



**CHARTER and BY-LAWS
OF THE
American Legion Riders
Motorcycle Association
Post GR 07
Department of France
Mannheim, Germany**

CHARTER

**ARTICLE I
Name and Authority**

The name of this organization shall be the American Legion Riders Post GR 07, Department of France, Mannheim, Germany and hereafter referred to as the American Legion Riders (ALR). They shall have the authority to operate in the Mannheim & Heidelberg area only with the consent of the installation (Mannheim and Heidelberg) commanders. Operation depends on compliance with the requirements and conditions of this charter, U.S. Army instructions, installation instructions, Local German laws and associated by-laws and all applicable directives and policies.

ARTICLE II

Purpose, Goals, and Objectives

PURPOSE: To establish and maintain a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps that will enhance the prestige of all motorcycle riders, encourage on-going rider education and skills development, and reduce the potential of motorcycle mishaps. Set an example for all personnel according to the standards, traditions, and customs of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force. To operate and conduct itself in a manner that provides equal opportunity and treatment for all motorcyclists.

To participate in parades, community services and other ceremonies which are in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion. To promote motorcycle safety programs, and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest. To use our Association to promote and support programs of the American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion, community services and Veterans Organizations.

GOALS:

1. The ALR will seek to improve morale, promote rider awareness and skills. The ALR will seek to enhance the installation and local community relationship through community service efforts and events by unifying and combining the unique and individual talents of the ALR members.
2. Each member is encouraged to actively participate, to support the objectives of the ALR by setting a positive example, and to promote the safety and welfare of all members.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide each member with the collective knowledge, experience, and influence of the ALR positively affecting motorcycling on and off the installation.
2. Improve rider skills through mentorship for new riders and continuing education for all riders.
3. Establish an effective means of communication with all members to exchange ideas and keep attuned to changes in attitudes and behaviors of installation riders.
4. Promote the positive status of motorcycle riders in the Army, Air Force, and local community.
5. Promote and support safety recognition programs.
6. Introduce new riders to the ALR and familiarize them with the goals and objectives of the ALR.

7. Promote social gatherings upon the base as well as with local community leaders.
8. Plan for and promote the use of designated driver and other effective DUI prevention programs with all ALR sponsored, organized or attended events where alcoholic beverages will be consumed.
9. Provide a forum wherein any policy, program, or problem of interest to the members in general, along with unit leadership in particular, may be discussed freely.
10. Assist in maintaining a high state of group morale and esprit de corps, while encouraging the highest standards of safety, bearing, and behavior.
11. Improve the morale and welfare of the ALR members and their family members.
12. Invite guest speakers to talk about topics of interest to the members, with emphasis on safety, rider skills, community, and family enhancement.

ARTICLE III

Qualification of Members and Fees

SECTION A: Membership in the ALR shall be strictly voluntary and without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicap. Membership will not be granted to any prospect or member of a known or previously unknown outlaw motorcycle Chapter. Active members must have a motorcycle endorsement on their USAREUR and state license and maintain insurance as required by German law. All active duty military members and civilian employees (as required by DoD and service instructions) will have a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) RiderCourseSM completion card. All members must be aware that they are jointly and severely liable for the obligations of the ALR. Membership shall consist of six (6) categories as defined below:

1. Active Member:

A. Any individual who is federal employee, civilian or military, to remain active fees must be paid to date. An active member is authorized to vote upon and discuss all matters in which the member has interests.

B. You must be a current paid member of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion.

C. You must own a street legal motorcycle or trike (no ATV or scooter) with an engine of at least 250cc in size, and capable of operation on the autobahn.

D. A Spouse may be granted ALR membership provided they are legally married to a current paid American Legion Rider Association Member, who is a member in good standing.

E. Legion Riders members must complete and sign a "Member Information Form/Application for Membership."

F. All members must be approved by a majority vote at a regularly held Chapter meeting that has a quorum.

2. Associate Member: Any individual who rides as a passenger with an active member and pays fees. An associate member is authorized to vote upon and discuss all matters in which the member has interests. No active member can sponsor more than two associate members.

3. New Rider Member: Any new member who has less than 1 year riding experience upon applying for active membership or is intending to purchase a motorcycle in conjunction with joining the *ALR*. A mentor must be selected from the general membership to observe and advise the new rider for a period of six months. The mentor is selected by an agreed upon decision of the Director, Assistant Director, Adjutant, and Road Captain. After completion of the six month period, with mentor concurrence, the individual becomes an active member. If the mentor feels the member(s) has not lived up to the principles or rules of the Chapter a majority vote at a membership meeting is necessary for the individual to remain a member of the Chapter.

4. Honorary Member: The Chapter, at our discretion, may elect, by majority vote at a regular membership meeting, to authorize an honorary membership to an individual or individuals under the following guidelines:

A. The individual(s) must meet all the requirements of section "1B" (American Legion Membership).

B. These memberships are to be of an honorary nature and do not constitute actual membership. Honorary memberships should only be granted to those persons who have demonstrated themselves to be assets to the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion Organization and excelled in promoting the aims and purposes of the American Legion Riders.

C. If American Legion Rider back patches are granted to these honorary members, they must include a top "rocker" with the back patch, which states the words "HONORARY" so as to clearly identify the class of membership. Shirts or other apparel, which contain the "American Legion Riders" emblem, should contain the words "HONORARY" or "I SUPPORT".

5. Special Class Membership:

You, or your spouse, may continue your membership as a special class member (with full membership privileges) if you fail to meet the membership all of the requirements of Section A 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 Section A (1).

B. Disability, which prevents you from physically being able to operate a motorcycle, and ownership of the motorcycle, was relinquished, due to this

disability. (This would also allow the spouse to continue membership under these conditions for special class membership.)

C. For (1) & (2) above, you must have approval by a majority vote.

D. If you have been a member for ten consecutive years and have reached the age of 50 you are entitled to the distinction of a "Special Class Life Member". Membership may continue without regards to Section A (2) for the rest of your life, and payment of Local Chapter Dues will be waived. You must continue with the other requirements of Section A (1C).

6. Inactive Member:

A. Any individual mentioned above, whose fees are 90 days delinquent. An inactive member is not authorized to vote nor make any motions. However, an inactive member may present information that may be critical to the ALR during debates if approved by the Director. Individuals will be issued a 30-day delinquency notice prior to being placed on the inactive member roster.

B. Expulsion:

1) Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Association by a majority vote of the general membership at a regular Chapter meeting.

2) Department Officers will handle all appeals.

3) Founding and Charter Chapter members can only be expelled or suspended at a department level meeting.

C. Suspensions - Temporarily, member may not wear back patch, but they may attend functions.

D. Expulsion - Permanent, the back patch must be returned to the Chapter.

SECTION B. Host Post Membership: For the purpose of enhancing the Rider Program, Post GR07 will allow members of their "Host Post" to apply for and join our Rider Program. These applicants must meet the requirements of Paragraph "A" of these By-Laws. Post GR07 will not request a transfer from the applicant's home Post. The new Rider member will not be a voting member of Post GR07 but will be entitled to any and all other benefits of a Post GR07 Riders, and comply with any By-Law or Governing Rules. This person will wear an additional tab identifying their home Post. A tracking method (specific suffix to their membership number) will be established to easily identify these members within the Riders Rosters.

SECTION C: Active participation and support of projects, activities, and functions of the ALR are encouraged and are the responsibility of every member.

SECTION D: Membership may be denied or withdrawn from active, honorary, or inactive members under the conditions prescribed by the officers of the ALR in accordance with Article III, sections A and E, of this charter and Article I of the by-laws (See Road Captains). Membership may terminate at the written request of the member.

SECTION E: Any member convicted of a DUI will be suspended from active membership status in the ALR, becoming an inactive member, and shall forfeit all fees paid to date. Suspension of active membership will be based upon actual loss of installation privileges as deemed appropriate by command authorities, based on legal authority.

SECTION F: Chapter Annual Membership Dues:

Initial dues will include a Legion Riders patch. The patch will remain the property of the Chapter. Thereafter, dues will be fifteen dollars per calendar year. As in any funds, the membership will elect how these funds are spent. Renewal for the Rider Association will run concurrent with the annual Legion Dues.

DUES:

1. Initial - \$40.00
2. Active Member: \$15.00 annually
3. Associate Member: \$15.00 annually
4. Honorary Member: No annual fee

SECTION G: Disbursement of Funds:

Disbursement of funds \$100.00 or more will be only those authorized by a majority vote of the General Membership at any regular meeting of the Post Chapter. Disbursement of funds under \$100.00 will require the approval of a majority of the Chapter Officers. Approval may be obtained by email or telephone. The Chapter will be a non-profit organization and may only disburse funds in a manner that is in keeping with all local, department, and national laws regarding non-profit organizations, by majority vote. All disbursement of funds greater than \$50.00 will be by check and will be coordinated with the ALR Treasurer and the AL Post Treasurer.

BY-LAWS

The following By-Laws are set forth for the normal operation and administration of the ALR and will be directed on, and a guide for, the ALR officers and members.

ARTICLE I

Officers, Their Duties, and Elections

SECTION A: (Elected Officers) The following ALR officers will be elected in accordance with the charter of the ALR, to serve a period of one year ("recurring dates"). The position of Director must be held by an active duty member or DoD civilian employee to maintain continuity with the installation's leadership and assure direct association with the installation's workforce. There are no restrictions for other elected officers.

1. Director
2. Assistant Director
3. Adjutant / Historian ~
4. Treasurer
5. Sergeant at Arms
6. Events Coordinator ~
7. Membership / Publicity Chairman --
8. Road Captain(s) ..
9. Chaplain
10. Web Master ...

*NOTE: The Post may add officers as deemed necessary.

Post Officers may hold more than 1 position but not to exceed 2 offices.

Elections:

Election of chapter officers will be held annually, with nominations in April and elections in May.

The ALR officers' election, removal, powers, and responsibilities shall be governed according to the rules contained in "The New Robert's Rules of Order" except when it is inconsistent with this charter and associated by-laws.

SECTION B: (Duties of Officers)

DIRECTOR

The duties are as follow:

1. Manage the ALR according to its Charter, By-laws, and "The New Robert's Rules of Order."
2. Preside at all membership and special meetings.
3. Set dates for membership, special, and executive committee meetings.
4. Appoint committee members on a voluntary basis, except Nominating Committee.
5. Appoint members to fill elected officer positions if there are three months or less remaining on present term when the elected officer is unable to complete the current term. A special meeting will be scheduled for a temporary election for the vacant position when more than three months are remaining on their term.
6. Appoint points of contact (POC).
7. Act as ALR spokesperson.
8. Chair Executive Committee.
9. Authorize expenditures, not to exceed \$100.00 per purchase, between scheduled meetings of the membership, with concurrence of the Treasurer.
10. Establish Special committees and appoint committee chairpersons as required.
11. Distribute a tentative agenda for the next membership meeting.

12. Appoint officers to the following non-elected positions as he/she sees fit.

a. MENTOR(S)

(1) Will observe and assist New Rider Members

(2) A mentor is defined as “a trusted counselor or guide.” Mentoring, therefore, is a relationship in which a person with greater experience and wisdom guides another person”

(3) The mentor will use available training and promotional resources to encourage safe responsible riding techniques and skills.

b. PHOTOGRAPHER (Photographs ALR events and members participating in/at events).

c. Road Captains – Will designate with the Lead RC, persons with riding experience (individual and group), MSF safety knowledge / training and maturity to perform duties as the RC.

ASSSTANT DIRECTOR

The duties are as follows:

1. Assume duties of the Director in his/her absence.
2. Appoints Nominating Committee members.
3. Serve as member of Executive Committee.

ADJUTANT / HISTORIAN

The duties are as follows:

1. Record the minutes of membership meetings and take attendance.
2. Distribution of minutes within 14 calendar days (via e-mail if capability exists).
3. Receive approval of previous month minutes at next regular scheduled meeting.
4. Maintain a completed file of ALR correspondence.
5. Issue annual election ballots.
6. Chair Social Committee.
7. Serve as member of the Executive Committee.
8. Provide other administrative support required by the ALR.
9. Attest to the authentication of documents and any other actions by the Director in the name of the ALR.
10. Maintain membership roster and make available to the ALR.
11. Maintain POC roster and make available to the ALR (via e-mail if capability exists).
12. Maintain an ALR e-mail folder (if capability exists).

TREASURER

The duties are as follows:

1. Collect and receipt for membership fees.

2. Issue and accept membership applications/resignation.
3. Maintain ALR account with the AL Post Treasurer.
4. Read monthly financial report at each membership meeting.
5. Provide financial report to the ALR (via e-mail if capability exists).
6. Serve as member of the Executive Committee.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

The duties are as follows:

1. Will set up meetings.
2. Maintain order during meetings.
3. Administers discipline and collect fines.
4. Responsible for recovery of ALR property.
5. Assist Director as required.

ROAD CAPTAIN

The duties are as follows:

1. Lead the ALR in formation riding or parades. The Road Captains will give riding instructions to all riders prior to the start of a ride.
2. Enforce all rules of group riding.
3. Road Captains shall have the unchallenged right to terminate a member's participation in a given ride or event for the ALR safety or image. Upon request of a Road Captain, the Director may suspend the member pending the lodging of an official complaint. All members have the right to appeal before the members and will abide by the decision of the members--majority rules.
4. One Road Captain (Lead) will always ride point and set the pace. Another Road Captain will always ride drag to assure the safety of the ALR from behind and assist members with mechanical problems.

EVENTS COORDINATOR

The duties are as follows:

1. Will be the logistics person in charge of organized rides and events of the Association.
2. The EC will determine dates, times, routes and meeting places for those taking part in a ride activity.
3. The EC will be responsible for planning, organizing and conducting holiday events, rallies, toy runs, etc.
4. The EC will chair a committee to review worthwhile charities, which the Chapter will sponsor.
5. The General Membership will review the proposed charities annually and select the charity or charities the Chapter will support.

MEMBERSHIP / PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

The duties are as follows:

1. Responsible for contacting other Legion Posts and organizations, and publicizing our Chapter of the Legion Riders.
2. Takes necessary action to contact local newspapers, radio and TV stations to publicize our events and rides.

CHAPLAIN - The Chaplain shall assist in the religious welfare of the chapter.

WEB MASTER

The duties are as follows:

1. Will maintain the chapter web site.
2. Post current information about upcoming events, pictures of past events, and other relevant information.

SECTION C:

MEMBER DUTIES AND LAWS

1. Members will above all, uphold the basic Chapter principles of honor, truth, respect, support, loyalty and commitment.
2. When representing the Chapter on and off the installation, all members will conduct themselves with the highest regard of the Chapter principles. The Chapter must not be tarnished by unrestrained behavior, disrespect of fellow citizens, or acts that generally reflect poorly on the Chapters image and reputation.
3. Members will not endanger the Chapter or any member by an illegal act or acts. If a member is arrested for illegal activities they are automatically suspended from Chapter activities and if found guilty of the offense(s) they are dismissed from the Chapter.
4. Each member serves as a safety officer. Each member is responsible to identify and correct any condition that threatens the welfare of Chapter members or the general public. Any willful act of unsafe riding witnessed by a fellow Chapter member(s) could result in denial of membership. Members may plead their case at the next meeting.
5. Activities will be conducted to encourage participation by all Chapter members and no laws will be enacted which favor or separate members by the type of motorcycle they ride.
6. No member will ride under an impaired physical condition. Every member will always try to prevent another member from riding in an impaired condition.
7. Members will always hold the Chapter in high regard. A member will never angrily accost, assault, or slander any other fellow Chapter member.
8. Members will embrace and encourage an atmosphere of skill improvement, responsible riding, and riding enjoyment and discourage aggressive, competitive, and potentially self destructive riding behaviors.

SECTION D:

CHARTER & FOUNDING MEMBERS

1. Post GR07 Charter Chapter Membership cutoff was 31 December 2005.
2. Founding members are only those who were in attendance at the first meeting on 3 August 2005. The founding members are: Alma Almas, Todd Almas, Matthew Baker, Ed Botero, Teresa Botero, Dennis Ducharme, Russ Junkin, Eddie Kane, Jim Murray, Ronald Ramirez, and Don Cochran.

SECTION E:

Rider Patches

The wearing of the Riders patch is a matter of team pride, and the Riders' choice. However, for the purpose of uniformity, when a Rider elects to wear the patch, it will be worn within these guidelines.

1. Patches will be worn on a black leather vest.
2. On the front top left of the garment, as worn, bearing the Legion Riders back patch, the following patches, if worn, will conform to this standard:
 - a. The American flag must be the uppermost patch. This applies to the flag as a patch by itself. If it is only part of a patch this rule does not apply.
 - b. Under the Flag, the "Founding Member" or "Charter Member" patch.
 - c. Next, a patch showing the Officer Position the member holds.
 - d. Next, a Home Post patch. (Post GR07 Germany)
3. On the front top right of the garment, as worn, bearing the Legion Riders back patch, the following patches, if worn, will conform to this standard:
 - a. The POW/MIA patch should be the uppermost patch.
 - b. Next, a road name if given by the local chapter, or accepted as given by a previous association.
 - c. Next, the appropriate 2" American Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion emblem should be worn.
4. The back of the garment will consist of:
 - a. The 10" American Legion Riders Association patch centered and customized with "Department of France".
 - b. Above the National Riders patch will be a rocker that has FOUNDING MEMBER, CHARTER MEMBER or HONORARY if appropriate.
 - c. Below the National Riders patch will be a rocker that has VETERAN, AUXILIARY, or SQUADRON as appropriate.
5. The back patch remains the property of the Association.

6. Only members of the American Legion Riders may wear the back patch.
7. Other pins and patches may be worn. Please DO NOT wear offensive or profane patches, and no "property of" patches. Use discretion! No pins or patches will be placed above the American flag.

SECTION F: (Elections, Voting, and Officer Removal)

ELECTIONS

Election of ALR officers shall be done annually during the May general membership meeting. The ALR Assistant Director at the April membership meeting will appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of at least three members. The committee will submit a slate of candidates and accept nominations from the floor at the April membership meeting. Floor nominations will not be accepted unless the candidate is present and verbally accepts. Nominees must have enough time remaining on their tour to complete the term of the office for which they are being nominated for. If a member of the Nominating Committee becomes a candidate, that member shall be removed from the committee and a new member shall be appointed.

VOTING

Voting for the election of officers will be by a secret ballot. The Director will not have a vote during elections. Voting on all other ALR business will be by a show of hands with the majority ruling, or as stated below. Ballots for the annual election will be provided to all members in good standing. Any member with outstanding dues may obtain a ballot prior to the election by paying their outstanding dues. For those active members unable to attend the May general membership meeting, absentee ballots may be obtained from the ALR adjutant. Members of the nominating committee will tabulate ballots. The candidate for each position with the most votes wins. In case of a tie, another vote for the position in question will be taken. If a tie still exists, then the Director will cast the deciding vote.

OFFICER REMOVAL

ALR officers may be removed from office for cause with due process, as necessary, by request of the two-thirds of the active membership in the form of a signed petition.

ARTICLE II Meetings of the ALR

SECTION A General Membership Meeting: A general membership meeting will be once monthly, on a date to be set and published in advance, for the purpose of conducting business that may be brought before the ALR, listening to guest speakers, electing new officers, disseminating other business, and inviting new riders to join, etc. To convene a general membership meeting, a quorum of ten percent (10%) or more of the active membership is

necessary. Motions/solutions and revisions/amendments will carry a simple majority of positive votes.

SECTION B Executive Officers Meeting: Shall be held before the general membership meeting on a date to be determined. This meeting will be held for the purpose of conducting business that may be brought before the ALR during the General Membership meeting.

ARTICLE III

Revisions, Adoptions, Amendments, and Review

SECTION A: (Revisions/Adoptions) The adoption and or revision of this charter and associated by-laws require the approval of a majority of positive votes of the active members present at any meeting, provided a two-week oral or written notice is given the ALR. Any revision to this charter and associated by-laws will not conflict with any installation or higher headquarters directives. This charter and associated by-laws will not take effect until reviewed by the first acting and or subsequent elected positions of the Director, Assistant Director, Adjutant, and Treasurer.

SECTION B: (Amendments) This charter and associated by-laws may be amended or abolished in whole or in part by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of positive votes of the active members present at any meeting, provided a two-week oral or written notice is given to the ALR. Any amendments to this charter and associated by-laws will not conflict with any installation or higher headquarters directives. This charter and associated by-laws shall be automatically amended to conform with all directives from the installation or higher headquarters without submission to the ALR. All amendments will not take effect until reviewed by the first acting and/or subsequent elected positions of the Director, Assistant Director, Adjutant, and Treasurer.

SECTION C: (Review) An appointed Parliamentarian Committee shall review this charter and associated by-laws annually to ensure completeness, applicability, and compliance with current Army directives, and policies.

