

# **American Legion Riders**

**Texas, Post 245**

**Organized May 14, 2013**

**Bylaws**

## **ARTICLE I NAME**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the American Legion Riders (ALR), American Legion Post 245, Seguin, Texas hereinafter referred to as "Chapter" or "ALR".

## **ARTICLE II OBJECTS**

Section 1. The objects and purposes of this Chapter shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the foregoing Preamble and the National and Department Constitution of the American Legion and Post 245.

Section 2. To use our Chapter to promote and support programs of the American Legion, Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion and Veterans Organizations.

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

Section 4. To promote motorcycle safety programs.

## **ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION**

This American Legion Riders 245 Chapter was chartered on June 3, 2013.

## **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership Requirements:

a. Regular ALR must be a current member of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary.

(1) Must be legally licensed to ride a motorcycle of at least 400cc in size or be a spouse of an eligible member. The motorcycle must be operational, registered and insured with the state minimum liability insurance upon membership and renewal. "Legally licensed" shall be interpreted to mean holding a permanent license from their State of residence to drive the vehicle that qualifies them for membership.

b. A person may become a provisional member without voting privileges if they hold a "learner's permit" for up to 6 months. This period will begin on the date the member joins the organization or the date these by-laws are accepted, whichever occurs later.

Section 2. Applications for membership will be presented to the Chairperson of the Membership committee. At each regular meeting of the Chapter the Membership Chairperson will report on

all applications received during or after the last General Membership meeting. A majority vote of those members present and eligible to vote shall accept or reject a candidate.

Section 3. A member may be suspended from membership by a majority of officers in attendance at any function where they are representing the American Legion Riders if they are judged to be acting in a manner to bring discredit or safety concerns on the organization. This suspension will be in effect until the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Although not required, the suspended member is requested to discontinue wearing clothing bearing the American Legion Riders identification until they are restored to full membership status.

Section 4. Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Chapter by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the seated membership at a regular Chapter meeting. Although not required, the expelled member is requested to discontinue wearing clothing bearing American Legion Riders identification. A member may be expelled if they no longer meet the requirements of membership or they have acted in such a way as to bring discredit on the organization. An expelled member may appeal for reconsideration at a subsequent regular meeting. Charter members can only be expelled following a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the seated charter members. All appeals will be conducted by the Host Post Executive Committee.

Section 5. ALR 245 Charter membership in Texas is granted to members listed on the rolls through September 1, 2013.

## **ARTICLE V SPECIAL CLASS MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Member or spouse may continue membership as a special class member, with full membership privileges, if they fail to meet the membership requirements of Article IV, Section 1 pursuant to the following and subject to the approval of the general membership:

- a. Death of the spouse who was the owner of the motorcycle as defined in Article IV Section 1a (1).
- b. Disability, which prevents member from physically being able to operate a motorcycle, and ownership of the motorcycle, was relinquished, due to this disability. This will also allow the spouse to continue membership under these conditions for special class membership.
- c. For (a) & (b) above, you must have been a regular member for at least one full year.

Section 2. Members, at their discretion, may elect by majority vote at a regular membership meeting to authorize a "supporting" membership to an individual or individuals under the following guidelines:

- a. The individual(s) must meet all requirements of Article IV Section 1 a.
- b. These memberships are to be of a support nature therefore "Supporters" will be granted voting privileges, but not the right to hold an office. Supporting memberships should only be granted to those persons who have demonstrated themselves to be assets to the organization and excelled in promoting the aims and purposes of the American Legion Riders.

## **ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the elected officers of the Chapter.

Section 2. The Director shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Assistant-Director shall assume that position in his/her absence. The Secretary of the Chapter shall serve as Secretary of the Executive Board.

Section 3. The Executive Board will meet once a month, prior to the regular meeting of the Chapter each month to discuss Chapter business.

## **ARTICLE VII OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1. All regular members are eligible to hold office.

Section 2. All officers will serve June through June. Nominations of officers may be made anytime during the month of March to the appointed Nominations Committee Chairperson. Elections of nominated officers will be held at the May General Membership meeting. Formal installation of Officers will take place at the June American Legion Joint Installation Meeting. Only members physically present at the May General Membership meeting will be eligible to vote. If the position of any officer becomes vacant, the Director may appoint a member to fill that post until the election of a replacement. Nominations will be taken at the next regularly scheduled meeting and elections at the next subsequent meeting.

Section 3. The elected officers of the Chapter shall be the Director, Assistant-Director, Road Captain, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Membership, Historian, Service Officer and Member(s) at Large.

Section 4. The Director, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, shall appoint the following NON-VOTING officers: Safety Officer, Events Coordinator, Webmaster, Quartermaster, or any position that is deemed necessary.

Section 5. A member may hold more than one, not to exceed two offices except for the elected offices of Director and Assistant-Director.

Section 6. All elected officers shall have only one vote at the Executive Board or Chapter Meeting regardless of number of offices held.

Section 7. Elections shall be by secret ballot vote. Section

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

a. Director: Will serve as Chief Administrative Officer and will preside over all general meetings. Shall have general supervision over the affairs of the Chapter. Shall be responsible to the consensus for the welfare of ALR 245 general membership. Will be limited to no more than two consecutive terms. Will serve as Chairperson of the Executive Board.

b. Assistant Director: Will assume the duties of the Director in his/her absence and will assist the Director in the performance of his duties. Will be limited to no more than two consecutive terms.

c. Road Captain: Will assume the duties of the Assistant-Director in his/her absence. Will be the person in charge (Road Captain) during organized runs of the Chapter. This person may, at his/her discretion, appoint assistant road captains or take any other measures necessary to help insure the safety of the group during a run or event.

d. Treasurer: Will have charge of all finances of the Chapter. Will disburse funds as directed by

the general membership or Executive committee as appropriate. Will prepare and present detailed financial reports at each general membership meeting. Will prepare and present a proposed budget to the Executive committee no later than thirty (30) days after assuming office. Must have knowledge of budgeting and accounting. Will serve as Chairperson of the Finance committee.

e. Sergeant At Arms: Will preserve order at meetings and Chapter activities and other such duties as may be assigned by the Chapter Director. Ensures all members adhere to Chapter bylaws. Defend Chapter members and property from outside threats.

f. Secretary: Will have charge of and keep correct records of all meetings and proceedings, and under the direction of the Director handle all correspondence of the chapter.

g. Membership: Will validate the eligibility of each new member. Will keep the membership rolls and report to the Membership committee if members become delinquent or no longer meet eligibility requirements. Will serve as Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

h. Historian: Will keep a record of Chapter incidents and activities to include other related duties as may be directed by the Executive committee and the Chapter. Will compile photo albums/CD's and scrapbooks and make available for public viewing under the control of the Historian.

i. Chaplain: Will be charged with the spiritual welfare of Chapter members and will offer divine, non-sectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., and to adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are requested by the Chapter.

j. Events Coordinator: Will provide advertising flyers, WEB postings, news releases and other material to publicize chapter activities. Will serve as Chairperson of the Activities Committee. Will perform other duties as directed by the Chapter.

k. Member At Large: Will represent the General Membership and make recommendations to the Executive Committee based on their representation. Will serve as Committee Chairman for Disbursement of Emergency Funds.

l. Safety Officer: Responsible for the overall safety of all chapter members. Provides Motorcycle Safety Foundation information to members. Assists the Road Captain in planning routes for chapter rides and educating members about group riding techniques. Informs members of any hand signals used by the chapter. Assists in the collection of signed release forms. Educates members about Safe Rider Skills Programs.

m. Service Officer: Responsible for identifying and developing opportunities to serve the Active Duty, Veterans and Civilian Community. As opportunities present themselves the Service Officer will foster relationships with other AL groups, Veteran organizations and civilian communities. Annually the Service Officer is responsible for reviewing the Service Mission, solicit inputs of the General Membership and establish a course of service for the next calendar year. Service Officer will work closely with the Assistant Director, Events Coordinator and Web Master in the execution of Service Programs.

n. Quartermaster. Responsible for managing the ALR Country store Primary point of contact for sales, stock inventory, and re-order. Must coordinate ordering of merchandise with ALR Director and Treasurer prior to placing orders.

Section 9. In the event that any officer shall be absent for three consecutive meetings of the Chapter without being excused by the Director or the Executive Board, such office may be declared vacant.

Section 10. Motions to remove an elected officer must first be presented to the Executive Board for consideration. Upon validation of the motion by the executive committee, the request for removal will be presented to the general membership. A 2/3 vote is required for removal.

## **ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS AND QUORUM**

Section 1. Meetings will be held at a date and time as voted on by the members. Members attending not wearing attire containing any ALR emblem or ALR verbiage will donate the sum of one dollar to the ALR 245 Chapter collected by the ALR Sgt at Arms.

Section 2. A majority of elected officers present, of the positions filled, and including at least the Director or Assistant-Director will constitute a quorum.

Section 3. All meetings will be conducted under "Robert's Rules of Order."

Section 4. Special meetings of the Chapter may be called by the Director or the Executive Board.

Section 5. Cell phones will be silenced during meetings. Members will donate the sum of one dollar to ALR 245 if cell phone rings during meeting, collected by Sgt at Arms

## **ARTICLE IX FINANCES**

Section 1. Finances of the Chapter will be from the membership dues or such other sources, as approved by the membership.

Section 2. Finances of the Chapter will be held in a bank account. Signatures on the account will include the Treasurer and Director. The signature of the Treasurer or Director will be required to remove funds. Disbursement of funds \$500.00 or more will be by only those authorized by a majority vote of the General Membership at any regular meeting of the Chapter. Disbursement of funds under \$500.00 will require the approval of a majority of the Chapter Officers. Approval may be obtained by email or telephone.

Section 3. The Chapter will be 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 4. The Executive Board shall set the annual dues. The annual dues of the Chapter will be \$15.00 or more but may not exceed ALR Host Post Legion Annual Dues.

Section 5. Dues are due and payable by NLT Dec 31 of each year. Any member delinquent in their dues after Jan 30 will be removed from the active roles and must reapply 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 wish to hold office. Exceptions will be reviewed by the Executive Board (i.e. deployments, TDY).

Section 6. A Budget Committee, appointed by the Director and chaired by the Treasurer, will establish and submit annual budget within 30 days after Installation of new officers. Budget will be reviewed by ALR Officers before it is presented at the next ALR General Membership Meeting to be voted on for approval.

## **ARTICLE X COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Three (3) standing committees, Membership, Finance, and Events shall be established with the Chairperson of each being the officer as assigned in Article VI, Section 8. Committee chairs will report activities in writing to Executive Board.

Section 2. The Membership Committee shall be composed of the Membership Chairperson and any additional members that may be appointed by the Chairperson and shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the membership of the Chapter, including the procuring of new members and reinstatements. The committee shall certify the eligibility of all applications as required by these by laws.

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

Section 4. The Events Committee shall be composed of the Events Officer and any additional members appointed by the Chairperson. They shall be charged with planning and supervising Chapter activities. The committee may add temporary members to its membership for assistance with individual activities.

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

Section 6. A Nominations Committee shall be formed by appointment of the Director with consent of the Executive Board. The length of service of the Nominations Committee will be 3 months unless extended by Executive Board. The committee will accept nominations for electing new officers beginning in March. Nominations will be taken from the floor at March General Membership Meeting. Committee Chair will prepare a final ballot to be presented and voted on at the May General Membership Meeting. Committee will count the votes and present the results to the Director to be announced to the members.

## **ARTICLE XI DRESS CODE**

Section 1. Vests or jackets (leather or denim) that have the patches of the “American Legion Riders” will conform to the following guidelines. The wearing of the rider’s patch is a matter of team pride and the rider’s choice. However, for the purpose of uniformity, when a rider elects to wear the patch it will be worn within these guidelines.

- a. The back of the vest or jacket will contain the “American Legion Riders” patch, and Post 245, Seguin, Texas patch (bar). The “American Legion Riders” patch may not overlap bar to create a one-piece patch. A Road Name may be placed under the Post ID. Nothing will be affixed above the “American Legion Riders” patch. i.e. rockers or bars.
- b. The American Flag Patch will be located on the upper left side of the front of vest. No other patches or pins will be located higher than the American Flag Patch.
- c. The POW/MIA patch will be located on the upper right side of the front of vest. No other patches or pins will be located higher than the POW/MIA patch.
- d. Charter Member and officer patches will be located under the American Flag upper left hand side.
- e. Name patch, if worn, will be located under the POW/MIA patch, upper right hand side.

- f. All patches on the upper half left of the front will be related to the American Legion, military service, or veteran memorial in nature. AMA, COC, and TMRA patches may be worn.
- g. Vulgar, obscene, inflammatory, Property, MC, or % patches may not be worn on the ALR vest or jacket. Dual membership may not be worn on the ALR Vest or Jacket. If any doubts exist about the placement or appropriateness of patches and pins, the Director shall make a ruling.
- h. In Memory of Patches, Motorcycle related patches and run pins may be worn anywhere other than the left upper side of the vest or jacket.
- i. Road name patches are placed below the Post patch on back of vest. Road names may be suggested by any member, but will be voted on by Executive Board. Patches will be purchased by the ALR and be presented at the next General Membership Meeting. Members are allowed to keep a previously awarded road name, but will not suggest a road name for themselves. Every effort should be made to prevent duplicate road names within the group.

## **ARTICLE XII RIDER OF THE YEAR**

Section 1. The American Legion Rider of the Year is to be considered an honor of high distinction who will be recognized for significant contributions to the American Legion's overall mission. The nominee must be a regular ALR member in good standing of the ALR Chapter 245 and of their respective Legion pillar. Nominees are those who have gone far above and beyond the call of duty for ALR Chapter 245 with their dedication, drive, and determination in helping ALR Chapter 245 prosper and grow. Only those Riders who have met this criteria should be nominated for this award.

Section 2. Current Rider of the Year will serve as Chairman of the Rider of the Year Awards Committee. Committee will be comprised of all previous Rider of the Year winners provided they are members in good standing. Nominations may be submitted by any ALR 245 member in January. Nominations will be evaluated on the scope and impact of the nominee's achievements to the extent to which his/her efforts benefit the American Legion, The ALR, and veterans programs. Rider of the Year committee will select the winner.

Section 3. Rider of the Year Award winner will be recognized at the American Legion Birthday Celebration in March. Winner will receive a plaque and have his/her name engraved on placard of permanent Rider of the Year Plaque displayed in Post.

## **ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENT**

Section 1. Proposed amendments to these bylaws must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board and presented to the membership at a regular Chapter meeting. At the next regular meeting, or subsequently if postponed, the proposed amendment may be adopted by a two thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those present and voting.

Section 2. Any provision of this document shall be automatically amended to conform to any amendment adopted by the American Legion National, Department, District, or Post under which this organization operates.



Organizational Members in Attendance

Reno W. Reiley	Post 245	Bill Aguirre	Post 245
Norma Szekely	Unit 245	Louis Szekely	Post 245
Erineo Espinoza	Post 179	Jerry Wray	Post 179
Bob Crabb	Post 245	Harold Fairchild	Post 245

**BY-LAWS REVISIONS and APPROVALS**

May 14, 2013	Reno W. Reiley, Organizational Director	Norma Szekely, Secretary
June 3, 2013	The American Legion, H.U. Wood Post 245	
	Juan Ramos Commander	Robert Jackson, Adjutant
August 26, 2014	Reno W. Reiley, Director	Norma Szekely, Secretary
September 1, 2014	The American Legion, H. U. Wood Post 245	
	Reno W. Reiley, Commander	Robert Jackson, Adjutant
July 28, 2015	The American Legion, H. U. Wood Post 245	
	Reno W. Reiley, Commander	Robert Jackson, Adjutant

We, the following officers of the American Legion Riders Post 245, hereby certify the Forgoing By-Laws were amended at the General Membership Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2016.


ATTESTED:

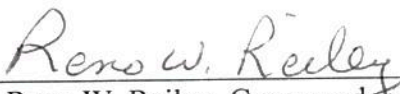
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Felisa Ramirez, Secretary

  
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Jerry Ramirez, Director

Approved by The American Legion, H.U. Wood Post 245 Executive Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016.

ATTESTED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Jackson, Adjutant

  
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Reno W. Reiley, Commander