



Installation of Officers

The installing officer is introduced by the retiring Chapter President and proceeds as follows:

Installing Officer: "The sergeant-at-arms will bring before me the newly elected officers of this Chapter."

The sergeant-at-arms presents the newly elected officers, standing in one row in front of the installing officer, with the new Chapter President to the right of the installing officer and the retiring Chapter President to the left of the installing officer.

Sergeant-at-Arms: "I present to you the newly elected officers of the American Legion Riders Chapter ____ whose eligibility records for membership in The American Legion Riders have been duly checked and authenticated."

Installing Officer: "My Fellow Riders, you have been chosen to fill the various offices of the American Legion Riders Chapter _____. I know you will vindicate the trust that has been placed in you. I know you will fulfill every obligation required of you. Familiarize yourselves with the duties of your offices and carry out those duties with the same spirit from which arose The American Legion Riders of California. The welfare and success of this Chapter depends on you, as does the preservation of the integrity of The American Legion Riders. Protect the good name of The American Legion and the American Legion Riders with the people of our great nation; help them to know the Legion Riders purposes and policies. Remember the tolerance that animates us as members; remember there is no rank among us for we all serve as equals. We all are aiming for the same goals—the ideals of Justice, Freedom, Democracy and Loyalty.

"Remember, too, the cardinal principles of The American Legion are—

"The rehabilitation of all disabled veterans;

"The care of the dependents of those who've answered the final call;

"The care of those who now are suffering from wounds, disease and want;

"The education of our children . . .

"And service to the community, state and nation.

“You will raise your right hand, say ‘I’ and give your names, and repeat after me.”

“I, _____, do solemnly pledge myself / to perform faithfully and impartially / the duties of the office of The American Legion Riders/ I am about to assume, / and I further pledge / I am not a member of / and do not subscribe to / the principles of any group opposed to our form of government. Hands down.”

The installing officer will move to the left to address the retiring Chapter President.

Installing Officer: “(Addressing the retiring Chapter President by name), you have just completed a year of service to The American Legion Riders Chapter _____. The records of the Chapter indicate the quality of your service. It is my hope the things you learned about The American Legion Riders and the experience you gained will always be available to those who follow you. On behalf of the President, I thank you for the splendid service you have rendered The American Legion and the American Legion Riders Chapter _____.”

The installing officer will then move to the right to address the newly elected post commander.

Installing Officer: “To you, President _____, are entrusted very important duties. You must teach and protect the cardinal principles of The American Legion Riders throughout the Chapter and Post. You are entrusted with the supervision of the duties of all officers of the Chapter. The poor and troubled will come to you and you must see no veteran is turned away without full justice.

“Loyalty to the Chapter—to its membership—to the state and national organizations are obligations which you now assume.

“You are more than the presiding officer for meetings; you are guided by the constitution and the decisions of the executive committee and membership; yet, the responsibility of the year’s programs is on your shoulders. You must initiate programs and carry them through to completion. You must familiarize yourself with the traditions of your Chapter, Post and The American Legion. “By your sincere acceptance and earnest performance of these duties, may the trust your fellow Legionnaires have reposed in you be justified.

“I extend to you the congratulations of the President of the American Legion Riders Department of California and I wish you well as you assume the responsibilities of your office.”

Here the retiring chaplain offers a prayer for the guidance and success of the newly installed post officers during their year in office. The installing officer moves to original position and asks all newly installed officers to face the members and guests in attendance.

Installing Officer: “My fellow Riders, I present to you the officers of your choice. I congratulate you on the selections you have made. You have chosen them, now it is your duty to aid them in every way. Help them to keep The American Legion faithful to its principles and ideals.”

Installing officer presents gavel to President elect.