



American Legion Riders Post 379



Bedford, Texas

Chapter By-Laws

(Adopted and Revised April 2019)

ARTICLE I – NAME

SECTION 1.

The Chapter existing under these by-laws is to be known as American Legion Riders Post 379, The American Legion, Department of Texas.

SECTION 2.

The name and nature of this Chapter are as set forth in the Constitution of the Chapter.

ARTICLE II - MANAGEMENT

SECTION 1.

The officers of the chapter shall be Director, Assistant Director, Adjutant, Treasurer, Chaplain, Sergeant-At-Arms, Road Captain, Historian, Safety Officer and Membership Chairman (Legion Representative).

SECTION 2.

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 all past Directors.

SECTION 3.

Officers of this Chapter shall be elected annually on the first Sunday in May and take office at the meeting next following that of the election. All elections of officers shall be by 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. All such officers shall be confirmed by vote at a regular post meeting or installed by the host post or department at a suitable installation ceremony.

SECTION 4.

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 Executive Committee and a person so appointed shall hold office for the unexpired term of the member of the Executive Committee or officer whose position was vacated. Any person so appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall be confirmed or installed by the hosting post or department.

SECTION 5.

A vacancy shall exist when a member or officer is absent from the Chapter due to resignation, loss of qualifications, incapacity from injury, or for a continuous period of

unexcused absences considered detrimental to the interest of the chapter by the remaining members of the Chapter Executive Committee.

SECTION 6.

The Office of Director specifically does NOT have to be filled by a Legionnaire; rather, the Director can also be elected from a qualified member of the SAL or Ladies Auxiliary.

ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

SECTION 1.

The regular meeting of the Chapter shall be held at 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month at which may be transacted such business as may properly be brought up for action; such meeting may be converted into entertainment meetings, as may be deemed agreeable by the officers of the Chapter.

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.

SECTION 3.

Upon the written request of three (3) members, the Executive Committee shall call a special meeting of the chapter.

SECTION 4.

Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum for membership meetings.

ARTICLE IV – CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1.

The Chapter Executive Committee shall meet for organizational or such other business as may come before it as the call of the Chapter Director within ten (10) days after the installation of the new officers. Thereafter the Chapter Executive Committee shall meet as often as the Chapter Director may deem necessary. The Chapter Director shall call a meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee upon the joint written request of three (3) or more members and said Chapter Executive Committee and three (3) 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 the 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 the 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. The Chapter Director shall be the chief executive officer of the Chapter. The Director shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds and shall provide a monthly report covering the business and finances of the Chapter at each regular meeting of the hosting American Legion Post, with a copy thereof immediately forwarded to the post or department adjutant. The director shall perform such other duties as directed by the Chapter membership

SECTION 2.

Duties of the 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.

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 hosting post and department organizations may require, render reports of membership annually or when called upon at a meeting, and under direction of the Chapter 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 deposited in some local bank or banks and shall report once a month to both the Chapter Executive Committee and the hosting post the condition of the finances of the Chapter, with such recommendations as he or she may deem expedient or necessary. The Treasurer and Director and at least one member of the Chapter Executive Committee and one officer of the host post or department, shall be signatory on any and all accounts of the Chapter. The Treasurer shall be provided with surety bonds in such amounts as shall be fixed by the Chapter Executive Committee and obtained by the Chapter. The Treasurer prepares the Chapter's monthly financial report rendered to the sponsoring department/post at a regular meeting. The Treasurer may not serve as signatory on other accounts within the Post.

SECTION 5.

Duties of Chapter Historian: The Chapter Historian shall be charged with the individual records and incidents of the chapter and Chapter members, and shall perform such other duties as may properly pertain to the office as may be determined by the Chapter or the Executive Committee.

SECTION 6.

Duties of the Chapter Chaplain: The 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 function, etcetera, and adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department headquarters from time to time.

SECTION 7.

Duties of Road Captain: The Road Captain shall plan all tours, runs, activities and events; lead the Chapter in formation riding or parades; arouse interest in activities, enforce all rules of safe motorcycle operation and group riding. Additionally, the Road Captain may select assistants to aid in special tasks and may chair appropriate activities committee as directed by the Chapter Director or Executive Committee.

SECTION 8.

Duties of the Safety Officer: The Safety Officer shall work closely with the Road Captain and Sergeant-at-Arms to maximize the safety of all participants in all events. The Safety Officer shall also prepare and present safety training or present a safety tip to the membership at every regular meeting and assist the Road Captain and treasurer with event planning and event insurance issues.

SECTION 9.

Duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms: The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order at meetings and gatherings; assist the Road Captain and Safety Officer 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.

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 ballot by the chapter at a regular meeting of the chapter to be held prior to the date of such event and conducted in the same manner, dates and location of sponsoring level meetings and convention.

ARTICLE VII – APPOINTMENTS

SECTION 1.

The Chapter Director immediately upon taking office 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 – 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 IX - NOTICES

SECTION 1.

Every member shall furnish the Chapter Adjutant with a valid email or 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 – RULES OF ORDER

SECTION 1.

All proceedings of this Chapter shall be conducted under and pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) except as herein otherwise provided.

ARTICLE XI – LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

SECTION 1.

This Chapter shall incur, or cause to be incurred, no liability nor obligation whatever which shall subject to liability The American Legion, the Departments, Divisions, Districts, or Posts thereof, or any other chapter, subdivisions, member(s), of the American Legion, or other individuals, corporations or organizations..

SECTION 2.

This Chapter shall take such steps necessary to secure appropriate event insurance for all organized rides, events, celebrations and functions undertaken under the name of the hosting post or department. Any two or more chapters supporting an event should contact District/Division riders Representative for proper support/sponsorship.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1.

These by-laws may be amended at any regular Chapter meeting by a vote of two-thirds 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.

SECTION 2.

Written or electronically transmitted notice to the addresses of record indicated in Article IX Section 1, shall have been given to all members at least five (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.

SECTION 3.

Any amendments will be reported to the sponsoring department or post and such amendments will not be effective until approved by the sponsoring department or post.

ARTICLE XIII – EXPULSION/SUSPENSION

SECTION 1.

Any member may be suspended or expelled by a majority vote of members at a regular chapter meeting.

SECTION 2.

Any member suspended or expelled by a vote of the Chapter may appeal the decisions to the Post Commander in writing within 60 days of the suspension/expulsion. The Post Commander, upon receipt of the member's written appeal, shall appoint two other Post Officers and these three will comprise the Appeal Panel. The Appeal Panel will review the member's appeal along with the motion made and voted on by the Chapter members regarding the suspended or expelled member and any other evidence they feel relevant. The decision of this Appeal Panel will be final.

ARTICLE XIV – WEARING OF CHAPTER VESTS

SECTION 1.

All members of this Chapter may wear a vest at all Chapter functions consisting of black leather with appropriate American Legion patches placed on the vest as may be agreed upon by the members and in accordance with all national, departmental, divisional, and post directives.

SECTION 2.

Members may wear such Chapter Vests at other functions such as tours, runs, parades, activities and other events wherein the Chapter is a participant rather than sponsor.

SECTION 3.

Members may **not** wear the Chapter Vest in support of political or religious causes, unlawful activities, or promoting any individual, group, organization or event that may cause disrepute upon the American Legion or any of its Districts, Departments, Divisions, Posts or this Chapter.

SECTION 4.

No member may wear the vest or "colors" of any other motorcycling club while participating as a member of this Chapter in any tours, runs, parades, activities or other events sponsored by or in which the Chapter is participating.

SECTION 5.

The Chapter Vest will display at least the following when worn by the member: An American flag patch on the upper left portion of the member's chest with a Texas flag patch directly below it. On the member's right upper chest a POW/MIA patch. Below that, a patch reading "Post 379" and "Bedford, TX" with the member's name or road name patch directly below the post patch. Underneath the name, any officer position held may be attached. Centered on the reverse or back, a large oval American Legion Rider's patch that will also contain the identifiers of "Post 379" at the top of the center patch and "Bedford, TX" and "Veteran" or "S.A.L" or "Auxiliary" at the bottom of the center patch. No patch or pin should touch this patch.

SECTION 6.

Members may wear other such patriotic, military or general motorcycling patches, pins, or ornamentations on the Chapter Vest as they desire, provided such items are in good taste. No "M/C" patch may be worn on the American Legion Rider's vest.



American Legion Riders Post 379, 12th District, 1st Division, Department of Texas



POST 379
Bedford, Texas

ARTICLE XV – DRESS CODE

SECTION 1.

All members will dress appropriately for the function being attended. As members of the American Legion, we represent the organization and therefore we will not dress in any fashion to bring disrepute upon The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion, or any Department, Division, District, Post or subdivision thereof.

SECTION 2.

On rides, Riders will dress in protective clothing to include boots, full length pants that are clean and free from holes and/or stains, a shirt with sleeves (no sleeveless shirts, tank tops or shirts with the sleeves cut off) or jacket (weather appropriate), gloves, eye protection and helmet.

SECTION 3.

T-shirts may be worn on rides provided they are in good taste and contain sleeves.

SECTION 4.

When attending general membership meetings of the post and/or Executive Committee meetings, an authorized Post Legion Garrison Cap must be worn – no baseball caps are permitted.

SECTION 5.

No baseball caps may be worn backwards or contain language that are in bad taste. Further, as former members of the military, we should be cognizant of the fact that no hats or “covers” should be worn while indoors. This includes the wearing of hats or “covers” while indoors at the post.

SECTION 6.

For more information on the official dress code and the proper wearing of the American Legion Riders Vest, please refer to Article XIV of the By-Laws.