



AMVETS
Riders of Wisconsin, Inc.
Constitution & By-Laws

AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. Constitution

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AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. Constitution

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. and shall be hereinafter referred to as the Riders.

Article II: Mission Statement

We the AMVETS RIDERS are a dedicated and patriotic group of motorcycle riders who hold true to an unwavering respect for our Nation, our Flag, and our Military... past, present and future. We are committed to the freedom of this Nation, to provide community service and fellowship, and to preserve and support the aims and goals of the AMVETS National Organization

Article III: Aims

This Organization is formed for furthering the Aims and Purposes of AMVETS.

1. Be positive and assertive in forming Chapters and Department Riders.
2. Be active in support of all our Veterans and Communities through fund raising and volunteer work.

Article IV: Department Organization

- 4.1** The AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. will consist of a State set of Officers elected by the members of the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. Officers which may be appointed by the State President and approved by the S.E.C.
- 4.2** The AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin will consist of Districts identical in geographical areas to the AMVETS, Department of Wisconsin Districts. These Districts will report directly to the State AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. and will be subject to the National Constitution, By-Laws, State Constitution and a/By-laws and the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. application.
- 4.3** The AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. shall be under the direct control of the Department of Wisconsin AMVETS Riders Department President and the AMVETS Department of Wisconsin Executive Committee. Nothing contained in this constitution and By-Laws section shall in any way remove the jurisdiction given to National or National AMVETS Riders.
- 4.4.** Each AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. District shall be under the direct jurisdiction of AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. Each District shall be known and identified by the District in which its Post is in.
- 4.5.** The AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc shall be governed by the officers chosen in accordance with the State Constitution and By-laws and will annually revalidate its charter to the National and

State Departments as decided by its membership. Aside from any other requirements imposed by the Department or National Constitution and By-laws, the State shall:

- 4.5 (a)** Furnish National and the Department of Wisconsin with a certified list of its current State Officers. The Districts shall provide the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. with a list of its current officers no later than May 31 of each year.
- 4.5 (b)** Furnish National with a current copy of the State's adopted Constitution and By-laws for approval.
- 4.5 (c)** Be fully paid up in all accounts with National and the Department.
- 4.6.** Departments and sole Chapters shall within thirty (30) days of notice surrender their Charters resulting from disciplinary or voluntary action, close all Bank accounts and deliver to the National AMVETS Riders all Records, property, and assets, in accordance with Local and State Laws.
- 4.7** The AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin Inc. is a non-profit organization under IRS code 501(c)(19), and its members shall donate their time and energy to help promote AMVETS aims and objectives.

Article V: Membership

- 5.1.** Membership in the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. shall be limited to members in good standing of AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of AMVETS.
- 5.2.** Members must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle or the spouse of the legally registered owner within the state of registration.
- 5.3.** Only members in good standing with current valid membership may hold a State or District Office in the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc.
- 5.4.** Members must show, prior to processing of their application for membership, a current valid AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, or Sons of AMVETS membership card, a valid state driver's license with a motorcycle endorsement and a valid state motorcycle registration. The member's name must appear on the registration to be considered as an AMVETS Rider.
- 5.5** At no time will the Department or District record or copy any items listed in Article 5.3. Security of the Riders personal data shall be maintained.
- 5.6.** Members will pay an annual membership fee as determined by the By-laws.
- 5.7.** There shall be no honorary memberships for AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc..

Article VI: State Officers

- 6.1.** Elected officers of the State shall consist of a President, a 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sgt-at-Arms, Parliamentarian, Historian and Chaplain.
- 6.2.** Nominations and elections of officers shall be held annually as prescribed in the By-laws of the State.

Article VII: Executive Committee

- 7.1.** The elected officers of the State, the immediate Past President and all District Presidents, shall constitute the State Executive Committee.
- 7.1 (a)** This committee will be charged with the administrative affairs and property of the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc.
- 7.1 (b)** This committee shall formulate the policies of the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc and present them to the membership for approval.
- 7.1 (c)** Only members of the Executive Board shall vote, make and second motions.
- 7.1 (d)** All Riders members, in good standing, may attend Executive Committee meetings but without a vote.

Article VIII: Meetings

- 8.1.** Meetings shall be scheduled by the Department and Districts
- 8.2.** Meetings will be conducted according to the National, Department and District By-Laws and in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

Article XIX: Riders Supporters

- 9.1** The AMVETS Riders will recognize a Subsidiary Group of Individuals hereafter to be known as AMVETS Riders' Supporters. These Subsidiary Groups MAY only form where there is an existing Chartered Chapter of AMVETS Riders.
- 9.2** Supporters must be a Member of AMVETS, Ladies Auxiliary, or Sons of AMVETS.
- 9.3** Supporters uniforms and insignia shall be consistent with Article XIII of the AMVETS Riders National By-Laws with the addition of Supporter Patches Worn beneath the 3" AMVETS, Auxiliary, or Sons patch on the top right side of the official Vest along with the 8" AMVETS Riders patch on the rear and a square patch containing the letters RSW standing for "Riders Supporter Wisconsin" worn on the rear and centered on the bottom of said vest.
- 9.4** Supporters shall not be grandfathered under the Uniform Section of the Riders By-Laws, and their Uniforms shall comply to the Riders National Constitution and By-Laws by January 1, 2009

Article X: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by resolution at any State meeting. Proposed Amendments shall be submitted, in writing, to the Executive committee for its review and presentation at the annual meeting. Copies of proposed amendments shall be available to all Rider members at least ten (10) days prior to the vote. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting shall be required to amend this constitution. Copies of all adopted amendments shall be forwarded to the Department Judge Advocate for his/her review within thirty (30) days after their adoption. The Department Judge Advocate shall forward the approved

copies to State and National Headquarters for placement in the permanent Riders file. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters not specifically covered in the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization.

AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. By-Laws

ARTICLE I: Organizational Structure

- 1.1** The AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. is a non-profit organization under IRS code 501C (19), and its members shall donate their time and energy to help promote our aims and objectives.
- 1.2** The organization will consist of a State Organization with Districts, correlating with the eight (8) Districts of the Department of Wisconsin AMVETS, under the State Organizations direction. Any new Districts will automatically be absorbed into the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc and covered by these By-Laws as they are formed.

ARTICLE II: Membership Requirements

- 2.1** Membership in the National AMVETS Riders shall be limited to members in good standing of AMVETS, AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, and Sons of AMVETS.
- 2.2** Members must be the legally registered owner of a motorcycle or be the spouse of the legally registered owner within the state of registration.
- 2.3** Members must show for membership application a valid State Drivers License with a Motorcycle endorsement, a valid State Motorcycle Registration, and proof of insurance meeting State and Federal Regulations to the District President and one other elected officer in charge of membership. Spouses will be considered the same as Riders.
- 2.4** At no time will National, any Department or District record or copy any items listed in Article 2-3. Security of riders' personal data shall be maintained.
- 2.5** There will be no HONORARY memberships in National, Departments or Districts of the AMVETS Riders.
- 2.6** Members who become disabled while a valid member and can no longer ride a motorcycle shall be considered a member of this Organization.

ARTICLE III: Back Patch

- 3.1** Full membership will be gained immediately after satisfactory verification. Qualified applicants will be entitled to an AMVETS Riders back patch. Said 8" back patch, 3" front patch and American Flag will be issued by the Rider's State 1st Vice President. Upon receiving your patches:

- “Supporter” patches will be the AMVETS 8” patch with the words “Riders Supporter” added at the bottom.
- No patches will be worn on or above your back patch.

3.2 AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc vests are required to contain the following patches:

- The American flag patch on left chest (over heart). *Nothing such as pins, patches, etc., will be worn on or above the American flag.*
- State Flag or State Shield or appropriate AMVETS Riders Department banner may be placed below the American Flag.
- POW/MIA patch can be worn on the right side but should not be higher than the American Flag on left side.
- The 3” AMVETS, AMVETS Auxiliary or Sons of AMVETS patch will be worn on the right chest.
- State & District Officer rockers will be worn directly below the 3” AMVETS family patch on the front of your vest.
- No dual Organization Patches, i.e. HOG, Rotary, Goldwing Riders, Patriot Guard, Lions, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, etc will be worn on the vests.

3.3 Patches can be subject to immediate recall from any member who brings discredit to AMVETS, AMVETS Auxiliary, Sons of AMVETS, the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. or through lack of participation in AMVETS or AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. activities. Any action taken will be at the sole discretion of the State Executive Committee.

3.4 At all public functions attended by AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. the uniform will be black pants, clean and in good repair, Riders red dress shirt short or long sleeve which bears the AMVETS Riders logo, black shoes, appropriate AMVETS Riders beret with 2” Riders patch and Riders black leather vest. For District meetings the membership may adopt a “*come as you are*” policy. The required wear would be your AMVETS Riders vest and an AMVETS Riders cover.

3.5 At all AMVETS events/runs members shall not be permitted to wear/display colors from another organization. They agree to display only the approved AMVETS Riders logo or wear an unadorned garment. Wearing the colors affiliated with any other rider organization is automatic grounds for disqualification from participation in this AMVETS sponsored event/run.

3.6 There are to be no derogatory patches, patches containing foul language or patches that can be construed in more than one (1) way thereby giving it a derogatory connotation located anywhere on a members vest. No support patches other than for a military unit are allowed. Your vest is a reflection of you, your Chapter and State Organization. Our goal is to make it impressive.

3.7 The AMVETS Riders logo may not be altered, adorned or defaced.

3.8 The purchase of vests, jackets, shirts, additional clothing insignias, etc. will be at the expense of the individual member.

ARTICLE IV: State Officers

- President

- 1st Vice-President
- 2nd Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Parliamentarian
- Sergeant at Arms
- Chaplain

ARTICLE V: State Elections

Elections of State Rider Officers will be held annually at such time as determined by the general membership. Eligibility to hold a State Riders Officer's position shall require the candidate to be a full member, in good standing, for a minimum of one year.

ARTICLE VI: Duties of State Officers

- **State President** – will oversee all areas of the organization. To appoint officers and committees as designated in the Department Constitution and By-laws. To chair all meetings; to ensure that all committees, programs, and events are operated in accordance with the Department Constitution and By-laws. To be a non-voting member ex-officio of each committee.
- **State 1st Vice-President – Membership** – To keep accurate membership records of the Organization. To ensure that all monies collected through memberships or renewals is forwarded immediately to the Treasurer. To facilitate incentives and drives, to ensure continued growth throughout the Department. To make a report at each general membership meeting of the current, up to date, standings and to forward this report to the Secretary for inclusion in the meeting minutes as well as Department reports. Perform other duties as assigned by the Riders Executive Committee or the President.
- **2nd Vice President – District Coordinator/Historian** – To work with the Districts in arranging events and setting needed committees in place to ensure that all events/runs are completed. Coordinate with sponsors and suppliers for all needs. Work with records of matters or current and historical interest to the Districts and its membership. Will compile and preserve a permanent record of the State guiding the footsteps of those who follow. The 2nd Vice President will also make a point of knowing what District Historians are doing. The 2nd Vice President should attend all meetings of the State Riders Executive Committee. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Riders Executive Committee or the President.
- **State Secretary** - Shall keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings at the meetings. To act as the official point of contact between the Riders Executive Board and the Districts. To handle all correspondence received and sent by the Riders Executive Board. To pass communications promptly to the respective recipient as needed. To maintain files for the organization. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Riders Executive Committee or the President.
- **State Treasurer** - shall keep accurate records of all financial transactions and organization monies. To ensure that all monies are deposited as directed by the Riders Executive Committee. All receipts, transaction slips and checks will be kept on file and turned over to the appointed audit committee upon request. Copies of all transactions will be maintained by the Treasurer. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Riders Executive Committee or the President.

- **State Sergeant at Arms** - shall maintain order at all meetings, events and runs. To post and retire the colors when called upon to do so. To ensure that all AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. members are in compliance with the uniform requirements as outlined in Article IV. To perform other duties as may be assigned by the Riders Executive Committee or the President.
- **Parliamentarian** - shall advise the officers and members on parliamentary, constitution and by-laws matters. To perform other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee or the State President.
- **State Chaplain** - shall offer comfort and solace to our members in their time of need. To offer an opening and closing prayer at all State Executive Board meetings, events and runs. Maintain contact and assist all District Chaplains. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the State Executive Committee or the State President.

ARTICLE VII: State Executive Committee

The Riders State Executive Committee will be comprised of all current State Officers, all District Presidents and all, participating, past State Presidents.

ARTICLE VIII: District Officers

- President
- 1st Vice-President
- 2nd Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Parliamentarian
- Sergeant at Arms
- Road Captain(s)
- Historian
- Chaplain

ARTICLE IX: District Elections

Elections of District Officers will be held annually such time as determined by the District membership

ARTICLE X: Duties Of District Officers

- **District President** - To oversee all areas of the local District. To appoint Officers and committees as designated in the By-Laws. To chair all District meetings. To ensure that all committees, programs and events are operated in accordance with the By-Laws and does not violate the Department or National Constitutions, By-Laws and Policy & Procedures Manuals. To be a non-voting ex-officio member of each committee.
- **District 1st Vice-President - Membership** – To keep accurate membership records of the District. To ensure that all monies collected through memberships or renewals is forwarded immediately to the Treasurer. To facilitate incentives and drives, to ensure continued growth throughout the

District. To make a report at each general membership meeting of the current, up to date, standings and to forward this report to the Secretary for inclusion in the meeting minutes as well as District reports. Perform other duties as assigned by the District President.

- **District 2nd Vice President - Run/Event Coordinator** – To arrange events and set needed committees in place to ensure that all events/runs are completed. Plan the event/run with the help of a selected committee. To ensure credentials are checked prior to each even/run. To ensure registration and/or waiver forms are completed, signed and secured in a safe place during each event/run. Coordinate with sponsors and suppliers for all needs. To ensure that all event/run participants have copies of designated rules as applicable. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the District President.
- **District Secretary** - Shall keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings at the meetings. To act as the official point of contact between the Executive Board and your District. To handle all correspondence received and sent. To pass communications promptly to the respective recipient as needed. To maintain files for the organization. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the District President.
- **District Treasurer** - shall keep accurate records of all financial transactions and District monies. To ensure that all monies are deposited as directed by the District. All receipts, transaction slips and checks will be kept on file and turned over to the appointed audit committee upon request. Copies of all transactions will be maintained by the Treasurer. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the District President.
- **Parliamentarian** - shall advise the District officers and members on parliamentary, constitution and by-laws matters. To perform other duties as may be assigned by the District President.
- **District Sergeant at Arms** - shall maintain order at all District meetings, events and runs. To post and retire the colors when called upon to do so. To ensure that all AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin members are in compliance with the uniform requirements as outlined in Article V (A). To perform other duties as may be assigned by the District President. The District Sgt-At Arms shall also assist the State Sgt-At-Arms when requested to do so.
- **District Road Captain(s)** – shall assist the 2nd Vice President in coordination dates, times, routes and meeting places for those taking part in an activity, event or run. They will take charge and institute whatever measures are necessary to insure the safety of the group. It is further suggested that all District Road Captains successfully complete a recognized Motorcycle Safety/First Aid course and provide copies of their successful completion to the 2nd Vice President to be maintained as a permanent record.

District Historian - shall work with records of matters of current and historical interest to the District and its membership. Will compile and preserve a permanent record of the District, guiding the footsteps of those who follow. The Historian will also make a point of knowing what Historians in neighboring Districts are doing. The Historian should attend all meetings of the District and State Executive Committee. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the District President.

- **District Chaplain** - shall offer comfort and solace to our members in their time of need. To offer an opening and closing prayer at all District meetings, events and runs. To notify the Secretary of the need to send a card of sympathy or get well wishes to those members or their families in need. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the District President.

ARTICLE XI: Meetings/Activities

- 11.1** State meetings will be held as determined by the current State Riders Executive Committee.
- 11.2** District meetings will be held as determined by the District membership.
- 11.3** All meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order.
- 11.4** Any activities, use of the AMVET Riders of Wisconsin, Inc name or AMVETS Riders logo that a District intends to participate in or use must be pre-approved by and in accordance with the guidelines of the State Riders Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XII: Finances

The total annual dues of this organization shall be \$20.00 per member with the membership year being from June 1 to May 31. Dues for the coming year will be accepted starting March 1. Annual dues must accompany all applications.

All new application monies will be deposited in the State Riders General Fund. Renewal applications for formalized Districts will be split with 1/2 going to the State Riders general fund and 1/2 going to the members District general fund.

All fund raising activities must be approved in advance by the State Riders Executive Committee along with the Department Judge Advocate. All fund raising activities must be in complete compliance with the Department of Wisconsin and the National Constitution Bylaws, rules and regulations.

ARTICLE XIII: Expulsion

- 12.1** Members may be suspended or expelled for any of the following reasons;
- Failure to comply with obligations as imposed on the members under these bylaws.
 - Any conduct unbecoming an AMVETS Rider that reflects unfavorably on AMVETS, AMVETS Auxiliary or Sons of AMVETS and the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc.
 - Membership received by means of fraud or misrepresentation
- 12.2** Any member who receives disciplinary action by their parent Organization shall be subject to the same action under the AMVETS Riders of Wisconsin, Inc. up to and including expulsion. These measures may be taken upon the findings of a Hearing conducted by the Riders' Organization.
- 12.3** A member may be expelled or suspended from the Organization only by action of the State Riders Executive Committee, at which time the back patch, 3" front patch and flag patch must be immediately returned to the respective District who will return it to the State 1st Vice President.

ARTICLE XIV: Changes/Amendments

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at a Department Convention by a two-third (2/3) vote of the total authorized voting members present.

This Constitution and By-Laws have been adopted on December 12th, 2008 by said 2/3rd's majority vote of the members present and shall supersede any previous By-Laws.