

Albert Lea American Legion Post 56

American Legion Riders Chapter 56

Constitution

Preamble:

For God and country, we associate ourselves as members of the American Legion Family (The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion), constituting the American Legion 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 in all 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 goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to participate in parades and other ceremonies which are 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 Family members with the same motorcycle interests; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Purpose

The American Legion Riders was 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 1st District MN, Chapter 56*.

Article II - Nature

Section 1. The American Legion Riders (ALR) is a program of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion collectively known as "The American Legion Family", who share an interest in motorcycling.

Section 2. The American Legion Riders uphold the declared principles of the American Legion and conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the department, post, or other duly constituted bodies.

Section 3. The American Legion Riders maintain and protect the image of the American Legion at all times through the appropriate wear of the American Legion emblem. The American Legion demands "that the wearer shall ever guard the sanctity of home and country and free institutions."

Section 4. Under no circumstances shall any emblem of the American Legion be marketed, sold, or subordinated to any other organizational logo or emblem without the approval and consent of the American Legion national organization.

Section 5. Members of the American Legion Riders avoid any perception of being a motorcycle or biker club or gang. Rather, the focus of membership is on the enjoyment of motorcycles, comradeship, and furthering Legion programs in the community.

Section 6. The American Legion Riders strive to improve the public's perception of the motorcycling community by promoting the honorable nature of military service and service to one's community, state, and nation through the sport of motorcycling.

Section 7. Members of the American Legion Riders must comply at all times with the motor vehicle safety, licensing, and insurance laws or regulations of the state in which they are operating.

Article III - Organization

The American Legion Riders is organized at either the post or department level, and each chapter exists at the discretion of the sponsoring post or department. The chapter officers and executive committee are responsible and accountable to the sponsoring post or department executive committee. All officers of the American Legion chapter must be named by the hosting post or department, or if elected, must be approved by the hosting post or department.

Article IV - Membership Eligibility

Section 1. Eligibility for full membership in the American Legion Riders shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution 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 Auxillary 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. Each American Legion Rider member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required under local laws.

Section 5. Members in good standing may continue to retain full membership if they have given up motorcycle ownership involuntarily because of age, injury, or health reasons.

Section 6. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid as required by the chapter or by the department. There are no national dues.

Section 7. All members will obey the motor vehicle laws in any state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

Section 8. All members will pay \$5.00 in annual dues upon acceptance into the chapter and every March 1st thereafter.

Article V - Wear of American Legion Emblems

Section 1. The American Legion Riders back patch, as copyrighted and sold by the American Legion Emblem Sales Division, is authorized for wear by all members of the American Legion Riders. American Legion logos and emblems may also be authorized by the hosting post for wear by selected volunteers performing work on behalf of the local post or post programs.

Section 2. No other back patch or back patch design is authorized for wear as an American Legion Rider emblem.

Section 3. Department standards and specifications for patch sales shall 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.

Albert Lea American Legion Post 56

American Legion Riders Chapter 56

By-Laws

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Albert Lea American Legion Riders of the American Legion Post 56 to serve and promote the American Legion, aid veterans and veteran programs, and promote motorcycle safety and education by providing an atmosphere that is positive and welcoming to all American Legion members who share a common interest in motorcycling.

Purpose

These By-Laws are written and approved by the membership of the American Legion Riders as a means of governing our membership, meetings, and the actions of the American Legion Riders.

Residency

The chapter will be known as the American Legion Riders Chapter #56, affiliated with the Albert Lea, Minnesota, American Legion Post #56.

Membership

1) Full Member

A) Must be a current member in good standing of the American Legion, American Legion Auxillary or the Sons of the American Legion, and be of good moral turpitude.

Definition: Moral Turpitude

A phrase used in criminal law to describe conduct that is considered contrary to community standards of justice, honesty, or good morals.

Crimes involving moral turpitude have an inherent quality of baseness, vileness, or depravity with respect to a person's duty to another or to society in general.

Examples include rape, forgery, robbery, and solicitation of prostitutes.

B) Must own a motorcycle and have a valid driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement, and must maintain insurance.

C) A full member can vote on all club matters.

D) New members will be presented to the membership at the regular monthly meeting and will be voted on by a majority rule at the following monthly meeting.

E) Members in good standing may continue to retain full membership if they have given up motorcycle ownership involuntarily because of age, injury, or health reasons.

2) Charter Member

Anyone who joined the association before March 15, 2016 shall be known as a charter member. These members are authorized to wear the Charter Member "rocker" on their vests. (See Appendix 1)

Officers of Chapter 56

1. Director
2. Assistant Director
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Sergeant-at-Arms
6. Road Captain
7. Safety Officer
8. Historian
9. Chaplain
10. Web Master (appointed)
11. Chapter Liaison (appointed)

The nine officers elected are the Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Road Captain, Safety Officer, Historian, and Chaplain. These nine officers will also make up the executive board of officers. All elected officers will hold office for a period of one year, and there are no term limits on the officers. Officers other than the nine who make up the executive board shall be appointed by the director and will serve at the discretion of the director. The director may add additional officer positions as needed to fulfill the mission of the chapter.

Duties of the Chapter Officers

Director:

1. Assume the chair at all officer and chapter meetings and may appoint a delegate if needed due to any necessary absences.
2. Prepare the agenda and start meetings at the announced time.
3. Control the meetings, keep order, and may utilize the services of the sergeant-at-arms to aid in maintaining order.
4. May not make or second any motion.
5. May only vote on a matter to break a tie.
6. Judge items not covered in the by-laws.
7. Handle all matters concerning relations between the chapter and any outside person or organization. All such matters are to be routed to the director for appropriate action.
8. Provide general supervision over the affairs of the chapter.
9. Supervise all major transactions over two hundred \$200.00 dollars.
10. Assist chapter officers in the interpretation of their responsibilities and duties.
11. Perform such duties as directed by the general membership.
12. Promote chapter life among members in general.

Assistant Director:

1. Assume the duties of the director in their absence.

2. Assist the director in the performance of their duties when called upon to do so by the director.
3. Assist the director in preparing the agenda.
4. Arrive at meetings prepared to assist the director in starting the meeting at the announced time.
5. Coordinate all committees and supervise plans for all chapter events.
6. Act as an intermediary between the director and chapter members.
7. All questions or comments concerning chapter business not specifically related to the duties of the other officers should be brought directly to the assistant director's attention.

Secretary:

1. Keep full and correct records of all proceedings and minutes at chapter meetings.
2. Maintain a current membership roster as a contact list and corresponding membership records.
3. Maintain member attendance records.
4. Present copies of all correspondence between the chapter and any outside persons or organizations.
5. Be responsible for the roll call of members at chapter meetings and events, and may utilize the sergeant-at-arms for this responsibility.
6. Maintain chapter by-laws by recording additions, deletions, or modifications.
7. Is responsible for notifying members of special or emergency meetings and must notify all members of any appointments or elections in their absence via phone calls, written notices, or electronic means.

Treasurer:

1. Take charge of all the finances of the chapter.
2. Take charge of dispersing all funds not exceeding \$200.00 unless approved by the executive board and the members.
3. Give detailed financial reports at each regular meeting (copies will be furnished to the sponsoring post if requested).
4. Collect any and all money owed to the chapter by its members.
5. Keep accurate records of income and expenditures.
6. Prepare and submit a written annual report to the executive board at the annual meeting.
7. Place orders for, collect fees, and disburse chapter patches/uniforms to members.

Sergeant-At-Arms:

1. Shall maintain order and decorum during chapter meetings and events, except as noted under the duties of the Director.
2. Ensure that the By-laws of the chapter are not violated.
3. Ensure that the members adhere to chapter rulings, policies, and expected models of conduct.

4. Ensure that the orders of the executive board are carried out in an expeditious manner.
5. Recruit members (if needed) to aid in performing their duties on their own authority.
6. Report any unseemly behavior or trouble to the executive board.
7. Be responsible for all sign-in sheets, meeting setup, and all chapter regalia and equipment.

Road Captain:

1. Be responsible for researching, planning, and organizing all runs of the chapter.
2. To determine the time, route, and meeting places for those taking part in run activities.
3. To appoint road guards or take any other measures to ensure the safety of the group during runs.
4. To lead the chapter while riding in formation or runs.
5. Shall enforce chapter rules and instruct procedures for group riding. This will include a safety briefing prior to each group ride. This may also be done by the Safety Officer or their designee.
6. Shall act as the ranking chapter officer during all runs, deferring only to the Director or Assistant Director if present, and only then for matters involving individuals outside the chapter.
7. To supply the Secretary with any information required to notify outside agencies of impending chapter runs in a timely manner.

Safety Officer:

1. Shall assist the Road Captain in the performance of their duties when called upon to do so.
2. Assist the Road Captain in the planning and coordination of chapter rides.
3. Assist the Road Captain in educating members about riding techniques, hand signals, other safety techniques, chapter riding rules, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
4. Assist in the collection of signed waiver/release forms for each ride.
5. has the authority to inspect and deny any member's or guest's motorcycle/vehicle for safety when a group ride is scheduled.
6. Is responsible for maintaining and updating the chapter's Riding SOP as needed.

Historian:

1. Shall keep a record of the chapter's history, accomplishments, and activities for the year.
2. Shall collect items such as pictures, awards, and news clippings about the chapter and its members, keeping said items organized for future reference.

Chaplain:

1. Shall be responsible for prayer at the opening and closing of all meetings or as needed.

2. Shall give spiritual guidance to chapter members as requested or as needed.
3. Shall provide invocations at social functions, rides, and get-togethers as needed or requested.
4. Shall provide a suitable eulogy for the chapter upon the death of any of its members.

Webmaster:

1. Shall assist officers with chapter communications.
2. Be responsible for developing, maintaining, and updating the chapter's web page/social media sites.
3. Shall seek ways of using technology to improve the chapter's operations, communications, and outreach.
4. The Webmaster may be an officer serving in another capacity in the chapter.

Chapter Liaison:

1. The Chapter Liaison Officer shall attend Post meetings as a representative of the chapter in order to bring communications from the chapter to the Post board and from the Post board to the chapter. The Chapter Liaison may be an officer serving in another capacity in the chapter.

Meetings

1. General membership meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the American Legion Post 56 or at a place and day designated by the Legion Riders Board.
2. The Legion Riders officers' meeting will be held one half hour prior to the general membership meeting.
3. Meetings will be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order. Meetings shall follow the format of call to order, posting of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, POW honors, opening prayer, reading of the minutes from the past meeting, treasurer's report, old business, new business, good of the order, adjournment, closing prayer, and retiring or recognition of the colors.
4. General meetings may be attended by any interested party, but they may not participate unless called upon to do so.

Finances

1. All revenue will come from fundraisers, donations, or similar sources that are approved by the general membership and the sponsoring post.
2. All expenses over \$200 will be approved by a vote of the general membership.
3. Dues: A member must be current with their American Legion family dues.
4. All Legion Rider members will pay \$5.00 in annual dues upon acceptance into the chapter and every March 1st thereafter.

Governing Rules

1. The chapter will abide by all rules and regulations of the national and state American Legion, the sponsoring post, and the American Legion Riders.

2. Election of Officers

- a. All chapter officers must be nominated from the floor at the regular membership meetings, starting in May and continuing through June. After this time, no other nominations may be added to the ballot. The election will be held in July. New officers will be installed in office at the regular monthly meeting in August, upon approval by the post executive board.
- b. All officers will hold their respective offices for a period of one year. There are no term limits, so an officer may seek office as many times as they desire, provided they are nominated.
 - i) A majority of the members present will elect. Only members present at the July meeting will be eligible to vote. There will be no proxy votes accepted.
 - ii) Notice of all officers seeking office shall be communicated to all members in good standing two weeks prior to the election.

Wearing of Regalia

1. The large American Legion Riders patch will be worn on the back of a black or brown leather vest/jacket.
2. An American flag will be worn on the front upper left side of the vest/jacket, with no other patches or pins above the flag.
3. A black, red, or white POW/MIA patch will be worn on the upper right side of the vest/jacket, with no other patches or pins above the POW/MIA patch.
4. Any other patches or pins worn on the vest/jacket will be in good taste and will not be disrespectful to the American flag, the nation, or the American Legion.
5. Wearing outlaw or 1% club support patches is prohibited by the Albert Lea Chapter #56 American Legion Riders, while wearing their American Legion Riders vest/jacket.
6. No patch is allowed to come within 1/8 of an inch of the large American Legion Riders' back patch.
7. In no way will the wearing of the patches deviate from the state or national American Legion Rider by-laws. The association will abide by all rules and regulations of the state and national American Legion rules.
8. Bottom rockers, bars, and ribbons are not allowed. (State Rider By-Laws 2024)
9. See Appendix 2 for patch placement and order information.

Suspension/Expulsion/Impeachment

1. A member may be suspended or expelled from the American Legion Riders only upon showing cause. Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty, or conduct unbecoming of the American Legion Riders. All charges must be submitted in writing by the accuser(s).
2. Charges need to be brought to a general membership meeting and read to the members.
3. The member facing charges will receive a notice of suspension/expulsion, including appeal rights, prior to the next general membership meeting.
4. The member who receives a notice will have the right to a hearing at the general membership meeting and will be allowed to present witnesses and evidence pertaining to the charge as a defense. The member being accused will also have

the right to face the accusing party(ies). The director or assistant director will preside over the proceedings.

5. If the suspension or expulsion is upheld, the person being suspended or expelled will have the right to appeal the findings to the American Legion Post 56 Board.

6. This suspension/expulsion will only be for the membership in the American Legion Riders of the Albert Lea Chapter 56. The action must be voted on by paper ballot and must be by a majority present.

Amendments

1. These by-laws may be amended at any regular American Legion Riders meeting by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members attending a regular meeting; provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read and explained at the preceding regular membership meeting. A written or electronic notice shall be given to all members in advance of the date when such an amendment is to be voted upon. All by-law or amendment changes must also be approved by the Post Executive Board before taking effect.

Appendix 1

American Legion Riders Chapter 56 Charter Members

1. Arlyn Anderson
2. Bill Koza
3. Brian Fredrickson
4. Mark Gilbert
5. Bruce Camerer
6. Curt Clarambeau
7. Dave Allard
8. David Nelson
9. Jon Enger
10. Dennis Fredrickson
11. Duane Thomas
12. Henry Carlson
13. Jerry Lee
14. Jim Cummins
15. Jim Hockinson
16. Jim Westeng
17. Julie Lynne Kohl
18. Kurt Freitag
19. Larry Fischer
20. Larry Larson
21. Ron Knudson
- 22. Roy Bremset**
- 23. Tom Norby**
- 24. Zac Stuart**

Appendix 2

ALR Chapter 56 Uniform Patch Placement

Front of Vest



Back of Vest



1. Legion Riders Chapter 56 back patch
Patch to be centered vertically and horizontally on the back of the vest. No other patch may touch this patch.
2. Custom Legion Riders name patch
Patch is to be placed directly below the POW/MIA patch on the front right chest centered or aligned to the right with the edge of the POW/MIA patch. Nonderogatory nicknames may be used.
3. POW/MIA patch
Patch to be placed on the front right chest, centered or aligned with the edge of the name patch. The patch is not to be placed higher than the American flag patch. Nothing is to be placed above this patch.
4. American flag
The patch is to be placed on the left chest. The top of the patch should be placed higher than or even with the tops of any other patches. Nothing is to be placed above this patch.
5. Charter member Top Gold Rocker
For charter members only. The rocker is to be placed immediately above and centered on the chapter back patch with an 1/8 inch gap between the patches.
6. Legion Riders officer patch
The patch is to be placed directly below and centered on the name patch.

To order patches, contact the chapter treasurer or the designated P.O.C.

Revised on October 13, 2025