

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS  
CHESTER R. VICKERY  
POST 12, DOTHAN, ALABAMA**

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**Adopted by the membership of the American Legion Riders, Chester R. Vickery, Post 12, Dothan, Alabama on 16 March 2024.**

**All genders will be referred to as the member or members. Chester R. Vickery, Post 12, Dothan, Alabama will be referred to as Post 12. The term ALR represent "American Legion Riders."**

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**Lehman Irby  
Commander  
The American Legion  
Chester R. Vickery  
Post 12, Dothan, Alabama**

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**Troy Thomas  
Director  
American Legion Riders  
Chester R. Vickery  
Post 12, Dothan, Alabama**

## PREAMBLE

### The American Legion

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 foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association to 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 guard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

## PURPOSE

The American Legion Riders (ALR) will be members of The American Legion Family who are also motorcycle enthusiasts. They can be found participating in parades, partaking in motorcycling events, and supporting the community. Members of the ALR come from the ranks of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion. THE ALR are now and will always be a program of each individual Post. The ALR was formed; To participate in parades and other ceremonies that is in keeping with the aims and purpose of The American Legion; to promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest; to use our association to promote and support programs of The American Legion. The ALR is not a motorcycle club and does not practice motorcycle club rules or regulations. The ALR is family-oriented, just as is its parent organization, The American Legion, Post 12.

## AUTHORITY TO ORGANIZE

American Legion Riders is recognized by the Nation organization and by the Department of Alabama and by Post 12 as a program of The American Legion through National Executive Committee (NEC) Resolution 35 in 2007, amended in 2011 by Resolution 32 and by the Department of Alabama Executive Committee (DECO in 2016.)

The original bylaws of the ALR, Post 12 were voted on and adopted on 1 January 2011. This complete rewrite establishes the ALR, Post 12 Constitution and rewritten Bylaws, (*insert date*).

## ARTICLE I – NAME

The American Legion Riders Chester R. Vickery, Post 12

## ARTICLE II – PRINCIPLES

**Section 1.** The ALR is a Legion run program for members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion, collectively “The Legion Family” who share an interest in motorcycling.

**Section 2.** The ALR upholds the declared principles of the American Legion as well as conforms to and abides by the regulations and decisions of the Post.

**Section 3.** The ALR always maintains and protects the image of The American Legion through appropriate wearing of the American Legion Emblem.

**Section 4.** The ALR strives to improve the public's perception of the motorcycling community by promoting the honorable nature of service to the community, state, and nation through the sport of motorcycling.

**Section 5.** Members of the ALR shall always comply with the motor vehicle safety, licensing and insurance laws and regulations of the state of Alabama.

### **ARTICLE III- ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION**

**Section 1.** The ALR will be organized at the American Legion Post level. The ALR exists at the discretion of the Post.

**Section 2.** The minimum number of paid current American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion members is five (5) whose membership dues are always paid current. Delinquent members will be removed from the roster.

**Section 3.** Each member is encouraged to participate in ALR functions, either by participation or monetary donation. A "Function" is defined as function, event ride, rally or fundraiser approved by the ALR general membership.

**Section 4.** As required by the Department of Alabama ALR, the treasurer shall make a report to the membership at least once per month concerning the status of all financial activities of the ALR. The report shall include, but not limited to total income, cost of sales, expenses, accounts receivable, accounts payable, inventory, a profit and loss statement and any other information necessary to provide the membership with sufficient information to make decisions concerning these activities. This report will be provided to the Post monthly.

**Section 5.** A quorum for a regular meeting of the membership requires a minimum of three (3) members including at least one (1) officer.

**Section 6.** ALR Post 12 will be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the ALR Chapter, the Constitution and Bylaws of Post 12. But the Chapter is the primary operating unit and the face of ALR. This is a bottom-up organization.

**Section 7.** If Post 12 chooses to revoke or suspend the Chapter, the membership of the Post must be notified of the request and voted upon the decision at the next general meeting. The majority of those voting carry the decision. The Commander will notify the Chapter of the outcome.

**Section 8.** As required by the Department of Alabama ALR, upon revocation or suspension, the Post Commander will send notice to all current members. Upon receipt of this notice all ALR patches, pins, shirts, and other items identifying the ALR will not be worn or displayed.

**Section 9.** Upon revocation of the Chapter's Charter, the funds remaining in the Chapter's accounts will be disbursed to Post 12.

#### **ARTICLE IV- MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1.** Eligibility for basic membership in the ALR shall be members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary. Each member must demonstrate current membership, in good standing of any post.

**Section 2.** Members of the ALR shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually, through marriage, or through a significant-other, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required under local laws.

**Section 3.** Members may not be members of more than one Chapter.

**Section 4.** All members of ALR must sign the Department of Alabama Waiver and Release from Liability Form for the members ALR membership to be valid.

**Section 5.** A full ALR member or the significant-other of an ALR member may continue ALR membership as a special class member with full membership privileges if the member or significant-other no longer meet the membership requirements of Article IV, Section 2, pursuant to the following, and subject to the approval of the general membership:

- a. Death of the significant-other who was the owner of the motorcycle.
- b. Disability, which prevents the member from physically being able to operate a motorcycle and ownership of the motorcycle was relinquished, due to this disability.

**Section 6.** The Chapter is authorized to have honorary memberships available to individuals who meet the following guideline:

- a. The individual must meet all the requirements of Article IV, Sections 1 and 2.
- b. These memberships are to be honorary by nature and do not constitute full membership. Honorary memberships should only be granted to those persons who have demonstrated themselves to be assets to The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion, and who have excelled in promoting the aims and purposes of ALR. Honorary members may serve on committees, etc., but are not eligible to vote.
- c. Patches worn by honorary members must contain the designation HONORARY, as set forth in Article V, Section 2.

**Section 7.** Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Chapter for good cause, including, but not limited to, failure to meet the membership requirements; violation of any of these bylaws or any other governing document or directive of the ALR, violation of any provision of the constitution or bylaws of the American Legion National Headquarters or the Department of Alabama. Expulsion or suspension of a member shall be by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the general membership at a regular Chapter meeting. The Post Executive Committee will handle all appeals.

- a. If a patch was purchased by any expelled or suspended member, a nominal buy-back may be offered if the patch is in serviceable condition. The patch must not be worn by expelled or suspended members and must be returned to the ALR upon request. Expulsion or suspension

of a member from the ALR does not affect or impact the expelled or suspended member's membership in The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary or the Sons of The American Legion.

- b. The Post Commander must be notified of the member's expulsion or suspension.

#### **ARTICLE V – WEARING OF THE AMERICAN LEGION EMBLEM (Patches and Legion Caps)**

**Section 1.** Only ALR shoulder and back patch, as copyrighted and sold by The American Legion's Emblem Sales division or nationally approved vendor, is authorized for wear by members of the ALR. This pertains only to the primary Chapter back and shoulder patches.

**Section 2.** Per Department of Alabama ALR patch and rocker standards are as follows: Shoulder patch (4"x5.5"); back patch (8.5x12"). Both will be a "3-line patch" type, with one top line and two bottom lines. The first line will designate one of only the following statuses: Legionnaire, Auxiliary, Sons of, Veteran, Retired, Charter, or Honorary. The second line will be Dothan Post 12, the third line will be Dothan, Alabama. Capital letters and gold stitching will be used on all three lines.

**Section 3.** Members who currently wear a vest and/or patch that was previously approved by Department are grandfathered and may continue to wear the older style patch as long as it remains serviceable. When the patch is deemed unserviceable it must be replaced with the newly authorized style.

**Section 4.** Members are permitted to wear the ALR vest.

#### **ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** Elected Chapter Officers will be as follows:

- 1) ALR Director
- 2) ALR Assistant Director
- 3) ALR Secretary/Treasurer
- 4) ALR Sergeant-at-Arms

**Section 2.** Other officers will be as follows:

- a. ALR officers appointed at the discretion of the Director.
  - 1) ALR Road Captain
  - 2) ALR Historian
  - 3) ALR Chaplain
  - 4) ALR Parliamentarian
- b. ALR officers appointed by other means:
  - 1) Immediate Past Director

**Section 3.** Between regular meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter will be the Chapter Executive Committee made up of all elected officers. Past Directors are members with voice, no vote.

#### **ARTICLE VII- FINANCE**

**Section 1.** The revenue of the Chapter shall be derived from membership dues, donations, fundraisers, and other sources as may be approved by the Chapter Executive Committee. Per Department Bylaws the

Chapter will submit the required amount per year, per member, to Department annually or upon a new member's initiation.

**Section 2.** The dollar amount of the annual dues will be voted on by the membership.

**Section 3.** The Chapter Secretary/Treasurer will provide an annual financial report to the Post Executive Committee. A monthly financial report be presented to the membership at the regular meeting.

**Section 4.** The Chapter is a program of the Post therefore all funds received and/or dispersed by the Chapter must fall within the guidelines of IRS law. (See the IRS publication 557.)

**Section 5.** The Chapter's funds will be managed by the Secretary/Treasurer and the Post Commander. Funds will be deposited in the financial institution voted on by the membership.

**Section 6.** A receipt is required for reimbursement of preapproved expenditures incurred by a member or members.

**Section 7.** Upon dissolution of the Chapter, whether through suspension, expulsion, or voluntary forfeiture, the funds and/or remaining assets of the Chapter become the property of Post 12.

#### **ARTICLE VII- AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular Chapter meeting if the proposed amendment/s have been read at the previous meeting. This rule may be suspended by a unanimous vote.

**Section 2.** This constitution shall be automatically amended to conform to the National and Department Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules of the American Legion.

## BYLAWS – AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 12

### ARTICLE I– NAME

**Section 1.** The ALR existing under these Bylaws is to be know as The American Legion Riders, Post 12.

**Section 2.** The name and nature of The American Legion Riders are as set forth in the Constitution.

### ARTICLE II – MANAGEMENT

**Section 1.** Elected Chapter Officers will be as follows:

- 1) ALR Director
- 2) ALR Assistant Director
- 3) ALR Secretary/Treasurer
- 4) ALR Sergeant-at-Arms

**Section 2.** Other officers will be as follows:

- a. ALR officers appointed at the discretion of the Director.
  - 1)ALR Chaplain
  - 2.ALR Road Captain
  - 3) ALR Historian
  - 4)ALR Parliamentarian
- b. ALR officers appointed by other means:
  - 1) Immediate Past Director

**Section 3.** Between regular meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter will be the Chapter Executive Committee made up of all elected officers. Past Directors are members with voice, no vote.

**Section 4.** Officers shall be elected annually during the same timeas the Post elections. All elections of the Chapter officers will be by ballot by members in good standing and in attendance of the scheduled meeting. Nominations can be received from the floor at three consecutive meetings. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Elected officers will take office and perform the duties at the next meeting. Incumbents who are not reelected will turn over all Charter documents to the newly elected officers within 2 weeks after the election.

**Section 5.** Vacancies existing in any office of the Chapter for any cause other than the expiration of the term shall be filled by a majority vote of the Charter Executive Committee. A person appointed will hold office for the unexpired term of the vacancy.

**Section 6.** A Chapter vacancy will exist when an elected officer is absent due to resignation, loss of qualifications, or for unexcused absences of three (3) consecutive monthly meetings, and/or considered detrimental to the interest of the Chapter by the remaining members of the Chapter Executive Committee.

**Section 7.** All Past Chapter Directors shall be members of the Executive Committee with voice, no vote.

### ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

**Section 1.** The regular meeting of the Chapter will be held monthly. Meeting shall transact such business as may be properly brought up for action.

**Section 2.** The Chapter Director or a majority of the Chapter Executive Committee have the power to call a special meeting of the members at any time, provided the meeting is coordinated with the Post Commander. A minimum of five (5) days' notice will be provided to all Chapter Executive Committee members. The names of the majority members voting to approve the special meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee members will be recorded and maintained in the minutes.

#### **ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1.** The Chapter Executive Committee shall meet for organizational purposes, or such other business as may come before it, at the call of the Director within ten (10) days after elections of the new officers; and thereafter as needed or directed by the Chapter Director.

#### **ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** Director – It shall be the duty of the Chapter Director to preside at all meeting of the Chapter and to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the Chapter.

**Section 2.** Assistant Director – It shall be the duty of the Assistant Director to assume and discharge the duties of the office of the Director in the event of his/her absence. The Assistant Director will oversee all matters pertaining to the membership of the Chapter, including the coordination of recruitment for new members. Will maintain all membership records. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the Director or the Charter Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** Secretary/Treasurer –It shall be the duty of the Secretary/Treasurer to keep a full and accurate record/minute of all proceedings of the Chapter meetings. These minutes shall be read at the next regularly scheduled meeting for the membership for approval or changes. It shall also be the duty of the Secretary/Treasurer to have charge of all funds and see that they are safely deposited in the bank account of the Chapter. The Secretary/Treasurer shall report at the regular meeting on the condition of the finances of the Chapter, with recommendations he/she may deem expedient or necessary to carry out the financial activities of the Chapter. The Secretary/Treasurer will keep an accurate record of the dues status of each member. He/she will be proficient in electronic communications. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the Director or the Charter Executive Committee. The Secretary/Treasurer and the Post Commander will be the primary signers for all checks disbursing the monies of the Chapter.

**Section 4.** Sergeant-at-Arms –it shall be the duty of the Sergeant-at-Arms to preserve order at meetings and gatherings; assist with the set-up of meetings and other activities. Verify membership eligibility of those attending the meetings and voting in elections; shall assist the Road Captain in enforcing all rules of safe riding during rides; and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Director or Chapter Executive Committee.

**Section 5.** Chaplain – The chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of ALR comrades and offer divine but nonsectarian service if the event of dedications, funerals, public function, etc. adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommend by the Post Commander.

**Section 6.** Road Captain – shall plan all Chapter level tours, runs, rallies, riding activities and events; arouse interest in activities, enforce all rules of safe motorcycle operation and group riding. The Road



Captain will ensure all operators of motorcycles have signed Release from Liability form prior to any Charter organized tour, run or motorcycle activity.

**Section 7.** Historian –is charged with collecting and keeping the historical records and incidents of the Chapter and its members through photographic, electronic, and written means and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the Director or Chapter Executive Committee.

**Section 8.** Parliamentarian–will help the presiding officer prepare prior to meetings; sit beside the presiding officer during meetings and advise him/her in matters of parliamentary procedure; have important parliamentary resources, like Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised and the Chapter’s bylaws, readily available for referencing; answer questions from the members pertaining to parliamentary procedure; assist with election and voting procedures. Will be Chair of any committee concerning the revision of the Constitution and Bylaws. Perform other duties as assigned by the Director or Chapter Executive Committee.

#### **ARTICLE VI – APPOINTMENTS**

**Section 1.** The Chapter Director, immediately upon taking office may appoint Standing committees or commissions for the furtherance of the American Legion programs.

**Section 2.** Such standing committees shall consist of such people as designated by the Chapter Director. The chair of the committee shall be decided upon by the members of said committee.

#### **ARTICLE VII – RULES OF ORDER**

**Section 1.** The Chapter shall be governed by the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised” on all points not covered by this constitution and bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE –VIII LIMITATION OF LIABILITIES**

**Section 1.** Chapter members operating a motorcycle will maintain individual motorcycle insurance in accordance with the laws of the State of Alabama. Failure to do so will result in suspension from the ALR until the member complies.

**Section 2.** If event insurance is required it will be the responsibility of the Road Captain and the Director to secure group event, trip, or ride insurance prior to the start of the activity.

#### **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** These bylaws shall be automatically amended to conform to the National and Department Constitutions and Bylaws and Standing Rules of the American Legion.

**Section 2.** These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular Chapter meeting if the proposed amendment/s have been read at the previous meeting. This rule may be suspended by a unanimous vote.

**Section 6.** Upon approval of bylaw amendments, it will be the responsibility of the Director to disseminate the amendment change to Chapter members within thirty (30) days.

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