

Gold Star Post 78 American Legion Riders 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 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.

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 Sons of The American Legion.

Article I—Name

The name of this program shall be GOLD STAR POST 78 AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS.

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 Legion Family,” who share an interest in motorcycling.

Section 2. The American Legion Riders upholds the declared principles of The American Legion as well as 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 wearing 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."

Section 4. 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 Legion programs in the community.

Section 5. The ALR strives 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 6. 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.

Article III—Organization

The American Legion Riders is organized at either the Department or the Post level. Gold Star Post 78 American Legion Riders exists at the discretion of the sponsoring post, American Legion Gold Star Post 78. The chapter officers and executive committee are responsible and accountable to the American Legion Gold Star Post 78's executive committee.

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.

Section 4. In addition to sections 1-3 above, full members must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle (350cc minimum) or is the spouse of the legally registered owner within the state of registration.

Section 5. All operators must be properly licensed and insured per Tennessee state laws.

Section 6. All members will obey the motor vehicle laws in any state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

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.

Section 2. No other back patch or back patch design is authorized for wear.

Section 3. Department standards 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 used on the patch.

Section 5. Use of rockers or patches physically attached to The American Legion Riders back patch are not recommended due to trademark laws.

Article VI—Determine Elected Officers

Section 1. The elected officers of the Chapter are Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Road Captain, Historian and Chaplain elected annually.

[Note that the titles "President" or "Commander" are permissible replacements for "Director", "Vice-President" or "Deputy Commander" are permissible replacements for "Assistant Director." and "Run Coordinator" is an acceptable replacement for "Road Captain"]

Section 2. Between Chapter meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Executive Committee (also known as Chapter E-Board), who's voting members shall consist of Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms for the current year and the immediate Past Chapter Director.

Section 3. All other Past Chapter Directors shall be members of the Executive Committee with voice but no vote.

Article VII—Finance

Section 1. The revenue of the Chapter shall be derived from membership fees or dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Chapter Executive Committee and American Legion Gold Star Post 78.

Section 2. The amount of such membership or initiation fees and the amount of such annual Chapter dues shall be fixed and determined by the Chapter and reflected in the Chapter By-Laws.

Section 3. The Chapter will provide a monthly financial report to the sponsoring post executive committee upon written request.

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 Constitution that is in 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.

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 immediate preceding Chapter meeting. Further, that traditional mail or electronic mail notice shall have been sent to all members' addresses of record at least 5 days in advance of the date which such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting there will be a proposal to amend the Constitution.