

Indiana
American Legion Riders
State Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Director Bob Schnell
Attendance: 85
Pledge of Allegiance
Prayer
Riders Response

Installation ceremony for 2007 State ALR Officers - Conducted by Past Department Commander, Lowell Sullivan

Chapter Roll Call -
Post # City Post # City
1 2 Brazil Yes 21 196 Bloomfield Yes
2 11 Lafayette Yes 22 239 Lawrenceburg No
3 15 Wabash Yes 23 250 Mitchell Yes
4 17 Hammond Yes 24 252 Greenwood No
5 36 Rochester No 25 258 Pierceton No
6 42 Floyds Knobs Yes 26 276 Beech Grove Yes
7 44 Newburgh No 27 290 Rosedale No
8 64 Indianapolis Yes 28 297 New Carlisle No
9 70 Shelbyville Yes 29 308 Osceola Yes
10 76 French Lick No 30 313 Fairmount Yes
11 82 Fort Wayne Yes 31 368 Van Buren No
12 85 Huntington No 32 409 Leo No
13 95 Jonesboro No 33 423 Orland Yes
14 97 Auburn Yes 34 430 Merrillville Yes
15 103 Mooresville Yes 35 470 Fishers No
16 113 Lebanon No 36 484 Millersburg No
17 124 Ferdinand Yes 37 492 West Lafayette Yes
18 139 Sullivan Yes 38 495 Indianapolis Yes
19 157 Churubusco Yes 39 500 Speedway Yes
20 173 Versailles No

Minutes of the last meeting waived – hard copies handed out.

Headgear – non-Legion headgear not allowed at Department Level meetings. Does not pertain to the general State meeting.

Bob's General meeting guidelines - Anyone that wants to speak during the meeting to raise their hand, be acknowledged, state their name and post number. When a motion is on the floor, everyone will have an opportunity to speak. Due to our time limitations, only military, veteran, police and fire rides and events should be announced up during the meetings. Fliers for all other events can be put out to be picked up.

Bob read the following document as found on the National ALR website:

The American Legion Riders – Who We Are

The American Legion Riders are members of the American Legion who are also motorcycle enthusiasts. They can be found participating in parades, partaking in motorcycling events, and supporting the communities in which they live, work, and play. Members of the ALR come from the Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion. The American Legion Riders were formed...

...to participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion.

...to promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest.

...to use our Association to promote and support programs of the American Legion.

The American Legion Riders is not an M/C (motorcycle club), and does not practice M/C rules or regulations. The American Legion Riders is family-oriented, just as is its parent organization: the American Legion.

STATE OFFICER REPORTS

The following state officer changes were made:

Marty Skaggs – Will be Assistant Director – not Run Coordinator because we had a volunteer

Mark Gosney – Volunteered to be Run Coordinator and was appointed to this position
Steve Hemmer – Resigned as Treasurer and Membership Chairman due to his new job.
Mike Fathman – Volunteered and was appointed to Treasurer and Membership Chairman

Assistant Director, Marty Skaggs – No report

Run Coordinator, Mark Gosney – Several rides will be scheduled throughout the year (including the Legacy Ride) and will be posted on the website. At this point, we will do the IRP/Raceway ride again and Mark is working on getting the problems straightened out. Rides to the State Rally (Post 500, Speedway) and State Convention (Merrillville) will be organized.

Chaplain, Poppy – No report

Communications, Trent Norton – Here is Trent's email address if you are having problems with the new state website he created - trentnorton@jomory.com

Treasurer/Membership, Mike Fathman – Not present – Bob gave Hemmer's Treasurer report – Beginning balance \$1,488.24. Ending balance \$1,941.09
We will be changing banks to a larger bank with branches around the state so anyone that becomes treasurer will be able to use it. We will also have 2 people that can sign checks instead of just one. We will not have any maximums requiring more than one signature because we are too spread out over the state.

Historian, Tom Such – No report

Sgt. At Arms, Pat Phillips – Reminded everyone about breaking the plane of the flags - \$5.00 penalty

Department Chairman, Keith Jones (Dawg) – Proper headgear for Department meetings is the Legion hat or no headgear at all. The 4th District organized a district level meeting for communication purposes. All districts are encouraged to do this so they can share information among all the posts in their district. Encourage your membership to use the state website. It is an excellent source of information. We need all the Chapters to be represented at the state meetings. District Chairman will work on their chapters. The Chapter Charter Document is finally completed and ready for you to pick up after the meeting. Our thanks go to Jerry Gardner for finding The Bloomfield Press – who created and printed these at no charge.

Jerry Gardner – The printer is The Bloomfield Free Press. The owner donated his services and supplies to print the charters. They had to change the size, and do a lot of work to get the document in its final form. The printer would like to be recognized/mentioned by us making a donation to the Bloomfield Honor Guard and one time when we make another charitable donation to a veteran organization. He would like to be there so he can take pictures and print them with an article in his paper. A motion will be made to do this in the general meeting. We have about 80 blank copies to be given out at the general meeting.

A motion was made to give \$100.00 to the Bloomfield Color Guard on behalf of The Bloomfield Press. The motion was seconded. There was discussion about it not being very much money to give. The motion was amended to add/include the first charity donation we give this year – include The Bloomfield Press. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Last year it was voted on that all representatives for the ALR to other departments be actual members of the ALR.

Dawg is checking into this.

Chapter Charter Documents – We have them here and signed. Dina will file in the other information at the end of the meeting. Chapters that paid their dues in 2006 will automatically get them. New chapters will get them as they pay 2007 dues.

State Dues – The question was asked why some chapters have never paid their state dues. Bob told us that is the District Chairman's responsibility to get these chapters to pay, and he would be willing to visit the chapter with the chairman. If a chapter has not paid, they can not vote. Dawg said that Hemmer sent letters to all the delinquent chapters in November. The question was asked if they would have to pay back dues, or start from current. It was suggested that they go back as far as the start-up date for their chapter.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Last October we appointed a committee to come up with a process for a yearly State Award for a state ALR member. Bill Menzel is heading the committee. This committee will come up with the qualifications, rules

and deadlines to nominate someone for this award. The plan at this time is to present the award at the State Rally in June, so the deadline should be in May. Information will be posted on the website when it is completed.

NEW COMMITTEES

By-laws – Bob has appointed 4 people to a by-laws committee – Mark Gosney, T.J. Small, Steve Winniger & Poppy. They will compare all the different copies, add the new amendment(s) we voted on, make suggestions, recommendations and corrections. The updated by-laws will be read twice - once at the July meeting and again at the October meeting. Then we will vote on them.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership – It has been suggested that we get our ALR book closing and dues in line with the Legion – June. This will make things simpler and more in-line as a Legion family group. It will also put the responsibility on the chapters. The current closing date for the ALR is April 15. If we line up with the Legion, we can pre-print state membership cards and give them to the chapters. The chapters can collect dues and hand out state cards with chapter cards.

Membership - A motion was made to change the ALR close of books from April 15 to the 2nd Sunday in June. The motion was seconded. Discussion – time frame to set the books up? Deadline or cutoff date? Use the same deadline processes as the Legion. Legion dues for the next year can be paid the day after the books for the previous year. Members receive their new cards after paying their dues, but the cards aren't effective until the first of the upcoming year. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

New Chapters - We have 2 new chapters – Jonesboro and Lawrenceburg. That makes 39 chapters. Bob would like to see 50 chapters by the end of the year – a 22% increase.

State Party - The state party will be June 8, 9 & 10 at Post 500 in Speedway. We have approval from the post. Details will be posted on the website as they are completed. Chapter 500 wants to give all profits from the Rally to the Legacy Ride. A motion was made, seconded and passed to donate all profits from the State Rally to the Legacy Ride.

Legacy Ride - Bob gave us the details he has so far. The Legacy ride will start from Post 500 this year. Departure date is August 19. We want to plan some activities – like Post 64 did last year. It would be great to get a ride around the track too – Bob will work on this. Watch the website for details. Bob challenges all chapters to make donations. Put this date on your calendars, even if you can't participate in the ride, we can be there for a big send off – we need more people.

ALROH - Nominations must be submitted by April 30. See the ALR National website for details. There is only 1 nomination per state, so all Indiana nominations will come to the State ALR for final selection.

IRP Night - Larry will be assisting Mark in organizing this event. Steve is still working with all the organizing groups and will assist us. Talk to Larry or Mark with ideas, suggestions or complaints.

Charities - We tabled the charity discussion until later in the year when we know how much money we will have.

Chapter Date Updates - Update your chapter information in your chapter date sheets on the website.

State Website - Trent – Many people are using nicknames on the state website. The people need to go into their profiles and put their real names so Trent will know who you are. The state meeting minutes were posted on the old state website, and are suppose to be now. Dina will be sure that Trent gets a copy to post. Also, the minutes that are posted on the website will be a draft copy. Final copies will be available to pick up at the meetings.

Membership Cards - Dina will be printing state membership cards as she receives 2007 lists. She is investigating printing companies and possibly purchasing a home printer to travel with the membership person. The suggestion was made to use a stamp to stamp our Legion membership cards instead of printing cards. There was much discussion about this. It was brought up that the National American Legion would have to approve this before we could go forward with a vote. It will be researched. As long as Dina is printing the cards, she will attempt to print the Riders Response on the back of the cards. Others have had good luck in doing this. Laminating will be left up to the individual or chapters.

A motion was made to allow up to \$500 for Dina to purchase a printer. This printer will follow the card printing person. The motions was Seconded and passed.

INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

April 13, 14, 15 is Spring Conference at the Marriott – and next ALR State Meeting.

July 12-15 is Department Convention in Merrillville. As of now, we are on the list to get a hospitality room. We will have a meeting but it will be at 11:00-1:00.

Romp – The National Romp will be July 5-8 at Post 88 – outside of Nashville, Tennessee.

Rolling Thunder – This is the 20th year for the Run to the Wall. The ALR has 30 rooms blocked.

State Newsletter – Kimy did an excellent job on the newsletter. As per our vote, she mailed copies to the District Chairmen and Directors of each chapter. These people are suppose to make copies and share with their membership. There will be space on the newsletter next time to put a label on it – instead of having to put it in an envelope. Also, she will add a contact name to the address label. Keep up the great work Kimy!

Emblem Sales – Bob talked to the National Sales Director for Emblem Sales. He told him that we need a logo on the front of our shirts – where our vests don't cover it up. He also told him never-mind about getting into leather because their prices would be too high. Bob is also trying to get the leadership patches standardized. If you have any ideas or suggestions to forward to Emblem Sales, pass them to Bob Schnell
rssales8@aol.com

Post 308, Osceola – 3rd annual Fallen Heroes Ride

4th District – July 6-8 Patriot Guard Rally – USS Indianapolis.

It was suggested that our Communications Officer & Webmaster get a room at the Spring Conference where he can give tutorials on how to navigate around our state website. Trent said he could do this. Dina said she would bring a projector.

Post 2 has a Chili Cook-off at the VFW in Brazil – check website for details.

50/50 DRAWING

\$76.00. – To the winner.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm

Dina Long, State Secretary