

Helderberg Post 977 American Legion Riders Chapter Constitution

January 3, 2024 Amended

Preamble

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together 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 one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great 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 good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Purpose

- Section 1. 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.
- Section 2. The organization is organized exclusively for charitable purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article I—Name

The name of this program shall be **THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS of Helderberg Post977, Altamont, NY.**

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 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."
- Section 4. Members of the ALR shall 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 through the sport of motorcycling.
- Section 6. Members of the ALR will 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 Level. 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.

Article IV—Membership Eligibility

- Section 1. 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.
- Section 2. 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.
- Section 3. Members will not at any time hold membership in more than one chapter of The American Legion Riders.
- Section 4. In addition to sections 1-3 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. 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 5. All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws.
- Section 6. All members will obey the motor vehicle laws in any state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.
- Section 7. (Is an option section found in some Chapters Constitution and bylaws where as a motorcycles size or its displacement for example must have 500c or greater. Is also at the Chapters discretion as to members with learning permits for additional information contact your State District Vice Director or State Director: Contact information can be found at www.ny.legion.org/Legion%20Riders.htm.)
- Section 8. There shall be one (1) limited class of membership available within the American Legion Riders Post 977

Supporting Membership

Supporting membership may be granted to individuals who do not meet the requirements for basic membership of the American Legion Riders, but are members in good standing of Helderberg Post 977 or Voorheesville Post 1493 Legion, Sons or Auxiliary and are deemed to be encouraging of the organization and motorcycling in general.

To be eligible for Supporting membership, the candidate must be nominated in writing on the designated form by a basic member of ALR977 in good standing.

Nominations shall be voted on at the next regularly scheduled meeting of ALR977 following the meeting in which the nomination was announced and require 2/3 of the basic members present to vote in favor of the nomination in order to proceed. The Nominee shall then either accept or decline membership.

If the Nominee accepts membership, they shall be required to pay annual dues which shall be one half of the current rate charged to basic members. Supporting members shall be permitted to participate in discussions at regular meetings, but are not permitted to make or second any motions. Supporting members will not have voting privileges in said meetings, nor will they be eligible to hold any office in the Chapter.

Supporting members may wear the designated "SUPPORTER" patch and other patches approved by ALR977.

Supporting members must remain in good standing with the Helderberg Post 977 or Voorheesville Post 1493 Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary to remain a supporting member.

Supporting members shall adhere to ALR977's Constitution and Bylaws.

Article V—Wearing 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 design is authorized for wear.
- Section 3. Department standards for patch sales are 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.
- Section 6. It should be clear to all members that the American Legion or American Legion Riders Emblems will not be displayed on any article displaying connection to a MC.
- Section 7. It is at the Chapter and sponsoring Post approval and discretion if any additional smaller patches be designed such as a founding members patch. It should uphold the principals of the Legion and not of any designs denoting MCs.

Article VI—Determine Elected Officers

- Section 1. The recommended officers of the Chapter are Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, Road Captain, Assistant Road Captain and Membership Chairman, elected annually. [Note that the titles "President" and "Vice- President" are permissible replacements for "Director" and "Assistant Director."] It is not required by the Department of NY that your officers be Legionaries'. However, it is required that when your Chapters Director is a member of the Auxiliary or the SAL that a Liaison be appointed between Chapter and the sponsoring Post whom is a Legionaire. This Liaison holds no authority over the Director. Their function is strictly administrative.
- Section 2. Between Chapter meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Executive Committee, whose voting members shall consist of all elective officers for the current year and the immediate Past Chapter Director.

Section 3. All other Past Chapter Directors shall be members of the Executive Committee with voice but no vote.

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. Dues are not a requirement at the national level and are optional at all other levels.

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.

Section 3. The Chapter will provide a monthly financial report to the sponsoring department/post executive committee.

Section 4. Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

Article VIII—Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the National Constitution, Department Constitution, and Post Constitution of which this Chapter is a subordinate program. Any amendment to the National, 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. The Director or Assistant Director must be in attendance. 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.