

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Rick Johnson, Department Commander



WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

- The action of leading a group of people or an organization.
- Leadership is a process whereby an individual influences a group of individuals to achieve a common goal.
- Seek to understand before you seek to be understood?



LEADERSHIP DEFINED BY OTHERS

- A leader is a person who has the ability to get other people to do what they don't want to do, and like it. *Harry Truman*
- Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he/she wants to do it. *Dwight Eisenhower*
- Leadership is like moving a string across a table - you pull, not push. *Dwight Eisenhower*
- Delegating work works, provided the one delegating works, too. *Robert Half*
- Individuals either seek, accept, or avoid responsibilities. Know who fits these categories in your organization and work with them accordingly. *CW4 Charles Linderman*



LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

- SHOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORGANIZATION.
- SHOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES.
- SHOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL PROGRAMS.
- SHOULD KNOW BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO THE ORGANIZATION.
- SHOULD HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH THE ORGANIZATION HAVING WORKED AS COMMITTEE CHAIR, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, ETC.
- SHOULD ATTEND ORGANIZATIONAL WORKSHOPS & TRAINING SESSIONS.
- SHOULD KNOW WHERE TO GET ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.
- SHOULD BE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY DIRECT, PLAN, ORGANIZE, COORDINATE, AND COMMUNICATE WITH ORGANIZATION'S OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.



LEADERSHIP PRINCIPALS

- Be knowledgeable and seek self-improvement.
- Impart your knowledge to others with training and mentoring.
- Set the vision, direction, and objectives for the organization.
- Set realistic goals and priorities to achieve those objectives.
- Seek responsibility and be accountable for your actions.
- Set the example.
- Plan well to conduct effective, productive meetings.
- Make sound and timely decisions.
- Keep your organization informed, as appropriate.
- Fully engage your organization, and listen to your members.



THE POST COMMANDER

- Power is Limited by CBL (Constitution & By Laws)
- Not the King – No Disciplinary Power
- Supervises Officers
- Appoints Committees
- Controls Agenda
- Conducts Meetings



TYPES OF POST COMMANDERS

- Does Everything
- The Only one willing to serve
 - Also runs the bar
- His wife is the Unit Commander
- Can't get anyone interested in helping



THE PERFECT POST COMMANDER

- Experienced Leader
- Knows how to conduct meetings
- Uses an agenda
- Supervises his officers and committee chairs
- Trains his replacement
- Participates in community and civic functions
- Ensures Legion programs are implemented



APPLY DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPALS

- Post Members Rule
- Post Members Present Ideas
- Members Elect Leaders
- Checks and Balances
- Members are equal
- Impartiality and Fairness
- Equal Justice
- Majority Rules
- Spirit of Openness



**ARE YOU READY FOR A
LEADERSHIP ROLE??**



DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN

- Charged with the overall supervision of the Committee and the American Legion Riders program in the Department of Florida, reporting directly to the Department Commander and the Department Executive Committee.
- Sets the agenda for three scheduled meetings of the Committee.
- Monitors to ensure all Areas, District, and Chapters are following the rules and procedures as set forth by the Department.
- Monitors to ensure all functions participated in by the ALR Chapters are within the guidelines set forth by the Department of Florida and the National Organization.
- Monitors to ensure that the good name of The American Legion is not tarnished in any way by actions of American Legion Riders or Legion Rider Chapters that could be perceived as detrimental to our image in our community.
- Monitors to ensure the motto "Legion Family First, Rider Second" is instilled in every Chapter.
- Monitors to ensure all necessary reports to the Department Commander and Department Executive Committee are submitted promptly.
- Submit annual budget forecast by May 15th of each year.



AREA CHAIRMAN

- Shall assume the duties of the ALR Chairman in his/her absence at the instruction of the Department Commander or Department Executive Committee.
- Shall make reports to the ALR Chairman before the Fall Conference, ALR Summit, and the Department Convention. Reports should cover all aspects of Chapter membership, recruitment, social events, mileage, hours and funds expended in support of community events and programs, training and any other information for the good of the American Legion Riders.
- Monitor to ensure all Chapters are following the rules and procedures as set forth by the Department of Florida.
- Responsible for ensuring the administration, operation, safety of the Chapters and following guidelines set forth by the Department of Florida and the National Organization in their area.
- Visit ALR Chapters within their area regularly.
- Provide advice and assistance to Posts within their area that wish to start an ALR Chapter in conjunction with the Committee New Chapter Development Officer.
- Represent ALR Chapters within their area at all Committee meetings.



DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

- Shall make reports to the Area Chairman before the Fall Conference, ALR Summit, and the Department Convention. Reports should cover all aspects of Chapter membership, recruitment, social events, mileage, hours and funds expended in support of community events and programs, training and any other Information for the good of The American Legion.
- Monitor to ensure all ALR Chapters are following the rules and procedures as set forth by the Department of Florida.
- Ensure the administration, operation, and safety of the ALR Chapters in their district and following guidelines set forth by the Department of Florida and The National Organization
- Visit ALR Chapters within their District regularly.
- Provide advice and assistance to Posts within their District that wish to start an ALR Chapter in conjunction with the Committee New Chapter Development Officer.
- Represent ALR Chapters within their District at all Committee meetings.



CHAPTER DIRECTOR

- Serves as Chief Administrative Officer of the Chapter and presides over all meetings
- Serves as liaison to the Executive Committee of sponsoring Post.
- Supervises all affairs of the Chapter.
- Coordinates with other ALR Officers at the Chapter, District, Area, and Department level
- Submits reports as required by the sponsoring Post, District, and Department



A SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZATION

- The difference between a successful organization and one that is not, can usually be attributed to leadership.
- The individual capabilities of the people in any organizations are the same, whether in a military unit, business, volunteer organization, or anything else.
- What separates the good, the bad, and the ugly are attributes such as vision, culture, communications, goals, integrity, knowledge, training, and accountability, to name a few important qualities.



QUESTIONS??

