

**American Legion Riders Department of California,
District 28, Chapter 694, Marina, California
Organized March 14, 2013
Chartered April 14, 2013**

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, 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, Chapter 694 located at: American Legion Post 694, Marina, California; Here in after referred to as "ALR Chapter 694".

**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.

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 American Legion members who share the same interest.

Section 4. To promote motorcycle safety programs.

**ARTICLE III
ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. This Chapter formed at Post 694, Marina California, District 28, Department of California, was chartered on **April 14, 2013** by the American Legion Riders

Department of California.

Section 2. The American Legion Riders, District 28, Chapter 694, shall be organized as a Chapter of the American Legion Riders Department of California, and as a subordinate body to and in accordance with the regulations of The American Legion Riders Department of California.

ARTICLE IV **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. There is one recognized "class" of membership in the ALR Chapter 694 as defined below.

A. **Regular members** must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be a current member in good standing of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion, and be at least 18 years of age.
2. Must own and be legally licensed to ride a motorcycle of at least 350cc in size or be the spouse or registered domestic partner of an owner who is a regular association member. The motorcycle must be operational and registered and insured upon initial application to the Chapter.

A. "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. An active member in good standing who becomes permanently unable to ride may apply for retired member status. If the retired members spouse is also a member, but not a licensed motorcycle rider they will be extended the same retired status.

Section 2. Applications for membership will be presented to the Membership officer, which shall, at each regular meeting of the Chapter, report upon all applications received during or after the next previous regular meeting. 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 3. Any member who resigns from the Chapter 694 American Legion Riders will be required to comply with Article IV, Section 2, if they request to be reinstated into the American Legion Riders Chapter 694.

Section 4. Founding member status in Chapter 694, American Legion Riders is granted to members listed on the rolls during the first six months from the date the Chapter was founded.

Section 5. Active members in good standing; who for any reason can no longer operate a motorcycle, may be granted Retired status by a vote of the local Chapter. The status retired, only applies to the operating of a motorcycle requirement and does

not create another class of membership. All other provisions of these bylaws will apply to members granted this status. The chapter will communicate to the Department Secretary in writing, the granting of Retired Status, the members information, and the reason for granting retired status.

Article V
Initiation Fee and Dues

Section 1. The Initial fee for membership is \$85 which includes the first year dues of \$20 and the cost of the ALR back patch, which is non-refundable and remains the property of the Chapter.

Section 2. Dues are set at \$20 per year and may be adjusted by a majority vote at the annual membership meeting in accordance with Article VIV, Section 6, Finances.

ARTICLE VI
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the elected officers of the Chapter and one member appointed by the Commander of American Legion Post 694.

Section 2. The President shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Board and the Vice-president shall assume that position in his 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 in accordance with Article VII of these by-laws.

ARTICLE VII
OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

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

Section 2. All officers will serve from May of the year elected through June of the following year. Nominations of officers will be made at the annual (Month) meeting and elections will be held annually at the May meeting. Formal installation of Officers will take place in June, except that the founding board elected will serve from the time of election until June one year after their election. 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 Board, 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 except for the offices of President and Vice-President.

Section 6. All elected or appointed officers shall have only one vote at the Executive Board or Chapter Meeting except that the presiding Chairperson shall have no vote except to break a tie vote.

Section 7. Elections shall be by secret ballot. 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: 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. Must hold a valid motorcycle license, Will be limited to no more than three consecutive terms without a one year break between terms. Will serve as Chairperson of the Executive Board.

B. VICE-PRESIDENT: Will assume the duties of the President in his/her absence and will assist the President in the performance of his duties. Must hold a valid motorcycle license, Will be limited to no more than two consecutive terms.

C. SECRETARY: Will assume the duties of the Vice-President in his absence. Will have charge of and keep correct records of all proceedings of all meetings and under the direction of the President handle all correspondence of the Chapter. 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.

D. TREASURER: Will have charge of all finances of the Chapter. Will disburse funds as directed by the general membership. Will give detailed financial reports at each general meeting. Will serve as Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

E. SERGEANT AT ARMS: Will preserve order at meetings and other such duties as may be assigned to him by the Chapter.

F. RIDE COORDINATOR: Must hold a valid motorcycle license. The Ride Coordinator will be the person in charge (Road Captain) during organized rides of the Chapter. The Ride Coordinator will also act as the Safety Officer, ensuring that motorcycle safety is observed at all times during events. May, at her/his discretion, appoint assistant road captains or take any other measures necessary to help insure the safety of the group during a ride. Must hold a valid motorcycle license. Will serve as Chairperson of the Activities Committee.

G. HISTORIAN: Will keep a record of Chapter incidents and activities and

other duties as may be directed by the Executive Committee and the Chapter.

H. CHAPLAIN: Will be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Chapter members and will offer divine but 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.

I. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: Will provide advertising flyers, WEB postings, news releases and other material to publicize chapter activities. Will perform other duties as directed by the Chapter.

J. MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: Will gather new membership applications, Will validate the eligibility of each new member, at each regular meeting of the Chapter, report upon all applications received during or after the next previous regular meeting, gather and forward all membership records to the chapter Secretary.

K. JUDGE ADVOCATE: Shall advise the ALR 694 officers on the interpretation of the by-laws of the ALR 694, by-laws, Department of California Riders and National American Legion Riders by-laws, and perform such other duties as incident to the office of Judge Advocate.

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 Board, 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. A written petition to remove an officer must first be presented to the Executive Board for consideration. Article IV, Section 2 of these By-Laws shall govern the reinstatement of an expelled officer under this section.

ARTICLE VIII **MEETINGS AND QUORUM**

Section 1. General membership meetings will be held monthly on the third (3rd) Monday at 6:00 P.M. at Post 694. The Executive Board will meet as needed before the stated meeting.

Section 2. A majority of three (3) elected officers present 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, 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 published electronically and posted on the ALR 694 Website. Copies of the Agenda will be available for review at each meeting.

Section 5. Special membership meetings of the Chapter may be called by the President or the Executive Board 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 given to each member seven (7) days prior to said meeting, stating the time, place of the meeting and the subject to be considered.

ARTICLE VIV **FINANCES**

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

Section 2. Finances of the Chapter will be held in a bank account within the County of Monterey, CA. Signatures on the account will include the Treasurer, President, Vice-President and Secretary. Signatures of two of the above named officers will be required to disburse funds via check.

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 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 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 5. An emergency disbursement of funds may be authorized by agreement of three elected officers.

Section 6. Annual dues shall be set each year by a majority vote of the membership.

Section 7. Dues are due and payable by January 1 of each year. Should a member be delinquent in their dues after February 1, they shall be removed from the roles. 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 694 must also be current on dues and in good standing with their home Post, Unit, or Squadron in accordance with Article V, Section 1. a. 1 of these by-laws.

Section 8. The Treasurer will provide a finance report, in writing, at each regularly called meeting of the American Legion Riders Chapter 694. The report will be attached to the minutes of that meeting and presented to the membership for approval at the next regularly called meeting of the American Legion Riders Chapter 694. The minutes and the financial report will be made available for review to the members of the American Legion Riders Chapter 694.

ARTICLE X **COMMITTEES**

Section 1) Standing committees, such as, Membership, Finance, and Activities may be established with the Chairperson of each being the officer as assigned in Article VI, Section 8.

Section 2. The Membership Committee shall be composed of the Membership 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 procuring of new members and reinstatements. The committee shall certify the eligibility of all applications as required by these by-laws in Article IV, Section 1, and that the dues for ALR 694 have been paid to the ALR 694 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 the Chairperson and any additional members that may be appointed by the President.

Section 4. The Activities Committee shall be composed of the 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. The Activities Committee will present an annual Riders Activities Calendar for the coming year at the first meeting in July each year.

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

ARTICLE XI **DRESS CODE**

Section 1. Vests or Jackets that have the patches of the "American Legion Riders" will conform to the following guide lines.

- A. At all official meetings, the American Legion Riders beret or official cap of a member's parent organization will be the only allowed headwear.
- B. American Legion Riders back patches will be worn on a vest or jacket. Members having riding vests and jackets with the large patch affixed to the back will comply with the guidelines of this Article of the by-laws
- C. The ALR is a program of The American Legion and is not a "motorcycle club," and as such, members 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, and 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.
- D. The front of the vest or jacket should have an American flag patch high on the left hand side. If worn, no other patch or pin will be worn higher than this patch.
- E. The American Legion Riders back patch will be worn on the back of the jacket or vest along with top and bottom rockers as described below. The name of the Department "California" may be embroidered at the bottom of the back patch. If

rockers are worn with the back patch, they must be affixed to the vest or jacket adjoining the patch to resemble a one piece patch.

F. The bottom rocker 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 rocker will designate the local organization that the member belongs to. In lieu of rockers, an elongated back patch may be worn with the same embroidered restrictions as stated in this Article.

H. No 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 is commonly known as such.

I. Members at the time of the first annual convention in Fresno, March 31, 2007, may continue to wear their existing vests and jackets without change if they do not comply with this ARTICLE except they must conform to Sections C or E.

J. The American Legion Riders patch is the property of the Chapter 694 American Legion Riders and must be returned to the Chapter 694 American Legion Riders in good condition upon resignation, suspension, or termination of membership in the American Legion Riders Chapter 694, the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion.

ARTICLE XII **CONDUCT**

Members of the American Legion Riders shall be held to the same standards of conduct as those of the American Legion. Members of the American Legion Riders Chapter 694 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 the American Legion Riders Chapter 694. Proper decorum will be followed when participating with or interacting with members of other motorcycle associations and clubs.

ARTICLE XIII **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 Trail Manual and these bylaws.

Section 2. A member may be temporarily suspended from membership 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 bylaws and California Military and Veterans Code Section 1820 and 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. An expelled member may appeal for reconsideration to the Post 694 Executive Board.

Section 4. Any member expelled or suspended from Post 694 or their home Post will be automatically expelled from the Chapter 694 American Legion Riders. When the member is reinstated, they must make a new application for membership in the Post 694 American Legion Riders as described in Article IV, Section 2 of these By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIV **AMENDMENT**

Section 1. Proposed amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board and at a regular meeting of the Chapter and read there at. 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. 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 shall be automatically amended to conform to any amendment adopted by The American Legion National, Department, Area, District, or Post 694 under which this organization operates. Such amendments will be announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Chapter 694 American Legion Riders.

Section 3. It shall be the responsibility of the Judge Advocate to ensure that the By-Laws of the American Legion Riders Chapter 694 are in agreement with the American Legion National, Department, Area, District, and Post 694 By-Laws under Article XII, and to present the necessary proposed amendments to the Board of Directors and the membership at a regularly called meeting.

Section 4. These By-Laws and any amendment initiated by the Chapter shall be in effect until approved by The Department of California American Legion Riders.

These By-laws were adopted on March 16, 2013 at Marina, California, Post 694, by vote of the founding members of ALR Chapter 694.