



Constitution & Bylaws

Pride Rides Wisconsin LTD

Article I. Preamble

Recognizing that many LGBTQ+ motorcycle riders don't feel welcome or accepted within traditional riding groups or clubs, **Pride Rides Wisconsin LTD** was founded to give LGBTQ+ bikers and their Allies a safe setting to be free, and ride proud. All people, and all bikes, are welcome to participate in group activities.

Article II. Name

The name of the organization shall be **Pride Rides Wisconsin LTD**. The organization may also represent itself as **Pride Rides**, or **PRW**, in all correspondence, and hereafter within this document.

Article III. Mission Statement

Pride Rides Wisconsin (PRW) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit social and educational organization that provides a safe and inclusive space for LGBTQ+ motorcycle riders and allies to participate in group rides together. Events organized by PRW typically benefit or raise awareness of other charitable causes within the LGBTQ+ community.

Article IV. Membership

PRW is a non-membership corporation. The only membership shall consist of the Officers of the Executive Board. Events are always public, and do not require membership to attend. Hereafter, the term "Member" refers to an individual who participates in PRW activities, but does not carry the statutory rights or fiduciary duties of a stakeholder or member in a member-owned corporation.

- a. **Pride Rides is committed to equal opportunity** for all persons regardless of race, age, ancestry, religion, national origin, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other issue typically used to separate and disenfranchise us. All people are welcome, provided they support the LGBTQ-centered and inclusive environment Pride Rides is focused on creating.
- b. **All bikes are allowed** – there are no manufacturer, size, or style requirements to ride with us. The only restrictions shall be based on the safety requirements of each individual ride or event.
- c. **Safety first!** All members and participants are required to carry their own valid operating licenses, insurance, and any other legal requirements or restrictions to be met of their own accord. All participants in events or rides do so at solely their own risk and liability.
- d. **Dues are not required**, but fees may be assessed for event registration.
- e. **"Patched-In" Members**

While PRW is not a motorcycle club, or MC, we recognize that back patches inspire a powerful sense of community and pride. Wearing back patches helps to identify our riders to each other, and to the public, and supports our mission of raising awareness for LGBTQ+ motorcycle riders.

1. The Back Patch shall be a one piece, circular, 9.5-inch diameter embroidered patch.
2. The design of the Back Patch shall be primarily black and white and will include:
 - White silhouette of motorcycle rider facing left, wearing a helmet, representing no specific gender, ethnicity, age, or characteristic besides riding motorcycles
 - Trailing the rider is a rainbow streak in typical Pride Flag style, signifying motion and fading into black at the edge of the patch

- The text "PRIDE" and "RIDES" form top and bottom rockers on the single piece
 - The text "WISCONSIN" positioned under the rainbow in a smaller type size
3. Only official Back Patches shall be allowed, and must be purchased from PRW directly.
 4. There are no requirements for purchasing a Back Patch, nor do typical MC rules apply. The patch may be worn on any leather or denim vest or jacket, hooded sweatshirt, tee shirt, or any other garment where it will be the primary logo displayed.
 5. Patched-In Members (owners of a Back Patch, referred to hereafter as "Patches") are welcome to attend organizational meetings. Matters of business or planning may be placed before the Patches in attendance for a vote. In this way, the Patches may serve as an Advisory Board for the elected Officers.
 6. Patches will meet to nominate and fill open Officer positions yearly. Officers serve for a two-year term. This meeting will occur at the end of the riding season for the year.
 7. Voting rights for the Advisory Board or Officer elections may be waived or surrendered at any time. In the unfortunate event that the actions of a Patch negatively represent Pride Rides Wisconsin, the Officers can vote to ban that individual – terminating their voting rights and ability to associate with the organization. No effort will be made to reclaim the back patch from the member, but that individual will no longer be welcome at PRW events, and their presence at non-public events will be considered trespassing.

Article V. The Executive Board (Officers)

- a. Officer positions shall include **President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Road Captain, and Webmaster**. These six (6) positions constitute the Executive Board, and are the only members empowered to make business decisions or act on behalf of the organization.
- b. The Officers are elected annually by the Patches and hold their positions for **2 years**. Elections take place in February, to prepare for the following year.
- c. Should any position, except the Presidency, become vacant during the year, the Executive Board shall appoint and fill the position until the next election.
- d. Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice President will assume the role of President.
- e. Officers are empowered to appoint Committee Chairs for a specific purpose, such as organizing an event. Committee Chairs are welcome to participate in organizational meetings in the same manner as Patches, even if they do not own a Pride Rides Wisconsin back patch.

Article VI. Officer Duties

All Officers are expected to maintain a professional demeanor when representing the organization. If an Officer is a member of multiple clubs (which is allowed), they are expected to wear Pride Rides colors and represent Pride Rides Wisconsin at PRW events.

a. President

1. Acts as the primary point of contact between the organization and outside entities.
2. Schedules and runs meetings of the Officers and Patches, and coordinates the agenda.
3. Carries the deciding vote in case of a tie.
4. Follows up with the other Officers, and provides training and instruction as needed.
5. Primary spokesperson for media outreach, interviews, and press releases.
6. Signatory on PRW accounts and registered paperwork.

b. Vice President

1. Works closely with the President to schedule and run meetings, and assists with coordinating an agenda for the meetings.
2. Acts as the secondary point of contact between the organization and outside entities.
3. Performs the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
4. Secondary spokesperson in the absence of the president for media outreach, interviews, and press releases.

c. Treasurer

1. Reports the status of the budget at meetings.
2. Coordinates and logs cash transactions. Manages organization funds and accounts.
3. Signatory on PRW banking accounts. Along with the Webmaster, maintains secure access to PRW online cash accounts, such as Square, PayPal, etc.
4. Responsible for coordinating registration, sales, and transactions at PRW events.
5. Communicate with Webmaster and record online transactions.
6. Mails and distributes patches ordered online via the website.
7. May speak for the organization in the absence of the President or Vice President for media outreach, interviews, and press releases.
8. Ensure that the organization's taxes are filed properly and on-time.

d. Secretary

1. Records the minutes of the meetings, and reports the previous meeting's minutes.
2. Email recorded meeting minutes to the active membership.
3. Tracks active membership to authorize voting privileges at meetings.
4. Responsible for organization filing and records.
5. Maintains a registry of Patched-In Members who are eligible (in good standing) to vote.
6. May speak for the organization in the absence of the President or Vice President for media outreach, interviews, and press releases.

e. Road Captain

1. Ensures that rules and procedures are followed within the guidelines of this document.
2. Coordinates safety and security planning for events.
3. Work with event committee chairs to establish safe routes for riding events.

f. Webmaster

1. Maintains the organization's website and makes all necessary updates and changes.
2. Acts as the primary Administrator on the organization's social media websites.
3. Coordinates all internet-based advertising and promotion.
4. Work with the Treasurer to coordinate and record online sales, and maintain secure access to PRW online cash accounts, such as Square, PayPal, etc.

Article VII. Meetings

- a. Meetings of the Officers and Patches shall be held monthly, or as often as the Officers deem necessary to achieve organization goals.
- b. **Quorum** – the minimum number of voting members necessary to conduct business shall be five, consisting of **three Officers** and **two other** Patched-In Members, which may include other Officers.
- c. Meetings will follow **Robert's Rules of Order** for procedural decorum.
- d. Most matters shall be decided by a simple majority of voting members present. In situations of emergency or a divided vote, the Executive Board may consider and authorize executive approval.
- e. The Executive Board makes the final decision regarding organization business. Members vote to advise the Board, but do not carry stakeholder interest in the corporation. The Executive Board shall make every effort to respect and adhere to the advisory vote of its Members.

- f. A two-thirds majority vote (requiring four Officers) is required for significant financial matters, and for terminating an individual's right to associate with the organization.
- g. Patched-In Members should strive to wear their back patches while in attendance at meetings.

Article VIII. Dissolution

- a. When this corporation ceases to exist, all its assets will be donated to **Pathfinders of Milwaukee**.
- b. A unanimous vote is required to dissolve the corporation.

Article IX. Amendments

- a. **Amendments** - this document (the Constitution and Bylaws) may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote (requiring four Officers). Upon adoption, it shall become effective immediately and filed with the Secretary.
- b. **Adoption** – these Bylaws were adopted as written on March 19th, 2023.
- c. **Starting New Charters**
 - 1. This section is currently being developed. The following points under **Article IX(c) Starting New Chapters** are not to be considered adopted until finalized and approved.
 - 2. A group interested in starting their own charter of Pride Rides must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Must request written permission to start a charter from the Parent Organization, Pride Rides Wisconsin. Executive Board approves or denies requests.
 - b. Must have a minimum of 5 people interested in starting a charter and willing to take on the roles of an Executive Board.
 - c. Must submit to PRW a proposal for Constitution and Bylaws to be adopted by the new chapter. This document should follow most of the same guidelines as the parent organization, PRW, and must maintain the integrity of our brand and mission.
 - 3. Finer points to be laid out later.