

Department of New York

American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association



Constitution & By-Laws

Adopted: July 15, 2011

Amended and Revised: July 20, 2018

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 of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers 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 adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which *The American Legion* stands; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization will be “New York American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association” (herein after referred to as NYALRMA).

Section 2. Generically the organization has been known as, and will continue to be referred to as *The American Legion Riders* or ALR.

ARTICLE II STATUS

Section 1. The NYALRMA shall be a non-profit organization.

Section 2. The NYALRMA shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles.

Section 3. *The American Legion* National Executive Committee has designated *The American Legion Riders* (ALR) as a Program of *The American Legion* at the National, Department and Post levels only. Any official positions between the Post and Department levels shall be for the sole purposes of oversight, advice and promoting the flow of information between said entities. (re: Resolution 35, October 2007)

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

Section 1. The NYALRMA shall be the organization to maintain continuity and communication between local ALR chapters within the state and *The American Legion* Department of New York.

Section 2. The NYALRMA shall provide a framework to assist in the forming of new local chapters of *The American Legion Riders*. Local chapters must be ‘sponsored’ or ‘hosted’ by an individual American Legion Post. *The American Legion Riders* is a National, Department and Post level program only, and each local Chapter shall have a Constitution & By-Laws approved by the local Chapter which shall not go into effect until approved by *The American Legion Riders* Department Executive Committee and *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee.

Section 3. *The American Legion Riders* participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of *The American Legion*.

Section 4. *The American Legion Riders* promote motorcycle safety programs.

Section 5. *The American Legion Riders* provide a social atmosphere for *The American Legion* (and “Legion Family”) members, who share a common interest in motorcycling.

Section 6. *The American Legion Riders* will also promote and support other programs of *The American Legion*.

ARTICLE IV ELIGIBILITY & MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the NYALRMA shall be available to any member in good standing of *The American Legion*, Auxiliary, or Sons of *The American Legion* organizations that also owns a properly registered and insured, highway legal motorcycle.

Section 2. The legal (or surviving) spouse of a member in good standing will also be eligible for membership – provided the spouse meets the ‘Legion Family’ membership requirement outlined in Section 1 of this Article.

Section 3. Similar to the other ‘Legion Family’ organizations; members may only hold a membership in one (1) chapter of *The American Legion Riders*, at any given time.

Section 4. As amended by Resolution Number 32 (May 4 & 5, 2011) *See Appendix B – page 17:*

- a) *Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law.*
- b) *ALR programs may allow for continued membership for those members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury, or other reasons outside the member’s control.*

ARTICLE V MEETINGS & REPRESENTATION

Section 1. The legislative body of the NYALRMA shall be the annual meeting, which shall be convened at the location where the annual Department of New York American Legion convention is held in July of each year and at a time immediately prior to, during or immediately following said convention. There shall be at least one other meeting during the year, which shall be held in conjunction with the mid-year meeting of *The American Legion*, Department of New York.

Section 2. Any NYALRMA member in good standing at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting shall be eligible to vote at the annual meeting. Any NYALRMA member in good standing at the time of any other meeting shall be eligible to vote at said meeting. There shall be no voting by proxy.

Section 3. A quorum for the transaction of business of any regular or special meeting of the NYALRMA shall be twenty (20) members in good standing representing at least five (5) separate and distinct counties within the Department of New York.

Section 4. Written notice must be sent at least thirty (30) days prior to any regular meeting and fifteen (15) days prior to any special meeting of the NYALRMA to all active chapters (via *The American Legion* Department of New York ALR webpage (<https://nylegion.net/department/legion-riders/>) and/or the District/County Chairman), informing them of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Section 1. At each annual meeting, the NYALRMA shall elect a Director (the NYALRMA Director shall be a Veteran and member of *The American Legion* or a member of the Sons of *The American Legion*) and five (5) Vice Directors. The Vice Directors will each be responsible for two Districts as defined by *The American Legion* (1st/9th Districts, 2nd/10th Districts, 3rd/4th Districts, 5th/6th Districts, 7th/8th Districts) and may be members of *The American Legion*, *The American Legion Auxiliary* or *Sons of The American Legion*. Additionally, the Vice Directors will have equal authority and will not be delineated as 1st, 2nd, etc.

Section 2. The Director will appoint a staff to include a minimum of a Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations/Web-Master(s), Historian and Sergeant at Arms. Duties are set out in the By-Laws.

Section 3. The Director may further appoint a Chaplain, State Ride Captain, Membership Chair, and additional Assistant Sergeants at Arms.

Section 4. All electees/appointees shall serve for a one-year term, commencing on the date of the annual meeting.

Section 5. All electees/appointees may serve multiple terms in office, with the exception of the Director - he/she may not serve more than (3) consecutive terms (he/she may serve again after being out of the office of Director for at least two (2) consecutive terms).

Section 6. Any standing committee members shall serve for a period of one year. The term of office for a Special or Ad Hoc Committee shall be from the date of formation until such date as the said committee's work is completed and/or the committee is discharged.

Section 7. The Department Commander will appoint a Consultant to act as a liaison between the NYALRMA and *The American Legion*, Department of New York.

Section 8. Officers and committee chair-persons will issue a report not to exceed four (4) minutes to the membership at the annual Department of New York American Legion convention held in July of each year and at least one other meeting during the year, which shall be held in conjunction with the mid-year meeting of *The American Legion*, Department of New York.

Section 9. The Director and Secretary will ensure that meeting minutes are distributed to the Department Vice Directors and *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee within thirty (30) days of each meeting. The meeting minutes will be posted to the NYALRMA website (<https://nylegion.net/department/legion-riders/>) thirty (30) days prior to the next meeting.

ARTICLE VII LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1. The local Chapter shall be formed as a program of the local Post, which shall have a minimum membership of five (5).

Section 2. Those of the Post who desire to form a local Chapter shall submit to their local Post an application to be the local ALR Chapter for that Post. Upon written approval of the Post, said local Chapter shall be deemed formed.

Section 3. Each local Chapter shall have a Chapter Constitution and By-Laws, which together with any subsequent amendments thereto shall be approved by the local Post, *The American Legion Riders* Department Executive Committee and *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee before becoming effective.

Section 4. *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee may at any time prescribe such further provisions as it deems advisable to any Post and/or Chapter Constitution and By-Laws. The local Chapter shall there upon forthwith adopt the additional provisions so prescribed.

Section 5. Local Chapters may be revoked, cancelled or suspended by the local Post and/or *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee.

Section 6. No local Chapter shall be named after any living person.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCES

Section 1. Since each officer and committee member of the NYALRMA will necessarily also be a “dues-paying” member of a local post supported chapter, there will be no dues collected from these individuals.

Section 2. The local chapters will assemble an annual American Legion Riders Department of New York Consolidated Chapter Report available on the Department Website (<https://nylegion.net/department/legion-riders/>). Said report will be submitted to the sponsoring Post and Department Headquarters annually, no later than the 1st of May.

Section 3. Said reports will be shared with each respective Department Vice Director for purposes of totaling and summarizing and submitted to the Director for reporting at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IX DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Department Vice Directors, in attendance, shall be the arbitrator in any differences of opinion as to eligibility of an applicant for membership, as well as any other disputes that may arise during the course of NYALRMA business, in accordance to Article X of the ALR By-Laws, and subject to the Department and National Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS & APPROVAL

Section 1. This Constitution may only be amended at the annual meeting of the NYALRMA by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership present, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted to *The American Legion Riders* Department Secretary, Vice Directors, Director and *The American Legion* Department Judge Advocate in writing, with proof of mailing, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting and transmitted with proof of transmittal electronically to the individual chapters not less than fifteen (15) days prior to said meeting.

Section 2. Further this Constitution may be amended at the annual meeting, without notice, by unanimous vote of those present, provided a quorum is met to conduct business.

Section 3. No amendments to this Constitution shall be introduced which shall be contrary to the spirit and policy of *The American Legion*.

Section 4. This Constitution shall take effective at the conclusion of the annual meeting where adopted and/or amended, but not before being first approved by *The American Legion Riders* Department Executive Committee and *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee.

Section 5. Any amendments to this Constitution shall not become effective until first submitted to *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee for signature, date, filing and approval.

ARTICLE XI PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The NYALRMA shall be governed by “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised” on all points not covered in this Constitution.

Section 2. It is important to realize that although the members of this association come from all components of the “American Legion Family” – each and every member has the right to be heard and respect will be equally afforded to all.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There are two requirements for membership in the New York American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association (herein after noted as NYALRMA):

- a. Must be a current member of *The American Legion*, *The American Legion Auxiliary* or *Sons of The American Legion*.
- b. Must own a properly licensed and insured, highway-legal motorcycle or be the spouse (or surviving spouse) of the owner who is an Association member – the spouse must also meet the requirement of Section 1(a) of this Article.

Section 2. It should be noted that “good standing” membership in a local post ALR chapter (within the Department of New York) automatically denotes individual membership in the NYALRMA.

Section 3. As amended by Resolution Number 32 (May 4 & 5, 2011) *See Appendix B – page 17:*

- a) *Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law.*
- b) *ALR programs may allow for continued membership for those members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury, or other reasons outside the member's control.*

ARTICLE II OFFICERS

Section 1. Authority between meetings shall rest with the Director and the Department Vice Directors in conjunction with the Department appointed Consultant.

Section 2. The NYALRMA Director shall preside at all regular, annual and special meetings. In his/her absence one of the Department Vice Directors shall preside.

Section 3. Director: shall serve as Chief Administrative Officer of the NYALRMA and will preside over all meetings. He/she shall have general supervision over the affairs of the Association and keep a list of Chapters and Chapter Directors. He/she shall have the power to appoint committees to carry out the policies and programs of the NYALRMA. He/she shall appoint his/her staff. (Vacant elected offices shall be filled by *The American Legion Department Executive Committee*). He/she shall have the right to call special meetings in accordance with Article V of the Constitution. The Director shall make a report at the annual meeting held at the Department Convention relative to the condition and activities of the NYALRMA. He/she shall perform such other duties as directed by the general membership.

Section 4. Vice Directors: shall serve as the Director's representatives. The Vice Directors will each be responsible for two Districts as defined by *The American Legion* (1st/9th Districts, 2nd/10th Districts, 3rd/4th Districts, 5th/6th Districts, 7th/8th Districts). The Vice Directors shall facilitate information flow between the NYALRMA (Department) and the individual Chapters (Post). These officers shall facilitate communication between chapters within his/her two Districts via the District Chairman and the County Chairman as appointed by *The American Legion* District and County Commanders. This will enable individual Chapters to better schedule events, as well as increase participation in local events.

Section 5. Secretary: shall keep a full and correct record of all proceedings at the meetings, keep all records of meeting attendance and other duties as may be required by the general membership. He/She will keep database of Chapters and their up to date contact information. He/she will make an accurate accounting of business undertaken at regular and special meetings. Meeting minutes will be prepared and provided to the Director, Vice Directors and *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee within thirty (30) days after each meeting. Minutes will be posted to the Department Website thirty (30) days before the next meeting in order to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Section 6. Treasurer: shall assist the Director in consolidating and reconciling reports forwarded through the Vice Directors and will provide the NYALRMA fundraising report at the annual meeting. He/she will also be responsible for any limited financial issues necessary by the NYALRMA.

Section 7. Department Consultant: shall be appointed by the Department Commander and will be a member of *The American Legion*. This individual may or may not be a member of the NYALRMA, he/she will act as a liaison between the NYALRMA and *The American Legion* Department of New York.

Section 8. Sergeant at Arms: shall be charged and entrusted to maintain order at meetings – the Director may appoint assistants or may utilize additional Sergeants from local chapters.

Section 9. Membership Chair: shall assist the Director in keeping an active database of ALR Chapters and members within the Department of New York. He/she may further promote the ALR at Department meetings through the use of leaflets, brochures and/or an information table.

Section 10. Chaplain: shall offer a non-denominational prayer and/or benediction at each meeting and perform other duties as requested by the Director.

Section 11. Historian/Photographer: shall maintain a running history of the NYALRMA, and keep electronic archives of photos, videos, etc... of events.

Section 12. Public Relations/Webmaster: shall coordinate posting of approved Department and Chapter level ALR information to approved social media tools and/or to *The American Legion* Department of New York's website (<https://nylegion.net/department/legion-riders/>) with the Department Webmaster; shall coordinate media/press releases and will endeavor to aid in creating a favorable image of the ALR and *The American Legion*, within the public square.

Section 13. State Ride Captain: shall mentor and assist local chapter Ride Captains, as needed. (This could be a duty performed by the Sergeant at Arms – if the Director deems it appropriate).

ARTICLE III ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The Director and Vice Directors shall administer any business affairs of the NYALRMA between meetings. The same group shall formulate policies subject to the Constitution and By-Laws for approval of the majority of members in attendance at a regular or special meeting.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Director and the five Vice Directors. Non-voting members may include Past Directors and the current Secretary & Treasurer. Three (3) voting members shall constitute a quorum. A record of Executive Committee meetings shall be kept and a written report shall be submitted at the next regular meeting of the NYALRMA with a copy to *The American Legion* Department Adjutant.

Section 3. Failure of an officer to attend a regular or special meeting of the NYALRMA may constitute cause for removal from office, by a quorum vote of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will have discretion to entertain, approve and accept a reasonable excuse for an absence.

Section 4. *The American Legion* National Headquarters Legion Riders Resolution no. 35 (see Appendix A), is NOT NEGOTIABLE and is our roadmap!

Section 5. *The American Legion* Department of New York Post compliance manual must be available and remain on Post property at all times. The manual was revised Dec 2009, updated June 2010 (page 18) and replaces any and all previous compliance manuals.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be at least two (2) meetings, of the NYALRMA, each year. One meeting shall be the annual meeting, which shall be convened at the location where the annual Department of New York American Legion convention is held in July of each year and at a time immediately prior to, during or immediately following said convention (at a place and time convenient to a majority of NYALRMA members). There shall be at least one other meeting during the year, which shall be held in conjunction with the mid-year meeting of *The American Legion*, Department of New York.

Section 2. Published (email, mail, or electronic) notice must be sent at least thirty (30) days prior to any regular meeting of the NYALRMA to all active chapters (via the Vice Directors, District Chairs, and/or County Chairs or *The American Legion* Department of New York ALR webpage <https://nylegion.net/department/legion-riders/>), informing them of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting.

Section 3. Published (email, mail, or electronic) notice must be sent at least fifteen (15) days prior to any special meeting of the NYALRMA to all active chapters (via the Vice Directors, District Chairs, and/or County Chairs or *The American Legion* Department of New York ALR webpage <https://nylegion.net/department/legion-riders/>), informing them of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting.

Section 4. A quorum for the transaction of business of any regular or special meeting of the NYALRMA shall be twenty (20) members in good standing representing at least five (5) separate and distinct counties within the Department of New York.

Section 5. All meetings of the NYALRMA shall be opened with a non-denominational blessing and the Pledge of Allegiance (this will necessitate the presence of the National Colors).

ARTICLE V NOMINATIONS

Section 1. The Director shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of three (3) members to identify a slate of officers (Director and Vice Directors) for the next membership year. The committee will make its report at the annual meeting and take further nominations from the floor. Nominators and Nominees must both be members (of the NYALRMA) in good standing. No one will be nominated who has not formally agreed to serve.

Section 2. No one shall be nominated for the position of Director unless they are also a Veteran and member of *The American Legion* Department of New York or a member of the Sons of *The American Legion* Department of New York.

Section 3. Candidates for elected office of Director or Vice Director must be a member (of the NYALRMA) in good standing (eligibility and membership verified by Nominations Committee prior to election).

ARTICLE VI ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The election of officers shall be held during the annual meeting of the NYALRMA, only after all other business has been conducted.

Section 2. The newly elected Vice Directors will be sworn in by the Director and assume their duties at the close of said meeting.

Section 3. The installation of the Director will be at the close of the General Meeting of *The American Legion* Department of New York Convention.

ARTICLE VII FINANCE

Section 1. Since *The American Legion Riders* is a Post level Program, the NYALRMA will not be in the business of collecting dues. (All officers are required to maintain their membership in good standing at their home/sponsoring Post).

Section 2. Any required revenue for meeting costs or other incidentals will be solicited, by the aforementioned elected officers along with the appointed Treasurer, from the local chapters in the form of donations. Any excess amounts will not be retained – but will be donated to the Legacy Scholarship Fund or another worthy American Legion cause, decided upon by a majority of the membership in attendance at the annual meeting.

Section 3. A financial report will be given at the NYALRMA annual meeting with copy to *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee and will include; any balances, fundraising totals, Legacy Run proceeds, charity event totals, other donations and any additional pertinent data.

ARTICLE VIII WEB PAGE

Section 1. The Public Relations /Web-Master will maintain an open line of communication with his/her counterpart at *The American Legion* Department of New York. *The American Legion* Department of New York has provided the NYALRMA with a webpage <https://nylegion.net/department/legion-riders/>.

Section 2. It is imperative that this new technology be leveraged to provide a means of smooth, quick and reliable communication of information from *The American Legion* Department of New York, to the NYALRMA, to the five Vice Directors, the District Chairman, the County Chairman and ultimately to the local Chapters (Post)/members of the ALR (and vice-versa).

ARTICLE IX LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1. Each local Chapter shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and Department of New York Constitution and By-Laws respectively, and may restrict its membership as it desires, subject to approval of the local Post, except that no person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence, or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government, shall be eligible to become a member of *The American Legion Riders*.

Section 2. Each local Chapter shall have a headquarters at its sponsoring Post with a Post Office address to which all notices and documents may be sent.

Section 3. Each local Chapter shall have a Constitution and By-Laws to govern its affairs and shall have officers known as Chapter Director, three Chapter Vice Directors, a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Ride Captain, a Sergeant At Arms, a Membership Chairman, a Historian, a Public Relations Chair, Executive Committee and other positions as designated by the Chapter Director. The Treasurer shall be bonded. The local Chapter shall subscribe to the Post and Department Constitution and By-Laws and shall not incur any obligation in the name of any other Post, subdivision, organization, branch committee, or group of members of *The American Legion*.

Section 4. Local Chapters shall submit copies of the Constitution and By-Laws and Amendments thereto through the respective Post, *The American Legion Riders* Department Executive Committee, and *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee

Section 5. All monies received in any manner for welfare purposes of any nature by a local Chapter shall be deposited in a duly authorized banking institution and none of such monies shall be withdrawn except for welfare purposes and upon a draft signed by the Treasurer of the local Chapter and local Director.

Section 6. No Chapter shall solicit another Chapter, Post or County organization for purposes of financial aid or relief. Violation of this section shall be grounds for revocation or suspension of the local American Legion Riders Program.

Section 7. All local Chapters shall elect and install their officers for the current year of *The American Legion* no later than the month of the June preceding the official start of that year.

ARTICLE X PENALTIES & DISCIPLINE

Section 1. After a fair and impartial hearing, a member may be expelled or suspended from the Association by a majority vote of the general membership at a regular or special meeting for disloyalty, dishonesty and conduct unbecoming of a member of the American Legion Riders or their affiliated organization.

Section 2. The allegedly offending member must be notified in writing of the action at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting, at which the vote will be taken.

Section 3. Suspension – temporary measure, suspended members may attend functions but will not be authorized to wear ALR insignia.

Section 4. Expulsion – permanent measure, *The American Legion* Department of New York and *The American Legion* National Headquarters will be advised. The former member will be advised that he/she is no longer authorized to wear ALR insignia.

ARTICLE XI APPAREL & UNIFORMITY

Section 1. NYALRMA members will procure (from *The American Legion* Emblem Sales) and display *The American Legion* Riders patch on a vest or jacket, of his/her choice.

Section 2. At National Commander visitations and Department Commander visitations, if a member wears their back patch, they will wear a collared shirt, pants (no jeans), and appropriate shoes.

Section 3. It is important to note that *The American Legion* emblem is embedded into our ALR logo – this makes it imperative that we be good ambassadors for, and conduct ourselves in a manner that will reflect favorably on, our parent organization. *The American Legion* Riders Logo cannot be reproduced due to copyright laws and must be purchased through Emblem Sales. (Website: www.emblem.legion.org)

Section 4. It is recommended that a tasteful display of the American flag be part of the ALR ‘uniform’ and be the highest patch displayed on the front left side or top of left sleeve of the Rider’s garment. This applies to the flag as a patch itself; if it is only part of a patch this rule does not apply.

Section 5. Absolutely no “Property Of”, “property-type”, other “M/C” patches or support patches of any other motorcycle organization will be worn on a garment also displaying the ALR logo – this is both mandated by **Resolution 35** (see Appendix A) and essential to maintaining our “neutral” status within the motorcycle culture.

Section 6. Auxiliary and Sons, to represent your family - you may opt to purchase a smaller patch through emblem sales and wear this on the front of your vest/jacket, below the American flag or on the right side of the vest/jacket and/or on the back of your vest/jacket near the ALR large patch.

ARTICLE XII RULES & ORDER

Section 1. All meetings will be conducted under “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.”

Section 2. An orderly and efficient meeting is the mark of a quality organization – and honors the military personnel and Veterans from whence our Association came.

Section 3. It must be understood that all member voices are important and have the right to be heard – every member of the NYALRMA will be treated with respect.

Section 4. The Sergeant at Arms and any designated assistants will have full authority to maintain order during meetings of the NYALRMA.

Section 5. Loyalty is expected of all members – the elected and/or appointed leaders have a *duty* to make wise decisions to guide the NYALRMA...members have the *right* to initiate a constructive discussion about issues, but ultimately have the *responsibility* to support the decisions made through a majority vote.

ARTICLE XIII LIMITATION OF LIABILITIES

Section 1. The NYALRMA (including all Post level Chapters within *The American Legion*, Department of New York) shall not incur nor cause to be incurred, any liability or obligation whatsoever - which shall subject any; members of *The American Legion*, Department, District, Post, other Post ALR, subdivision, or other individuals, corporations or organizations to a liability of any fashion.

ARTICLE XIV OVERSIGHT

Section 1. *The American Legion* Department of New York shall have complete and total oversight of all actions of the NYALRMA and no member shall take any action, speak on behalf of *The American Legion* or the Department of New York or utilize *The American Legion* family of emblems without first receiving approval from the Department Adjutant or an appointed surrogate.

ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may only be amended at the annual meeting of the NYALRMA by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted to the secretary and elected officers, in writing, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting and transmitted to the individual chapters not less than fifteen (15) days prior to said meeting.

Section 2. Further these By-Laws may be amended at the annual meeting, without notice, by unanimous vote of those present, provided a quorum is met to conduct business.

Section 3. *The American Legion* Department Judge Advocate will review the Constitution and By-Laws, along with any appendices and amendments, to ensure they do not conflict with the Department and National Constitution and By-Laws of *The American Legion* and they will not become effective until filed, approved, signed and dated by *The American Legion* Riders Executive Committee and *The American Legion* Department Executive Committee.

APPENDIX A

Legion Riders Resolution No. 35 American Legion Riders as a National Program

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
October 17-18, 2007

WHEREAS, American Legion Riders (ALR) was established in 1993 as a Post level activity at Garden City American Legion Post 396, Department of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Today there are more than 700 The ALR groups at the Post, District and Department levels whose membership consists of members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion who share a common interest in motorcycle ownership and pleasure riding for veterans causes; and

WHEREAS, The ALR groups exist in at least 48 states and three foreign countries and evidence a growth pattern over the last five years that reflects a genuine interest in ALR for both current and potential members of The American Legion Family; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of ALR is to use their common interest and association to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as well as the promotion of motorcycle safety and awareness; and

WHEREAS, During the 2006 and 2007 calendar years, ALR raised more than \$500,000 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship while at the local level ALR groups contributions were valued at more than \$75,000 in contribution or volunteer hours to support the programs of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Membership growth in The American Legion has increased in many Posts that have supported ALR and in some cases these members now serve in leadership positions within The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, ALR support those serving in uniform today through participation in such activities as the Patriot Guard, which was founded by the Department of Kansas ALR to provide escorts for our fallen heroes returning from war and taking care of the needs of the families left behind; and

WHEREAS, Many Posts and Departments of The American Legion have already acknowledged their ALR groups as a program and have established guidelines for ALR to follow; and

WHEREAS, In April 2007 an Ad-Hoc Committee appointed by the National Commander met in Indianapolis to discuss the future of ALR as a program based on guidelines developed by the Internal Affairs Commission in 2003; and

WHEREAS, These guidelines, which were validated with minor additions by the Ad-Hoc Committee, will serve as the standard under which all current and future The ALR groups will operate; and

WHEREAS, As The ALR groups continue to increase in number it would be beneficial to both The American Legion and ALR to establish basic guidelines for consistency in all aspects of The ALR groups; and

WHEREAS, The ALR status has been reviewed by the Internal Affairs Commission, which recommends the ALR become a National program; and

WHEREAS, National Finance Commission has reviewed ALR and the need for funding and insurance for the National organization for this program, recommends this program to the National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 17-18, 2007, That The American Legion adopt American Legion Riders (ALR) as a national program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all The American Legion Rider groups must be a program supported by a Post or Department of The American Legion and shall uphold the declared principles of The American Legion as well as conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the Department, Post or other duly constituted Department governing body; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the following guidelines are recommended for The ALR program of The American Legion:

1. All members of The American Legion Riders shall be current members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion
2. Each ALR member shall own a motorcycle
3. Each ALR member shall be properly licensed and insured as required by state law
4. All ALR members shall strive to maintain the image of The American Legion, at all times upholding The American Legion name and emblem, which symbolizes the integrity and principles of this great organization.
5. All ALR groups shall avoid the perception of being a motorcycle club or biker club.
6. The only recognized The American Legion Rider logo is that which is copyrighted and sold through The American Legion National Emblem sales.
7. All Members will obey the motorcycle laws of their state.
8. No use of rockers with the ALR patch because touching the patch violates trademark laws of the ALR patch.
9. Sponsoring organization (Post and Department) will review liability insurance coverage to ensure that adequate coverage is available to cover the organization to include coverage for any specific special riding events; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That American Legion Rider groups shall abide by The American Legion Constitution and By-laws as well as the established Post and Department directives; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion National Headquarters and the respective Departments shall maintain general oversight of ALR Program as regards to proper use of the name and emblem of The American Legion, ALR and The American Legion Legacy Run, and compliance with the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion.

Advisory Committee afterword:

The remainder of the resolution is as you would expect for a program of The American Legion: the Chapter, sponsored by a Post is beholden to that Post's rules and requirements - this is unchanged from before this Resolution. The Post is the atomic level of the ALR, and the Post holds sway over the existence of their Chapter. Added is the passage regarding the Department. Frankly, though poorly expressed, this was implied in the Internal Affairs Position as well - simply put: the Chapters of the ALR within any Department are also subject to any rules and regulation put forth by the Department. Under the pre-Resolution ALR, this was exercised through the Posts; post-Resolution ALR allows the Department to direct the ALR Chapters operating within its borders directly.

The National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee (*NALRAC*)

"Polka" Bill Kaledas, Director
Keith "Dawg" Jones, Assistant Director
Bernie "Stonz" Dare, Secretary
Chuck "Tramp" Dare, Member At Large
Pat "Bobcat" Babcock, Communications Officer

Internal Affairs Division
The American Legion

APPENDIX B

Legion Riders Resolution No. 32 American Legion Riders as a National Program NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA October 17-18, 2007

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, American Legion Riders (ALR) was established in 1993 as a Post level activity at Garden City American Legion Post 396, Department of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, The ALR groups have since expanded to more than 1,200 local chapters in all 50 domestic departments and in two foreign departments; and

WHEREAS, Membership in the ALR has grown to include more than 100,000 members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 35: "American Legion Riders as a National Program", NEC, October 17-18, 2007 has been a guiding document for the formation of post and department ALR programs under the support of the hosting posts and departments; and

WHEREAS, The third resolve clause in Resolution 35 contains recommended guidelines for such programs; and

WHEREAS, The National Commander's ALR current Ad Hoc Committee to The Internal Affairs Commission has identified ambiguous content regarding eligibility criteria for The American Legion Riders and made specific recommendations for improving such content; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of The American Legion to review and amend, from time to time, such guidelines in efforts to provide more effective direction to The American Legion Riders programs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2011, That guideline numbers 2 and 3 of the third resolving clause of Resolution 35: "American Legion Riders as a National Program", NEC, October 17-18, 2007, which states:

"2. Each ALR member shall own a motorcycle

3. Each ALR member shall be properly licensed and insured as required by state law"

Shall be amended as follows:

"2. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law.

3. ALR programs may allow for continued membership for those members who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury, or other reasons outside the member's control".

APPENDIX C

National Judge Advocate's Rules for all Subsidiary Corporations, SAL, ALR and other Programs

- 1. All officers, directors, trustees, etc...must be named by the Department (usually nominated by the Department Commander and confirmed by the Department Executive Committee).**

- 2. All vacancies in the subsidiary corporation must be filled by the Department.**

- 3. The subsidiary corporation must report to the Department, no less frequently than monthly. These reports must include financial reports.**

- 4. The Department Treasurer or Finance Officer or Department fiscal officer must be a signatory on all accounts.**

- 5. All amendments to articles of incorporation or by-laws must be approved by the Department. (If the current text has not been approved by the Department, it too must be so approved).**

APPENDIX D

Riding Guidelines

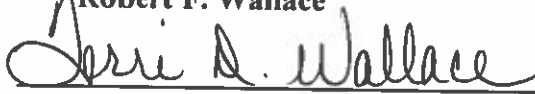
- A. Our conduct on the highway, whether in a group or solo, is a direct reflection of our organization. We will ride within the limits of the law and in such a manner as to ensure we present a good image to the rest of the motoring public.
- B. Any time we ride in or as a group, we will use a staggered formation (roadway permitting). This formation allows for increased safety of all riders, while still protecting the riding lane and making the riders visible to other traffic.
- C. Following distance will be a minimum of four (4) seconds – this means 4 seconds from the rider directly to your front (and rear) and 2 second from the next ‘staggered’ rider to the front and rear. Following distances will be increased as road/riding conditions dictate (per MSF recommendations).
- D. The Ride Captain will determine and dictate routes, speeds and procedures for group rides. Individual riders should always feel free to address the Ride Captain(s) with concerns about speed, rest stop frequency or anything else concerning the ride.
- E. The universal signal for a rider needing to stop, for any reason, is for the rider to point at the gas tank.
- F. Newer riders will be positioned near the back of the pack, they should be following (and observing) a few experienced riders and have other experienced riders directly to their rear (these individuals will be responsible to coach and critique the new riders, during rest stops).
- G. Pack members are responsible to periodically check mirrors for riders to their rear. A good rule of thumb is to make sure you can see the next rider (to your rear) in formation, prior to proceeding through an intersection.
- H. If a member of the pack has mechanical (or other) trouble and pulls off...the rest of the riders shall reform and continue on. The rear “Tail-gunner” rider (aka: Drag or Sweep Rider) along with any “chase-vehicle” will stop to assess the situation and relay information to the Ride Captain.
- I. Horseplay and illegal activities will not be permitted while participating in an ALR group ride, this includes but is not limited to:
 1. Passing of other riders (especially on the right).
 2. Any form of motorcycle “acrobatics” – wheelies, etc...
 3. Blocking intersections – unless specifically directed by the Ride Captain(s).
 4. Riding impaired or under the influence of alcohol or substances (includes prescriptions).
- J. Parade procedures are an important part of our charter, as ambassadors for *The American Legion* and for all motorcyclists, it is imperative that we present a good and disciplined image during these operations. Keep in mind that for every kid that loves a loud engine rev or a burnout – there are hundreds of adults that will dismiss us all as ruffians and just another biker gang, if one of our members succumbs to the temptation.

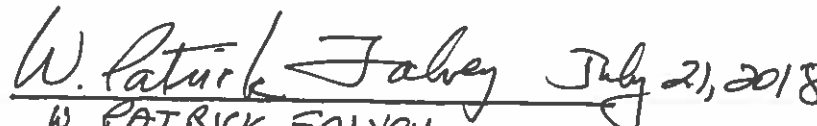
K. Common Sense, Good Order and Discipline will always be the rules of the day, when riding as a group or solo.

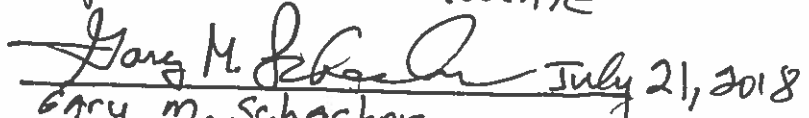
DATE FIRST APPROVED: July 15, 2011

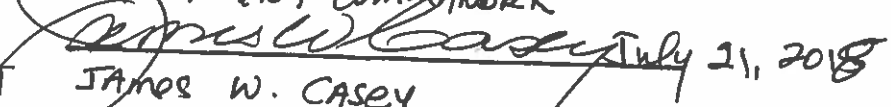
AMENDED and REVISED BY MEMBERSHIP ON: July 20, 2018

Director: 
Robert F. Wallace

Secretary: 
Terri D. Wallace

APPROVED:  July 21, 2018
W. PATRICK FALVEY
DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE

APPROVED:  July 21, 2018
DEPARTMENT EXEC. COMM. GARY M. SCHACHER
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

APPROVED:  July 21, 2018
DEPARTMENT EXEC. COMM. JAMES W. CASEY
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT