



**Constitution and by-Laws of the
American Legion Riders**
American Legion Walton F. Hoffmann Memorial Post 179
New Braunfels, Texas 78130



ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the American Legion Riders (ALR), American Legion, Post 179, New Braunfels, Texas, hereinafter referred to as *Chapter* or *ALR*.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTS

Section 1. The objects and purposes of this chapter shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the preceding Preamble and the National and Department Constitution of the American Legion and Post 179.

Section 2. To use our chapter to promote and support programs of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and veterans' organizations.

Section 3. To participate in activities in order to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interests.

Section 4. To promote motorcycle safety programs.

ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

Section 1. This ALR 179 Chapter was chartered on 11 March 2017.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership Requirements:

A. Regular ALR Member

1. Must be a current member of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, or American Legion Auxiliary in good standing.
2. Must own a motorcycle individually or through marriage, common-law marriage, a life partnership, or a long-term relationship.
 - (a) The motorcycle must have an engine displacement of not less than 500 cc.
 - (b) The motorcycle must have a current inspection and registration as required by state law upon initial membership and each subsequent renewal.
 - (c) The motorcycle must meet the current state minimum liability insurance requirements upon initial membership and each subsequent renewal.



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- (d) The motorcycle must only be operated by an individual with a current state-issued motorcycle license during any ALR event or function.

B. Provisional Member

1. A person may become a provisional member without voting privileges if they hold a Learner's Permit for up to six months. This period will begin on the date the member joins the organization or the date these bylaws are accepted, whichever occurs later.

Section 2. Applications for membership will be presented to the chairperson of the Membership Committee. At each regular meeting of the Chapter, the Membership Chairperson will report on all applications received during or after the last general membership meeting. A majority vote of those members present and eligible to vote shall accept or reject a candidate.

Section 3. A member may be suspended from membership by a majority of officers in attendance at any function where they are representing the American Legion Riders if they are judged to be acting in a manner to bring discredit or safety concerns to the organization. This suspension will be in effect until the next regular monthly meeting. In addition, although not required, the suspended member is requested to discontinue wearing clothing bearing the American Legion Riders identification until they are restored to full membership status.

Section 4. Any member may be expelled or suspended from the chapter by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the seated membership at a regular Chapter meeting. Although not required, the expelled member is requested to discontinue wearing clothing bearing American Legion Riders identification. A member may be expelled if they no longer meet the requirements of membership or have acted in such a way as to bring discredit to the organization. An expelled member may appeal for reconsideration at a subsequent regular meeting. Charter members can only be expelled following a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the seated charter members. The host post Executive Committee will conduct all appeals.

Section 5. ALR 179 Charter membership in Texas is granted to members listed on the rolls through December 2017.

ARTICLE V: SPECIAL CLASS MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Member or spouse may continue membership as a special class member, with full membership privileges, if they fail to meet the membership requirements of Article IV, § 1 pursuant to the following and subject to the approval of the general membership:



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- A. Death of the spouse who was the owner of the motorcycle as defined in Article IV, § 1(A).
 - B. Disability, which prevents a member from physically operating a motorcycle and ownership of the motorcycle was relinquished due to this disability. This will also allow the spouse to continue membership under these conditions for special class membership.
 - C. For A & B above, the individual must have been a regular member for at least one (1) full year.

Section 2. Members, at their discretion, may elect by majority vote at a regular membership meeting to authorize a *supporting* membership to an individual or individuals under the following guidelines:

- A. In addition, the individual(s) must meet all requirements of Article IV, § 1(A)(1).
- B. These memberships are to be of a support nature and do not constitute actual membership; therefore, Supporters will not be granted voting privileges or the right to hold an office. Supporting membership should only be granted to those who have demonstrated themselves to be assets to the organization and excelled in promoting the aims and purposes of the American Legion Riders.
- C. If American Legion Rider back patches are granted to these support members, there must be a bottom patch that states the word *SUPPORTER* to identify the class of membership clearly. In addition, shirts or other wearing apparel containing the American Legion Riders emblem should contain *SUPPORTER*.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers of the Chapter. The elected officers of the chapter shall be the Director, Assistant Director, Road Captain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Membership, Historian, Service Officer, and three Members-at-Large.

Section 2. The Director shall serve as the Chairperson (non-voting) of the Executive Committee, and the Assistant Director shall assume that position in their absence. The Secretary of the Chapter shall serve as Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Executive Committee will meet once a month, prior to the Chapter's regular meeting each month, to discuss Chapter business.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Eligibility:



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- A. All regular members are eligible to hold office.
- B. The Director, Assistant Director, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Road Captain shall be owner-operators of a motorcycle.

Section 2. All officers will serve June through June. Nominations of officers may be made anytime during the month of April. Elections of nominated officers will be held at the May general membership meeting. Formal installation of officers will take place at the Post Installation Ceremony. An Officer Nomination Book will be established to document the person being nominated, the nominator, and the date of nomination. Only members physically present at the May general membership meeting will be able to vote.

Section 3. With the concurrence of the Executive Committee, the Director shall appoint the following non-voting officers: Safety Officer, Events Coordinator, Webmaster, Quartermaster, or any position that is deemed necessary.

Section 4. A member may hold more than one, not to exceed two, offices. The Director and Assistant Director may not hold any other offices.

Section 5. All elected officers shall have one vote at Executive Committee or Chapter meetings, regardless of the number of offices held.

Section 6. Elections shall be by secret ballot vote.

Section 7. The duties of officers shall be as follows:

- A. Director: The Director: serve as Chief Administrative Officer and preside over all general meetings; shall have general supervision over the affairs of the Chapter; shall be responsible to the consensus for the welfare of ALR 179 general membership; will be limited to no more than two consecutive terms; will serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee.
- B. Assistant Director: The Assistant Director will assume the duties of the Director in their absence and will assist the Director in the performance of their duties. The Assistant Director will be limited to no more than two consecutive terms.
- C. Road Captain: The Road Captain will be the person in charge during organized runs of the Chapter. This person may, at their discretion, appoint assistant road captains or take any other measures necessary to help ensure the safety of the group during a run or event.



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- D. Treasurer: The Treasurer will have charge of all finances of the Chapter and will disburse funds as directed by the general membership or the Executive Committee as appropriate. The Treasurer will prepare and present detailed financial reports at each general membership meeting. Also, they will prepare and present a proposed budget to the Executive Committee no later than thirty (30) days after assuming office. The Treasurer must have knowledge of budgeting and accounting. The Treasurer will serve as Chairperson of the Finance Committee.
- E. Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms will preserve order at the meetings and Chapter activities and other duties assigned by the Director. The Sergeant-at-Arms ensures all members adhere to Chapter by-laws. The Sergeant-at-Arms will assume the duties of the Assistant Director in their absence.
- F. Secretary: The Secretary will have charge of, and keep correct records of, all meetings and proceedings, and under the direction of the Director, manage all correspondence of the Chapter.
- G. Membership: Membership will validate the eligibility of each new member. Membership will keep the membership rolls and report to the Membership Committee if members become delinquent or no longer meet eligibility requirements. Membership will serve as Chairperson of the Membership Committee.
- H. Historian: The Historian will keep a record of Chapter incidents and activities to include other related duties as may be directed by the Executive Committee and the Chapter. The Historian will compile printed or electronic media and make them available for public viewing under the control of the Historian.
- I. Chaplain: The Chaplain will be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Chapter members and offer divine, non-sectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., and will adhere to such ceremonial rituals as directed by the Director.
- J. Events Coordinator: The Events Coordinator will provide advertising flyers, web postings, news releases, and other material to publicize Chapter activities. The Events Coordinator will serve as Chairperson of the Events Committee and will perform other duties as directed by the Director.
- K. Member at-Large: The Member at-Large will represent the general membership and make recommendations to the Executive Committee based on their representation. They will serve as committee chairperson for disbursement of



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emergency funds.

- L. Safety Officer: The Safety Officer is responsible for the overall safety of all the Chapter members and provides motorcycle safety foundation information to members. They will assist the Road Captain(s) in planning routes for chapter rides and educating members about group riding techniques. They will inform members of any hand signals used by the Chapter. The Safety Officer will educate members about Safe Rider Skills Programs.
- M. Service Officer: The Service Officer is responsible for identifying and developing opportunities to serve the active duty, veterans, and civilian communities. As opportunities present themselves, the Service Officer will foster relationships with other ALR programs, veterans' organizations, and civilian communities. Annually, the Service Officer is responsible for reviewing the service mission, soliciting inputs of the general membership, and establishing a course of service for the next calendar year. The Service Officer will collaborate closely with the Assistant Director, Events Coordinator, and Webmaster in the execution of service programs.

Section 8. Removal from Office.

- A. In the event that any officer shall be absent for three consecutive meetings of the Chapter without being excused by the Director or the Executive Committee, such office may be declared vacant.
- B. If the position of any officer becomes vacant, the Director may appoint a member to fill that post until the election of a replacement. Nominations will be taken at the next regularly scheduled meeting and elections at subsequent meetings.
- C. Motions to remove an elected officer must be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration. Upon validation of the motion by the Executive Committee, the request for removal will be presented to the general membership. A two-thirds vote is required for removal.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETING AND QUORUM

Section 1. Meetings will be held at a date and time as voted on by the members. Members attending not wearing attire containing the National ALR emblem will donate five dollars to the ALR 179 Chapter.

Section 2. A majority of elected officers present, of the positions filled, and including at least one of the following officers: Director, Assistant Director or Sergeant-at-Arms will



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constitute a quorum.

- Section 3. All meetings will be conducted under the current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order*.
- Section 4. The Director or Executive Committee may call special meetings of the Chapter, giving Chapter members a minimum of five business days' notice.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCES

- Section 1. Finances of the Chapter will be from the membership dues or such other sources, as approved by the membership.
- Section 2. Finances of the Chapter will be held in a bank account. Signatures on the account will include the Treasurer and Director. The signature of the Treasurer or Director will be required to remove funds. Disbursement of funds of \$500.00 or more will be by only those authorized by a majority vote of the general membership at any regular meeting of the Chapter. Disbursement of funds under \$500.00 will require the approval of a majority of the Chapter Officers. Approval shall be obtained by e-mail or other printed electronic communication.
- Section 3. The 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.
- Section 4. The Executive Committee shall set the annual dues. The annual dues of the Chapter will not exceed the Post Legion annual dues.
- Section 5. Dues are due and payable no later than 31 December of each year. Any member delinquent in their dues after 30 January will be removed from the active rolls and must reapply for membership. Only members who are current in their dues may hold office or be elected to office. Candidates for office must be current in their dues for the period in which they wish to hold office. Exceptions will be reviewed by the Executive Committee (e.g., deployments, TDY).

ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES

- Section 1. Three (3) standing committees—Membership, Finance, and Events—shall be established with the Chairperson of each being as required by Article VII. Each Chairperson will report activities in writing to the Executive Committee.
- A. The Membership Committee shall be composed of the Membership Chairperson and any additional members appointed by the Chairperson. It shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the membership of the Chapter, including the recruitment of new members and reinstatements. In addition, the committee shall certify the eligibility of all applications as required by these by-laws.



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- B. The Finance Committee shall administer the Chapter finances, prepare financial reports, and supervise Chapter funds. The committee shall be composed of the Chairperson and any additional members appointed by the Chairperson.
- C. The Events Committee shall be composed of the Events Coordinator and any additional members appointed by the Chairperson. It shall be charged with planning and supervising Chapter activities. In addition, the committee may add temporary members to its membership for assistance with individual activities.

Section 2. Additional committees may be formed by appointment of the Director with the consent of the Executive Committee. The duties and length of service of these committees shall be stated at the time the committee is appointed.

Section 3. Upon the installation of new officers, a committee shall be formed to review the current Constitution and by-Laws of the ALR 179 and present recommendations for any modifications or changes to the Director.

ARTICLE XI: DRESS CODE

Section 1. Vests or jackets (leather, denim, or textile) that have patches of the American Legion Riders will conform to the following guidelines. The wearing of the rider's patch is a matter of team pride and the rider's choice. However, for the purpose of uniformity, when a rider elects to wear the patch, it will be worn within these guidelines.

- A. The back of the vest or jacket will contain the American Legion Riders patch, Post 179, New Braunfels, Texas. The American Legion Riders patch may not overlap or contact any rocker or other patch.
- B. The American Flag Patch will be located on the upper left side of the front. No other patches or pins will be located higher than the American Flag Patch.
- C. The POW/MIA Patch will be located on the upper right side of the front at the same level as the American Flag Patch. No other patches or pins will be located higher than the POW/MIA patch.
- D. Charter members and officers' patches will be located under the American Flag upper left-hand side.
- E. A name patch, if worn, will be located under the POW/MIA patch on the upper right-hand side.



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- F. All patches on the upper half left of the front will be related to the American Legion, military service, or veteran memorial in nature.
- G. Vulgar, obscene, inflammatory, property, MC, etc. patches may not be worn on the ALR vest or jacket. Dual membership may not be worn on the ALR vest or jacket. If any doubt exists about the placement or appropriateness of patches and pins, the Director shall make a ruling.
- H. In memory of patches, motorcycle related patches and run pins may be worn anywhere other than the left upper side of the vest or jacket.

**ALR 179 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
ORIGINAL APPROVAL AND ADOPTION**

We, the following organizing members of the American Legion Riders Post 179, hereby certify the forgoing Constitution and by-Laws were adopted at the organizing meeting on 11 March 2017.

ALR 179 Organizing Charter Members in Attendance

Jerry Wray	Jay Grady
James Hollon	Mac Henry Pierre
David Boland	Mike Weber
Peter Johnson	Alicia (Lee) Johnson

The American Legion Riders Post 179 Constitution and by-Laws referenced in this document were voted on and adopted at the membership meeting on 14 March 2017

The American Legion Riders Post 179 Constitution and Bylaws referenced in this document were voted on and approved by the American Legion, Walton F. Hoffmann Memorial Post Executive Committee on 6 April 2017.

ALR 179 Constitution and by-Laws Post 179 Original Approval

Mike Weber	Organization Director
David Boland	Secretary
Jerry Wray	Post 179 Commander
John Schendel	Post 179 Adjutant

Attested:

John Schendel,
Adjutant

Jerry M. Wray,
Commander



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ALR 179 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REVISION HISTORY

Date: 6 May 2022

Summary of Revisions:

Article IV (Membership)

1. Omitted the requirement for an ALR member to be a licensed operator of a motorcycle.

Article V (Special Class Membership)

1. Omitted the requirement for a supporting member to be the licensed owner or operator of a motorcycle.

Article VI (Executive Committee)

1. Clarified the Executive Committee to include the elected officers of the Chapter: Director, Assistant Director, Road Captain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Membership, Historian, Service Officer, and Members-at-Large.
2. Added the requirement that the Director be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

Article VII (Officers and Elections)

1. Added the requirement that the Director, Assistant Director, Sergeant-at-Arms and Road Captain be owner/operators of a motorcycle.
2. Changed the terms of officers to be June through June.
3. Changed the time of election of officers to be during the May general membership meeting.
4. Changed the time of installation of new officers to occur at the Post Installation Ceremony.
5. Clarified that the Director or Assistant Director may not hold any other offices during their respective terms.
6. Changed the requirement for the Sergeant-at-Arms to assume the duties of the Assistant Director in their absence.
7. Omitted the requirement for the Sergeant-at-Arms to defend members and property from outside threats.
8. Changed the requirement for the Historian to compile materials using printed or electronic media.
9. Omitted the requirement for the Safety Officer to assist in the collection of signed release forms.

Article VIII (Meetings and Quorum)

1. Increased the required donation to the Chapter for members not wearing recognized ALR attire to membership meetings from one dollar to five dollars.
2. Revised the requirement that the Director or Assistant Director be present to constitute a quorum to include the Sergeant-at-Arms.
3. Revised the requirement that all meetings be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order to be per the current edition.



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4. Added the requirement that members be given a minimum of five business days' notice of any special meetings.

Article IX (Finances)

1. Revised the requirement for the approval of disbursement of Chapter funds to omit the option of approval by telephone.
2. Clarified requirement for annual dues to not exceed Post Legion annual dues.

Article X (Committees)

1. Added the requirement that upon the installation of new officers, a committee be formed to review the current Constitution and by-Laws and present the Director with any recommendations for revisions or modifications.

Article XI (Dress Code)

1. Revised the requirements for vests or jackets to include textile fabrics.
2. Changed the requirement to prohibit the ALR patch from contacting or overlapping any other patch.
3. Omitted the requirement prohibiting a patch (or rocker) being worn above the ALR patch.
4. Omitted the option of wearing AMA, CoC or TMRA patches.

General

1. Miscellaneous changes throughout document to improve readability or clarity without affecting intent, e.g., all references to the *Executive Board* are changed to read *Executive Committee*, all references to the *Activities Committee* are changes to read *Events Committee*.

Revisions Committee:

Mark Hester (Chair)	American Legion Riders American Legion
Scott Karcher	American Legion Riders Sons of the American Legion
Heather Karcher	American Legion Riders American Legion Auxiliary
J. J. Sadler	American Legion Riders American Legion
Suzanne LeClair	American Legion Riders American Legion Auxiliary
John Jellison	American Legion Riders Sons of the American Legion
Rich Vassi	American Legion Riders Sons of the American Legion
James Hollon	American Legion Riders American Legion
Pamela Grady	American Legion Riders American Legion Auxiliary



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The above revisions to the American Legion Riders Post 179 Constitutions and by-Laws referenced in this document were voted on and adopted at the membership meeting on 26 May 2022.

Attested:

Stacy Stover,
Secretary

Ken Gardner,
Director

The above revisions to the American Legion Riders Post 179 Constitutions and by-Laws referenced in this document were approved by the Post 179 Executive Committee on 26 May 2022.

Attested:

Stacy Stover,
Adjutant

Donald Ingram,
Commander