

**BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
DISTRICT 10/CHAPTER 117**

PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:
To participate in parades and other ceremonies that is in keeping with the aims and purposes of the American Legion. To promote motorcycle safety education programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members with the same motorcycle interests. The American Legion Riders will be an asset in promoting and supporting the programs within the American Legion.

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. This Chapter of the American Legion Riders, Department of California shall be known as American Legion Riders, District 10 and recognized as Chapter 117.

ARTICLE II

Nature

Section 1. The American Legion Riders is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in The American Legion Riders; no member shall be addressed by his military title in any convention or meeting of The American Legion Riders.

Section 2. The American Legion Riders shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office.

Section 3. The American Legion Riders shall be absolutely non-sectarian.

Section 4. Each member shall perform their full duty as a citizen.

ARTICLE III

Membership Eligibility

Section 1. There are two recognized "classes" of involvement with the American Legion Riders as defined below. All members must be a member in good standing, of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary or The Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. Full Members in The American Legion Riders must be the legally registered owner of a highway legal motorcycle and must possess a valid driver's license for the qualifying vehicle in their state of residence (military equivalents acceptable as well) or be the legal spouse or registered domestic partner of an American Legion Riders member within the Chapter of application.

Section 3. All candidates for membership into The American Legion Riders shall be voted upon by the membership of the Chapter at a regular meeting. All candidates must attend two consecutive meetings, participate in two American Legion Rider events and will be

required to participate in one official ride before they can be voted upon by the membership. A majority vote of those present and voting shall elect or reject a candidate.

Section 4. No person, who has been expelled by a Chapter shall be admitted to membership in this Chapter, without the consent of the expelling Chapter, except that where such consent has been asked or and denied by such Chapter, they may then appeal to the Chapter Executive Committee for permission to be admitted to membership in this Chapter, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

Section 5. That no member of The American Legion Riders in good standing, shall be excluded or denied membership because of race, creed or color in any group affiliated with The American Legion Riders that uses the prestige, name or emblem of The American Legion Riders.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1. The elected officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. The appointed officers shall be the Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, Run Coordinator, Historian, and the Road Captain(s).

Section 2. **PRESIDENT:** The Chapter President shall preside at all Executive Committee and Regular Meetings and shall represent the Chapter at any official Area or Chapter meetings. The President will be the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter and shall bear ultimate responsibility. To this end, the President will make all appointments as permitted by the Chapter By-Laws. The President shall represent the Chapter at various events. The Vice President may fill-in in the Presidents absence.

Section 3. **VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice President will be available to represent the President in his/her absence. The Vice President will be responsible for the Membership, and advise the President on all matters regarding the membership. The Vice President shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the President providing there is no conflict with the Chapter Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 4. **SECRETARY:** The Chapter Secretary shall be the Administrative Officer of the Chapter and represent the Vice President in his/her absence. His/Her duties will be performed in accordance with the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws, by maintaining the Chapter records (i.e. minutes, membership, etc.), and publishing any necessary orders, announcements, and instructions. The Chapter Secretary shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the President providing there is no conflict with the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 5. **TREASURER:** The Chapter Treasurer shall be the Financial Officer of the Chapter. His/Her duties will be performed in accordance with the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws. The Chapter Treasurer shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the President providing there is no conflict with the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 6. **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:** The Chapter Sergeant-At-Arms will be responsible for preserving order at all meetings of the Chapter. He/She shall have custody of the Chapter Colors. He/She shall identify all persons at Chapter meetings and shall be responsible for

the sign in roster and introducing dignitaries and guests at all meetings. He/She shall have the authority to appoint Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms to assist him/her at Chapter meetings. The Chapter Sergeant-At-Arms shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the President providing there is no conflict with the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 7. **CHAPLAIN:** The Chapter Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian service as outlined in the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws. The Chapter Chaplain shall be ready upon occasion to take part in dedication ceremonies and the funeral services of a comrade. The Chapter Chaplain shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the President providing there is no conflict with the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 8. **RUN COORDINATOR:** The Chapter Run Coordinator shall advise the President regarding Chapter Runs when requested. The Chapter Run Coordinator shall serve as the Chairperson of the Chapter Activities Committee and will be the person in charge during Official Chapter Runs. The Chapter Run Coordinator will advise on matters related to Motorcycle Safety. He/She shall have the authority to appoint Road Captains as needed. The Chapter Run Coordinator shall also perform such other duties as assigned by the President providing there is no conflict with the Chapter Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE V Organization – Chapters

Section 1. The organization of the Chapter shall be organized according to the American Legion Riders, Department of California, Article V, Organization – Chapters, Sections 1-7.

ARTICLE VI ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Meetings shall be held monthly at a date and time designated by the Executive Committee and approved by a majority vote of the general membership.

Section 2. The presence of a majority of elected Chapter Officers including at least the President or the Vice President shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. The rules of procedure at Chapter Meetings shall be those set forth in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

Section 4. Special meetings of the Chapter may be called by the President or the Executive Committee. Special meetings shall be announced by the President at the regular meeting preceding the proposed special meeting or notification shall be sent via e-mail or regular mail to the general membership at least five (5) days prior to said meeting, stating the date, time, place and subject of the special meeting.

Section 5. No elected officer or member of the Chapter Executive Committee shall be elected to the same office for more than three (3) successive terms with the exception of the Secretary.

Section 6. The office of Chapter Chaplain should not be filled from the same denomination for more than two (2) successive terms.

Section 7. All elections for Chapter Officers shall be by roll call.

Section 8. In the case of a vacancy in an elected Chapter office, whether such vacancy occurs through death or inability to act of the Chapter officer, the office shall be filled by the Chapter Executive Committee. When the vacancy is that of the Chapter President, the 1st Vice President shall assume the responsibilities of President.

ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Chapter shall consist of the elected and appointed officers for the current year, including all Past Chapter Presidents. All officers appointed by the President, may attend and participate in Executive Committee meetings but are not considered voting members.

Section 2. The Executive Committee, a two-thirds vote of said committee being necessary to effect such removal, may remove any Officer or Committeeperson for inefficiency. An officer who is absent from two (2) or more Executive Committee meetings may be removed, upon due investigation of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Chapter Executive Committee shall meet once a month, prior to the regular general membership meeting, to discuss Chapter business.

Section 4. The Chapter President shall serve as the Chairperson of the Chapter Executive Committee. The Chapter Vice President shall assume the duties of the chairperson in the absence of the Chapter President. The Chapter Secretary shall serve as the Secretary of the Executive Committee with the duties of maintaining the official records of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCES

Section 1. The finances of the Chapter shall derive from the annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved the Chapter membership.

Section 2. The finances of the Chapter shall be held in a bank account. Signatures on the account shall include the Treasurer, the President and the Vice President. Signatures of the Treasurer and/or the President shall be required to remove funds.

Section 3. Disbursements of non-budgeted funds shall be authorized by a vote at a Chapter meeting with the exception of emergency funds set aside to be dispersed at the discretion of the Chapter President.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall set the annual dues and membership donations of the Chapter.

Section 5. Annual dues are due and payable by July 1 of each year. Should a member be delinquent in their dues after January 1, they shall be removed from the roles and must re-apply for membership. Only members who are current in their dues may hold office,

appointed or elected. Candidates for office must be current in their dues for the period in which they wish to hold office.

ARTICLE IX STANDING COMMITTEES/APPOINTED POSITIONS

Section 1. The Chapter recognizes the following standing committees and appointed positions: Membership, Merchandising, Media/Public Relations, Historian and Color Guard. These committees shall be led by a chairperson appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The President with the approval of the Executive Committee shall have the authority to appoint special committees and shall appoint the Chairperson.

ARTICLE X MEMBERS IN ARREARS

Section 1. The Chapter shall follow the direction set forth in the Bylaws of the American Legion Riders, Department of California, ARTICLE XII, Sections 1-2.

ARTICLE XI DISCIPLINE

Section 1. In the event that the sponsoring post of the American Legion to which the chapter was attached is no longer legally chartered, the property of that chapter shall therefore become the property of American Legion Riders, Department of California.

Section 2. Members may be suspended or expelled from the Chapter only upon a proper showing of cause. Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, unsafe conduct while operating a motorcycle on Chapter sponsored runs and conduct unbecoming a member of the American Legion Riders and the American Legion. All charges must be made under oath in writing by the accusers, and no member in good standing shall lose his/her membership until given a fair trial in such manner and form as the AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS Department of California Bylaws and Department Executive Committee shall prescribe.

ARTICLE XII UNIFORM

Section 1. The Chapter shall follow the direction set forth in the Bylaws of the American Legion Riders, Department of California, ARTICLE XIV, Sections 1-9.

Section 2. The Chapter reserves the authority to enact additional uniform regulations such as to not conflict with the Bylaws of the American Legion Riders, Department of California.

ARTICLE XIII RULES OF ORDER

Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) shall govern the procedures of all Chapter meetings.

**ARTICLE XIV
CHAPTER CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Section 1. In formation of the Constitution and By-Laws governing the Chapter, there shall be no conflict with the Department or California and National Constitution and Bylaws governing The American Legion Riders.

**ARTICLE XV
AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any Chapter meeting by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the membership present and must be ratified by the Executive Committee.

Mike Nettles
President
ALR District 10/Chapter 117

Date