



The American Legion

Riddle – Hutcheson Post 0077

Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

CONSTITUTION

**This Constitution supersedes
any previously dated Post 0077 Constitution in its entirety.**

PREAMBLE

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I - Name

Section 1. The name of this Arkansas Corporation shall be Riddle – Hutcheson Post 77, The American Legion (AL), Department of Arkansas.

ARTICLE II – Objective and Purpose

Section 1. The objectives and purposes of AL Post 77 shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the foregoing preamble, and the National and Departmental Constitutions of The American Legion.

ARTICLE III - Nature

Section 1. AL Post 77 is a civilian organization and membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service.

Section 2. AL Post 77 shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

Section 3. Rank does not exist in The American Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military rank or title in any meeting of this Post.

ARTICLE IV - Membership

Section 1. Eligibility to membership in AL Post 77 shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion.

Section 2. Application for membership shall be made in writing under such regulations as may from time to time be prescribed by the Post Executive Committee.

Section 3. All applications for membership shall be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting and then be acted upon at the next Post meeting following the making of such application.

- a) Should the Executive Committee find that acceptance of the member's application for membership is questionable, the Executive Committee shall determine, by majority vote of those present, what further action is to be taken.
- b) If a majority of the Executive Committee members cast their vote against the acceptance of said application, then such application shall be recorded as rejected.

Section 4. Any member of AL Post 77 may be expelled for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee after charges are brought in writing, and a fair hearing had upon the same.

- a) The Member shall have the right to personally appear before the Executive Committee in defense of any charges.
- b) Before proceeding under this section, the Post Adjutant shall insure that no Department or National Constitution or By-Laws is violated or has provided a different procedure, which should be followed.
- c) When a member is expelled, the member will be informed about appeal procedure.

Section 5. A member who has been expelled or suspended from this Post for any cause may be reinstated to membership by a two-thirds vote of the membership present in a Post meeting, and with the payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs.

Section 6. No person who has been expelled by any American Legion Post shall be admitted to membership in AL Post 77, and shall be ineligible for membership, until such permission is granted. The Post Executive Committee shall review each such case on its merits and will not grant membership permission without one of the following:

- a) The consent of the expelling Post and acceptance of this Post, or
- b) The member has asked the expelling Post for admittance which was denied, and application has been received, reviewed, and accepted by this Post, or
- c) An appeal has been made to the Department of Arkansas Executive Committee for permission to apply for membership in AL Post 77, and application has been received, reviewed, and accepted by the Executive Committee of AL Post 77.

ARTICLE V - Officers

Section 1. The officers of AL Post 77 shall be a commander, two vice-commanders, an adjutant, a finance officer, a Post historian, a Post chaplain, Post service officer and a Sergeant-at-arms, and such other Post officers as may be deemed necessary by this organization, who shall be nominated from the floor as defined in the AL Post 77 By-Laws.

- a) Every member of this Post in good standing shall be eligible to hold office in this Post.
- b) All post officers shall be elected annually, and they shall hold office until their successors are duly installed or as otherwise provided.
- c) The duties of officers and the executive committee shall be those usually appertaining to such officers or committee and as further provided in the By-Laws.

- d) At a special meeting called for such occasion, with a calendar two-week notice to all Executive Committee members, any officer or Standing Committee Chair may be removed for inefficiency by the Executive Committee. For this purpose, a majority of those voting members present at the Executive Committee Special Meeting being necessary to effect such removal.

ARTICLE VI - Administration

Section 1. The administrative affairs of AL Post 77 shall, except as may be otherwise provided by the By-Laws, be under the supervision of an Executive Officer Committee (EOC) which shall consist of all elected officers of the post plus Committee Chair, or Representative, of any and all standing committees and programs of the post.

- a) The term of office of members of the Executive Officer Committee (EOC) shall be for one year and shall be of the same time period as the elected officers holding positions on this committee.
- b) All elected EOC members of the post shall have one vote on EOC actions.

Section 2. This Post, by its By-Laws, may provide for or add such standing committees as the business of the organization may require.

- a. Standing Committees shall consist of members and the chair thereof. The Committee Chair may be either elected by the Standing Committee members or as preferred or designated by the Post Commander. Committee officer selectees will be presented to the newly installed Post Commander for approval and installation.
- b. The Post commander, immediately upon taking office each year, shall confirm Standing Committee selectees or appoint suitable officers and formally install the new Standing Committee leadership at the same regular membership meeting and immediately following installation of Post officers.
- c. Officers of any committee formed during the year shall be obtained from within the committee and formally appointed by the Post Commander.
- d. The Standing Committee Chair shall attend all EOC meetings and give reports and briefings as required, but shall have no vote on EOC actions.

ARTICLE VII - Finance

Section 1. The revenue of this Post shall be derived from membership or initiation fees, from annual membership dues, and from such other sources as may be approved by the Post Executive Committee (EOC).

Section 2. The amount of such membership or initiation fees and the amount of such annual Post dues shall be fixed by vote of the post membership as further defined in the Post Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Section 3. The Post shall pay to Departmental headquarters the National and Departmental annual membership dues for every member of the Post.

ARTICLE VIII – Charter Members

Section 1. Members who joined AL Post 77 prior to the issuance of its charter shall be known as charter members.

ARTICLE IX – American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)

Section 1. This Post recognizes an auxiliary organization to be known as the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), Unit 77 of Riddle – Hutcheson Post 77, The American Legion.

Section 2. Membership in the Auxiliary shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.

ARTICLE X – Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Section 1. This Post recognizes a component program organization to be known as the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), Squadron 77 of Riddle – Hutcheson Post 77, The American Legion.

Section 2. An elected or appointed member representative of the SAL functions as the SAL Standing Committee Chair being liaison and member of the Post Executive Officer Committee (EOC).

Section 3. Membership in the SAL shall be as prescribed and outlined by National, SAL Eligibility Requirements.

ARTICLE XI – American Legion Riders (ALR)

Section 1. This Post recognizes a component program to be known as the American Legion Riders (ALR), Chapter 77, of Riddle – Hutcheson Post 77, The American Legion.

- a) The ALR is formed as a Post Program to promote the aims and purposes of The American Legion as a family oriented motorcycling activity for its members.
- b) The ALR upholds the declared principles of The American Legion as well as conforms to and abides by the regulations and decisions of the department, post, or other duly constituted governing body.
- c) Members of the ALR avoid any perception of being a motorcycle or “biker” club or gang. Rather, the focus of membership is for the enjoyment of motorcycles and comradeship and furthering Legion programs in the community.
- d) The ALR will improve the public’s perception of the motorcycling community by promoting the honorable nature of service to one’s community, state and nation through the sport of motorcycling. Members consistently display the ideal that the ALR is comprised of “legionnaires and family members who ride and enjoy motorcycles” not “bikers who are veterans”.

- e) The Post ALR Chapter shall operate under the Post Constitution, By-Laws, and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which is appropriately amended to govern actions specific to the Riders Program. Or, in the case of no SOP established at the post as preferred by the Post Commander, the Post ALR Chapter will establish its own Constitution and By-Laws subordinate to the AL Post 77 Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. ALR membership is open to all members in good standing of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The Sons of The American Legion known as "The American Legion Family"

Section 3. An elected or appointed member representative of the ALR, usually the Director, functions as the ALR Standing Committee Chair being liaison and non-voting member of the Post Executive Officer Committee (EOC). This ALR representative shall attend all meetings of the EOC, or request a temporary replacement when necessary, and shall make the appropriate reports as required by AL Post 77 By-Laws.

ARTICLE XII - Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the national Constitution of The American Legion and of the Department Constitution of the Department of Arkansas, The American Legion. Any amendment to said National Constitution or Department Constitution, which is in conflict with any provisions hereof, shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying the provisions of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.

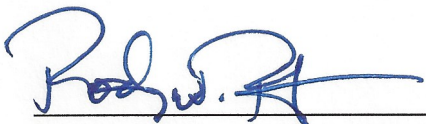
Section 2. This Constitution may be amended at any regular Post meeting by majority vote of the members attending such regular meeting, providing:

- a) The proposed amendment shall have been prepared in writing and read at the two preceding regular meetings of the AL Post 77 membership vote, of and
- b) Written notice shall have been given to all members at least 30 days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted upon.



Raymond E. Brust, Post 77 Commander

Date: 7/1/2015



Rodney Robinson, Post 77 Adjutant

Date: 7/1/2015