

The American Legion Riders Chapter 460 Constitution and By-Laws

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 460 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Adopted:

PURPOSE

To participate in parades and other ceremonies that keep within 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 and enthusiasm for riding the roads. Our Association is used to promote and support programs of the American Legion and the Community. These standing rules, By-Laws, or 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 or that of the sponsoring post.

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 associations 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 consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

THE LEGION RIDER'S CREED

R	iders dedicate themselves to the success of the American Legion. I know that, through my efforts, I can make a difference.
I	alone am responsible for myself and to my fellow riders. I will conduct myself with the highest degree of integrity and honor.
D	eeds, not words, create change. I will persevere against any and all things that prevent my success. My resolve and strength will overcome all obstacles.
E	ach rider is first a member of the American Legion Family. I will actively participate in and willingly support their endeavors.
R	eadily will I join other riders in activities and events which support our missions. I will do so gladly knowing I volunteered to be an American Legion Rider.
S	uccess is the only acceptable conclusion. I will allow nothing to dissuade me or impede me from service to my family, community, country and especially our Veterans.

CHAPTER BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1. The Chapter existing under these By-Laws is to be known as American Legion Riders (ALR) Post 460 Solon, Iowa. District # 1 ALR of Iowa.

Section 2. The name and nature of this Chapter are as set forth in the Constitution and these By-Laws.

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The American Legion Riders is a program of The American Legion.

Section 2. Each Chapter is formed under the sponsorship of an established Post of The American Legion And exists at the discretion of the Sponsoring Post and Department of Iowa. The Chapter is governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the sponsoring Post, The Department of Iowa, and The American Legion.

Section 3. Officers of this Chapter shall be nominated and voted on annually on the 1st Tuesday of the month of December and take office at the next monthly meeting following that of the elections that being January. All elections of officers shall be by ballot and the candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the respective office or offices for which they are candidates.

Section 4. The Riders fiscal and operating year shall commence on January 1st of each year. Membership dues are to be paid to the Membership Chairperson prior to January 1st of each yea. A grace period of 90 days shall be extended .

Section 5. 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.

Section 6. A vacancy shall exist when a member or 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 Executive Committee.

Section 7. Upon formation of the Executive Committee with newly elected officers, the committee shall annually appoint such standing committees and chairs thereof, as it deems advisable for the benefit of the membership and of the Chapter as a whole.

Section 8. Upon creation of a new standing committee, the Executive Committee must determine if the additional position(s) constitute membership of the Chapter Executive Committee.

Section 9. **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 III BEHAVIOR

Section 1. During Rides: Excessive drinking of any alcohol will not be tolerated.

Section 2. Disrespect to other Riders and Drivers while wearing ALR Apparel or in our Ride Group will also not be tolerated.

Section 3. Foolish, erratic, stunts etc. while wearing ALR Apparel or in our Ride Group will also not be tolerated.

Section 4. Members of the ALR avoid any perception of being a motorcycle or “biker” club or gang and strive to improve the public’s perception of the motorcycling community by promoting the honorable nature of service to one’s community, state and nation through the sport of motorcycling.

Section 5. Members of the ALR comply at all times with motor vehicle safety laws, as well as licensing, and insurance laws or regulations of the State of Iowa.

ARTICLE IV MANAGEMENT

Section 1. The officers of the Chapter shall be:

- President (Elected)
- Vice President (Elected)
- Membership (Elected)
- Secretary (Elected)
- Treasurer (Elected)
- Sergeant-at-Arms (Elected)
- Road Captains (Appointed)
- Historian / Photographer (Appointed)
- Chaplain (Appointed)
- Public Relations Officer (Appointed)

All of whom shall constitute the **Executive Board**.

Section 2. The **President** will serve as Chief Administrative Officer to the Chapter and will preside over all meetings, shall have general supervision over the affairs of the Chapter, and shall perform such other duties as directed by the general membership. President shall prepare/have prepared and file reports and/or information that may be requested by the Sponsoring Post. The President shall receive motions for consideration and/or discussion from Committee Chairpersons or members of Chapter 460 during the meeting but, shall not propose motions himself/herself.

Section 3. The **Vice-President** will assume duties of the President in his/her absence, and will assist the President in the performance of his/her duties when called on to do so by the President.

Section 4. The **Secretary** will keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings at the meetings. the Secretary will keep such records as may be required by the Chapter or Post and handle Chapter correspondence as may be directed by the President.

Section 5. The **Treasurer** will have charge of all finances, banking, and bookkeeping of the Chapter. The Treasurer will have charge of disbursing funds as directed by the general membership as approved at a regular meeting. The Treasurer shall have a detailed financial report at each regular meeting. (Copies will be made available to the Post if requested). The Treasurer shall receive dues from the Membership Chairperson after he/she has collected payment.

Section 6. The **Sergeant-At-Arms** will help maintain order during Chapter meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order. The Sergeant-At-Arms shall be responsible for placing the colors at all Chapter meetings, and shall monitor persons entering and leaving the meeting while in session.

Section 7. The **Road Captain(s)** will be the logistics person in charge of organizing motorcycle rides of the Chapter. The Road Captain(s) may at their discretion, appoint assistant road captains or take other measures as they may feel necessary to help ensure the safety of the group during a ride.

Section 8. The **Chaplain** shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary; adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be prescribed by the Membership, and The American Legion.

Section 9. The **Historian** shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest to The American Legion Riders and The American Legion, and shall compile during his/her term of office a complete history of the years activities.

Section 10. The **Membership Chairperson** shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate listing of the membership, shall renew and/or collect eligibility documentation and dues as per requirements set forth by the Chapter, Post, or American Legion, and shall keep all documents updated pertaining to the membership.

Section 11. Additional Roles: The Chapter may define additional roles, either elected or appointed, within their local by-laws. Any such addition to the by-laws must definitively state whether the position is elected or appointed. If an additional role is filled by appointment, any such addition to the by-laws must definitely define who has the right of appointment (usually President, or Chapter Executive Committee by majority). Finally, any such additions to the bylaws must define which, if any, of the additional positions constitute membership on the Chapter Executive Committee.

Section 12. Stinocher Chapter 460 currently combines the roles of elected officers, Membership and Treasurer. At such time that this combination of roles does not serve the Chapter a separation of roles may be in order. Should the elected roles be combined there shall only be one vote from the individual holding both elected offices.

ARTICLE V CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between Chapter meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter **Executive Committee**, which shall consist of all **elected officers** for the current year and in addition the immediate Past President. All of whom shall have voting privileges on matters under consideration of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Chapter Executive Committee shall meet for organizational or such other business as may come before it at the call of the Chapter President within 10 days after the installation of the new officers. Thereafter

the Chapter Executive Committee shall meet as often as Chapter President may deem necessary. The Chapter President shall call a meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee upon the joint written request of 1/3rd or more members of said Chapter explaining reason for such a meeting and 3 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum thereof. All members will be reviewed annually for continued membership in this Chapter of the ALR.

Section 3. All Past Chapter Presidents shall be members of the Executive Committee with voice but without voting privileges. Exceptions are in the case of a tie vote.

Section 4. The Executive Committee will deal with all disciplinary decisions.

Section 5. Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Chapter by a majority vote of the general membership of the Chapter at a regular meeting consisting of at least 25% of the membership for disloyalty, dishonesty and conduct unbecoming of a member of the American Legion Riders. Suspension may be lifted after a period of not less than six (6) months following a written request submitted to the Executive Board, and approved by no less than 25% of the membership.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. American Legion Riders Chapter 460 regular meetings shall be held at 18:00, on the first (1st) Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise specified, at which may be transacted such business as may properly be brought up for action; such meetings may be converted into entertainment meetings, as may be deemed agreeable by the officers of the Chapter.

Section 2. All proceedings of this Chapter shall be conducted under and pursuant to Roberts' Rules of Order (Newly Revised), except as herein otherwise provided.

Section 3. The Chapter President or a majority of the Executive Committee shall have power to call a special meeting of the Chapter at any time.

Section 4. Upon the written request of 1/3 of the members, the Executive Committee shall call a special meeting of the Chapter.

Section 5. Special meetings shall be called upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee or upon request of five (5) or more Chapter members.

Section 6. Notice of special meetings of the Chapter shall be emailed at least 72 hours in advance. Membership not having email will be notified by phone at least 72 hours in advance.

Section 7. At least 15% of the membership, but no less than 2 members in addition to a qualified presiding officer, shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting of the Chapter.

- At least 3 elected officers and 2 members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8. Four (4) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the legal transaction of business at a special meeting.

Section 9. Any officer of the Executive Committee who is absent three (3) or more consecutive Chapter meetings can, on due investigation, be removed by two-thirds vote of said Executive Committee.

Section 10. ALR CHAPTER MEETING FORMAT

Conduct of the meeting is per Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised

CALL TO ORDER – President / President

Roll Call – Secretary

CALL TO REMOVE HEAD COVER – Sergeant at Arms

INVOCATION – Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Vice President

RECITE PREAMBLE – Vice President

CALL TO REPLACE HEAD COVER – Sergeant at Arms

READING OF LAST MEETING’S MINUTES – Secretary

VOTE TO ACCEPT LAST MEETING’S MINUTES – President

VOTE TO ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA - President

READING OF TREASURER’S REPORT – Treasurer

VOTE TO ACCEPT TREASURER’S REPORT SUBJECT TO AUDIT – President

READING OF MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Membership Chairman

VOTE TO ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – President

CALL AND DISCUSSION OF OLD BUSINESS – President

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE – Secretary

CALL AND DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS – President

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS NOT ALREADY DISCUSSED – President

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION RIDERS – President

CALL FOR MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING – President

CALL TO REMOVE HEAD COVER – Sergeant at Arms

CLOSING INVOCATION – Chaplain

CALL TO REPLACE HEAD COVER – Sergeant at Arms

ANNOUNCEMENT THAT MEETING IS NOW CLOSED – President

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 cause notice of the annual election to be given at least two weeks prior thereto.

Section 3. Meeting minutes shall be sent out no later than 1 week prior to the next schedule meeting. Minutes will be sent by a member of executive committee.

ARTICLE VIII

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The first requirement for eligibility for membership in The American Legion Riders is the individual must be a current member, in good standing, of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or The Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually

or through marriage, a street legal motorcycle of at least 500cc in size, licensed, properly registered, and insured as required under local laws.

Section 3. American Legion Family members may join any American Legion Riders chapter, upon acceptance, or existing members may transfer to another chapter with acceptance.

Section 4. Members will not at any time hold membership in more than one chapter of The American Legion Riders.

Section 5. All members will obey the motor vehicle laws in any state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

Section 6. Applications for American Legion Riders (ALR) membership shall be made in writing, on standard ALR forms. Proof of membership in The American Legion Family, proof of current insurance, and a valid drivers license with a motorcycle endorsement must be presented before membership is granted and a membership card is issued. Membership will be maintained year-to-year if the member has no change to their status as an American Legion Family member, motorcycle ownership, validity of drivers license, insurance, and pays yearly dues on time.

Section 7. 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 8. **Legacy Member:*** To qualify for this membership the rider must have been a Charter Member of Chapter 460, or a member for at least 15 years be nominated as a legacy member, and receive a majority vote of approval at a regular ALR Chapter meeting. Legacy Members will be issued a Legacy Member Card which will signify their long and faithful service to the Chapter. Legacy Members dues shall be waived.

*Section 9. **Life Membership:*** A current member in good standing who can no longer ride due to health, age, or physical consideration may be eligible with approval of their current Chapter, to continue as a Life Member in their Chapter, even if their situation requires them to sell their motorcycle. To qualify for this membership the rider must have been a member of Chapter 460 for 15 years, be nominated as a Life Member, and receive a majority vote of approval at a regular ALR Chapter meeting. Life Members will be issues a Life Member card which will signify their long and faithful service to the Chapter. Life Members dues shall be waived.

*Section 10. **Passenger Membership:*** shall be extended to any spouse, or significant other, of a current ALR Chapter 460 member in good standing. The party applying for passenger membership shall submit an application by filling out the general information on an application for membership in ALR Chapter 460, and indicating on the application that they are joining as a passenger. Membership will be granted after receiving a majority vote of approval in at a regular ALR Chapter 460 meeting. Passenger members will be eligible to display the Emblems and Patches of The American Legion and American Legion Riders Chapter 460 and shall have a voice in all matters of business at regular meetings. Passengers will not have a countable vote in said meetings, nor be eligible to hold any office in the Chapter.

ARTICLE IX FINANCE

Section 1. The annual membership dues may be based on either individual or family membership and shall be determined and the amount set, by vote of the Chapter Members. Current annual dues are \$15 per member until amended per sentence above. Current annual dues are \$5 per passenger until amended per sentence above.

Section 2. Dues shall be paid to the Membership Chairperson or Treasurer by January 1st unless other arrangements have been agreed upon. All incoming officers must have current years dues paid in full before installation.

RESOLUTIONS X

Section 1. All resolutions of state or national scope presented to this Chapter by a member or reported to this Chapter by a committee shall merely embody the opinion of this Chapter on the subject and copy of same shall be forwarded to the Post/Department headquarters for its approval before any publicity is given or action other than mere passage by the Chapter is taken.

ARTICLE XI LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITIES

Section 1. This Chapter shall not incur, or cause to be incurred, no liability nor obligation whatever which shall subject to liability any other Chapter, subdivision, members of The American Legion, post, departments, or other individuals, corporations or organizations. Release of Liability Statements will be maintained on file for all members and separate liability statements will be filled out and also maintained for all non-members that participate in any and all riding functions.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This combine Constitution and Bylaws 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 Nation, Department, or Post Constitution that is in conflict with any portion herein shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this Chapter to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2. These 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 the next preceding regular meeting. Any changes will be reported to the sponsoring department or post.

Section 3. Written notice to the addresses of record indicated in Article VII, Section 1, shall have been given to all members not present at a monthly meeting at least 5 days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting there will be presented a proposal to amend the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIII APPAREL

- The American flag must be worn at the highest point on the left front side. To be the highest attached accessory on the entire vest or jacket.

- All Association members that wish to purchase the small ALR patch will be required to display the patch on a denim or leather vest or jacket. The patch will be located on the front upper right side, but displayed lower than the flag.
 - Back patches are only mandatory for the 460 ALR members. These back patches are only to be purchased thru the President, Vice President, or the Treasurer of 460 ALR.
 - Other patches of choice are authorized for wear, but absolutely no “Property of Patches” or any that might be considered offensive.
 - Charter Member Patches will only be issued to members of the Solon Legion (Legionaries, SAL, and Ladies Aux) who have joined the ALR with in the first 12 months
- All Members will be required to wear their colors to all parades, and all ALR functions conducted by this chapter.

LEGION RIDERS’ PRAYER

Almighty God, We give you thanks, for giving us a land of the free that we can enjoy riding through its beauty of trees, valleys and mountains and rivers. You have blessed us with good health to our bodies, minds, and spirits, so that we can appreciate, your awesome gifts of owning a bike to ride and friends and comrades that can appreciate the same. Help us to help those in need in their lives, so that they too can prosper in all that they are capable of doing and becoming for the glory of God. We ask for your safety and protection as we travel far and near and to unknown places. Make our lives to be good examples as a Legion Rider who cares about veterans and our troops who are serving, and Lord, be with their families right now. Especially at this time, be with those who are grieving for those who have given the Ultimate Sacrifice for their beloved country. Give each of us the strong sense of your presence and your guidance in all things. In your name, we pray. AMEN!