



American Legion Riders

Motorcycle Association

Post 35

Chandler, Arizona

Purpose

- To participate in parades and other ceremonies which are in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion.
- To promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest.
- To use our Association to promote and support the programs of the American Legion

Bylaws

This document is intended to serve as bylaws for Post 35 of the American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association, aka, Legion Riders, aka, Riders, aka ALR, henceforth referred to as the ALR.

1. Membership:

1.1. Full Members

- 1.1.1. Must be a current member in good standing in the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion.
- 1.1.2. Must not at any time hold membership in more than one Post-level Chapter of the ALR.
- 1.1.3. Must meet one of the two requirements below.
 - 1.1.3.1. Must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle of at least 350cc (21.4 CI) engine displacement and must possess a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement in their state of residence (military equivalents acceptable as well).
 - 1.1.3.2. Must be the legal spouse of an ALR member in good standing within the Chapter of application.

1.2. Honorary Membership

- 1.2.1. By majority vote of members present and voting, an Honorary Membership may be bestowed upon an individual.
- 1.2.2. Is reserved to individuals who cannot ride a motorcycle due to physical or other limitations.
- 1.2.3. Must be a member in good standing of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of American Legion.
- 1.2.4. Cannot hold an elected office.
- 1.2.5. Are not required to pay annual dues.
- 1.2.6. Are entitled to wear Patches and rockers as a full member.

1.3. Chapter Supporters

- 1.3.1. The Chapter Supporter classification does not constitute full membership in the ALR, but is intended as a means to provide recognition to those who show strong support to the ALR Chapter.
- 1.3.2. Must be a member in good standing of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of American Legion.
- 1.3.3. All articles of clothing worn by Chapter Supporters displaying the ALR emblem must also contain the words "I support" or "Supporter" within visible proximity of the ALR emblem.
- 1.3.4. The conferring of "Chapter Supporter" status must not be made in connection with the promise of any material, financial, or political benefit to the Chapter, its members or its officers; nor to any other member at any other organizational level within the ALR; nor must there be any similar gains for the honoree through the conferring of "Chapter Supporter" status.
- 1.3.5. May be issued a membership card which clearly denotes their status as a Chapter Supporter.
- 1.3.6. Cannot hold an elected office.
- 1.3.7. Cannot vote on matters of business as they pertain to the ALR
- 1.3.8. Are required to pay annual dues.

2. Organization:

2.1. This Chapter exists at the discretion of its sponsoring Post.

- 2.1.1. The Post remains the organizational level at which any ALR Chapter having individual members exists. The Post is the "atomic level" of the ALR.

3. Required / Elected Officers:

3.1. President:

- 3.1.1. Serves as Chief Administrative Officer of the Chapter and presides over all meetings.
- 3.1.2. Supervises all affairs of the Chapter.
- 3.1.3. Performs such other duties as directed by the general membership.

- 3.2. Vice President:
 - 3.2.1. Assumes the duties of the President in his/her absence.
 - 3.2.2. Assists the President in the performance of his/her duties when called on to do so by the President.
- 3.3. Secretary
 - 3.3.1. Keeps a full and accurate record of all proceedings at the meetings.
 - 3.3.2. Keeps membership records as may be required by the general membership.
- 3.4. Provides detailed minutes of prior meeting at each regular meeting.
- 3.5. Treasurer
 - 3.5.1. Responsible for all finances of the Chapter.
 - 3.5.2. Disburses and collects funds as directed by the general membership, pursuant to Paragraph 9 below.
 - 3.5.3. Provides detailed financial reports at each regular meeting.
 - 3.5.4. Provides financial audit data to the sponsoring Post if requested.
- 3.6. Sgt. At Arms/Run Coordinator
 - 3.6.1. Responsible for all logistics of organized runs of the Association, including determination of dates, times, routes, and meeting places for those taking part in a run activity.
 - 3.6.2. Appoints, directs, and dismisses assistant road captains and/or security personnel as may be required by activities and/or circumstances of the Chapter.
 - 3.6.3. Responsible to plan for the safety of Chapter members during participation in any run or activity; and to plan for the safety of other participants in any Chapter-sponsored run or activity.
 - 3.6.4. Maintains order during chapter meetings.
 - 3.6.5. Ensures eligibility of those participating in Chapter elections, and ensures ineligible persons are not allowed to participate in the vote.
- 3.7 Road Captain (not to exceed 5 positions)
 - 3.7.1 Responsible to plan for the safety of Chapter members and Guests during participation in any chapter sponsored run.
 - 3.7.2 Responsible to ensure all safety procedures and signals are Understood and followed by all participants at any Chapter sponsored run.
 - 3.7.3 Responsible for holding rider training classes for Chapter Members.
4. Discretionary / Appointed Officers:
 - 4.1. The following officers are appointed and approved by a majority vote of the elected officers.
 - 4.2. Historian
 - 4.2.1. Compiles and maintains records to document activities of Chapter, including written and photographic documentation.
 - 4.2.2. If the Chapter is so equipped, the Historian may also serve as webmaster.
 - 4.3. Membership Chairman
 - 4.3.1. Relieves Secretary of responsibility for maintenance of membership records as may be required by the general membership.
 - 4.3.2. Collects membership dues as determined by the Chapter by-laws, and provides same to Treasurer on a regular basis.

- 4.3.3. Reviews and/or collects eligibility documentation as required by the general members, sponsoring Post Executive Board, Department, or State and Local laws.
- 4.3.4. Provides detailed membership reports at regular meetings of the Chapter.
- 4.4. Chaplain
 - 4.4.1. Provides invocation at regular meetings or other activities as may be required by the general membership.
- 5. Additional Roles - The Chapter may, at their discretion, appoint or elect individuals to fulfill various other roles required for operation of the Chapter. These appointments or elections may be intended to relieve Chapter Officers of certain of their roles, or to fulfill Chapter-specific requirements.
 - 5.1. These roles and the manner of filling them must be defined in the Chapter Bylaws at inception or through amendment.
 - 5.2. Examples of such roles include separation of the Sgt. at Arms and Run Coordinator duties; addition of Communications or Liaison Officer; Webmaster, Store Keeper, Road Captains, etc.
 - 5.3. These individual roles will be considered Chapter officers or committee chairmen at the discretion of the Chapter, and as defined within the Chapter bylaws.
- 6. Considerations for Office - Any full member in good standing, is eligible to serve as an officer of the Chapter.
- 7. Elections - Officers serve at the discretion of the Association Membership; therefore, regular elections must be held to select officers from amongst the members in good standing.
 - 7.1. Elections are to be held concurrent with elections of the Post.
 - 7.2. Officers of the Chapter shall be elected through an annual nominating and balloting process as determined by the general membership and defined within the Chapter bylaws. Election of officers will take place annually, at such time as determined by the general membership and reflected within the Chapter bylaws.
 - 7.2.1. A nominating method will be employed as determined by the general membership and reflected in the Chapter bylaws.
 - Only those members of the Chapter in good standing (fulfilling Paragraph 1.1 and any local requirements) at the time of nominations shall be allowed to make a nomination.
 - 7.2.1.1. Only those members of the Chapter in good standing at the time of nominations and who will fulfill requirements for officers by the time elections are held shall be allowed to accept a nomination.
 - 7.2.1.2. Determination of eligibility shall be made by the Sgt. At Arms using membership records of the Chapter and whatever means of identification of the member as deemed necessary by the general membership.
 - 7.2.2. A balloting method (show of hands, secret ballot, etc) shall be consistently employed as determined by the general membership and reflected within the Chapter bylaws.
 - 7.2.2.1. Only those members of the Chapter in good standing (fulfilling Paragraph 1.1 and any local requirements) at the time of election shall be allowed to vote.
 - 7.2.2.2. Determination of eligibility shall be made by the Sgt. At Arms using membership records of the Chapter and whatever means of identification of the member as deemed necessary by the general membership.
- 8. Meetings:
 - 8.1. Meetings will be held at a date, time and location as determined by a majority vote at Chapter meetings.
 - 8.2. Quorum
 - 8.2.1. A minimum of seven members and a majority of elected officers (elected officers are included in the minimum seven member requirement).
 - 8.3. Meetings will be conducted under "Roberts Rules of Order".

9. Finances: Finances of the Chapter will be from Association membership dues or such other sources, as approved by the membership.
 - 9.1. Chapter finances will be held in such manner as allowed by the rules of the sponsoring Post.
 - 9.1.1. A minimum of two people shall have signature authority on all accounts.
 - 9.1.1.1. An officer of the ALR Chapter
 - 9.1.1.2. A Post officer
 - 9.1.1.3. Husband/wife or individuals who cohabitate
 - 9.1.1.3.1. Only one person (example husband or wife) can be on any account.
 - 9.2. All funds and property of the Chapter is ultimately property of the Post, and must be reported and/or surrendered upon demand of the Post Executive Board.
 - 9.3. The Chapter enjoys the tax-exempt status of the Post and must manage its finances in accordance with applicable Federal (IRS), State, and local laws applicable to nonprofit organizations.
 - 9.4. Disbursement of funds will be only those authorized at any regular meeting of the Chapter.
 - 9.5. An annual fee of \$20 is collected for membership to Post 35 of the American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association.
 - 9.5.1. Dues are to be collected in January for the calendar year.
 - 9.5.1.1. Dues for new members, joining during the year, will not be prorated.
 - 9.6. Expenses
 - 9.6.1. Spending monies from Chapter funds shall be agreed upon by a quorum vote.
10. Expulsion: Methods for the expulsion or suspension of members are outlined below.
 - 10.1. Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Chapter by a majority vote of the general membership at a regular Chapter meeting.
 - 10.1.1. Such expulsion does not preclude the individual from joining at another Chapter
 - 10.1.2. The individual is no longer a member of the ALR upon expulsion from a Chapter; unless or until said individual is a member in good standing within another Chapter.
 - 10.2. Any member no longer fulfilling the requirements of being a full member is immediately expelled from full membership in the ALR until such time as the requirements are again fulfilled.
11. Charter Membership:
 - 11.1. A Charter Member is defined as an individual who participated in initiation of Post 35 of the American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association and paid required fee for said membership.
 - 11.2. The designation of "Founding Member" is reserved to honor those members who originally founded the ALR and will not be substituted for the designation of "Charter Member".
12. Chapter Designation:
 - 12.1. This chapter is designated Post 35 of the American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association.
 - 12.2. At no time shall a Chapter refer to itself or present itself as a Motorcycle Club.
13. Governing Rules:
 - 13.1. These bylaws shall be no less stringent than those contained in the National approved template.
 - 13.2. These standing rules or amended bylaws shall contain the stated purpose for the ALR, as defined in the introductory language of these bylaws.
 - 13.3. These standing or amended bylaws must not be in conflict with the National Constitution, or with the bylaws of the American Legion, Department, Sponsoring Post, or with Federal, State, and local laws.

14. Amendment:

14.1. Chapter Bylaws

14.1.1. The Chapter President shall retain the approved copy of these bylaws.

14.1.2. These By-Laws maybe amended by a two thirds affirmative vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the ALR, provided the proposed amendments shall have been read at the previous meeting and recorded in the official minutes. The amendment will be posted on the ALR bulletin board for 30 days prior to voting.

14.1.3. These By-Laws shall be automatically amended to conform to the National and Department Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion Riders.

15. Uniform:

15.1. The ALR vest will be worn for all ALR functions.

15.2. ALR vests shall be black leather

15.3. The American Flag

15.3.1. When worn by an ALR member, the Flag must not be subjugated by any other emblem or standard on the item of apparel to which it is affixed.

15.3.2. When worn by an ALR member, the Flag must not be obscured or covered by any other emblem or standard on the item of apparel to which it is affixed.

15.3.3. Established standards for the display and wearing of the Flag must be observed:

15.3.3.1. When worn on the shoulder of a garment, the field of stars must be forward, as if the Flag is carried into the wind on a pole.

15.3.3.2. When worn on the back or front of a garment, the field of stars is to be on the left.

15.3.3.3. When worn in conjunction with one (1) flag of another organization, sovereignty, territory, or nation, the Flag must be in a numerically superior (to the left of the other flag when viewed from the front).

15.3.3.4. When worn in conjunction with several flags of other organizations, sovereignties, territories, or nations, the Flag must be worn in the center and above any other flag in the grouping.

15.3.3.5. No graphic or slogan is ever to appear across the Flag.

15.3.3.6. The Flag is never to be worn on the seat of the pants, or on any other location that could be considered disrespectful to the Flag

15.3.3.7. No derogatory signs or patches containing profane language or gestures will be permitted on the ALR vest.

15.3.4. When worn garments bearing the Flag are to be discarded, the Flag is to be removed from the garment and retired in a manner appropriate to the Flag of The United States of America.

15.4. The ALR Back Patch

15.4.1. The ALR Back Patch, configured as put forth by the Founding Members and available through The American Legion Emblem Sales, is to be worn by all members of the ALR in good standing.

15.4.2. The Back Patch must be the dominant feature of the back of the garment upon which it is worn; i.e., the ALR back patch must not be subjugated to the patch of any M/C or motorcycle owners' group.

15.4.3. If desired, the following lower rocker configurations may be worn with the Back Patch, assuming the listed provisions are met:

- 15.4.3.1. The designation Veteran is only to be worn by those who satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1.1 and can produce a DD214.
- 15.4.3.2. The designation Squadron is only to be worn by those who and are members in good standing of the Sons of The American Legion. A current, valid SAL membership card shall suffice as evidence of these requirements.
- 15.4.3.3. The designation Auxiliary is only to be worn by those who are members in good standing of The American Legion Auxiliary. A current, valid Legion Auxiliary membership card shall suffice as evidence of these requirements.

15.5. Dress

15.5.1. Patches shall be affixed to the vest as follows

- 15.5.1.1. US flag shall be placed on the upper left side (when worn by the individual)
- 15.5.1.2. Arizona state flag shall be placed below the US flag.
 - 15.5.1.2.1. A shield maybe substituted for the Arizona state flag should an appropriate size flag be unavailable.
- 15.5.1.3. POW/MIA patch shall be placed on the upper right side.
- 15.5.1.4. The ALR back patch shall be centered in the back of the vest
- 15.5.1.5. The “Legion Riders” rocker shall be placed on the back side across the top of the vest.
- 15.5.1.6. Charter Member patch shall be placed to the left and below the back patch.
- 15.5.1.7. The preferred size of the US and Arizona state flag is 3” by 5”. Should that size be inappropriate for the individual’s vest (for example – too large for a small sized person), smaller patches maybe used.

16. Ride requirements

16.1. Rides sponsored by Post 35 of the American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association are defined as follows

- 16.1.1. Scheduled at a regularly held meeting
- 16.1.2. Impromptu rides so designated by officers of Post 35 of the American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association.

16.2. A ride sign in sheet shall be completed at the start of any sponsored or impromptu ride.

- 16.2.1. It shall be retained, during the ride, by the senior officer attending of the ride.
- 16.2.2. If there is no incident during the ride, the forms shall be retained for 60 days and can be discarded after that time.
- 16.2.3. If there is an incident during the ride, the sign in sheet shall be given to the President as soon as practical for retention until issues resulting from the incident are resolved.

16.3. Riders shall follow applicable safety and traffic rules.

- 16.3.1. Individuals who demonstrate unsafe practices may be asked to leave the ride group at the discretion of the senior officer in attendance.

16.4 New members, transfers not excluded, of Post 35 American Legion Riders are required to complete the ALR Safety Course prior to participating in any rides.

Appendix 1.0 Change Log

Date	Paragraph	Change	By	Status
08/30/07		Initial release – approved at chapter meeting	P. Deschamps	Approved
09/28/07	15.5.1.2.1	Added new paragraph	P. Deschamps	Approved
	15.5.1.7	Added new paragraph	P. Deschamps	Approved
10/25/07	16.3.2	Deleted paragraph – approved at chapter meeting	P. Deschamps	Approved
01/10/08	3.1, 3.2, 14.1.1, 16.2.3	Change Director to President, Assistant Director to Vice President	P. Deschamps	Approved
01/10/08	7.1, 9.1.1 and 9.5.1, 9.6	Add new paragraphs	P. Deschamps	Approved
4/30/2010	3.7,3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.7.3	Add new paragraphs	D. Dobson	Approved
4/30/2010	14.1.2, 14.1.3	Deleted paragraphs and replaced with new paragraphs	D. Dobson	Approved
4/30/2010	16.4	Added a new paragraph	D. Dobson	Approved
7/10/2010	1.1.3.1	Added verbiage to require a Motorcycle Endorsement, permit is not acceptable	J. Lundquist	Approved
7/10/2010	1.3.6	Added Non Voting clause for supporter	J. Lundquist	Approved
7/10/2010	1.3.7	Moved clause re: Supporters paying Dues from 1.3.6	J. Lundquist	Approved
7/10/2010	1.3.9 1.3.9.1 1.3.9.2		J. Lundquist	Approved
7/10/2010	1.3.3	I Support or Supporter patch location	J. Lundquist	Approved
7/12/2010	15.3.3.7	Profane patch Info	J. Lundquist	Approved
10/15/2010	1.2	Corrected formatting on Honorary membership, labeled status of all changes in the change log, as approved	J. Lundquist	Approved