are subject to the approval of The American Legion, Department of Missouri, Department Executive Committee.

### V. RIDERS OFFICERS

1. Election of Officers shall be as provided in the By-Laws. The elected officers shall be a Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms/Run Coordinator, Historian, Chaplain and Judge Advocate.

2. Any officer may be removed from office for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members attending and voting at a joint meeting of Committee and the Riders elected officers. The vacancy would then be filled by the Joint Committee, subject to the approval of The American Legion, Department of Missouri Executive Committee.

## VI. RIDERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The administrative authority of the Riders shall be vested in a Riders Executive Committee. The voting members of this Committee shall consist of the Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer and Judge Advocate.

2. The Committee shall hold meetings at the same time and place as the Department Executive Committee to consider any business that may come before it. The Committee shall hold other meetings at the request of the Director and/or three members of the Committee.

3. The Committee without meeting physically may conduct business by mail, telegraph, or other recordable method of communication on matters of urgency not involving new policy that cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting of said Committee.

4. Any actions taken by the Committee may be subject to review and approval by the Department Legion Riders Committee, contingent upon the Riders preferences.

## VII. ELIGIBILITY

1. There are two requirements for regular membership in the American Legion Riders of Missouri;

[a] Be a member in good standing of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary or the Sons of the American Legion, **AND**

[b] Be the legally registered owner of a street legal motorcycle, possess a drivers license in the state of legal residence and maintain proof of coverage for all motorcycle medical, property damage and liability insurance required by local and state laws. Due to some activities there may be requirements of minimum sizes of motorcycles for participation; **OR** be the spouse of a current Riders member; **OR** be the minor child of a Riders member.

2. Chapters, after careful consideration, may have special class members who do not meet requirement 1[b]. Special class members shall not be able to vote.

3. There shall be no “waiting” or “probationary” period to ascertain eligibility.
4. A member in any Chapter of the of The American Legion Riders within the geographical state of Missouri is a member of the Riders.

## VIII. CHAPTERS

1. Chapters of the Riders shall be organized under the jurisdiction of the local Posts of The American Legion. Each Chapter exists through sponsorship of the individual post of The American Legion and is subject to such rules, regulations and supervision as shall be created by the sponsoring post not in conflict with rules and regulations established by the Department of Missouri.

2. All the Chapters of the Riders, shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, and by such further rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Missouri.

3. Application to form a Chapter of the American Legion Riders shall be by a Post Commander of The American Legion in the area in which the Chapter will exist. Upon the Post Commanders approval, the application shall be forwarded to the Riders then Department for final approval and issuance of charter.

4. The minimum number of members for forming a Chapter of the Riders shall be five (5).

5. There shall be only one (1) Chapter per Post.

6. Each Chapter shall elect officers at a regular meeting not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Riders Annual Meeting and report these officers to the Riders Secretary at least twenty (20) days prior to the Annual meeting. Installation of said officers shall be held within sixty (60) days of the Annual Meeting.

7. Each Chapter shall be the judge of its own membership.

8. The amount of annual Chapter dues shall be determined by the Chapter and the sponsoring American Legion Post. These dues, which will include any appropriate per capita for District, the Riders or National, shall be collected by the Chapters. The Chapter shall be responsible for forwarding the appropriate dues to the Riders Headquarters.

## IX. DISTRICTS

1. Intermediate organizations, between the Riders and Chapters, may be formed to be known as Riders Districts.
2. Application for formation of a Riders District will be in letter format and given to the American Legion District Commander for consideration and approval and forwarding to the Department Adjutant.
3. Each Riders District of the American Legion Riders will carry the same numeric designation and area boundaries as The American Legion District in which it is located.
4. The purpose of the Riders District is to act as a liaison between the Chapters and the Riders and to promote the overall programs in their area through common efforts.
5. Riders Districts may elect officers from and among their members. Titles, duties and terms of office shall generally conform to those of the Chapter organizations.

## X. CHAPTER AND DISTRICT CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Each Chapter and Riders District shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws. In the formation of such, there shall be no conflict with any provision of this document governing the American Legion Riders.

## X. UNIFORM

1. The uniform for the American Legion Riders of Missouri shall be a black vest and the American Legion Riders cap. The American Legion Riders Back Patch, configured as put forth by the Founding members, shall be the dominate feature of the back of the vest upon which it is worn.
2. While riding, the appropriate laws of the State shall govern head and safety gear.
3. Only items favorable to the American Legion Riders, the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion or regalia of the appropriate military forces may be worn on the vest. Chapters may approve other items that are of local interest to be worn on the vest.

## XII. FINANCES

1. The revenue of the Riders shall be derived from annual membership dues and from other sources as may be approved by the Committee.
2. The amount of such annual dues shall be fixed by the Riders, and shall become due and payable on October 20 of each year for the succeeding calendar year, and be considered delinquent by December 31. The Riders membership year will be aligned with the American Legion.
3. The annual dues collected by the Riders shall be kept in an appropriate account maintained by The American Legion, Department of Missouri. The American Legion, Department of Missouri, shall distribute the funds of the Riders upon the direction of the Riders Advisor within the scope of an approved budget.
4. A member whose dues, for the current year, have not been paid by January first shall be classed as delinquent. If his dues are paid on, or before, February first, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February first, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under suspension on June thirtieth of such year, his membership in the American Legion Riders shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been forfeited, may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Chapter and payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs.

## XIII. DISCIPLINE

The Riders of Missouri, may suspend or revoke the charter of any Chapter of the American Legion Riders in the Department of Missouri which violates its Constitution and By-Laws, or take such other disciplinary measures as may be for the benefit of the Chapter, District, or the organization as a whole. Any action taken is subject to review and agreement of the Department Executive Committee.

## XIV. AMENDMENTS

1. This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Legion, Department of Missouri of which the Riders is a subordinate member. Any amendment to the Department Constitution and By-Laws, which is in conflict with any provision hereof, shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.
2. This Constitution may be amended at the Annual Convention by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates attending, provided the proposed amendment(s) have been submitted to the Riders in writing sixty (60) days prior to the opening of such Annual

Meeting and provided to all Chapters/Districts for their review a minimum of forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

3. Approved amendments shall subsequently be submitted without delay to the Committee for consideration and modification and/or approval and thence to the Department of Missouri Executive Committee for final approval prior to any implementing action on the part of the Riders.

## BY-LAWS

### I. MEETINGS

1. The procedure at all Chapter, District and Rider meetings shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order (Revised).

2. A quorum shall be considered present for a Riders meeting when three elected Officers and three members of different Chapters in attendance, total representation equaling at least four Chapters for any business that may come before the conferences or conventions.

### II. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

1. Elections for offices shall be held during the Annual Convention and shall be accomplished by vote of the delegates.

2. Each Chapter shall be entitled delegates on the following basis:

[a] One (1) delegate for each Charter issued.

[b] One (1) delegate for each Chapter Director or Secretary in attendance at the convention. No proxies are permitted.

[c] Past Rider Directors shall be entitled to one (1) vote provided they are present at the convention. Their vote will be included with their chapters.

3. Installation of officers shall follow the First Session of the Annual Convention, and shall be done according to ritual.

4. All officers shall hold their office from the installation at the Annual Convention until a successor is installed at the next Annual Convention the following year.

### III. OFFICERS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Director: The Director shall be the Executive Head of the American Legion Riders, and will have full authority to enforce the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws and the policies and mandates of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, and the Department Executive Committee. In fulfillment of his role as Director, he shall also be responsible for promoting of the American Legion Riders programs with Chapters and assisting in the formulation of new Chapters by enlisting the



aid of the Assistant Director.

2. Assistant Director: The Assistant Director shall be responsible for membership. He shall directly represent the Director on all matters referred to him and shall, upon request, preside over meetings. He shall act as the Director in his absence and be the administrative coordinator with the Department of Missouri Staff.

4. Secretary: The Secretary shall be charged with the administrative duties required in carrying out the policies and mandates of the American Legion Riders.

5. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be direct custodian of the fund books. He shall assist in the preparation of a budget for the ensuing year, subject to the approval of the Committee.

6. Sergeant-at-Arms/Run Coordinator: The Sergeant-at-Arms/Run Coordinator shall be charged with the responsibility of preserving order at all meetings and he shall be given custody of the colors between such meetings. He shall be the logistics person in charge of organized runs, and serve as mentor for Chapter Run Coordinators.

7. Chaplain: The Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed by The American Legion. He shall organize and conduct the memorial service at the Annual Meeting.

8. Historian: The Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to the Riders and shall compile a complete history of years activities during his term of office. In addition, he shall develop a procedure for District and Chapter Historians to follow in publishing their respective yearbooks.

9. Judge Advocate: The Judge Advocate shall provide advice in conduct of all official meetings of the Riders. He shall be the guardian of the Constitution and By Laws.

#### IV. AMENDMENTS

1. These By Laws are adopted, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Legion, Department of Missouri. Any amendment to the Department Constitution and By-Laws, which is in conflict with any provision hereof, shall be regarded as automatically repealed or modifying the provisions of these By Laws to the extent of such conflict.

2. These By Laws may be amended at the Annual Convention by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates attending, provided the proposed amendment(s) have been submitted to the Riders in writing sixty (60) days prior to the opening of such Annual

Meeting and provided to all Chapters/Districts for their review a minimum of forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

3. Approved amendments shall subsequently be submitted without delay to the Committee for consideration and modification and/or approval and thence to the Department of Missouri Executive Committee for final approval prior to any implementing action on the part of the Riders.