



American Legion Riders Southwest Michigan Motorcycle Association

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 programs of the American Legion.

By Laws

- I. **Membership: There are two requirements for membership (You must meet both A & B).**
 - A. A current member of the American Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion.
 - B. You must own a motorcycle of at least 350cc in size or be the Legal spouse of an owner who is an ALR Association member.
 - C. Chapters, at their own discretion, may allow “supporting members” or “chapter supporters”. These memberships are of a nature as to provide recognition to those who show strong support to the individual American legion Riders Chapter. These supporting members must still meet the requirements of Section 1A and be current members of the American Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion. Furthermore all articles of clothing that contain the American Legion Riders emblem should contain the words “I support” or “Supporter”. The ALR of Southwest Michigan Support Members do have the rights afforded full members and can vote and hold office within our Chapter.

D. Honorary Members – Are individuals that the **ALR of Southwest Michigan** wishes to honor for reason(s) deemed worthy by the full membership body. An Honorary member is not afforded the same rights as a full or support member. Honorary members must still meet the requirement described in item A. Honorary Members DO NOT pay the yearly membership dues that a Full & Support member is required to pay.

II. Officers of the Association Chapter

- E. Director
- F. Assistant Director
- G. Secretary
- H. Treasurer
- I. Sgt. At Arms/ Road Captain
- J. Historian
- K. Membership Chairman
- L. Chaplain

Other offices added as necessary.

III. Elections

- A. Election of chapter officers will be held annually at the first meeting in January of the New Year. A term of office shall be for One (1) year.
- B. When two or more Chapters exist in a State (Department) the practices of that Department will prevail for the naming of state officers. If the Department wishes to impose no practice, then State Officers will be named by a manner that is in agreement between the involved Chapters.

IV. Duties of Association Chapter Officers

- A. **Director:** Will serve as Chief Administrative Officer of the Association and will preside over all meetings. He shall have general supervision over the affairs of the Association. He shall perform such other duties as directed by the general membership.
- B. **Assistant Director:** Will assume the duties of the Director in his absence. Will assist the Director in the performance of his duties when called on to do so by the Director.

- C. **Secretary:** To keep a full and correct record of all proceeding at the meetings. Keep membership records as may be required by the general membership. The Secretary should also give detailed minutes at each regular meeting.
- D. **Treasurer:** To have charge of all finances of the Association. To have charge of disbursing funds as directed by the general membership. To give detailed financial reports at each regular meeting. (Copies will be furnished to the sponsoring Post if requested)
- E. **Sgt at Arms/ Road Captain:** Will be the logistics person in charge of organized runs of the Association. He/she will determine dates, times, routes and meeting places for those taking part in a run activity. He may, at his discretion, appoint assistant road captains or take any other measures he may feel necessary to help insure the safety of the group during a run. Will also help to maintain order during chapter meetings.
- F. **Membership Chairman:** Will maintain accurate records of all members. Will Be responsible for membership information and reviewing of eligibility of new and renewing memberships.
- G. **Historian:** Will keep historical records of the Chapter.
- H. **Chaplain:** Will assist in the religious welfare of the Chapter.

V. **Meetings**

- A. Regular Meetings are held every Fourth (4th) Sunday of each month. Even Months at Post 51 Buchanan, odd months at Post 204 Three Oaks. All regular meetings will be held at 11am. Seven Members will constitute a quorum.

VI. **Finances**

- A. Finances of each Association Chapter will be from Association membership dues or such other sources, as approved by the membership.

VII. **Expulsion**

- A. Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Association by a majority vote of the general membership at a regular Chapter meeting.

Expulsion, Permanent backpatch must be returned.

Suspension, Temporary member may not wear back patch but may attend member functions.

VIII. Charter Membership

- A. Each State Chapter may determine eligibility for Charter Membership in its Own State Chapter.

IX. Residency

- A. Each Chapter will be known by the state in which its majority of members reside. Chapters may be further broken down in to District and Post. (I.e. Michigan Chapter 4th district Post 51).

X. Governing Rules

- A. Each State Chapter may elect to adopt a set of standing rules to govern its Membership or, at the Chapters discretion, amend these by-laws. These standing rules, or by-law amendments, shall be no less stringent than those contained in these by-laws nor can they be in any conflict with the National Constitution and by-laws of the American Legion, Department or that of the Sponsoring Post.

XI. Disbursement of Funds

- G. Disbursement of funds will be only those authorized at any regular meeting of the Chapter. Each Chapter will be a non-profit organization and may only disburse funds in a manner that is in keeping with all local, state and national laws regarding non-profit organizations.

XII. Dues Structure

- A. To be due January one (1) of the New Year. Membership dues in the American Legion, Legion Auxillary, or Sons of the American Legion must be paid current before membership in the American Legion Riders is to be paid. The first year the initial fee is used for the purchase of the Backpatch and bottom rocker. Every year after a membership fee will be do on or after January one (1) of the new year.

XIII. Order

A. All meetings will be conducted under “Roberts Rules of Order”.

1. Uniform:

As determined by the membership is as follows: Black Leather Vest with the American Flag to be worn on the left front and nothing shall be higher than the flag. On the back of the vest the ALR back patch and top and bottom rockers as described in the section below entitled *The ALR Back Patch*.

New members can purchase the Large ALR back patch from the American Legion Emblem Sales. Appropriate rockers may be purchased by the Chapter Membership Chairperson. Rocker may be replaced with embroidery but must still use the guidelines describe below in Section 1.2

1.1. *The American Flag*

- 1.1.1. 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.
- 1.1.2. 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.
- 1.1.3. Established standards for the display and wearing of the Flag must be observed:
 - 1.1.3.1. 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.
 - 1.1.3.2. When worn on the back or front of a garment, the field of stars is to be on the left.
 - 1.1.3.3. 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).
 - 1.1.3.4. 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.
 - 1.1.3.5. No graphic or slogan is ever to appear across the Flag.
 - 1.1.3.6. 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
- 1.1.4. 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.

1.2. *The ALR Back Patch*

- 1.2.1. 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.
- 1.2.2. The Back Patch must be the dominant feature of the back of the Black Vest upon which it is worn; i.e., the ALR back patch must not be subjugated to the patch of any M/C.
- 1.2.3. The Lower Rocker will state Southwest Michigan, The upper rocker should state the Post from which you are a Legion, Auxiliary or SAL member. The following lower rocker configurations may be worn under the Southwest Michigan lower rocker, assuming the listed provisions are met:
 - 1.2.3.1. The designation ***Veteran*** is only to be worn by those who satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1.1 and can produce a DD214 indicating they have served on Federal active duty during the periods of conflict prescribed for Legion membership, were honorably discharged, and are members in good standing of The American Legion. A current, valid Legion membership card shall suffice as evidence of these requirements
 - 1.2.3.1.1. Members who are Veterans but do not fulfill the requirements for membership in The American Legion should not wear the Veteran rocker. See the applicable of Paragraphs 12.2.3.2 or 12.2.3.3 below.
 - 1.2.3.2. The designation ***Squadron*** is only to be worn by those who satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1.1 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.
 - 1.2.3.3. The designation ***Auxiliary*** is only to be worn by those who satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1.1 and are members in good standing of The American Legion Auxiliary. A current, valid Legion Auxiliary membership card shall suffice as evidence of these requirements.
 - 1.2.3.4. The designation ***I Support*** is only to be worn by those who have been elected as Chapter Supporters. These individuals may not wear any of the aforementioned rockers regardless of their military status or Legion membership type, unless and until such time as they satisfy the requirements of Paragraph 1.1.

- 1.2.4. It is recommended and the intent of these bylaws that those who are not Full ALR Members and have not been elected as Chapter Supporters do not wear the ALR Back Patch.
- 1.2.5. Specification of the garment upon which the Back Patch is to be worn is left to the discretion of the individual Chapters.

1.3. ***Dress***

- 1.3.1.1. The ALR is a program of The American Legion, and as such, members are representatives of The American Legion. It is strongly recommended that members dress in a manner that promotes a positive image for The American Legion, particularly when operating in group activities or interacting with the community.
- 1.3.1.2. The ALR Back Patch and other related articles of clothing incorporate The American Legion emblem, and must be worn in a manner consistent with The American Legion emblem requirements.

1.4. ***Control and Surrender of Items Incorporating Emblem***

- 1.4.1. Since items incorporating the ALR emblem are available to the public through The American Legion Emblem Sales, there is no mechanism by which to restrict their use and display by non-members.
- 1.4.2. There is no mechanism by which the ALR can legally reclaim items incorporating the ALR emblem from those ex-members who choose to sever their relationship with the ALR.