**Kansas American**

**Legion Riders**

**A Motorcycle Association**

The Kansas American Legion Riders is a program sponsored by The American Legion Department of Kansas. Its purpose is to participate in and promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion Department of Kansas including but not limited to the programs of The American Legion. The Kansas American Legion Riders shall be known as the Kansas Chapter and local Chapters sponsored by an American Legion Post shall be known by the name and number of its sponsoring Post.

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9, Sub-section A of the American Legion Department of Kansas Bylaws the Department Commander will appoint members and nominate the Chairman to the Department American Legion Riders Committee as necessary, subject to approval of the Department Executive Committee. The Committee Chairman may, at the Chairman’s discretion and the consent of the ALR Committee, name up to eight (8) Area Directors, a Secretary and a Webmaster whose duties are defined in the Bylaws.

**As a motorcycle association the Kansas American Legion Riders shall:**

1. Promote motorcycle safety while providing a social atmosphere for members of The American Legion family who share common interests in serving veterans, their communities and motorcycling.

1. Promote, support and participate in the programs and ceremonies of The American Legion including calling for a full accounting of all prisoners of war and those missing in action; and honoring our nation’s fallen soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, and to support their families.
2. As ambassadors of The American Legion family, Riders will always represent the organization in a manner in keeping with the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion; *“For God and Country , we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of American; 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 Prosperity the principles of justice. Freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”*

**As adopted by the Department Executive Committee February 2, 2013 in Hays, Kansas.**

**BYLAWS**

1. **CONDUCT:** Strict adherence to correct etiquette, protocol, and precedence as established by The American Legion must be followed at all times. Violations are subject to suspension or revocation of membership in the American Legion Riders as determined by the sponsoring Post or local Chapter Bylaws as approved by the sponsoring Post.
2. **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:** Members of The American Legion Riders must
3. First be a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion whose annual dues are current in their respective organization or program, and whose application for membership in the American Legion Riders has been approved by the sponsoring Post.
4. Must own and be licensed to operate a motorcycle of at least 250cc or be the spouse of a licensed owner who is a current member of The American Legion Riders.
5. Membership in The American Legion Riders may be retained and continued if after one year:
6. A member becomes disabled to an extent which prevents them from physically operating a motorcycle safely; or be the surviving spouse of a member who was the owner and operator as defined in Section B above, or the spouse of a disabled member who meets the requirements in this Sub-section; and
7. Is approved for continued membership by a majority vote of the Chapter’s general membership.

1. **DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AREA DIRECTORS, SECRETARY AND WEBMASTER:** The Commander of The American Legion Department of Kansas shall make all appointments to the Kansas American Legion Riders Department Committee as provided in the Bylaws of The American Legion Department of Kansas. Committee members must be members of The American Legion in the Department of Kansas and The Kansas American Legion Riders in good standing and shall consist of one Chairman and two Committeemen. Duties of the Chairman and Committee members shall be prescribed in the Kansas American Legion Riders Handbook as an addendum to these Bylaws.
   1. The Department Chairman may, with the consent of the Committee, appoint up to eight Area Directors, an ALR Secretary and an ALR Webmaster each of whom may be dismissed at the direction of the Department Executive Committee or Rider Committee. The duties of Area Directors, the ALR Secretary and ALR Webmaster shall be prescribed in the Kansas American Legion Riders Handbook as an addendum to these Bylaws.
   2. The Area Directors must be members in good standing in the Kansas American Legion and Kansas American Legion Riders.
   3. The ALR Secretary and ALR Webmaster shall be members in good standing of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion in the Department or Detachment of Kansas and the Kansas American Legion Riders.
2. **STATE RALLY AND ANNUAL MEETING:**  A State Rally and annual meeting will be held within the Department of Kansas. The Department Committee will coordinate all activities with the host Post and Chapter. The Department ALR Chairman will conduct the business meeting

**As adopted by the Department Executive Committee February 2, 2013 in Hays, Kansas.**

held during the annual State Rally. Each Chapter is allotted two votes on all matters to be voted

upon during the State Rally provided at least two members of a given Chapter are registered and present during the annual meeting. If only one member is present from a Chapter that member may cast one vote. All matters approved by the general membership of the ALR attending the State Rally must be approved by the Department Executive Committee before taking effect.

1. **OFFICIAL KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS BACK PATCH:** The “Official Kansas American Legion Rider Back Patch” is to be a single three linepatch containing the National American Legion Rider emblem ordered through Department Headquarters andpurchased from National Emblem Sales. Department Headquarters will provide Posts a form which must be completed and returned for the Department Adjutant’s signature and forwarding to National Emblem Sales*.* The 8.5 by 12 inch three lineoval back patch may have a black or gold border as provided by National Emblem Sales; add-on borders or other alterations to back patches is prohibited. Line 1 shall display the city/town of the sponsoring Post; Line two shall include the word Post followed by the sponsoring Post’s number; Line three shall be Kansas Chapter.
   1. Only official American Legion Rider Back Patches may be worn on a vest or jacket at Department sponsored American Legion Rider events.
   2. No rockers are allowed to be worn with the “Official Kansas American Legion Rider Back Patch”.

~~Previously purchased one line back patches with a rocker above the National American Legion Rider back patch are “Grandfathered” and may be worn by those individual members who are the original owners of the back patch and who were American Legion Rider members prior to September 15, 2007. Those members may continue to wear their one line back patch with the sponsoring Post rocker above the American Legion Rider emblem until their original back patch or vest is worn out or the member transfers to another ALR Chapter. Under no circumstances may a Grandfathered back patch and rocker be transferred to another vest or article of clothing or banner.~~

* 1. The proper display of all American Legion family related patches on articles of clothing including vests, banners, motorcycles, and other vehicles shall be prescribed in the Kansas American Legion Riders Handbook as an addendum to these Bylaws.
     1. The American Legion and its programs are to project a positive image at all times therefore under no circumstances may any obscene or offensive patch, pin, or other device which conveys a negative messagebe displayed on an American Legion Riders vest or other article of clothing, or motorcycle when the emblem of The American Legion or any of its programs is also displayed. The final authority of what constitutes obscene***,*** offensive or negative messageshall be the Department ALR Chairman. Appeals may be made to the Department Executive Committee provided the offending item is removed until such time as the Executive Committee renders its decision***.***
     2. No other motorcycle club, group, or organization name or emblem may be displayed on the same article of clothing with The American Legion Riders name or emblem.
        1. Exception: Motorcycle brand or model owner association patches are permitted.

**As adopted by the Department Executive Committee February 2, 2013 in Hays, Kansas.**

**As amended by the Department Executive Committee February 4, 2017 in Olathe, Kansas.**

1. VESTS AND JACKET FRONTS;Vests and jackets displaying the American Legion Rider Back Patch must display the following patches.
   1. A United States Flag patch on the upper left breast area of the garment.
      1. Nothing may be displayed above the US Flag.
   2. The American Legion Family affiliation patch the member belongs (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion) on the left breast of the garment below the United States Flag.
      1. Members may include small rockers with their affiliation patch designating their individual Post, Unit, or Squadron number and city. See handbook for details.

1. **SPONSORING POSTS:** American Legion Posts in good standing may sponsor a local Chapter of the Kansas American Legion Riders provided the Post Commander and Adjutant agree in writing stating their Post will insure its American Legion Rider Chapter willadhere to the National or Department Constitution and Bylaws, and the Kansas American Legion Riders Bylaws as approved by the Executive Committee of The American Legion Department ofKansas.
2. Posts must contact Department Headquarters or a member of the Department ALR Committee to arrange for an orientation and organizational meeting conducted by a member of the Committee or an Area Director
   1. Posts will be issued an ALR Chapter Charter signed by the Department Commander, Department Adjutant, and Department American Legion Rider Chairman which may besuspended by the Department Adjutant or revoked by the Department Executive Committee for failure to comply with the National or Department Constitution and Bylaws, and the Kansas American Legion Riders Bylaws as approved by the Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Kansas.
3. Local Chapters must use the sponsoring Post’s Employer Identification Number on all monetary accounts and must include all financial records of its ALR Chapter in the Post’s annual reports to all taxing authorities. The sponsoring Post’s Finance Officer must be a signor on all ALR Chapter monetary accounts. Upon the cancellation or disbanding of a Chapter all property and assets shall remain the property of the sponsoring Post.
4. Posts must provide adequate liability insurance and must approve all ALR activities, events and purchases in advance.
   1. The reproduction of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion emblems, trademarks, service marks, trade names and service names require permission of the National Adjutant. Forms for seeking permission for their reproduction are available from Department Headquarters and must be signed by the sponsoring Post Commander or Adjutant before submittal to the Department Adjutant for his signature and forwarding to the National Adjutant.
5. Posts must approve every application for American Legion Rider membership for its Chapter and may accept ALR membership of members from other Posts, Units and Squadrons.

**As adopted by the Department Executive Committee February 2, 2013 in Hays, Kansas.**

1. Posts must approve its ALR Chapter Bylaws. There can be no fundamental difference or conflict between the Constitution, Bylaws, or policies of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders Bylaws, but that The American Legion provisions, wherever applicable, shall cover any instance of such difference and conflict, and the conflicting provisions of the ALR shall be deemed void.
   1. All Chapters must file a copy of its Bylaws with Department Headquarters. Likewise all amendments to Chapters Bylaws must be filed with Department Headquarters before deemed to be in effect.
   2. Any Chapter failing to file a copy of its Bylaws shall be considered governed by a generic ALR Bylaws on file at Department Headquarters. Any item or subject not covered by a Chapters Bylaws shall be governed by the appropriate Constitution and Bylaws as determined by the Department.
2. Posts must approve the election or appointment of its ALR Chapter Officers, and shall conduct an annual installation of those officers.
3. **LOCAL CHAPTERS:** Local Chapters shall annually elect or appoint, with the approval of its sponsoring Post the following Officers: Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sgt. at Arms/Ride Captain. Local Chapters may also elect or appoint any or all of the following additional officers: Membership Chairman, Veterans Affairs Chairman, Community Service Chairman, Chaplain and Historian. Elections shall be held annually as determined by the Chapter membership and approved by its sponsoring Post.

**a. Duties of Chapter Officers:**

1. It shall be the duty of the Director to preside at all meetings of the Chapter, to enforce a strict observance of the Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion and the Bylaws of the American Legion Riders, and perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage require.
2. The Assistant Directors shall, when called upon, assist the Director and in the Director’s absence perform the duties of the Director, and shall succeed to the office of Director in the event of the Director’s death, resignation or removal.
3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a full and correct recordof all proceedings of all meetings, to provide the Chapter’s sponsoring Post a copy of said records, maintain membership recordsas may be required by the Chapter and other duties as prescribed by the Chapter Bylaws and membership of the Chapter.
4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to maintain accurate financial records of all

Chapter funds, to disburse funds as directed by the Chapter membership for all events, activities and purchases approved by the sponsoring Post, to provide a complete monthly financial report during each Chapter meeting and to the Finance Officer of the sponsoring Post for inclusion in the Post’s Financial report.

1. It shall be the duty of the Sgt at Arms/Ride Captain to assist the Director in maintaining order during all Chapter meetings, activities and events; to serve as the logistics person in charge of organized Chapter rides to include determining the time and location of meeting places for all Chapter activities and events as well as routes to be taken; and may appoint Assistant Road Captains as deemed necessary to insure the safety of all during Chapter activities and events.

**As adopted by the Department Executive Committee February 2, 2013 in Hays, Kansas**

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1. Membership Chairman, Veterans Affairs Chairman, Community Service Chairman, Chaplain and Historian if elected or appointed shall fulfill the duties customarily associated with their office.

**b**. **Reports:**

Chapters are required to provide its sponsoring Post with full and complete reports so

the accomplishments of the Chapter are included in the Post’s annual Post Service

Officer, Children & Youth and Post Consolidated reports to Department and National

Headquarters.

1. **Meetings, Events and Activities, and Participation:**
   * 1. Chapters will hold regularly scheduled meetings at its Post at a date and time determined by a vote of the majority of members and approved by its sponsoring Post. Special meetings may be called by the Chapter Director, or by direction of amajority of the elected Post Officers, or by fifty percent plus one of the generalmembership of the Chapter provided in all cases every reasonable effort is made to notify all Chapter members of the Special meeting. Seven members shall constitutea quorum during all meetings.
     2. Events and activities are those pre-approved by a Chapter’s sponsoring Post and are therefore sponsored by both the Chapter and the Post.
     3. An event sponsored by one Post is a Post sponsored event; an event sponsored by two or more Posts is a Department event and must be pre-approved by the Department Executive Committee.
     4. Participation in events sponsored by non American Legion entities must be pre-approved by the sponsoring Post before a Chapter may take part in or provide services or assistance by the Chapter. The requesting entity must also provide proof of liability insurance for its event or activity thereby limiting a Chapter and its Post’s exposure to legal action.
     5. Posts may provide pre-approval for routine events and activities such as funeral escorts, parades, homecoming and send offs for active duty military personnel. All events and activities must be in keeping with the aims and purposes of The American Legion.
2. **Finances:**

Chapter finances are to be derived from annual dues and such other sources approved

by the Chapter membership and sponsoring Post.

1. **AMENDMENTS:**

These Bylaws may be amended by action of the Executive Committee of the American

Legion Department of Kansas which shall take into consideration all suggestions of the

Department ALR Committee, and those measures approved for consideration by the

delegates attending the annual ALR State Rally.

**As adopted by the Department Executive Committee February 2, 2013 in Hays, Kansas.**