

**American Legion Riders Department of California,  
District 9, Post 202, Brentwood, California**

**Organized January 5, 2004  
Chartered June 7, 2007**

**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.

**PREAMBLE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: 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 members with the same motorcycle interests.

**ARTICLE I  
NAME**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the American Legion Riders, Chapter 202 located at: American Legion Post 202, Brentwood, California; Hereafter referred to as "ALR Chapter 202".

**ARTICLE II  
PURPOSE**

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, and to further the good reputation of American Legion Post 202 through positive interactions with the general public.

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 a positive public perception of both veterans and motorcyclists through community service, professionalism, safe and responsible conduct, and the support of motorcycle safety programs in the community.

### ARTICLE III **ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. This Chapter formed at American Legion Post 202, Brentwood, California, District 9, Department of California, was chartered on June 7, 2007 by the American Legion Riders Department of California.

Section 2. ALR Chapter 202, 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.

Section 3. ALR Chapter 202 is an integral part of American Legion Post 202 and shall serve as a functional arm of that body.

### ARTICLE IV **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. There is one recognized "class" of membership in ALR Chapter 202 as defined below.

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

(1) Must be a current member 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 highway legal two- or three-wheeled motorcycle, or be the spouse or registered domestic partner of an owner who is a regular association member. The motorcycle must be operational and registered upon renewal annually.

A. "Legally licensed" shall be interpreted to mean holding a permanent license from the member's 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 six months. This period will begin on the date the member joins the organization.

C. 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, who shall, at each regular meeting of the Chapter, report upon all applications received during or after the 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. A membership initiation fee of \$65 will be collected in addition to the first year's dues upon a favorable induction vote. The member will be presented with an ALR Chapter 202 patch at the next regular meeting of the full American Legion Post 202.

Section 4. Any member whose association with Chapter 202 is terminated, either voluntarily or otherwise, must return the ALR Chapter 202 patch, which remains property of the Chapter.

Section 5. Any member who resigns from ALR Chapter 202 will be required to comply with Article IV, Section 2, if they request to be reinstated into the Chapter.

Section 6. Founding Member status in ALR Chapter 202 is granted to members listed on the rolls during the 1st 12 months from the date the Chapter was founded.

Section 7. 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 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 By-Laws will apply to members granted this status.

## **ARTICLE V** **DUES**

Section 1. Dues are set at \$10 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 five elected Officers of the Chapter. A sixth member may be appointed by the Commander of American Legion Post 202.

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.

## **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 April meeting and elections will be held annually at the May meeting. Formal installation of Officers will take place in June. 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, may 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 office of 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:** Shall 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.

Shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Board.

B. **VICE-PRESIDENT:** Shall assume the duties of the President in his/her absence and will assist the President in the performance of his duties.

C. **SECRETARY:** Shall assume the duties of the Vice-President in his/her absence.

Shall 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.

D. **TREASURER:** Shall have charge of all finances of the Chapter.

Shall pay Chapter dues to the Department of California from Chapter funds.

Shall disburse funds as directed by the general membership.

Shall give detailed financial reports at each general meeting.

Shall provide a copy of the detailed financial reports each month to the ALR Chapter 202 Treasurer.

E. **SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Shall preserve order at meetings and other such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Officers.

F. **RIDE COORDINATOR:** The Ride Coordinator is a rotating position appointed by the President.

The Ride Coordinator will be in charge of the planning and conduct of scheduled 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. The Ride Coordinator 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.

G. **HISTORIAN:** When appointed, the Historian will keep a record of Chapter incidents and activities and other duties as may be directed by the President.

H. **CHAPLAIN:** When appointed, the 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 adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are requested by the Chapter.

I. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: When appointed, the PRO will provide advertising flyers, online postings, news releases, and other material to publicize Chapter activities, and will perform other duties as directed by the President.

J. MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: When appointed, the Membership Officer will gather new membership applications, validate the eligibility of each new member at each regular meeting of the Chapter, report upon all applications received during or after the previous regular meeting, and will keep the membership rolls and report if members become delinquent or no longer meet eligibility requirements. In the absence of an appointed Membership Officer, these duties shall be performed by the Secretary.

K. JUDGE ADVOCATE: When appointed, the Advocate shall advise the ALR Chapter 202 Officers on the interpretation of governing regulations and by-laws, and perform such other incident duties as directed.

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 vote of the membership at a regular meeting. 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. Meetings will be held monthly on the Thursday following the monthly meeting of American Legion Post 202. Meetings will be held at the Veterans Hall in Brentwood, or other location designated in advance by the President.

Section 2. The presence of three elected Officers, including the President or Vice-President, shall 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 Chapter 202 Website, or distributed by email prior to the meeting. Copies of the Agenda will be available for review at each meeting.

Section 5. Special 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 preceding regular meeting or unless notice is mailed to each Regular Member, and posted to the Chapter's website, at least seven days prior to said meeting, stating the time and place of the meeting and the subject to be considered.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**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 an account approved by the Chapter by majority vote. Signatures on the account will include the Treasurer, President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Signatures of the Treasurer and one other officer will be required to disburse funds.

Section 3. Disbursement of funds may only be 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 Regular Membership.

Section 7. Annual membership dues are due and payable by January 1 of each year. Should a member be delinquent in their dues after the regular February meeting, they may be removed from the rolls and must re-apply 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 hold office. Members of ALR Chapter 202 must also be current on dues and in good standing with their home Post, Unit, or Squadron.

Section 8. The Treasurer will provide a finance report, in writing, at each regularly called meeting of ALR Chapter 202. 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 ALR Chapter 202. The minutes and the financial report will be made available for review to the Members of ALR Chapter 202.

**ARTICLE X**  
**DRESS CODE**

Section 1. ALR Chapter 202 will comply with Article XIV of the By-laws of the American Legion Riders, Department of California (“Uniform”). Any revisions made to Article XIV by the ALR DOC shall be considered revisions to the ALR Chapter 202 dress code and shall take precedence over contradictory sub-components of this Article. Article XIV of the 2010 ALR DOC By-laws follows.

A. At all official meetings, the American Legion Riders beret or official cap of a member 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 or medium 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. No pins or patches showing support for motorcycle clubs or their support organizations shall be worn on the American Legion Riders vest or jacket. 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. Rockers shall 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 unauthorized 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-April 1, 2007, may continue to wear their existing vests and jackets without change if they do not comply with this ARTICLE except for Sections 3 or 8 [Items C or H].

J. The center patch and rockers must be obtained through the Quarter Master store in accordance with the agreement between the American Legion Riders Department of California and the Quarter Master. Each Chapter will designate no more than two persons authorized to order the patch set from the Quarter Master. The authorization will be signed by the President and Secretary and communicated to the Quarter Master. The Quarter Master will not fill orders except to designees authorized by the Chapter.

Section 2. An American Legion Riders patch is provided to new Members upon payment of initial membership fees. This patch remains the property of ALR Chapter 202 and must be returned to the Chapter 202 in good condition upon resignation, suspension, or termination of membership in ALR Chapter 202, the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or the Sons of the American Legion.

Section 3. Members of ALR Chapter 202 who wear the American Legion Patch shall comply with Item G of Section 1 of this article by affixing a top rocker with “Chapter 202” embroidered.

Section 4. ALR Chapter 202 Members may wear, in lieu of the American Legion Riders patch, a rider’s patch from VFW Post 10789, Warriors Watch Riders, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, or other local organizational patches associated with veterans service groups and approved by the ALR Chapter 202 Executive Committee. Items C, D, and H of Section 1 of this article apply to any vest worn while participating in ALR Chapter 202 functions.

## **ARTICLE XI** **CONDUCT**

Members of the American Legion Riders shall be held to the same standards of conduct as those of the American Legion. Members of ALR Chapter 202 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 ALR Chapter 202. Proper decorum will be followed when participating with or interacting with members of other motorcycle associations and clubs.

## **ARTICLE XII** **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 By-Laws.

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 ALR Chapter 202 if they are judged by the Officers to be acting in a manner bringing discredit to the organization. This suspension will be immediate and remain 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 By-Laws 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 American Legion Post 202 Executive Board.

Section 4. Any member expelled or suspended from Post 202 or their home Post will be automatically expelled from ALR Chapter 202. When the member is reinstated, they must make a new application for membership in the Post 202 American Legion Riders as described in Article IV, Section 2 of these

By-Laws.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**AMENDMENT**

Section 1. Proposed amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board at a regular meeting of the Chapter and read aloud to the membership. At the next regular meeting, or subsequently if postponed, the proposed amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting.

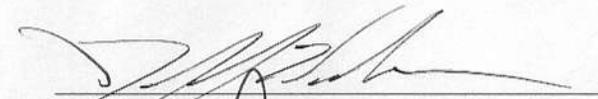
Section 2. Any provision of these By-Laws shall be automatically amended to conform to any amendment adopted by The American Legion National, Department, Area, District, or Post 202 under which this organization operates. Such amendments will be announced at the next regularly scheduled meeting of ALR Chapter 202.

Section 3. It shall be the responsibility of the Judge Advocate to ensure that the By-Laws of ALR Chapter 202 are in agreement with the American Legion National, Department, Area, District, and Post 202 By-Laws under Article XI, and to present the necessary proposed amendments to the Executive Board and the membership at a regularly called meeting.

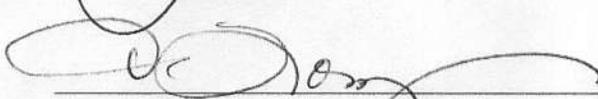
Section 4. These By-Laws and any amendment initiated by the Chapter shall stay in effect until approved by The Department of California American Legion Riders.

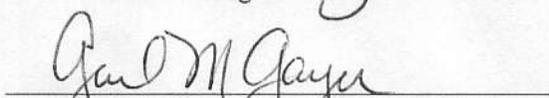
These By-Laws were adopted on October 14, 2009 at Brentwood, California, Post 202, by vote of the members of ALR Chapter 202 at the regular American Legion meeting.

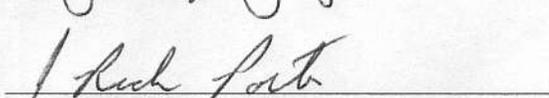
These By-laws were amended on February 9, 2012 by two-thirds majority vote of the membership at the Chapter meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_, President  
Jeff Weber

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Vice President  
Ed Laudani

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary  
Dolores Long

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer  
Gail Gayer

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Sergeant-at-Arms  
J. Rich Porter