

The American Legion Riders of Minnesota First District Constitution

Purpose

We, members of the First District American Legion Family, in order to provide a means of promoting the aims and goals of the American Legion Family through our participation in parades, runs and other ceremonies; to promote motorcycle safety programs; to serve our community, state and nation; and to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness associate ourselves together as The American Legion Riders of Minnesota, First District.

Article I Name and Chapter

The formal name of this organization shall be THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS OF MINNESOTA, FIRST DISTRICT, attached to The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, First District (hereafter "First District ALR).

Article II Nature

Section 1. The First District ALR is exclusively a social and recreational organization for members of the First District American Legion Family (American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion) who share an interest in motorcycling and the patriotic endeavors of The American Legion. As part of the social activities of the organization, First District ALR will conduct programs for religious, charitable, and educational purposes by promoting the social welfare of the community; assisting the disabled and needy war veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and their dependents and widows, orphans, and descendants of war veterans; providing entertainment, care and assistance to hospitalized veterans or members of the United States Armed Forces; carrying on of programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and comfort for their survivors.

Section 2. The First District ALR upholds the declared principles of The American Legion and conforms to and abides by the regulations and decisions of the department, district, or other duly constituted governing body.

Section 3. The First District ALR shall be politically non-partisan and shall not otherwise attempt to influence legislation, or any initiative or referendum before the public, and shall not participate in, or intervene in (including by publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for political office.

Section 4. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the First District ALR shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set for in the purpose clause hereof.

Section 5. Each member shall perform his / her duties duty as a citizen according to her / her own conscience and understanding, in accordance with the law.

Article III Organization

Section 1. The First District ALR is organized as a District of and subordinate body to the American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota. (The American Legion Riders, Department of Minnesota shall hereafter to be referred to as “MNALR”)

Section 2. The First District ALR shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by National American Legion Riders, the MNALR, First District ALR, the Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, First District, not inconsistent with those prescribed by the National American Legion Riders.

Section 3. The First District ALR shall contain the same Counties and area to coincide with The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, First District. These counties will include: Wabasha, Winona, Olmsted, Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Dodge, Steele, Waseca, and Freeborn.

Section 4. The legislative body of the First District ALR shall be the District Convention, to be held annually in conjunction with the First District Convention of The American Legion. The first such convention shall take place in May of 2013. All acts of the District Convention are subject to ratification by the First District Executive Committee of The American Legion.

Section 5. The First District ALR shall have an advisor committee as appointed by the Commander of The American Legion, Department of Minnesota, First District. The advisor shall be appointed annually and shall be part of the First District ALR Executive Committee without a vote.

Article IV Membership Eligibility

Section 1. Only members in good standing of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion shall be eligible for membership provided they have the additional qualifications required under Section 2 or 3.

Section 2. Each potential member shall further establish membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by state law.

Section 3. Members in good standing may continue to retain full membership if they have given up motorcycle ownership involuntarily because of age, injury, health reasons.

Article V Legislative Organization

Section 1. The District Convention, beginning in 2013, shall be held for the purpose of electing District officers, review of bylaws and such other purposes as may be necessary.

Section 2. In the District Convention, each Chapter shall be entitled to three (3) votes. Each chapter's votes may be split among delegates or voted by an individual delegate. A registered delegate is one who has received his/her credentials and has paid such registration fee as may be required.

Section 3. A quorum for the District Convention shall be the greater of 3 Chapters or One-Fifth of the number of Chapters in the District.

Article VI District Officers

Section 1. The officers of the First District ALR shall be Director, Vice Director, Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, and Historian.

Section 2. The officers shall be elected annually by the District Convention. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for the election of any officer.

Section 3. The duties of the officers shall be defined in the By-Laws.

Article VII District Executive Committee

Section 1. The administrative power of the First District ALR shall be vested in the District Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following: Director, Vice Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, and Historian and the two (2) immediate past Directors (without vote) and the district advisor (without vote).

Section 3. The District Executive Committee shall meet no less than two (2) times a year for the purpose of organizational business. Any business that may need to be taken care of without meeting may be done by mail, telegraph, on matters of urgency not involving new policy and on which action cannot be delayed until the next regular meeting.

Section 4. The District Executive Committee may also meet on the call of the Director of the First District ALR or on written request of a least three (3) members of the Executive Committee, at any time during the year.

Section 5. A majority of the officers eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

Article VIII Finance

Section 1. The revenue of District shall be derived from such membership fees or dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the District Executive Committee of The American Legion including rides for charitable purposes.

Section 2. The amount of annual District dues, if any, shall be in such amount as may be determined by the First District ALR Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the District Convention.

Article IX Wear 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. Except as otherwise stated in this section, no other back patch or back patch design is authorized for wear as an ALR emblem.

Section 3. First District ALR standards and specifications for patch sales shall be on file with Emblem Sales. Any First District ALR member in good standing is authorized to wear a "1st District" top rocker above the official back patch or "1st District" as the first line of the 3-line ALR back patch. Bottom rockers with any geographic designation are not allowed to avoid any conflict with motorcycle clubs.

Section 4. No other patch, tab, rocker, text, background art or color that is in conflict with an American Legion protected trademark may be used on clothing, banners, flags, posters, or advertisements.

Article X Duration and Dissolution

Section 1. The duration of the First District ALR shall be perpetual.

Section 2. In the event of dissolution, all assets of the organization 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 XI Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted, subject to the provisions of the national constitution and department constitution. Any amendment to the national or department constitutions 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 District Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the registered delegate votes in attendance at the Convention. All Amendments to this Constitution must be submitted in writing thirty (30) days prior to the Convention to the First District ALR Executive Committee.

Draft - 5/10/12 PRS

Approved by E Board 5/17/13.

