

**American Legion Riders Department of California,  
District 9, Post 161, Antioch, California  
Organized December 3, 2003  
Chartered April, 2007**

**District 9 BY-LAWS**

These By-Laws are established in accordance with, and shall not conflict with, the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Legion Riders Department of California (ALR DOC), the Constitution and By-Laws of the Department of California American Legion, or the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion.

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS PREAMBLE**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves as members of the American Legion Family, constituting the American Legion Riders 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 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 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.

**ARTICLE I  
NAME**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the American Legion Riders, District 9; located at: American Legion Post 161, Antioch, California; hereinafter referred to as "ALR District 9."

**ARTICLE II**  
**OBJECTS**

Section 1. The objects and purposes of this Chapter of American Legion Riders shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the foregoing Preamble and the National and Department of California constitutions of The American Legion.

Section 2. To use our association to promote and support programs of The American Legion.

Section 3. To participate in activities in order to provide a social atmosphere for The American Legion members who share the same interest.

Section 4. To promote motorcycle safety programs, and to provide a safe social refuge and riding environment for military Veterans who are also motorcycle riders.

Section 5. The American Legion Riders is a program of the American Legion Family and is formed to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion by members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion.

Section 6. Members are the motorcycle enthusiasts of the American Legion Family; with the sole purpose to support The American Legion and the long standing and respected position and ideals therein. Members ride solely to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as a family-oriented motorcycling organization for members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion. It is required that members dress and act at all times in a manner that conforms with the By-Laws, Constitution and Resolutions of the American Legion Riders Department of California (ALR DOC) and The American Legion Department of California; and further promotes a positive image beyond reproach for The American Legion and its principles.

Members of ALR District 9 represent a public face of The American Legion when operating in group activities or interacting with the community, and shall act accordingly.

**ARTICLE III**  
**ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. This Chapter formed at Post 161, Antioch, California, District 9, Department of California, and was chartered in 2003 by the American Legion Riders Department of California (ALR DOC).

Section 2. The American Legion Riders, District 9, Post 161, shall be organized as a Chapter of the American Legion Riders Department of California (ALR DOC), and as a subordinate body to and in accordance with the regulations of the American Legion

Riders Department of California (ALR DOC).

#### **ARTICLE IV** **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. There is one recognized "class" of involvement with the American Legion Riders as defined below. A member must be a member in good standing of a qualifying parent organization: specifically, The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.

Section 2. Members of ALR District 9 must be the legally registered owner or operator of a highway legal two- or three-wheeled motorcycle and must possess a valid driver's license for the qualifying vehicle in their state of residence (military equivalents are acceptable), or be the legal spouse, or registered domestic partner of an ALR District 9 member.

Section 3. Members may not be concurrent members in any other chapter of the American Legion Riders.

Section 4. All candidates for membership into ALR District 9 must complete a sanctioned group ride with two or more ALR District 9 members. At least one of these members must then be present for the vote on the candidate's membership into ALR District 9 (as described in Section 6 of this article).

Section 5. Active members in good standing who become physically incapable of operating a motorcycle may be granted "retired" status by a vote of the Chapter. The status "retired" simply waives the requirement to operate a motorcycle, and does not create another class of membership. All other provisions of these By-Laws will apply to members granted this status. The Chapter will communicate to the American Legion Riders Department Secretary in writing, the granting of Retired Status, the member's name, and the reason for granting retired status.

Section 6. Applications for membership will be presented to the Membership Officer (if assigned), or Secretary (if a Membership Officer has not been designated), at each regular meeting of the Chapter. At least one member who has ridden with the candidate in accordance with Section 4 of this article must be present for the vote. A majority vote of those members present and voting shall elect or reject a candidate. All regular members are eligible to vote. The vote of the membership is final and may not be appealed.

Section 7. Any member who resigns from ALR District 9 will be required to comply with Article IV, Section 4 if they request to be reinstated into the ALR District 9.

**ARTICLE V**  
**INITIATION FEES AND DUES**

Section 1. The Initiation fee for membership is \$100.00 which includes the first year dues of \$35. Upon initiation, new members will be awarded at no additional cost a set of ALR District 9 patches to be worn on their riding vest or jacket. These patches remain the property of ALR District 9, and shall be surrendered by the member to the Chapter should said member cease his or her membership in the Chapter.

Section 2. Dues for each subsequent year after a member's first year are set at \$35, including a per capita of \$5 to be paid to the ALR DOC annually.

Section 3. Dues for the upcoming year are due and payable by January 1 of that year.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers of the Chapter. The Commander of American Legion Post 161 reserves the right to appoint one additional voting member to serve on the Executive Committee of ALR District 9 as a representative of The American Legion Post 161.

Section 2. The President shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee and the Vice-president shall assume that position in his absence. The Secretary of the Chapter shall serve as Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Executive Committee will meet as required prior to the regular meeting of the Chapter each month to discuss Chapter business. Any member of the Executive Committee may call for a convening of the Committee.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1. All members are eligible to hold office.

Section 2. All officers will serve from June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year elected through May 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Nominations for officers will be opened during the April meeting, and closed just prior to voting at the May meeting each year. The formal installation of new officers will take place in June. If the position of any officer becomes vacant, the President may appoint a member to fill that position until an election can be held to fill the vacancy. Nominations will be received at the next regularly scheduled meeting after the vacancy occurs and elections will be conducted at the first regular meeting 30 days after nominations have been opened.

Section 3. The elected officers of the Chapter shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms.

Section 4. The President, with the concurrence of the Executive Committee, shall appoint the following officers: Ride Coordinator, Historian, Chaplain, Membership Officer and Public Relations Officer.

Section 5. A member may hold more than one office, with the exception that no single member may hold both the offices of President and Vice-President.

Section 6. All elected or appointed officers shall have only one vote at the Executive Committee or Chapter meeting except that the presiding Chairperson shall have no vote except to break a tie vote and for the election of officers.

Section 7. Elections shall be by secret ballot when there are multiple candidates. A majority of all votes cast by those present at a regular meeting will determine the winner. In the case of non-opposed offices, a voice vote may be the method of voting.

Section 8. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

A. **PRESIDENT:** The President will serve as Chief Administrative Officer and will preside over all general meetings; shall have general supervision over the affairs of the Chapter; shall perform such duties as directed by the general membership; will be limited to no more than three consecutive terms without a one year break between terms; and will serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

B. **VICE-PRESIDENT:** The Vice-President will assist the President in the performance of his/her duties; will assume the duties of the President in his/her absence; and will be limited to no more than two consecutive terms.

C. **SECRETARY:** The Secretary will assume the duties of the Vice-President in his/her absence; will have charge of and keep correct records of all proceedings of all meetings; will, under the direction of the President, handle all correspondence of the Chapter; will keep the membership rolls and report to the Chapter if a member becomes delinquent or no longer meets eligibility requirements; will serve as the acting Membership Officer if one has not been appointed.

D. **TREASURER:** The Treasurer will maintain control and oversight of all finances of the Chapter; will disburse funds as directed by the general membership; will give detailed financial reports at each monthly meeting; and will obtain Chapter patches for new members in accordance with current ALR DOC procedures. An Assistant Treasurer, whose duties will be to assist the Treasurer in any capacity required in this section, may be appointed with the concurrence of the President and the Executive Committee.

E. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: The Sergeant-at-Arms will preserve order at meetings and other such duties as may be assigned to him by the Chapter.

F. RIDE COORDINATOR: The Ride Coordinator, when appointed, will be the person in charge (Road Captain) of organized rides of the Chapter. The Ride Coordinator will also act as the Safety Officer, ensuring that proper riding procedures are observed at all times during events. The Ride Coordinator may, at her/his discretion, appoint assistant road captains or take any other measures necessary to ensure the safety of the group during a ride. The Ride Coordinator must hold a valid motorcycle license.

G. HISTORIAN: The Historian, when appointed, will keep a record of Chapter incidents and activities and other duties as may be directed by the Executive Committee and the Chapter; and will report all Chapter activities to the ALR DOC in accordance with current procedures delineated by the ALR DOC.

H. CHAPLAIN: The Chaplain, when appointed, will be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Chapter members, and will offer divine but non-denominational service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., and will adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are requested by the Chapter.

I. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: The Public Relations Officer, when appointed, will provide advertising flyers, online postings, news releases and other material to publicize Chapter activities; will maintain and keep up to date the Chapter's web page; and will provide for all other public relations needs as requested by the Chapter.

J. MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: The Membership Officer, when appointed, will gather new membership applications; will validate the eligibility of each new member; will report each monthly meeting on all applications received during or after the previous month's meeting; and will gather and forward all membership records to the Secretary.

K. JUDGE ADVOCATE: The Judge Advocate, when appointed, shall advise the ALR District 9 officers on the interpretation of the By-Laws of ALR District 9 or By-Laws of the ALR DOC, and perform such other duties as are incident to the procedural affairs of the Chapter.

Section 9. In the event that any officer shall be absent for three consecutive meetings of the Chapter without being excused by the President or the Executive Committee, such office may be declared vacant by a majority vote of those present at a regular Chapter meeting.

Section 10. Elected officers can be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership at a regular meeting. Motions to remove an officer must first be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Section 11. No Elected Officer of ALR District 9 shall at the same time hold the Office of Post Commander of an American Legion Post, in that such a dual role creates a

conflict of interest in the due administration of the Riders program by the parent organization of The American Legion.

## **ARTICLE VIII** **MEETINGS AND QUORUM**

Section 1. Meetings will be held monthly on the first Wednesday at The American Legion Post 161 building. The Executive Committee will meet as needed before the stated meeting.

Section 2. The presence of three (3) elected officers, including the President or Vice-President, will constitute a quorum.

Section 3. All meetings will be conducted in compliance with the most recent publication of Robert's Rules of Order, and opening and closing ceremonies will be observed in accordance with the American Legion Post Officers Manual.

Section 4. The agenda for each meeting will be distributed electronically to the ALR District 9 membership prior to the meeting. Copies of the Agenda will be available for review at each meeting.

Section 5. Special meetings of the Chapter may be called by the President or the Executive Committee, and must be called upon the written request of ten members. No special meetings shall be called unless announced by the President at the regular meeting preceding, or unless notice is mailed (or emailed) to each member seven days prior to said meeting, stating the time, place of the meeting and the subject to be considered.

## **ARTICLE IX** **FINANCES**

Section 1. The finances of the Chapter will be derived from the membership dues and/or such other fundraising as approved by the membership.

Section 2. The finances of the Chapter will be held in a bank account within the County of Contra Costa. Signatures on the account will include the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer (if assigned), President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Signatures of the Treasurer and one other elected officer will be required to disburse funds.

Section 3. Disbursement of funds will only be those authorized at a Chapter meeting except in case of an emergency. Emergency disbursements may be made in exigent circumstances if authorized by three elected officers, but in no case will expenditures be allowed that may have been foreseen and authorized at a regular meeting of the

membership. Emergency expenditures must be presented and approved by the members at the next regular membership meeting.

Section 4. The Chapter will conduct itself as a non-profit organization and may only disburse funds in a manner that is in keeping with all local, state and national laws regarding non-profit organizations.

Section 5. Annual dues established by Article V may be adjusted by a majority vote of the membership.

Section 6. Dues for the upcoming year are due and payable by January 1 of that year. Should a member be delinquent in their dues after February 1, they shall be removed from the rolls and must re-apply for membership. Only members who are current in their dues may hold office or be elected to office. Candidates for office must be current in their dues for the period in which they hold office. Members of ALR must also be current on dues and in good standing with their home Post, Unit, or Squadron in accordance with Article IV, Section 1 of these by-laws.

Section 7. The Treasurer will provide a finance report, in writing, at each monthly meeting of ALR District 9. The report will be attached to the minutes of that meeting and presented to the membership for approval. The minutes and the finance report will be made available for review to the members of ALR District 9.

## **ARTICLE X** **COMMITTEES**

Section 1. In addition to the Executive Committee, three standing committees, Membership, Finance, and Activities, may be established at the discretion of the President.

Section 2. The Membership Committee shall be composed of an appointed Chairperson and any additional members that may be appointed by the President, and shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the membership of the Chapter, including the procurement of new members and reinstatements. The committee shall certify the eligibility of all applicants as required by these by-laws in Article IV, Section 1, and that the dues for ALR District 9 have been paid to the ALR District 9 Treasurer.

Section 3. The Finance Committee shall be charged with the administration of the financial policy, preparation of reports and supervision of Chapter funds. The committee shall be composed of a Chairperson and any additional members that may be appointed by the President.

Section 4. The Activities Committee shall be composed of a Chairperson and any additional members that may be appointed by the President. They shall be charged with planning and supervising Chapter activities. The committee may add temporary

members to its membership for assistance with individual activities. When established, the Activities Committee will present an annual Riders Activities Calendar for the coming year at the first meeting in July each year.

Section 5. Additional committees may be formed by appointment of the President with the consent of the Executive Committee. The duties and length of service of these committees shall be stated at the time the committee is appointed.

## **ARTICLE XI** **UNIFORM**

Section 1. Members of ALR District 9 shall wear riding vests or jackets that have the designated patches of ALR District 9 and the American Legion Riders, and will conform to the following guidelines.

A. The ALR is a program of the American Legion Family and is not a “motorcycle club,” or “MC.” Members of the American Legion Riders are representatives of The American Legion. It is required that members dress in a manner that promotes a positive image for The American Legion, particularly when operating in group activities or interacting with the community. Patches and pins containing profanity or representing lewd, sexual, violent, or other such behavior or subjects will not be worn by members when they are engaged in an ALR activity or when wearing the ALR patch.

B. At all official meetings, the American Legion Riders beret or official cap of a member’s parent organization will be the only allowed headwear.

C. The official American Legion Riders back patch will be worn on the back of a vest or jacket, which will comply with the guidelines of this Article of the By-Laws

D. The front of the vest or jacket shall have a 50-state American flag patch high on the left hand side. No other patch or pin will be worn higher than this patch. Such American flag shall not have any wording or other embellishment on or touching the flag except an appropriate gold or black border on or touching the flag, unless expressly approved of by the ALR DOC Executive Committee and Uniform Committee.

E. The vest or jacket will bear only the American Legion Riders emblem as authorized by the ALR DOC on the back of the vest or jacket along with the Chapter flare at the top of the American Legion Riders emblem and the member’s parent organization flare at the bottom of the American Legion Riders emblem. The front of the vest or jacket shall only bear patches of military branches of service, military units, in memoriam patches, American Legion Riders Convention or event patches, a name patch or tag, the American flag, a PGR patch, or an elongated Post patch if desired. No military rank patches, city, state, or unauthorized unit name patches, rockers or half rockers will be worn on the vest or jacket. Flares shall be affixed to the vest or jacket adjoining the patch in the style and manner as provided by the ALR DOC Department Quartermaster.

F. The bottom flare shall designate the member's organization status as follows: Post members – "Veteran"; Auxiliary Unit members – "Auxiliary"; Sons of the Legion members – "Squadron".

G. The top flare will read "District 9".

H. No unauthorized pins or patches showing support for motorcycle clubs or their support organizations shall be worn on the American Legion Riders vest or jacket or on any other apparel while wearing the American Legion Riders vest or jacket. Motorcycle club is defined as an organization using the term "MC" or "motorcycle club" in its name or as part of its patch, or which is commonly known as such.

I. All ALR District 9 patches will be provided to the Chapter members by the Treasurer in accordance with ALR DOC procedures and the procedures outlined in these by-laws.

J. The American Legion Riders patch is the property of ALR District 9, and must be returned to ALR District 9 in good condition upon resignation, suspension, or termination of membership in ALR District 9, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion.

K. A member of ALR District 9, while representing the Chapter, may not adopt, wear, express, or exhibit any apparel or other identifying material expressly prohibited by the ALR DOC Executive Committee.

M. No member of the American Legion Riders shall wear an exposed weapon, club, or fixed blade knife while wearing the American Legion Riders emblem.

## **ARTICLE XII** **CONDUCT**

Section 1. Members of ALR District 9 shall be held to the same standards of conduct as those of the American Legion Riders and The American Legion. Members of ALR District 9 shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner that brings respect to The American Legion and the American Legion Riders. Every attempt must be made to avoid the appearance of being, or belonging to, a Motorcycle Club (MC). Loud or vulgar language, swearing in public, the excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages while on rides, and/or behavior that is inconsistent with the standards of The American Legion may result in suspension or removal from ALR District 9. Proper decorum will be followed when participating with or interacting with members of other motorcycle associations and clubs.

Section 2. No member of ALR District 9 will affiliate with, or associate with, outlaw motorcycle gangs or their affiliates as defined by the California Attorney General's

Office or any Federal Law Enforcement agency, while wearing any American Legion regalia.

Section 3. Members of the American Legion Riders in violation of this Article may be subject to suspension or expulsion as directed in the Trial Manual of the American Legion Riders Department of California as adopted at 5th Annual Department Convention and subsequent amendments thereto.

### **ARTICLE XIII** **MEMBERS IN ARREARS**

Section 1. A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1<sup>st</sup> shall be classified as delinquent. If dues are paid on or before February 1<sup>st</sup>, the member shall be automatically reinstated. If the member is still delinquent after February, he/she shall be suspended from all privileges. If he/she is still under such suspension on June 30<sup>th</sup> of such year, membership in the American Legion Riders shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by a vote of the Chapter and payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs. The provisions hereof may be waived, upon payment of dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs, with reference to former members who have been prevented from the payment of dues by reason of active military service.

Section 2. Membership in ALR District 9 is restricted to members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the American Legion Junior Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion. A member may not renew their membership in the American Legion Riders unless they have also renewed their membership in their appropriate parent organization.

### **ARTICLE XIV** **DISCIPLINE**

Section 1. Members may be suspended or expelled under the same procedures providing for the suspension or expulsion of a member of The American Legion in the Department Trial Manual and these By-Laws.

Section 2. Membership may be temporarily suspended by agreement of a majority of officers in attendance at any function where they are representing the American Legion Riders if they are judged by the officers to be acting in a manner bringing discredit on the organization. This suspension will be immediate and in effect until the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The suspended member is required to discontinue wearing clothing bearing the American Legion Riders identification immediately in accordance with these By-Laws and California Military and Veterans Code Section 1820 until they are restored to full membership status.

Section 3. Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Chapter by a majority vote of the general membership present at a regular Chapter meeting. The expelled member is required to discontinue wearing clothing bearing any American Legion Riders identification in accordance with California Military and Veterans Code Section 1820. A member may be expelled if they no longer meet the requirements of membership, or they have acted in such a manner as to bring discredit on the organization.

Section 4. Any member expelled or suspended from their qualifying parent organization will be automatically expelled from ALR District 9. When the member is reinstated, they must make a new application for membership in ALR District 9 as described in Article IV of these By-Laws.

### **ARTICLE XV** **CHAPTER CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Section 1. In formation of the By-Laws governing ALR District 9, there shall be no conflict with the ALR DOC Constitution and By-Laws governing the American Legion Riders.

### **ARTICLE XVI** **AMENDMENT**

Section 1. Proposed amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee and at a regular meeting of the Chapter and read there at. At the next regular meeting the proposed amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those present and voting. A committee of officers and members shall be appointed annually to review and recommend amendments to the By-Laws.

Section 2. Any provision of these By-Laws not in compliance with the ALR DOC By-Laws, shall be automatically amended to conform to those By-Laws and to The American Legion National, Department, Area, District, or Post 161 By-Laws under which this organization operates. Such amendments will be announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of ALR District 9.

Section 3. It shall be the responsibility of the Judge Advocate (or Vice President if no Judge Advocate has been appointed) to ensure that the By-Laws of ALR District 9 are in agreement with The American Legion National, Department, Area, District, and Post 161 By-Laws under Article XII, and to present the necessary proposed amendments to the Executive Committee and the membership at a regularly called meeting.

Section 4. These By-Laws and any amendment initiated by the Chapter which is not in conflict with ALR DOC by-laws shall be in effect immediately upon an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of members in attendance at a regular meeting.

These By-Laws were adopted on 10/4/2017 at Antioch, California, Post 161, by vote of the members of ALR District 9 at the regularly convened membership meeting.

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President  
Michael Clement

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Date

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Vice President  
Jeff Weber

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Date

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Secretary  
Dayna Hinson

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Date

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Treasurer  
Michael Huff

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Date

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Sergeant-at-Arms  
John Elliot

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Date