



## **Pickerington Post #283 American Legion Riders Chapter Constitution**

### **Preamble**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

to promote and support programs of the American Legion; to participate in parades and other ceremonies; to promote motorcycle safety programs; to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; and to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism.

### **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 The Sons of The American Legion.

### **Article I—Name**

The name of this program shall be ***THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS of Ohio Pickerington Post # 283.***

### **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 American 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."

- a. At no time will a Legion Rider display/wear on the rider's vest anything that is offensive or disrespectful to the American Legion, our Country or the ALR program.
- b. If a member leaves the group he or she may be asked to return all of the American legion Rider patches issued. In return of the patches the exiting member will be refunded for the full amount of the patches initially paid.

*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.

*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. Each chapter exists at the discretion of the sponsoring post/department. The chapter officers and executive committee are responsible and accountable to the sponsoring post/department executive committee. The ALR is a Post Level Program of the American Legion.

### **Article IV—Membership Eligibility**

Membership consist of 2 recognized "classes" of involvement within the ALR as defined below:

*Section 1.* Full Members

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. Members will not at any time hold membership in more than one chapter of The American Legion Riders.
- d. In addition to sections a-c above, members must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle or be the spouse of the legally registered owner within the state of registration.
- e. All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws.
- f. All members will obey the motor vehicle laws in any state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.
- g. You must own a motorcycle of at least 550CC in size or be the legal spouse of an owner who is an ALR association member.
- h. Charter Members must maintain continuous years of membership. If a lapse occurs in the payment of dues the charter member must pay for the prior years of membership.
- i. *The first years dues for Military Veterans is waived.*
- j. Dues for Active Military is waived during time spent in deployment.

## Section 2. Support Members

- a. The Chapter Supporter classification does not constitute full membership in the ALR, therefore Supporters will not be granted voting privileges or the right to hold an office. Chapter Supporter is intended as a means to provide recognition to those who show strong support to the ALR Chapter/Post.
- b. Chapter Supporters must, without exception, be a member in good standing in the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion.
- c. Any patches worn, such as rockers, by Chapter Supporters displaying the ALR emblem must also contain the words "I Support", "Supporter", or "Support Member". Support Members shall wear "I Support", "Supporter", or "Member Support" in lieu of the "Pickerington Ohio" rocker.

- d. Each case is carefully considered and voted upon by majority vote by the Chapter membership before Support Membership is granted.

### **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 officers of Pickerington Post 283 are Director, Assistant Director, Secretary elected annually. These three will additionally appoint Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Road Captain, Historian, Tail Gunner, and Membership Chairman.** Additionally the Immediate Past Director will sit on the Executive Board (if applicable)

*Section 2.* Between Chapter meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Executive Committee, who's voting members shall consist of all elective officers for the current year and the immediate Past Chapter Director when applicable.

### **Article VII—Finance**

*Section 1.* The revenue of the Chapter shall be derived from such membership fees or dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the Chapter Executive Committee.

*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 as required.

*Section 3.* The Chapter will provide a monthly financial report to Pickerington Post 283.

*Section 4.* All funds are to be focused on Veteran needs. If we are approached to support community type events we are to refer them to the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion.

### **Article VIII—Amendments**

*Section 1.* This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the Department Constitution, and Post Constitution of which this Chapter is a subordinate program. Any amendment to 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.

# **Pickerington Post #283 American Legion Riders Chapter By-Laws**

## **Article I—Name**

*Section 1.* The Chapter existing under these By-Laws is to be known as **The American Legion Riders of Ohio, Pickerington Post 283.**

*Section 2.* The name and nature of this Chapter are as set forth in the Constitution.

## **Article II—Association Chapter Officers**

*Section 1.* The officers of the Chapter shall be Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Road Captain, Historian, Membership Chairman, Tail Gunner, and Chaplain.

*Section 2.* Between Chapter meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Executive Committee, which shall consist of all elective officers for the current year, and in addition the immediate Past Director when applicable.

*Section 3.* Officers of this Chapter shall be elected annually, with nominations in November and elections in December. All elected officers begin their term 1 January. The election of officers shall be by ballot only if more than one candidate is nominated. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the respective office or offices for which they are candidates.

*Section 4.* 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 5.* 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.

## **Article III—Duties of Officers**

*Section 1. Duties of Director.* It shall be the duty of the Chapter Director to preside at all meetings of the Chapter and to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the Chapter, and such officer shall be the chief executive officer of the Chapter. The Director

shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds. The Director shall perform such other duties as necessary for coordination of the Chapter. The Director shall provide monthly status reports to the Post, by General Meeting attendance or written report, of the Legion Rider activities for documentation.

*Section 2. Duties of Assistant Director.* The Assistant Director shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Director in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the Chapter Director.

*Section 3. Duties of Chapter Secretary.* The Secretary shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of all ALR meetings. Also, maintain all current email addresses of all ALR members. Communicate events within the chapter, District 8 events, and State events in a timely manner to our association. Shall be charged with the promotion of public support of the Riders' program.

*Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer.* The Treasurer shall have charge of all finances and see that they are safely deposited in some local bank or banks and shall report once a month to the Chapter Executive Committee the condition of the finances of the Chapter, with such recommendations as he or she may deem expedient or necessary to carry on the financial activities of the Chapter. The Treasurer and Post Treasurer shall be a signer for all checks disbursing the monies of the Chapter, and shall be provided such surety bonds in such amounts as shall be fixed by the Chapter Executive Committee and obtained by the Chapter. The Treasurer prepares the Chapter's monthly financial report for the sponsoring department/post Executive Committee.

*Section 5. Duties of Chapter Historian.* The Chapter Historian shall be charged with the individual records and incidents of the Chapter and Chapter members, and shall perform such other duties as may properly pertain to the office as may be determined by the Chapter or the Executive Committee.

*Section 6. Duties of Chapter Chaplain.* The Chapter Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Chapter comrades and will offer divine but nonsectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the Department headquarters from time to time.

*Section 7. Duties of Road Captain.* The Road Captain shall plan all tours, runs, activities, and events; lead the chapter in formation riding or parades; arouse interest in activities; enforce all rules of safe motorcycle operation and group riding. Additionally, the Road Captain may select assistants to aid in special tasks.

*Section 8. Duties of the Sergeant-at-arms.* The Sergeant-at-arms shall preserve order at meetings and gatherings, assist the Road Captain in enforcing all rules of safe riding during rides and runs; and perform such other duties from time to time assigned by the Director.

*Section 9. Duties of the Tail Gunner.* The Tail Gunner shall assist the Road Captain with all tours, runs, activities, and events. For runs or parades the tail gunner shall be assigned the last riding position or tail spot to assist and/or police riders falling behind.

*Section 10. Duties of the Membership Chairperson.* Shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the membership of the ALR, including the recruitment of new members, reinstatements and eligibility of members, and shall be responsible for maintaining all membership records. Each Chapter shall maintain membership records sufficient to establish the continuous length of time any member has been affiliated with that Chapter.

These records are to minimally include:

- a. Date member joined
- b. Record of membership renewals
- c. Date of separation

A copy of these records shall be provided to any member or other Chapter by a written request.

#### **Article IV—Meetings**

*Section 1.* Regular Chapter Meetings will be held at a date, time and place as voted on by a majority of members at any regular meeting. A quorum must be present to conduct official Chapter business at Regular Chapter Meetings. A quorum will consist of six members. Regular meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm; 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.* Upon the written request of 3 members, the Executive Committee shall call a special meeting of the Chapter.

#### **Article IV—Chapter Executive Committee**

*Section 1.* The Chapter Executive Committee shall meet for organizational or such other business as may come before it at the call of the Chapter Director within 10 days after the installation of the new officers. Thereafter the Chapter Executive Committee shall meet as often as Chapter Director may deem necessary. The Chapter Director shall call a meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee upon the joint written request of three or more members of said Chapter Executive Committee, and 6 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum thereof.



*Section 2.* The Chapter Executive Committee, based on a majority vote, shall hire such employees as may be necessary; shall authorize and approve all expenditures; shall provide or require adequate bonds from all persons having custody of chapter funds; shall hear the reports of chapter committee chairs; and generally, shall have charge of and be responsible for the management of the affairs of this chapter.

#### **Article VI—Delegates**

*Section 1.* 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 VII—Appointments**

*Section 1.* The Chapter Director, immediately upon taking office each year, may appoint standing committees or commissions for the furtherance of chapter programs.

*Section 2.* Such standing committees shall consist of such persons, and the chair thereof, as designated by the Chapter Director.

#### **Article VIII—Resolutions**

*Section 1.* All resolutions of state 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 IX—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.

#### **Article X—Rules of Order**

*Section 1.* All proceedings of this Chapter shall be conducted under and pursuant to Roberts' Rules of Order (Newly Revised), except as herein otherwise provided.

## **Article XI—Limitations of Liabilities**

*Section 1.* This Chapter shall 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.

## **ARTICLE XII - Discipline**

*Section 1:* Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Association by a majority vote of the general membership at a regular Chapter meeting.

*Section 2.* If a member is expelled from the group he or she may be asked to return all of the American legion Rider patches issued. In return of the patches the exiting member will be refunded for the full amount of the patches initially paid.

*Section 3:* Cause for removal can also include any type behavior/actions that bring disrespect to the ALR Chapter, its members or the sponsoring Post or Department.

*Section 4:* If a member is removed for cause, a letter will be forwarded to the Sponsoring Post.

*Section 5:* Any complaints will be provided to the Director of the Chapter within 10 days of any violation and the Executive Board will take action within 15 days after the Director has received this complaint. The complaint must be signed by the complainant with an address and phone number for verification. The Executive Board will be responsible for the investigation and their ruling will be binding and final.

## **Article XIII – Special Class Members**

*Section 1:* Any existing ALR member retains a full member of the chapter if he or she has involuntarily given up motorcycle ownership due to age, injury, or other medical condition outside the control of the rider. This will apply to spouses of ALR riders as well, even in the event of death of his/her spouse.

- a. The member must have been a paying member in good standing of the Post 283 ALR for 1 year.
- b. The 'Special Class Member' must keep their current membership in the American Legion Family.
- c. The disability or injury must be significant enough in nature to prevent the member from operating a motorcycle.

- d. Each case is carefully considered and voted upon by majority vote by the Chapter membership before continued membership is granted as a 'Special Class Member'

#### **ARTICLE XIV -Amendments**

*Section 1.* 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 2.* Written notice to the addresses of record indicated in Article IX, Section 1, shall have been given to all members 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.