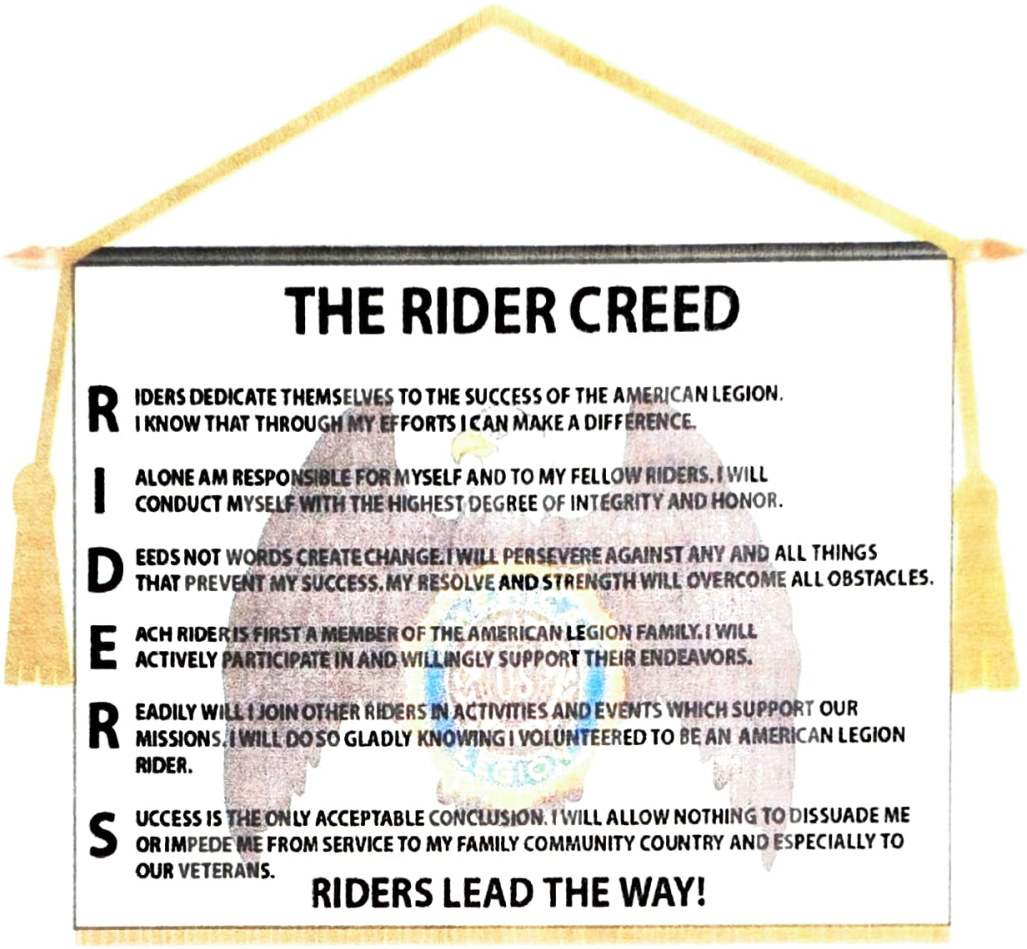
RIDERS

HANDBOOK

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
POST 573
HARKER HEIGHTS, TEXAS



CONTACT INFORMATION:

***Web Site*:**

***E-mail all members at*:**

(Chairman/Director) President: ALR573.President@gmail.com
(Vice Chairman)Vice President: ALR573.VicePresident@gmail.com
Secretary: ALR573.SEC@gmail.com
Sergeant At Arms: ALR573.SA@gmail.com
Treasurer: ALR573.TRES@gmail.com
Road Captain: ALR573.RC@gmail.com
J.A.G.: ALR573.JAG@gmail.com
Chaplain: ALR573.Chap@gmail.com

Facebook: Legion Riders Post 573 (open to public), ALR Post 573 Riders Information Page (private)

INTRODUCTION

The American Legion Riders Post 573 is sponsored by The American Legion Post 573, Jack D. Levy, of Harker Heights, Department of Texas.

We are members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion. We share a common interest of riding motorcycles and serving veterans, active duty military and our community. We are an association that promotes the aims and purposes of the American Legion.

We support those serving in uniform today through participation in deployment or homecoming ceremonies; we show respect to veterans on their final journey, escorts our fallen heroes, and support the families left behind. We also participate in community events and parades, ceremonies, help veterans in our communities, support VA facilities and coordinate flag lines and escorts for veterans' funerals upon request.

HISTORY

American Legion Riders started at Post 396 in Garden City, Michigan, in the fall of 1993. Chuck "Tramp" Dare and post commander Bill "Polka Bill" Kaledas had an idea to start an association of motorcycle enthusiasts within the Legion. The two Legionnaires, both longtime riders, wanted to create an environment where members of the Legion family could come together to share a common love for motorcycles. The Department of Michigan agreed with the concept and provided the two riders and 19 other founding members instructions on how to manage the program at the post level. The members of Post 396 soon adopted a resolution for a new program called the "American Legion Riders."

The American Legion recognized Garden City Post 396 as the "founding chapter" with a commemorative plaque in 2007.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 573 HISTORY

Post 573 American Legion Riders was inducted as a program of Jack D. Levy Post 573, Harker Heights Texas in 2003 by the membership. Originating from American Legion Post 223, Killeen Texas members.

ATTIRE

The American Legion Riders Post 573 prides itself to represent the American Legion family, showing respect at all times. Wearing the Riders vest is identifying the American Legion Post 573 in public and conduct should make the Post proud. There is no required attire for monthly meetings or activities. It is the rider's decision to wear the ALR vest. In some occasions, the membership may request the wearing of the official attire for an event or project. Refer to the Constitution and Bi-laws.

MEETINGS

A quorum (3 officers and 5 members) must be present to conduct a General Membership meeting.

A special meeting may be conducted with an appropriate quorum and must attempt to contact all officers before, during, and after.

Membership meetings will be monthly on the 4th Saturday of the month at 10:00 A.M., unless otherwise specified or quorum cannot be met. Meetings shall be held in the following manner.

- Meeting Called to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance Recited
- Riders Creed
- Roll-Call
- Minutes from prior meeting read. Minutes from Executive Board Read
- Treasurers Report given.
- Old Business
- New Business
- Closing

Elections: Held 4th Saturday of January during Rider General Membership Meeting.

Location: Jack D. Levy, American Legion Post 573, Legion Hall, 225 Cox Dr., Harker Heights, Texas

Executive Board Meeting: 2nd Saturday, 11:00 A.M.

Meeting Day/Time: 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 A.M.

Riders Social Day/Time: Wednesday of every week at 7:00 P.M.

Roberts Rules of Order. Simplified Guiding Principles:

- Everyone has the right to participate in discussion if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time.
- Everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times. Only urgent matters may interrupt a speaker.
- Only one thing (motion) can be discussed at a time.

MEMBERSHIP

In accordance to Constitution and Bylaws, Article 2, Section 1. Stipulations are as follows:

The following requirements must be adhered to for Potential Members/Members/Sponsors:

- Must be versed in ALR history, to include proper protocols when interacting with the motorcycle community. "Motorcycle 101"
- Be available to participate in AL and ALR 573 events.
- Must remain in good standing with American Legion.
- Must continue to support entity and riders.
- Current members in good standing, shall be inducted into Life Member status at such time Rider has been a member for ten years.
- At time of Life Member status, General Membership will vote Life Member in. PUFL.
- Life Member shall receive ALR 573 PUFL patch.

Any members previously granted privilege are not affected by this amendment

SPONSORS/NEW MEMBERS

(Reference ALR 573 Bylaws, Article II)

- All new Members will be assigned their sponsor by the Sgt. At Arms.
- All sponsors must be a member of ALR 573 and in good standing, for a minimum of 1 year.
- Ensure sponsorship documentation is current. New members need to complete the following: (2 events, 2 rides, 2 socials, and 1 entity meeting, and 1 ALR meeting).
- Be available to participate in AL and ALR 573 events.
- Completion of sponsorship paperwork will be given to the Sgt. At Arms for review. After review, information will be presented to the executive board for vote at the next General Membership Meeting.
- All dues and patches must be paid for within 30 Days of vote in.
- ALR 573 will pay for and supply top rocker. All new members are required to pay for any additional club related patches: Center, Bottom Tab, Flags, etc.
- Must remain in good standing with American Legion.
- Must continue to support entity and riders.
- If sponsor is not available, he/she must contact Sgt. At Arms, to inform them of unavailability to ensure new member has continued support.

DUES

Yearly dues are $30. Must be in good standings with parent entity (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons). Dues cutoff date is the last day of February, and can be paid as early as September 1st. If dues are not paid by Elections, you may not run nor vote in Rider Elections.

OFFICER POSITION

(Reference ALR 573, Bylaws Article VII)

Any member in good standing may run for an officer position. Must be a member in good standing for 18 Months to run for top 3 Officer positions. Any other officer positions must be a member in good standing for a minimum of 6 months. A member can hold up to two officer positions except President and Vice President. Sergeant at Arms is only member eligible to hold dual position as JAG. Should a situation arise that an Officer is unable to maintain their duties, the President may appoint any interim member regardless of membership time, to officer.

- President, Director, Chairman
- Vice-President, Vice Director, Vice Chairman
- Sgt. At Arms
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Jag
- Road Captain
- Chaplain

PROTOCOL

Members will use proper protocols when interacting with others, when in, and out of vest. Proper introductions to all personnel: Legionnaires, Motorcyclists, and all nonaffiliated individuals.

- Members: "Rider's Name", Officer Position", Post 573 American Legion Rider.
- Potential members: "Name" American Legionnaire, Auxiliary, or SONs Post 573.

***** The use of terms "hang around" and "prospect" are not authorized*****

*****These terms or any similar terms are not permitted due to: We are not to represent ourselves in a manner in which misrepresents the American Legion Riders as a motorcycle club.*****

Potential new members who meet the membership requirements are accepted by majority vote by General Membership.

Disqualifying factors are as follows but not limited to:

- If potential member has not fulfilled requirement to include sponsorship.
- Has become ineligible for any entity of the American Legion and/or its programs.
- Unsafe riding habits or conduct which will cause harm to others, negative representation to The American Legion or its entities, or conflict with any constitution, Bylaw, or SOP authorized by Post, National, or Department of which The American Legion Riders Post 573 reports to.

DISCIPLINARY

Case by case basis, depending upon severity. Process will begin with Sgt. At Arms, Jag, Executive Board, Membership. In accordance with ALR 573 Constitution and the Constitution of the Jack D. Levy Post 573 American Legion.

COMMITTEES (DELEGATE/ LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES)

Committees will be formed when necessary to complete tasks, and events, and disciplinary reviews as needed. The Vice President will be the overseer of committees formed throughout its completion, to help resolve issues that may arise. Vice President does not have structural or approving authority over the committee or its members. However, the Vice President can disband the committee or remove any of its members, if any violation of the Constitution, Bylaw, or SOP have been observed or reported (after a proper investigation). There will be a Committee Head, generally the originating member of the task or event, to be in charge of construction, collaboration, and organization of task, or event. Committee members may be determined by the Committee Head. Committee members for disciplinary review will consist of executive board members.

MOTORCYCLE GROUP RIDE GUIDELINES

Group motorcycle riding is a great experience when common sense, respect for other riders, and safety prevail.

Top-off your gas tank before you begin a ride. Bikes with small gas tanks have to stop more often. Decide before you begin when and where you will stop. Inform everyone of designated stops.

Group Riding Riders who choose to ride in a group must do just that, ride with the group.
If a navigational mistake is made (e.g., missed turn or exit), continue with the group until the error can be safely corrected. It is recommended to have a Ride Captain(s) travel the route prior to a run, thus, avoiding navigation mistakes.

ROAD CAPTAIN: The Road Captain is a fundamental part of any ride planning and is in charge of group rides. The Road Captain deals with the police and other unexpected surprises making sure everybody is safe and has fun. They will instruct any rider to ride in a specific position within the group or to leave the group entirely (misconduct, disorderly/unsafe riding faulty/unsafe equipment). Watch for their signals and follow their directions. The Road Captain will always be equipped with a cell phone, radio or other communication device. Have his/her number

.

They help educate new riders in hand signal and riding etiquette. Feel free to ask the Road Captain questions on all aspects of motorcycle riding and safety.

At each ride they may:

- Conduct pre-ride talks (pace of ride, road/weather conditions)
- Review the ride route (gas/rest/food stops)
- Appoint a sweep rider (Rear Safety) to ride at the rear
- Appoint a Mid Captain for large group rides

MID CAPTAIN: A Mid Captains responsibility is much the same as the Road Captain. In a large group scenario, Mid Captains are used to breaking up into smaller controllable sizes. Most often this is used while traveling in heavy traffic or in areas of multiple stop signs or lights. Smaller groups help the ride to be completed safely. Small groups will blend back in to the main group at different points of the ride. Mid Captains help prevent riders from speeding or otherwise using poor judgment in attempt to "keep up" with the main group.

REAR SAFETY: This very important position takes the "last" position in a group ride.

The Rear Safety communicates to the Ride Captain, using hand signals, the status of the group. (See hand signals Page) If the group becomes separated, the Rear Safety may move to the lead and becomes the Mid Captain for the entire group.

It is the Rear Safety's responsibility to oversee and communicate emergency situations appropriately so emergency help can be notified if necessary. The Rear Safety is equipped with a cell phone, radio or other communication device.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES: RIDE WITHIN YOUR OWN KNOWN SAFE CAPABILITIES

Participants in a group ride must be willing to follow basic and sensible rules to ensure the safety of all involved. If you are unwilling to follow the rules, do not participate in the group ride. Ride behind or separate and meet up with the group at stops.

Riders should know the basic hand signals (See hand signals Page) of group riding and "use them". Every rider has the capability and responsibility to use hand signals as necessary. It becomes your individual responsibility to signal to the other riders of hazards in the road.

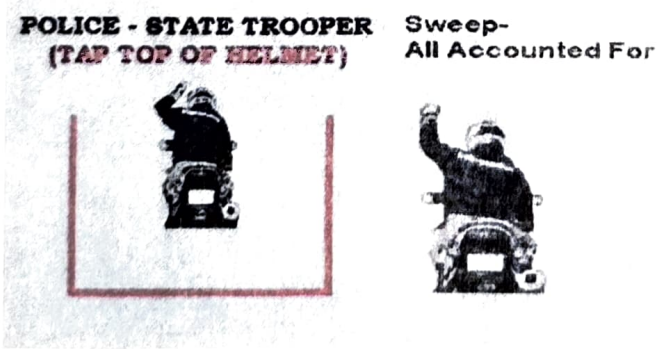
Any rider that is uncomfortable with the speed of the ride, should motion riders behind them to pass to take a forward position.

If the rider in front of you, signals of a road hazard, you are **obligated** to pass the signal on to riders behind you. All signals should be relayed by repeating the same hand signals on through the entire group at all times.

All riders are expected to be ready to ride (kickstands up) at the designated time with a full tank of fuel, empty bladder and appropriate clothing.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Do not consume alcohol or use drugs or medication that could impair your judgment, ability to ride, and the safety or yourself and others. If you have any concerns about a ride, talk to the Road Captain.

HAND SIGNAL GUIDE



FORMATION

- Two-up is the typical ride arrangement, however riding staggered is ALR 573 arrangement. Two-up signal will be given if we choose to ride that way.

- The more experienced rider should ride on the left. (Loud pipes on the right!)
- Maintain approximately two seconds between the rider directly ahead of you: weather and road conditions permitting.
- If a vehicle wants to break through the group on a multi-lane road, give them space to safely do so. **Close formation once the vehicle exits the lane. If the vehicle does not move, cautiously and carefully pass to reform. **
- Novice and inexperienced riders should ride mid-pack until they are comfortable riding in a group.
- The Ride Captain(s) or those who have ridden the route should ride up front.
- Experienced riders should also be the rear of the group, this is done to maintain order.
- Know hand signals, and pay attention to them.
- Maintain a steady pace with as few (dramatic) speeds changes or sudden moves as possible.
- Should a rider leave the formation, remaining riders should adjust.

***Alcohol consumption is the choice of the rider and must follow state laws for safe operation of a vehicle. The American Legion & American Legion Riders assumes *NO* responsibility for impaired driving. ***

***The Sergeant at Arms and The Road Captain reserves the right to remove any rider from the formation if he/she feels they are a risk to the safety of the riders. ***

ACCIDENTS

- In the event of an accident, pull over with the group, in a safe location. Road Captain will determine when and where he needs people to assist. Do not panic stop or rush to the scene. This may cause more problems.
- Do not move an injured person or remove their helmet.
- Call emergency response
- Direct traffic if needed until authorities arrive.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

If the police stop the group, the Ride Captain should lead the group to a safe place. Riders should stay in formation (by or on their motorcycle). Allow the officer to come to you. The Sergeant at Arms or the Ride Captain should be the only one who approaches the officer and should promptly identify him/herself.

This document is provided for your informational purpose to understand the ALR program. We are a Veteran Club with a motorcycle problem. Thank you for your support to the American Legion and the American Legion Rider's.

RIDER'S LEAD THE WAY...ASCENSORES DUCERE VIAM