



## **AMVETS Riders**

### **“Unified” Constitution 2021 - 2022**

**This “Unified” Constitution was adopted on August 13, 2016 at the AMVETS Riders National Convention in Sparks, Nevada.**

**Revised by a 2/3 vote on August 24, 2019 at the AMVETS Riders National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. This “Unified” document replaces/supersedes any and all previous AMVETS National Riders Constitution to include any and all additions to August 24, 2019.**

**No revisions were made at the 2021 AMVETS Riders National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina on August 20, 2021**

**ALL CHANGES ARE IN RED**

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## **AMVETS RIDERS “UNIFIED” CONSTITUTION**

**This Constitution will serve as the “UNIFIED” Constitution for all AMVETS Riders. This sole document will be used by Riders National, all Riders Departments, and all Riders Chapters nationwide.**

### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this Organization shall be the AMVETS Riders.

### **ARTICLE II: MISSION STATEMENT**

We the AMVETS Riders are a dedicated and patriotic group of motorcycle riders who hold true to an unwavering respect for our Nation, our Flag, and our Military... past, present, and future. We are committed to the freedom of this Nation, to provide community service and fellowship, and to preserve and support the aims and goals of the AMVETS National Organization.

### **ARTICLE III: AIMS**

This Organization is formed for furthering the Aims and Purposes of AMVETS. Being positive and assertive in forming Chapter and Department Riders and be active in support of all our Veterans and Communities through fund raising and volunteer work.

### **ARTICLE IV: NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

4.1 The National AMVETS Riders is a Non- Profit organization under IRS Code 501 (c). This pertains to Riders Departments and Chapters as well.

4.2 The National AMVETS Riders Organization will consist of National Officers elected by Rider Delegates and appointed by the National Riders President, as determined per by-law structure.

4.3 The National Organization will consist of Riders Departments identical in geographic limits to its respective AMVETS Departments and be identified by the same name. The Riders National Organization will report directly to the National AMVETS Organization. The National AMVETS Riders will be subject to the AMVETS National Constitution and By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE V: DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION**

5.1 The Riders Departments will be organized into:

A.) Individual Chapters formed by members of a post, but not limited to members of the post, under the jurisdiction of the Riders Department where the AMVETS post resides. If no Riders Department exists, the Chapters will be under the direct control of the Riders National Organization.

B.) A single Chapter may form in a State where there are not enough members to form individual Chapters. It shall be chartered as a State Chapter. Officers will be titled as Riders Department Officers and there shall be no Chapter Officers.

5.2 Each AMVETS Riders Department shall be under the jurisdiction of the National AMVETS Riders. Each AMVETS Riders Department shall be in the same geographical location to its respective AMVETS Department and identified as such.

5.3 The Department AMVETS Riders Organization will consist of Riders Department Officers elected by delegates and appointed by the Department President of that respective Riders Department. Delegates shall be determined per by-law structure.

5.4 No Riders Department shall represent themselves as AMVETS Riders until they have complied with the Constitution and By-Laws of the National AMVETS Riders, and officially been approved for a Riders Department Charter.

5.5 Riders Department or State Chapters shall within thirty (30) days of notice to surrender their Charters resulting from disciplinary or voluntary action, close all bank accounts and deliver to the National AMVETS Riders all records, property, and assets, in accordance with State and Local laws.

5.6 Riders Department Charters shall only be issued to Riders Departments which obtain a minimum of three (3) Chapters and a minimum of fifty (50) Riders. Riders Departments must maintain these requirements to retain their Charter. The National Riders Executive Board shall consider and may grant variances if it is deemed to benefit the growth of membership in said State.

## **ARTICLE VI: CHAPTER ORGANIZATION**

6.1 Each AMVETS Riders Chapter shall be under the jurisdiction of their Department AMVETS Riders. Where no Riders Department exists, they shall be under the jurisdiction of the National AMVETS Riders. Each AMVETS Riders Chapter shall be in the same geographical location to its respective AMVETS Post and identified by the same Post number.

6.2 Where no AMVETS Departments exist, an AMVETS Riders Chapter may be formed under the jurisdiction of Riders National Headquarters.

6.3 The Chapter AMVETS Riders Organization will consist of a Chapter set of Officers elected by members of that Chapter, and those Officers appointed by the Chapter President.

6.4 No Chapter shall represent themselves as AMVETS Riders until they have complied with the National Constitution and By-Laws of the National AMVETS Riders and been officially approved for a Riders Chapter Charter.

6.5 The Chapter shall within thirty (30) days of notice to surrender their Charters resulting from disciplinary or voluntary action, close all bank accounts and deliver to the AMVETS Riders Department Headquarters all records, property, and assets in accordance with all Local and State laws. Where no Riders Department exists, it shall be forwarded to the AMVETS Riders National Headquarters.

## **ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP**

7.1 Membership in the AMVETS Riders shall be limited to members in good standing of AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, or Sons of AMVETS.

7.2 Riding Members must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle or be the spouse of an AMVETS Rider who is the legally registered owner of a motorcycle. Riding membership eligibility may also be accepted in States and/or County jurisdictions that acknowledge joint ownership and/or registration to persons that are not legally married. Multiple names such as boyfriend, girlfriend, friend, or relative may be listed on the title or registrations in these jurisdictions. The operator of the motorcycle must be the Riding member that has the legal motorcycle endorsement and listed on either the title or registration along with the unrelated owner. Proper insurance must also be documented. Only two (2) Riding Members per motorcycle may be accepted. All other requirements of Article VII must be met. Documentation of these States and Jurisdictions must be provided by the Riders Department involved (Chapters where no Departments exist) to the National AMVETS Riders before any memberships will be processed.

7.3 Members must provide proof before their membership application can be approved, that they are legally permitted to operate a motorcycle in their respective State, a valid State motorcycle registration, and proof that they are insured according to the State Laws of their respective State. This information shall be shown to the Chapter President and one other Chapter Elected Officer. The Security of this personal data shall be maintained.

7.4 At no time will National, Department, or any Chapter record or copy any items listed in Article VII Section 7.3.

7.5 Spousal members will be exempt from the requirements of Article VII Section 7.3 provided their spouse has met said requirements.

7.6 There will be no HONORARY memberships at any level of the AMVETS Riders.

7.7 Members at Large will be accepted as AMVETS Riders. These Members at Large shall not be entitled to vote, hold office, or wear the AMVETS Riders uniform until they attach themselves to an existing Riders Chapter where they shall meet all the criteria of Riders Membership. Members at large shall be under jurisdiction of the National AMVETS Riders.

## **ARTICLE VIII: OFFICERS**

8.1 National Riders will have the following officers: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Sgt. at Arms, Chaplain, Liaisons Officer, and Communications Officer.

8.2 Department and Chapter Riders will have the following officers: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Sgt. at Arms, and Chaplain.

8.3 Nominations and Elections of Officers shall be held annually as indicated in each entities By-Laws.

8.4 Presidents may appoint additional officers to fill specific needs of the National, Department, and Chapters

## **ARTICLE IX: BOARDS/COMMITTEES**

9.1 The Executive Board will be in charge of administrative affairs and property of each of the AMVETS Riders entities. This Board will formulate the Policies of the AMVETS Riders and present them for membership approval.

9.2 The Executive Committee shall develop the Standard Operating Policies (SOP)'s. Each level of the Riders will adopt their own policies on how that particular entity will handle operating procedures at that level. These Standard Operating Policies (SOP) shall not in any way contradict the Constitution and By-Laws.

9.3 NATIONAL Riders

- A) Executive Board – The National Riders Executive Board shall be comprised of:
  - 1) National Elected Officers

2) Immediate National Past President

B) Executive Committee – The National Executive Committee shall be comprised of:

- 1) National Elected Officers
- 2) National Appointed Officers
- 3) All National Past Presidents (Shall have one vote collectively)
- 4) All Department Presidents

Department Presidents may designate a representative for their Department. Designated Representative must be identified in writing a minimum of 30 days in advance of any NEC meeting. Notification shall be sent to National Headquarters by mail postmarked 30 days prior to NEC meeting or by E-Mail 30 days prior to said meeting.

9.4 DEPARTMENT Riders

A) Executive Board – The Department Executive Board shall be comprised of:

- 1) Department Elected Officers
- 2) Department Immediate Past President

B) Executive Committee – The Department Executive Committee shall be comprised of:

- 1) Department Elected Officers
- 2) Department Appointed Officers
- 3) All Department Past Presidents (Shall have one vote collectively)
- 4) All Chapter Presidents

Chapter Presidents may designate a representative for their Chapter. Designated Representatives must be identified in writing a minimum of 30 days in advance of any SEC Meeting. Notifications shall be sent to Department Headquarters by mail postmarked 30 days prior to SEC meeting or by E-Mail 30 days prior to said meeting.

9.5 CHAPTER Riders

A) Executive Board – The Chapter Executive Board shall be comprised of:

- 1) Chapter Elected Officers
- 2) Immediate Past Chapter President

B) Executive Committee – The Chapter Executive Committee shall be comprised of:

- 1) Chapter Elected Officers
- 2) Chapter Appointed Officers
- 3) All Past Chapter Presidents (Shall have one vote collectively)

## **ARTICLE X: MEETINGS**

10.1 Meeting types shall be established by National, Department, and Chapter By-Laws.

10.2 Meetings will be conducted per By-Laws and in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order, Newest Revised Edition.

## **ARTICLE XI: RIDERS SUPPORTERS**

11.1 The AMVETS Riders will recognize individuals who display a desire to help support veterans through the AMVETS Riders Organization. These individuals shall be known as AMVETS Riders Chapter Support Members. These Riders Chapter Support Members must belong to an existing Chartered Chapter of AMVETS Riders. AMVETS Riders Support Members shall not comprise more than 49% of the membership of a Chapter and shall not count in determining delegate allocation.

11.2 Riders Chapter Support Members must be a member of AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary, or Sons of AMVETS.

11.3 Riders Chapter Support Members uniforms and insignia shall be consistent with Article XIII of the AMVETS Riders Unified National, Department, and Chapter By-Laws with the addition of a Riders Support Member patch worn beneath the 2” or 3” AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary, or Sons patch on the top right side of the official vest.

11.4 Riders Chapter Riders Support Members ‘dues shall be consistent with that of the AMVETS Riders Members.

11.5 Riders Chapter Support Members may not be Charter Members as they can only join an existing Chartered Chapter.

11.6 Riders Chapter Support Members shall not hold office or be seated as a delegate at any level of the Riders Organization. However, they may hold an appointed office only at the Chapter level if needed to fill officer positions.

11.7 AMVETS Riders Chapter Support Members shall be under control of their Chapter, however they are still under the mandates of their Riders Department and National Riders.



## ARTICLE XII: AMENDMENTS

12.1 This Constitution may be amended at any AMVETS Riders National Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of delegates present and on the floor of the Riders National Convention. Proposed amendments for action of the National Convention must be submitted by a Riders Department Convention, a Riders Department Executive Committee, a Riders Chapter Executive Committee in NON Riders Department States, the Riders National Executive Committee, or a standing Riders National Committee to the Riders National President and/or the proposing body of several Riders Departments and members of the Riders National Executive Committee, by mail, postmarked at least 30 days prior to the opening date of the next National Convention.

12.2 This Constitution may be amended by any Riders National Convention, without notice, by a unanimous vote of delegates on the floor. No amendments will be adopted unless the amendment is referred to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, considered by it, and reported on at the Riders National Convention.

12.3 Amendments to this Constitution shall take effect immediately upon adoption, unless otherwise specified by the adopted resolution.

12.4 This Constitution shall automatically be amended by any action taken by our AMVETS Organization, affecting the Constitution of the AMVETS Riders.

This Constitution has received a 2/3 vote of National Delegates at the AMVETS Riders National Convention on August 24, 2019 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Tom McNamara  
President  
National AMVETS Riders

Jim Whitcraft  
Judge Advocate  
National AMVETS Riders

Karen Cox  
Secretary  
National AMVETS Riders

\*\* Signatures on File \*\*

