

## **Preamble**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To demonstrate the principles of responsible motorcycling as set forth in the Rider's Response: "We, Your American Legion Riders, Ride for God and Country, The American Legion Family, and Allied Veterans everywhere, Protect those that protect us. Amen". To serve as examples of responsible American Patriotism; to uphold and defend the Constitution of The United States of America; to serve our comrades as set forth in the Preamble to The Constitution of The American Legion.

## **Article I — Name**

The name of this organization shall be the "American Legion Riders", The American Legion Department of Indiana (hereafter "IN ALR".)

**Section 1.** The location of this Chapter shall be at The American Legion, Department of Indiana Headquarters, 5440 Herbert Lord, Indianapolis, IN 46216.

**Section 2.** An off-site administrative center may, from time to time, be established for the convenience of the organization and its elected officers, subject to approval by The American Legion Department of Indiana and the committee established for oversight of the organization.

## **Article II — Objectives**

The aims and purposes of the IN ALR shall be to promote and support the programs and community activities of The American Legion, Department of Indiana and its Posts by participation in Parades and other ceremonies in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of The American Legion; to promote motorcycle safety programs; to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share an interest in motorcycling and related activities; and to adhere to and promote the principles set forth in the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution.

## **Article III — Nature**

The IN ALR is a program of The American Legion Department of Indiana and subject to the rules, regulations, policies, oversight and control thereof. Such oversight and control shall be exercised through a committee of The Internal Affairs Commission of The Department of Indiana to be known as the American Legion Riders Committee, members whereof shall be appointed in accordance with Department of Indiana policy.

**Section 1.** The IN ALR is a civilian organization and membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service.

**Section 2.** The IN ALR shall be absolutely politically non-partisan 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.

**Section 3.** Rank does not exist in The American Legion Riders; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any meeting or officially sanctioned activity of the IN ALR or its individual Post Chapters.

## **Article IV -- Organization**

Any Post of The American Legion Department of Indiana may establish a local IN ALR organization by application for same to the State Director of the IN ALR, payment of all approved fees, and verification of members' eligibility.

**Section 1.** Application for establishment must be completed by duly elected officers of the Post and contain the names of all members.

**Section 2.** Approved Post Chapters will be subject to all applicable provisions of the IN ALR Constitution.

**Section 3.** Post Chapters in violation of the IN ALR Constitution will be suspended and all members will be denied voice and vote in Department meetings.

**Section 4.** There will be no official organizations of IN ALR in the Department of Indiana other than the IN ALR and approved Post Chapters, except that Post Chapters may from time to time cooperate, coordinate or come together to conduct joint activities under the auspices of their American Legion Department of Indiana District in which the Post Chapters are located.

**Section 5.** Must have a minimum of 7 members to start a chapter.

## **Article V — Membership**

There shall be two classes of membership: Regular and Special.

**Section 1.** *Regular Membership* shall be open to any verified current member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion.

**Section 1a.** Must be the registered owner of a street legal motorcycle with an engine displacement of not less than 350 cubic centimeters and hold a valid motorcycle endorsement or motorcycle learner permit.

**Section 1b.** Spouses who meet the criteria described in Sec. 1 above may also be members.

**Section 3.** *Special Membership* shall be open to current regular members only who have relinquished ownership or ridership of a qualifying motorcycle as a result of disability, injury, or a death.

**Paragraph 1.** Qualifying death shall be that of a spouse who was the sole or joint owner of the qualifying motorcycle.

**Paragraph 2.** Qualifying injury or disability shall be a limitation which prevents proper operation of a motorcycle.

**Paragraph 3.** Current members must have held a minimum one year Regular Membership before application for Special Membership.

**Paragraph 4.** All other conditions of Regular Membership must be met.

**Section 4.** Application for membership shall be made in writing under such regulations as may from time to time be prescribed by the IN ALR Executive Committee, and shall be accompanied by proof of eligibility.

**Section 5.** Any member of a Chapter may be expelled for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Chapter Executive Committee after charges are preferred under oath in writing, and a fair trial had upon the same.

**Section 6.** A member who has been expelled or suspended from a Chapter for any cause may be reinstated to membership by a two-thirds vote of the membership present in a Chapter meeting, and the payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs.

**Section 7.** No person who has been expelled by any other state organization shall be admitted to membership in the IN ALR without the consent of the expelling organization, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such organization, the applicant may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department for permission to apply for membership in the IN ALR, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

**Section 8.** All ALR chapters are a post level activity. Any verified current member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or The Sons of The American Legion with all conditions of Regular ALR Membership met may join any IN ALR chapter desired. ALR membership may be held at only one post at any given time. Every IN ALR member in good standing shall be eligible to hold office as described in Article VIII of this Constitution.

## **Article VI -- Honorary and Supporting Memberships**

There are two limited classes of membership available within the IN ALR: Honorary and Supporting. Honorary and Supporting Members, who do not meet the requirements for ordinary eligibility in The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion may be accorded Post privileges only to the extent permitted by Indiana law and federal regulation governing access to not-for-profit organizations.

**Section 1.** Honorary Membership may be granted to an American Legion Rider or a supporting member who goes above and beyond normal expectations in assisting and serving the Indiana Chapter.

**Paragraph 1.** Honorary Membership shall be granted on the recommendation of the Chapter Director and concurrence of 2/3 of the members present to vote.

**Paragraph 2.** Recommendation shall be voted on at the regularly scheduled meeting next following the meeting in which the recommendation was announced.

**Paragraph 3.** Honorary IN ALR members shall be exempt from payment of dues for life or until proper cause is shown why the member should be expelled in accordance with the rules for same in this Constitution and By-Laws.

**Section 2.** Supporting Membership may be granted to those deemed to be encouraging of the organization and motorcycling in general.

**Paragraph 1.** Supporting Membership may be granted by the Post level chapter only.

**Paragraph 2.** Posts level chapters are the judges of their own supporting members.

**Paragraph 3.** Supporting members are members without voice or vote, and may not be included in total membership counts.

**Paragraph 4.,** Supporting members shall be exempt from payment of dues for life or until proper cause is shown why the member should be expelled in accordance with the rules for same in this Constitution and By-Laws

**Paragraph 5.** Supporting members must wear an “I Support” rocker if an IN ALR back patch is worn.

## **Article VII -- Regalia**

The IN ALR may, from time to time, design and designate procedures for the wearing of unique IN ALR regalia including patches and caps by the several classes of members, provided that uniform rules for the wear and display of regalia be included in the By-Laws of this Constitution, and further provided that the IN ALR design and procedures must conform to rules and policies promulgated by the National and Department levels of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders.

## **Article VIII — Officers**

The administrative affairs of the IN ALR shall be under the supervision of an Executive Committee which shall consist of the elected officers of the IN ALR. A majority of the elected officers must be present at the meeting to constitute a quorum.

**Section 1.** The Executive Committee of the IN ALR shall be State Director, Assistant State Director, Secretary, Treasurer/Membership Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Historian, Chaplain, Run Coordinator, Communications Director, most Current Past State Director, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by this organization, who shall be named by the State Director subject to approval by the Executive Committee in its first meeting immediately following the election.

**Section 2.** Officers shall be nominated from the floor at the meeting immediately preceding the annual election.

**Section 3.** All officers shall be elected annually, and they shall hold office until their successors are duly installed or as otherwise provided. Any officer may be removed for cause by the Executive Committee, provided that two-thirds vote of said committee shall be necessary to effect such removal.

**Section 4.** Every IN ALR member in good standing shall be eligible to hold office.

**Section 5.** The duties of officers shall be those usually appertaining to such officers or committee and as further provided in the By-Laws.

**Section 6.** The Executive Committee may provide for such other appointive officers and standing committees as the business of the IN ALR may require.

**Section 7.** Members may hold up to two offices simultaneously, except that the State Director and Assistant State Director may not hold any other elective or appointive office at the state level during their term.

## **Article IX — Finance**

**Section 1.** The revenue of this Chapter shall be derived from membership fees, from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the IN ALR.

**Section 2.** There shall be no initiation fees assessed.

**Section 3.** The membership fees shall be established for the ensuing year at the first annual meeting upon recommendation of the Treasurer and concurred in by 2/3 of the members present to vote.

**Section 4.** IN ALR Chapter finances shall be under the control of and subject to audit by The American Legion Department of Indiana, and the IN ALR Committee shall provide an annual report of same to the Department of Indiana Executive Committee, which report is to coincide with the installation of IN ALR officers.

## **Article X — Charter Members**

Members who joined the IN ALR prior to November 30th, 2001, for the permanent authorization to form the IN ALR in the Department of Indiana, shall be known as IN ALR charter members.

### **Article XI – Amendments**

This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the national Constitution of The American Legion and of the department Constitution of the Department of Indiana, The American Legion.

**Section 1.** Any amendment to said National Constitution or Department Constitution which is in conflict with any provisions hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.

**Section 2.** This Constitution may be amended at any regular IN ALR meeting by vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting, providing the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular meeting of the IN ALR, and providing, further, written notice shall have been given to all members at least 45 days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted upon.

APPROVED AND EFFECTIVE AS OF OCTOBER 3, 2015