

# **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION NORTHERN PANHANDLE CHAPTER POST 10**

## **Chapter 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 and incidents of our association 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 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 consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

### **Purpose**

The American Legion Riders is formed to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as a family-oriented motorcycling activity for members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The Sons of The American Legion.

### **Article I – Name**

The name of this program shall be “The American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association, NORTHERN PANHANDLE CHAPTER POST 10”, attached to Evert Maki Weirton American Legion Post #10, Department of West Virginia.

### **Article II – Nature**

*Section 1.* The American Legion Riders (ALR) is a program for members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion members, collectively “The American Legion Family”, who share an interest in motorcycling.

*Section 2.* The American Legion Riders upholds the declared principles of The American Legion and conforms to and abides by the regulations and decisions of the department, post, or other duly constituted governing body.

*Section 3.* The ALR maintains and protects the image of The American Legion at all times through appropriate wear of The American Legion Emblem. The emblem of The American Legion demands “that the wearer shall ever guard the sanctity of home and country and free institutions.”

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*Section 4.* Under no circumstances shall any emblem of The American Legion be marketed, sold, or subordinated to any other organizational logo or emblem without the approval and consent of The American Legion National Organization.

*Section 5.* Members of the ALR avoid any perception of being a motorcycle or “biker” club or gang. Rather, the focus of membership is for the enjoyment of motorcycles and comradeship and furthering programs in the community.

*Section 6.* The ALR strives to improve the public’s perception of the motorcycling community by promoting the honorable nature of military service, and service to one’s community, state and nation through the sport of motorcycling.

*Section 7.* Members of the ALR comply at all times with the motor vehicle safety, licensing, and insurance laws or regulations of the state in which operating. Insurance must be kept up to date and may occasionally be required to show proof of insurance.

## **Article III – Organization**

The American Legion Riders is organized at either the department or the post, and each chapter exists at the discretion of the sponsoring post/department. The chapter officers and executive committee are responsible and accountable to the sponsoring post/department executive committee. All officers of the American Legion Riders chapter must be named by the hosting post or department, or if elected must be confirmed or installed by the hosting post or department.

## **Article IV – Membership Eligibility**

*Section 1.* Eligibility for basic membership in The American Legion Riders shall be as prescribed by the national constitutions of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion.

*Section 2.* All members of The American Legion Riders must further demonstrate current individual membership in The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary or the Sons of The American Legion..

*Section 3.* Members will not at any time hold membership in more than one chapter of The American Legion Riders.

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*Section 4.* Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required under local laws.

*Section 5.* Members in good standing may continue to retain full membership if they have given up motorcycle ownership, involuntarily because of age, injury or health reasons.

*Section 6.* Member dues shall be paid as required by the chapter or by the department. There are no national dues.

*Section 7.* All members will obey the motor vehicle laws in any state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

*Section 8.* Any member who joins and pays dues for membership year 2026, and makes payment prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 will be considered "Charter Members".

**Article V – Wear of American Legion Emblem**

*Section 1.* The American Legion Riders back patch, as copyrighted and sold by The American Legion's Emblem Sales division, is authorized for wear by all current members of the ALR. American Legion logos and emblems may also be authorized by the host post for wear by selected volunteers performing work on behalf of the local post or post programs.

*Section 2.* No other back patch or back patch design is authorized for wear as an ALR emblem.

*Section 3.* Department standards and specifications for patch sales should be on file with Emblem Sales.

*Section 4.* If department or post identifying information is to be embroidered on the patch, Emblem Sales must have on record authorization from the department adjutant that such specific identifying information may be use on the patch.

*Section 5.* No other patch, tab, rocker, text, background art or color that is in conflict with an American Legion protected trademark may be used on clothing, banners, flags, posters or advertisements.

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## **Article VI – Determine Elected Officers**

*Section 1.* The officers of the Chapter are Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and Road Captain, elected annually. Assistant Road Captain, Chaplain and Safety Officer shall be appointed by the director annually as well. Elections of officers serve only to nominate the new slate of officers. All officers must be named/or installed by the post commander and/or the post executive committee. The post executive committee may remove and replace officers of subsidiary program,(ALR) at will.

## **Article VII – Finance**

*Section 1.* The revenue of the chapter shall be derived from such membership fees or dues and from such sources as may be approved by the chapter executive committee.

*Section 2.* The chapter will provide a monthly financial report to the sponsoring department/post executive committee.

*Section 3.* The post treasurer or finance officer must be a signatory on all accounts.

## **Article VIII – Amendments**

*Section 1.* This constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the National Constitution, Department Constitution and Post Constitution of which this chapter is a subordinate program. Any amendment to the National, Department or Post constitutions that is conflict with any provision hereof shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this chapter to the extent of such conflict. All amendments to articles of Constitution or bylaws must be approved by the post.

*Section 2.* This constitution may be amended at any regular chapter meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the membership attending such regular meeting provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the two preceding chapter meetings, in accordance with Roberts Rule of Order. An attempt must be made to notify any upcoming amendments by posting such at the post and notifying such at meetings.

*Section 3.* Special Rules attached to these by-laws are rules that apply under certain circumstances that may require change periodically and can be amended by majority vote at a single membership meeting.

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Chapter By-Laws**

**Article I – Name**

*Section 1.* The chapter existing under these by-laws is to be known as “The American Legion Riders Motorcycle Association, NORTHERN PANHANDLE CHAPTER POST 10:, attached to American Legion Post #10, Department of West Virginia.

*Section 2.* The name and nature of this chapter are as set forth in the constitution.

**Article II – Management**

*Section 1.* The officers of the chapter shall be Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and Road Captain. Safety Officer, Chaplain and Assistant Road Captain shall be appointed positions by the director.

*Section 2.* Between chapter meetings, the administrative power of the chapter shall be vested in the chapter executive committee, which shall consist of all elective officers for the current year, and in addition the immediate past director but without voting privileges. Director can only vote as a tie breaker in the event of a tie vote.

*Section 3.* Nominations for officers of this chapter shall open on the floor at the October and November monthly meetings of each year. Anyone not present and nominated must accept such nomination before the December meeting to be valid. Election of officers shall take place at the December monthly meeting, and take office after installation at the January meeting of each year. All election of officers, shall be by ballot, generated by the membership chairperson, and the candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the respective officer position. All such officers shall be confirmed by the post, installed by the host post and shall take office immediately after installation of officers at the December membership meeting but no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Section 4.* All vacancies existing in any office of the chapter from any cause other than the expiration of the term shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the committee, and a person so appointed shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member of the committee or officer whose position was vacated. Any person so appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall be confirmed or installed by the hosting post or department.

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*Section 5.* A vacancy shall exist when an officer is absent from the chapter due to resignation, loss of qualifications, incapacity from injury or illness or for a continuous period of unexcused absences considered detrimental to the interest of the chapter by the remaining members of the chapter executive committee.

*Section 6.* All past chapter directors shall be members of the chapter executive committee with voice but without voting privileges.

**Article III - Meetings**

*Section 1.* The regular meeting of the chapter shall be held as specified in Special Rules, at which may be transacted such business as may properly be brought up for action; such meetings may be converted into entertainment meetings, (ex: Christmas Dinner/party) as may be deemed agreeable by the officers of the chapter.

*Section 2.* The chapter director or a majority of the executive committee shall have power to call a special meeting of the chapter at any time.

**Article IV – Chapter Executive Committee**

*Section 1.* The chapter executive committee shall meet for organizational or such other business as may come before it at the call of the chapter director within 10 days after installation of the new officers. There after the chapter executive committee shall meet as often as chapter director may deem necessary.

*Section 2.* The chapter director shall call a meeting of the chapter executive committee upon the joint written request of three or more members of said chapter executive committee, and “Three” members of the committee shall constitute a quorum thereof.

*Section 3.* The chapter executive committee, based on a majority vote, shall authorize and approve all expenditures; shall provide or require adequate bonds for all persons having custody of chapter funds; shall hear the reports of chapter committee chairs; and generally, shall have charge of and be responsible for the management of the affairs of this chapter

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## **Article V – Duties of Officers**

*Section 1. Duties of Director.* It shall be the duty of the chapter director to preside at all meetings of the chapter and to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the chapter. The chapter director shall be the chief executive officer of the chapter. The director shall provide a monthly report covering the business and finances of the chapter at each regular meeting of the hosting American Legion post, with a copy thereof immediately forwarded to the post or department adjutant. The director shall perform such other duties as directed by the chapter membership.

*Section 2. Duties of the Assistant Director.* The assistant director shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of director in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the chapter director.

*Section 3. Duties of the Chapter Secretary.* The secretary shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of all meetings, keep such records as the hosting post and department organizations may require, render reports of membership annually or when called upon at a meeting, and under direction of the chapter director handle all correspondence of the chapter.

*Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer.* The treasurer shall have charge of all finances and see that they are safely deposited in some local bank or banks and shall report once a month to both the chapter executive committee and the hosting post the condition of the finances of the chapter, with such recommendations as he or she may deem expedient or necessary. The treasurer, director, one member of the chapter executive committee and the post finance officer, shall be signatory on any and all accounts of the chapter. The treasurer shall be provided such surety bonds in such amounts as shall be fixed by the chapter executive committee and obtained by the chapter. The treasurer prepares the chapter's monthly financial report rendered to the sponsoring department/post at a regular meeting.

*Section 5. Duties of Chapter Historian.* The chapter Historian shall be charged with the individual records and incidents of the chapter and chapter members, and shall perform such other duties as may properly pertain to the office as may be determined by the chapter or Executive Committee.

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*Section 6. Duties of Chapter Chaplain.* The chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Chapter comrades and will offer divine but nonsectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department headquarters from time to time.

*Section 7. Duties of Road Captain.* The road captain shall plan all tours, runs, activities, and events; lead the chapter in formation riding or parades; arouse interest in activities; enforce all rules of safe motorcycle operation and group riding. Additionally, the road captain may select assistants to aid in special tasks and may chair appropriate activities committee as directed by the chapter director or executive committee.

*Section 8. Duties of the Safety Officer.* The safety officer shall work closely with the road captain and sergeant-at-arms to maximize the safety of all participants at all events. The safety officer shall also prepare and present safety training or present a safety tip to the membership at every regular meeting, and assist the road captain and treasurer with event planning and event insurance issues.

*Section 9. Duties of the Sergeant-at-arms.* The sergeant-at-arms shall preserve order at meetings and gatherings, assist the road captain and safety officer in enforcing all rules of safe riding during rides and runs; and perform such other duties or chair such committees as may be from time to time assigned by the director or chapter executive committee.

## **Article VI – Delegates.**

Delegates and alternates to a department American Legion Riders meeting, convention, regional gathering or other activity shall be elected by ballot by the Chapter at a regular meeting of the Chapter to be held prior to the date of such event.

## **Article VII – Notices**

*Section 1.* Every member shall furnish the chapter secretary with a valid email or postal mailing address.

*Section 2.* The chapter secretary shall give notice of the annual election to be given at least two weeks prior thereto.



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## **Article VIII – Rules of Order**

*Section 1.* All proceedings of this chapter shall be conducted under and pursuant to Roberts' Rule of Order (Newly Revised) , except as herein otherwise provided.

## **Article IX– Limitations of Liabilities**

*Section 1.* This chapter shall take all such steps necessary to secure appropriate event insurance for all organized rides, events, celebrations and functions undertaken under the name of the hosting post or department.

## **Article X – Amendments**

*Section 1.* The by-laws may be amended at any regular chapter meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members of said chapter attending such regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at three (3) consecutive monthly meetings and voted on at the third meeting, according to Roberts Rules of Order.

*Section 2.* Any amendments will be reported to the sponsoring department or post, and such amendments will not be effective until approved by the sponsoring department or post.

*Section 3.* Special Rules of the chapter may be amended by majority vote at one reading of a monthly membership meeting.

## **Article XI – Discipline of ALR Members**

*Section 1.* Discipline of ALR members within the chapter may be instilled by the host post, be it Post, Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion, for all disciplinary actions of said chapter.

*Section 2.* If any rider's drivers' license has been suspended for any reason, they are suspended as a rider for any rides until said license has been re-instated. It is the rider's responsibility to notify the chapter of either such event.

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**SPECIAL RULES THAT APPLY  
TO AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER POST 10**

**Note:** Any special rule(s) can be amended by majority vote at a regular membership mtg.

**Meetings:** The regular monthly meeting of the chapter shall be held on the first Saturday of each month at 11:00 am. Such meeting may be converted into entertainment meetings, as may be deemed agreeable by the officers of the chapter.

**Quorum for a Meeting:** Three (3) chapter officers and no less than two (2) members are needed for a monthly meeting of the chapter

**Conduct:** Any profanity during a meeting of the chapter shall result in a \$5.00 imposed fine.

**Courtesy:** Anyone's phone that was not silenced and goes off during a meeting shall have \$5.00 fine imposed upon them.

**Organize Rides:** On any event ride that requires registration, a learners' permit or a valid drivers' license w/endorsement and proof of insurance must be presented at the time of registration.

**Membership Dues:** Dues for membership shall be \$20 / year and due by the December meeting of each year.

**Finances:** Only the Director, Assistant Director, Secretary or Treasurer shall have control over all funds collected at special events for the chapter unless someone is delegated by one of said officers..

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Amendments of the Constitution and By-Laws of  
Northern Panhandle American Legion Riders  
Attached to American Legion Post 10  
Department of West Virginia

NONE AT THIS TIME