

A letter from Dawg

Hello to Everyone

As I look back over the past year, I have to wonder where the time has gone and how the year can zip by as fast as it has.

This has been a banner year for the American Legion Riders of Indiana - one of change and progress that spells a great beginning for us as a Department Program – as of October, 2005. Starting out as a Department Program came as a shock to everyone, but with determination and hard work we have made the best of it. I believe that it has turned out to be a blessing for all of us by combining the best of what the Department has to offer with what we do so well and in the process laying a solid foundation for the years to come.

At the beginning of the year we laid out several goals for the state officers to strive to complete and I must say that all of those goals were met and some of them pleasantly exceeded.

Membership cards have been issued to all chapters as was promised and each member is now entered into a data base by our office slave, Dina Long, who by the way, I think is the hardest working member in the state. The data base she has set up will be used for years to come for issuing new cards, chapter rosters, whatever we need.

The ALR State Party at Van Buren this year was a big success bringing about 100 of us together for fun, games, brotherhood and some great food for the weekend. And, on top of that we managed to make about \$1,500.00 to add to the state treasury. It just doesn't get better than that in my book.

We were determined to set up a state newsletter – of which you are reading the first installment of now and a state ALR website to better get information out to all our membership and have a presence on the internet. This was accomplished with first the Yahoo site put up by Jim Fisher and now the bulletin board forum administered by Trent Norton. I highly encourage everyone to sign up at <http://www.getphpbb.com/phpbb/index.php?mforum=alr4th> This is going to be a great way for us to stay in touch with not only your own chapters but everything that is going on in the state. Bruno set up our hospitality room at the Department Convention and did an outstanding job of it. We were the most popular room at the event and everyone who was anyone stopped by for a drink of Apple Pie.

I also set a goal to spread the ALR to new posts by growing from 18 chapters last January, to 25 chapters in the state by the end of the year. Well, that goal was beaten early on and as I write this, we have 37 active chapters and there is still plenty of room for growth in

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A letter from Dawg, continued

our state with many of the larger towns still available to get a chapter fired up.

Finally I want to say thank you to all of this years state officers for their service to the organization. You all faced a tough challenge with us being in our first year as a Department Program, but you all did a heck of a fine job with hard work and determination - and it shows! As for me, I am proud and honored to have been allowed to serve as State Director once again, and although it has been a lot of work, I leave the office with the pride of knowing that our state is becoming a showcase for how an American Legion Riders program is suppose to operate, and that states around the country can look to us as a model of what can be done when everyone works together.

Thank you,

Dawg
Indiana State Director

2007 State Director, Bob Schnell's Letter

Riders,

I want to thank everyone for their support at the fall elections, please be assured that I will do everything I can to help the growth of this wonderful program. I am very proud as I know you all are to wear the American Legion Riders patch.

The state program has come a long way since that first organizational meeting way back in the fall of 2002 at Post 500. There was only three Chapters represented, oh wait, thats all there was in the state at that time, and look at us now, 37 Chapters strong and growing. I feel we have built a solid base these past four years. So my goals to take us to the next level in 2007 are simple; communications, continuity and comradship.

Bob Schnell
State Director Elect
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Indiana State News



**American Legion Riders
Indiana State**

<http://www.getphpbb.com/phpbb/index.php?mforum=alr4th>

Volume 1, Issue 1

State Executive Board Meeting

Special Speaker

Our National Commander, Paul A Morin visited the meeting briefly to thank the ALR for our devotion to the American way. Shown through all of the activities and programs the ALR participate in and supports.

Legacy Ride

There were 75 members on the Legacy ride. The donations for the Legacy fund totaled \$175,000, nationally. The legacy ride will be to Reno Nevada in 2007.

Awards

An Indiana ALR member was given the *American Legion Rider of Honor Award* at the Bluegrass Romp on Labor Day weekend. Jane Ann Ridgely from post 124 received 1 of only 4 awards earned on the national level. Next year there will be 1 more added to make 5 national awards to be earned by an outstanding member from all states in the ALR group.

Fall State Meeting

Chapter Growth

Dawg had set a year-end goal of 25 chapters here in Indiana. He was pleased that we have 36 Post Chapters and 4 more in the planning stage.

Donations

A motion was made to send \$1,500 to the Veteran's Home to buy 3 of the Room Monitors needed. Knightstown has built a new dorm and needs to purchase furniture so we decided the \$1,500 we are donating to them would be earmarked for that project.

Special By Laws Change

The Committee appointed at the Summer meeting read the wording for the "Special Class Membership" Qualification Criteria. A motion was made, Seconded and approved by vote of the delegates to accept this into our State Bylaws. Dina will insert the Articles into the By laws and will make copies available to the officers.

National ALR Rally

Labor day weekend in Shepardsville Kentucky was attended by only 10-12 States. Indiana had only 40-50 in attendance, sad considering how close to home it was. It was a fun time by all who attended. The national meeting presented amendments to it's By Laws to the Membership and they were approved.

Newsletter

The costs to produce and mail a State Newsletter were presented by Kim Dietz who will be putting it together and sending it out. The cost to print enough for the full membership is quite high, so a motion was made and passed to print 51 copies which will be mailed to each Chapter Director and District Chairmen.

2007 State Rally

The ALR Chapter at Post 500 in Speedway will be the Host and the Location of the State of Indiana Rally. No date has been set.

Dawg Speaks

Dawg addressed the officers at the meeting about how honored he was to be the State Director these past ten months. He stated how it has been a learning and growing experience. He thanked his officers for their hard work and dedication and said he looked forward to staying on the advisory board.

Pep Talk

TJ Small spoke of the need for each District to pull together for the greater success of the ALR. We need to hold District meetings each month.

2006 Officers

<u>Dept. Chairman/State Director</u>	Keith "Dawg" Jones
<u>Assistant Director</u>	Brian McLarren
<u>Secretary</u>	Dina Long
<u>Treasurer - Membership</u>	Steve Hemmer
<u>Communications</u>	Jim Fisher
<u>Historian</u>	Bob Schnell
<u>Chaplan</u>	Robert "poppy" Molik
<u>Sgt. At Arms</u>	Pat Phillips

Election Results

Nominations were completed and closed. Votes were counted by a roll call of Chapters. Your 2007 officers elected into office are as follows:

2007 Officers

State Director

Bob Schnell 317-443-1677
Rssale8@aol.com

Assistant Director

Marty Skag 317-481-8049
mds5013@netzero.com

Secretary

Dina Long 317-840-0497
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Treasurer

& Membership Chairman

Steve Hemmer 812-683-5688
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Communications

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Chaplan

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Sgt. At Arms

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Run Coordinator

Mark Gosney 765-491-6233
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Submit information for the Newsletters at:

kimdtz@yahoo.com

Make sure you say ALR State News submission in the Subject line or it will be deleted, unopened.