

Approved: January 18, 2024

**CONSTITUTION OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS, CHAPTER 6  
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**PURPOSE**

The American Legion Riders (ALR), Chapter 6 will be members of the American Legion Post 6 who are also motorcycle enthusiasts. The ALR, Chapter 6 is 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. The ALR, Chapter 6 was formed:

1. To participate in parades and other ceremonies that is in keeping with the aims and purposes of the American Legion.
2. To promote motorcycle safety programs.
3. To provide a social atmosphere for American Legion Members who share the same interest.
4. To use our association to promote and support programs of The American Legion.

The ALR, Chapter 6 is not a motorcycle club and does not practice motorcycle club rules or regulations. The ALR, Chapter 6 is family-oriented, just as its parent organization, The American Legion and Post 6.

**PREAMBLE**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

1. To demonstrate the principles of responsible motorcycling as set forth in the American Legion Riders' response, "We, your American Legion Riders, ride for God and Country, The American Legion Family, and Allied Veterans everywhere, protect those that protect us, Amen."
2. To serve as examples of responsible American patriotism.
3. To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.
4. To serve our comrades as set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

**ARTICLE I -- NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the *AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS, CHAPTER 6, THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, POST 6*. The location of this Chapter shall be at The American Legion, Post 6, Department of South Carolina, 200 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC 29205.

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## **ARTICLE II—OBJECTIVES**

The aims and purposes of The ALR, Chapter 6 shall be :

1. To promote and support the programs and community activities of The American Legion, Department of South Carolina and Post 6 by participation in parades and other ceremonies in keeping with the aims and purposes of The American Legion.
2. To promote motorcycling safety programs.
3. To provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share an interest in motorcycling and related activities.
4. To adhere to and promote the principles set forth in the preamble to The American Legion constitution.

## **ARTICLE III—NATURE**

**Section 1.** The ALR, Chapter 6 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 ALR, Chapter 6 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, Chapter 6 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, Chapter 6 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, Chapter 6 will 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, Chapter 6 comply at all times with the motor vehicle safety, licensing, and insurance laws or regulations of the state in which operating.

**Section 7.** The ALR, Chapter 6 is a civilian organization and membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service.

**Section 8.** The ALR, Chapter 6 shall be absolutely politically non-partisan and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

**Section 9.** Rank does not exist in the ALR, Chapter 6; no member shall be addressed by his/her military title in any meeting or officially sanctioned activity of the ALR, Chapter 6.

## **ARTICLE IV--ORGANIZATION**

The ALR, Chapter 6 is organized under the Department of South Carolina, Post 6. ALR, Chapter 6 exists at the discretion of the sponsoring post and department. The Chapter officers

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and executive committee are responsible and accountable to the sponsoring post and department executive committee.

## **ARTICLE V—MEMBERSHIP**

There shall be two (2) classes of membership: Regular and Special.

**Section 1.** Eligibility for regular membership in ALR, Chapter 6 shall be as prescribed by the national constitutions of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion.

**Section 1a.** All members of ALR, Chapter 6 must further demonstrate current individual membership in The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of The American Legion.

**Section 1b.** In addition to sections 1a-1b above, members must be the registered owner of a street legal motorcycle with an engine displacement of not less than 350 cubic centimeters or trike/spyder (3 wheels) or be the spouse of the legally registered owner within the state of registration.

**Section 1c.** All ALR, Chapter 6 operators must have the following up to date and legal requirements:

1. Current and up to date motorcycle insurance.
2. Current and up to date motorcycle license. (motorcycle permit not to exceed 1 year)
3. Current and up to date appropriate operator's license for trikes/spyders.
4. All members will obey the motor vehicle laws in any state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.
5. Exception is given for the legal spouse of the legally registered owner of the motorcycle or trike not to possess a motorcycle license.

**Section 1d.** Individuals who meet criteria in Sections 1, 1a, 1b, and 1c that are members of an American Legion Post, in good standing, that does not have an existing ALR Chapter, may apply for membership to ALR, Chapter 6, provided that ALR, Chapter 6 has received permission from the sponsoring American Legion Post that the qualifying individual may become a member of the ALR, Chapter 6. These individuals can remain a member of ALR, Chapter 6 until such a time an ALR Chapter is formed at the member's home post, at which time they must return to that Post ALR Chapter.

**Section 2.** Special membership shall be open to current regular members only, who have relinquished ownership or ridership of a qualifying motorcycle or trike, as the result of disability, injury or other health related reason.

**Section 2a.** Current members must have held a minimum one (1) year regular membership before application for special membership.

**Section 3.** Any member of Chapter 6 may be expelled for cause by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Chapter members present in a regularly scheduled meeting after charges are preferred in writing, served by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested not later than twenty (20) days prior to the regular or special meeting of the Chapter and a fair hearing had upon same.

**Section 4.** A member who has been expelled or suspended from a Chapter for any cause may be reinstated to membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present in a regularly scheduled Chapter meeting, and the payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs.

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## ARTICLE VI—REGALIA

**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 or back patch design is authorized for wear.

**Section 3.** Department standards for patch sales are on file with Emblem Sales and explained in the Chapter's bylaws.

**Section 4.** The formal headgear worn at all ALR, Chapter 6 official meetings/gatherings/functions will be the ALR ball cap or the black ALR beret with the American Legion Riders embroidered emblem on the front and the numeral "6" sewed to the wearer's right of the emblem.

## ARTICLE VII—CHAPTER OFFICERS

The management of the ALR, Chapter 6 is entrusted to a board of directors to be known as the "Executive Committee." A majority of the executive committee must be present to constitute a quorum.

**Section 1.** The officers of the Chapter are Director, Assistant Director, Adjutant, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Ride Coordinator, Chaplain, and Membership Chairman, elected annually. The Director may appoint other appointive officers and standing committees as the business of the ALR, Chapter 6 may require.

**Section 2.** Between Chapter meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Executive Committee, who's voting members shall consist of all elective officers for the current year and the immediate Past Chapter Director who has voice, but no vote.

**Section 3.** The duties of the officers shall be those usually pertaining to such officers or committee and as further provided in the by-laws.

## ARTICLE VIII—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.

**Section 2.** There shall be no initiation fees assessed by the Chapter.

**Section 3.** The annual membership fee is \$10.00 per member, payable from October 1 to December 31. \$5.00 of the dues is the annual membership fee for the American Legion Riders of South Carolina (ALRSC). If dues are not paid by January 1 of each year, the member becomes delinquent. If dues have not been paid by February 1, the member is suspended. Reinstatement will be considered by vote of the members and payment of dues.

**Section 4.** The Chapter will collect the department annual member dues and transmit them to the department within thirty 30 days of receipt of such dues; with annual dues being submitted during the month of January each year.

## ARTICLE IX—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

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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 majority vote 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. 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.

#### **ARTICLE X—PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

If the conduct of a hearing, meetings, conventions, proceedings or other activity is not otherwise governed by the department or national constitution(s) or by-laws, then Robert's Rules of Order (current edition), shall govern the conduct of the above described activities within Chapter 6.

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**BY-LAWS OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS, CHAPTER 6  
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

**Section 1.** The Riders organization existing under these By-Laws is to be known as *AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS, CHAPTER 6, THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, POST 6*, hereafter “ALR, Chapter 6.”

**Section 2.** The objects of this Chapter are as set forth in the Constitution.

**ARTICLE II—MANAGEMENT**

**Section 1.** The government and management of ALR, Chapter 6 is entrusted to a board of directors to be known as the “Executive Committee.”

**Section 2.** The officers of the Chapter shall be Director, Assistant Director, Adjutant, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Ride Coordinator, Chaplain, and Membership Chairman.

**Section 3.** Between Chapter meetings, the administrative power of the Chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Executive Committee, which shall consist of all elective officers for the current year, and in addition the immediate Past Director.

**Section 4.** Officers of this Chapter shall be elected annually at the May monthly meeting of the Chapter and take office at the meeting next following that of the election.—All elections of officers shall be by voice vote or ballot and the candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the respective office or offices for which they are candidates.

**Section 5.** All vacancies existing in any office of the Chapter from any cause other than the expiration of the term shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the committee, and a person so appointed shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member of the committee or officer whose position was vacated.

**Section 6.** A vacancy shall exist when a member or officer is absent from the Chapter due to resignation, loss of qualifications, incapacity from injury or illness, or for a continuous period of unexcused absences considered detrimental to the interest of the Chapter by the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

**Section 7.** All Past Chapter Directors shall be members of the Executive Committee with voice but without voting privileges.

**ARTICLE III—MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** The regular meeting of the Chapter shall be held at 200 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC on the date and time agreed to by the officers of the Chapter, at which may be transacted such business as may properly be brought up for action; such meetings may be converted into entertainment meetings, as may be deemed agreeable by the officers of the Chapter. Periodically, meetings may be moved to secondary locations, such as restaurants as may be deemed agreeable by the officers of the Chapter. Notification of such locations will be made via electronic mail to all members at least one week prior to scheduled meeting.

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**Section 2.** The Chapter Director or a majority of the Executive Committee shall have power to call a special meeting of the Chapter at any time, provided that advance notice of at least ten (10) days is provided to all members via electronic mail.

**Section 3.** Upon the written request of a majority of members, the Executive Committee shall call a special meeting of the Chapter.

**Section 4.** At least 4 members of the Executive Council and 6 additional Chapter members shall constitute a ~~quorum~~.—

#### ARTICLE IV—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Section 1.** The Chapter Executive Committee shall meet for organizational or such other business as may come before it at the call of the Chapter Director within 30 days after the installation of the new officers. Thereafter the Chapter Executive Committee shall meet as often as Chapter Director may deem necessary. The Chapter Director shall call a meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee upon the joint written request of three or more members of said Chapter Executive Committee, and a majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum thereof.

**Section 2.** The Chapter Executive Committee, based on a majority vote, shall hire such employees as may be necessary; shall authorize and approve all expenditures; shall provide or require adequate bonds from all persons having custody of Chapter funds; shall hear the reports of Chapter committee chairs; and generally, shall have charge of and be responsible for the management of the affairs of this Chapter.

#### ARTICLE V—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

**Section 1. Duties of Director.** It shall be the duty of the Chapter Director to preside at all meetings of the Chapter and to have general supervision over the business and affairs of the Chapter, and such officer shall be the chief executive officer of the Chapter. The Director shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds and shall make an annual report covering the business of the Chapter for the year, and recommendations for the ensuing year, which shall be read at the annual meeting. The Director shall perform such other duties as directed by the Chapter membership.

**Section 2. Duties of Assistant Director.** The Assistant Director shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Director in the absence or disability of or when called upon by the Chapter Director. The Assistant Director may be assigned other duties as required by the Director. The Assistant Director may also be called upon to perform the duties of the Membership Chairman as requested by the Director.

**Section 3. Duties of Chapter Adjutant.** The Adjutant shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of all meetings, keep such records as the Post and Department organizations may require, and under direction of the Director handle all correspondence of the Chapter.

**Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall have charge of all finances and see that they are safely remitted to the ALR, Chapter 6 account and shall report once a month to the Chapter Executive Committee the condition of the finances of the Chapter, with such recommendations as he or she may deem expedient or necessary to carry on the financial

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activities of the Chapter. The treasurer will receive all requests for disbursement of ALR, Chapter 6 funds and will process them for payment upon approval of the general membership or the Executive Committee. The treasurer will report to the ALR, Post 6 the status of finances each year NLT June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Section 5. Duties of Chapter Chaplain.** The Chapter Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Chapter comrades and will offer divine but nonsectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., and adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department headquarters from time to time.

**Section 6. Duties of Ride Coordinator.** The Ride Coordinator shall be overall responsible for the planning of all runs, activities, and events; arouse interest in activities; enforce and remind all riders of all rules of safe motorcycle operation and group riding. Additionally, the Ride Coordinator may select assistants to aid in the planning and execution of rides and activities as he/she desires. Special tasks may be assigned as directed by the Chapter Director or Executive Committee.

**Section 7. Duties of the Sergeant-at-arms.** The Sergeant-at-arms shall preserve order at meetings and gatherings; assist the Ride Coordinator in enforcing all rules of safe riding during rides and runs; and perform such other duties or chair such committees as may be from time to time assigned by the Director or Chapter Executive Committee.

**Section 8. Duties of Membership Chairman.** The Membership Chairman is responsible for maintenance of membership records. The Membership Chairman shall collect membership dues as determined by the Chapter bylaws, and provide same to Treasurer on a regular basis. The Membership Chairman is charged with the review and/or collection of eligibility documentation as required to demonstrate compliance with National membership requirements, and to demonstrate any additional requirements as may be defined by the sponsoring Post Executive Board, applicable Department rules; or State and Local laws. The Membership Chairman shall render detailed membership reports annually or when called upon to do so at regular meetings of the Chapter. Additionally, the Membership Chairman shall send renewal notification to members of record upon availability of TAL, ALA, and SAL membership cards for the following membership year.

**Section 9. Additional Roles.** The Chapter may define additional roles, either elected or appointed, as needed based on Chapter activities. Any such addition to the by-laws must definitively state whether the position is elected or appointed. If an additional role is filled by appointment, any such addition to the by-laws must definitely define who has the right of appointment (usually Director, or Chapter Executive Committee by majority). Finally, any such additions to the bylaws must define which, if any, of the additional positions constitute membership on the Chapter Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE VI—DELEGATES

**Section 1.** Delegates and alternates to a Department American Legion Riders meeting, convention, regional gathering or other activity shall be elected by voice vote or ballot by the Chapter at a regular meeting of the Chapter to be held prior to the date of such event.



## **ARTICLE VII—APPOINTMENTS**

**Section 1.** The Chapter Director, immediately upon taking office each year, may appoint standing committees or commissions for the furtherance of Chapter programs.

**Section 2.** Such standing committees shall consist of such persons, and the chair thereof, as designated by the Chapter Director.

## **ARTICLE VIII – REGALIA**

Members of ALR, Chapter 6 shall conform to all rules governing the wearing and displaying of ALR Regalia and The American Legion name and emblem. Violations of any rule shall subject the violator to suspension and expulsion as provided for in the ALR, Chapter 6 Constitution and By-laws.

**Section 1.** The sleeveless vest is the approved minimum article of clothing which ALR regalia may be displayed, provided that rules applying to displays on the vest apply equally to sleeved garments including but not limited to jackets, t-shirts, sweater, sweatshirts, etc.

**Section 2.** The American flag patch shall be displayed on either side of the front of the vest providing that the stars on the patch are closest to the center of the chest and in the highest feasible position. No other patch or item shall be displayed above the American flag.

**Section 3.** The emblem of the ALR, Chapter 6 shall be displayed on the left front breast of the vest. This patch may be either the one-line shoulder or the three-line shoulder or the Legion Rider mini-patch.

**Section 4.** The one-line front patch shall show POST 6 or VETERAN, AUXILLARY, SAL. The three-line front patch shall show on Line 1: COLUMBIA, Line 2: POST 6, Line 2: SOUTH CAROLINA.

**Section 5.** The American Legion Rider back patch on the ALR vest will be displayed in the center of the back, and there will be no rockers of any kind. The back patch for Chapter 6 will have the following information displayed: top line on the back patch will be COLUMBIA, SC, the second line will be POST 6, and the third line will be VETERAN, or AUXILLARY, or SAL.

**Section 6.** POW/MIA or POW/MIA/KIA patch will be worn on the right side of the vest in the highest possible position providing it does not go above the American flag patch.

**Section 7.** The use of vulgarity, scatology, profanity, and provocative verbiage and imagery (being verbiage and imagery intended to threaten, harass, insult to frighten non-members) shall not be displayed on any item simultaneously bearing the ALR emblem or an emblem of The American Legion, providing that questions concerning same shall be presented to and decided by the ALR, Chapter 6 Executive Committee.

**Section 8.** Noting in this article is to be construed as requiring an alteration, revision, replacement, redesign, or prohibition of methods or placement of regalia displayed by members in good standing prior to the adoption of the state constitution and by-laws, dated September 20, 2009 by the American Legion Department of South Carolina Executive Committee.

**Section 9.** Regalia added to existing articles of clothing protected under section 8 above shall conform to the provision of all other sections of Article VIII.

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**Section 10.** All regalia displayed in violation of Article VIII, Section 1-8, shall be deemed a violation of this constitution and by-laws and subject the offending member to suspension or expulsion at the discretion of the ALR, Chapter 6 Executive Committee.

#### **ARTICLE IX—RESOLUTIONS**

**Section 1.** All resolutions of state or national scope presented to this Chapter by a member or reported to this Chapter by a committee shall merely embody the opinion of this Chapter on the subject and copy of same shall be forwarded to the Post/Department headquarters for its approval before any publicity is given or action other than mere passage by the Chapter is taken.

#### **ARTICLE X—NOTICES**

**Section 1.** Every member shall furnish the Chapter Adjutant and Membership Chairman with a valid email and postal mailing address.

**Section 2.** The Chapter Adjutant shall cause notice of the annual election to be given at least two weeks prior thereto.

#### **ARTICLE X—PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

**Section 1.** All proceedings of this Chapter shall be conducted under and pursuant to Roberts' Rules of Order (current edition), except as herein otherwise provided and follow the approved agenda of the Executive Council.

#### **ARTICLE XI—LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITIES**

**Section 1.** This Chapter shall incur, or cause to be incurred, no liability nor obligation whatever which shall subject to liability any other Chapter, subdivision, members of The American Legion, post, departments, or other individuals, corporations or organizations.

#### **ARTICLE XII—AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** These By-Laws may be amended at any regular Chapter meeting by a vote of a majority of the members of said Chapter attending such regular meeting, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular meeting. Any changes will be reported to the sponsoring department or post.

**Section 2.** Written notice to the email or postal addresses of record indicated shall have been given to all members at least 5 days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting there will be presented a proposal to amend the By-Laws.

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