

American Legion Riders National Meeting - Marshalltown, IA Meeting Minutes - August 31, 2008

Called to order by National Advisory Committee Assistant Chairman Keith (Dawg) Jones at 9:03 AM.
112 Attendees (approximate)
Pledge of Allegiance
Prayer
Riders Response

Keith welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the National Advisory Committee - Bill Kaledas, Pat Babcock, Chuck (Tramp) and Bernie Dare.

Keith recognized and thanked the Heartland ALR Chapter for doing a great job in putting the National Romp together. We know how much work, time and money it takes and it is greatly appreciated by all.

Keith recognized two founding members in attendance - Al and Donna Spiteri. They are two of the 19 Founding Members who started the ALR - which will be 15 years old in 2009. Willard, Ohio will be hosting the National Romp where we will celebrate.

Keith recognized Post 46 SAL and Boy Scouts of Conrad, IA, for the great breakfasts this weekend.

Resolution 35 -

The ALR is now a National Program. We aren't having any major problems at this time of transition, so National is leaving us alone. We have a strong organizational foundation to work with already in place. We are a Post level organization that works from the bottom up. The Post and Chapter are the most important elements.

Bill Kaledas and Terry Woodburn will be representing the ALR and are now part of the National Advisory Internal Affairs Committee and have been appointed to represent the ALR at the meetings of National American Legion Internal Affairs Committee to which we have been assigned as our parent committee.

The ALR has had a growth explosion over the last few years. We currently have 865 Chapters with about 40,000 members around the world. We are predicting that we will be growing to 1,000 Chapters within the next year.

The British and Canadian Legions both have ALR Chapters based on our organization. A large group of British ALR members will be touring the US next year and may show up at any Post.

A Florida resolution from Department Level was sent to National requesting the admission of non-riding and/or non-Legion persons be allowed to join the ALR as qualified full members. National did NOT pass this resolution.

A Resolution from Colorado to grandfather in their patch for on-going use was refused. Resolution 35 that makes us a National Program of the American Legion requires that we use Emblem Sales and only Emblem Sales for patch procurement.

The National By-Laws template is on line. If we deviate from this template, we will have to change it down the road.

States are putting an exception clause in their by-laws for ALR members that can no longer ride due to an accident or illness.

ALR Supporters are not qualified for membership other than as non-dues paying persons with no vote in chapter business but that are willing to help with the chapters projects. If wearing ALR clothing, it should contain the word 'Supporter' on the apparel.

A question came from the floor asking if the Post can control or take away a chapters funds.

Section 6.2.1. - The ALR Chapter is part of the Post. The Post does have the right to take/control ALR funds. It is our firm belief that they shouldn't unless it becomes necessary due to the malfeasance of an officer. But, the bottom line is that the Post is the chapter's parent organization and can, if necessary, monitor or regulate a chapter's finances.

Question as to the status of patches and rockers came from the floor.

There is no 'patch patrol' that is looking for violations on back patch or rocker use. We have guidelines to follow and they should be adhered to from now on, but for the most part what you are wearing now is fine. We must remember that we are setting the groundwork for the future, our kids and grandkids. What we do now sets the precedence for the future of the ALR.

Right now, anyone - military or non-military - can purchase from Emblem Sales. Groups are working with Emblem Sales to try to change this. (They say, 'we have 60,000 items - we don't have time'.)

The official patch 'going forward from this point on' is the patch from Emblem Sales.

Future Romps -

Willard will host the National Romp in 2009 - July 17, 18 & 19. Preparations are underway. July conflicts with some Legion State Conventions, but there will always be conflicts.

If your Chapter wants to host the National Romp, submit the request to the Advisory Committee. We are booked through 2012.

2010 is Milwaukee, WI - September 3, 4, & 5 - Labor Day weekend - the weekend after National Convention.

2011 is the anniversary of the first National Romp. Ferdinand Post # 124 will be hosting it - 'Back Home Again in Indiana'. Right now, they are thinking about the 4th of July weekend.

2012 - Kansas has said they want to do it, but have not confirmed as of yet.

Keith introduced Gary (Ice Man) Stevens, who started this award program and has recently taken charge of the ALROH Award project.

ALROH Award-

This award honors someone who goes way beyond what is asked or expected of a member or officer.

Ice Man -

Riders submit nominations for this award. The instructions are on the web site. A letter must accompany all nominations. Past winners act as judges to select the winner. Winners receive an ALROH patch.

Ice Man presented the ALROH winners for 2008 -

Dick Merschdorf - Post 129, Queen Creek, AZ
Jay 'Curley' Hilliard - Post 157, Churubusco, IN
Martin 'Wolf Man' Garner - Post 1, New Mexico
Roy Helms - Wisconsin
Robert DeMarcki - Post 820, Monroeville, PA
Everett Freel - Post 731, Iowa
Vic 'Doc' Moss - Post 149, Nevada

Keith then surprised Ice Man in awarding him an ALROH award from the National Advisory Committee for all his hard work and dedication in promoting the ALR and its causes.

Open Floor Discussion -

The next National Convention is in Louisville, Kentucky. Post 157 is 25 miles from the convention and will plan to do something for the riders.

Recognition - How do the riders get recognition/communication through National for event announcements? We were told we would be in the Legion publications after last year's romp. There are not many ways to communicate events to all the riders. This should change with the new National Commander coming into office. Right now, our NALRIC (National American Legion Riders Information Center) web site at - americanlegionriders.net - is the best way to communicate. The new National Commander told the Iowa riders that we will get recognition.

PGR - We get recognition via the PGR, but there are conflicts in names - ALR vs. PGR. Most of the time it is assumed we are PGR. 'It's not about recognition, it's about helping Vets and troops.' But we still need communication/advertising in the Legion magazines to get the word out to all Legion members - to share what we do. We are progressing a little at a time.

Departments - Some State organizations and or Departments are still fighting for meeting rooms and times to get together to discuss ALR business. This differs from state to state depending on the Department's involvement with the organization. Part of this comes from our rapid growth in some areas and the Department's lack of understanding of the ALR program.

There are no plans for National ALR officers or National ALR dues.

Awards for Romp Attendees -

Longest Distance - Jerry 'Krash' Parnel - 1,500 miles

Most Members Attending - NW, IA Lamars - 29 attendees

Oldest Rider - 72 years old - John Green, Ft. Wayne, IN

Donations - \$400 Cycle Shop, \$100 check for PGR, IN, MN, MI, and KY.

Randy Olson will have prints made of the painting that was auctioned off - to order a print copy contact Iowa ALR Post 29 at - alrpost29.org.

50/50 - \$71.00 to the winner.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, passed - 10:06 AM

Dina Long, Secretary
Post 500, Speedway, IN

Last updated: Wednesday October 8 2008 02:23:35 PM