

Indiana  
American Legion Riders  
State Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Director Bob Schnell

Attendance: 66

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer

Riders Response

Bob dispensed with regular meeting to acknowledge guests.

State Auxiliary President, Vickie Koutz received was introduced for a presentation of check from Post #2, Brazil.

Mark Gosney – There won't be an MIA ceremony this year but we will still participate. Wes is taking over for Steve Farmer – introduced Wes.

Wes Collier – ORP (O'Riley Raceway Park – formerly IRP) – Wes explained about the Annual ride on May 26. The ALR will ride in the opening ceremonies. Many changes have been made since last year. They will have a bugler to play taps and a moment of silence. Check the state web site for more details and information. Bob will forward information to all the Chapters when he gets it.

National Commander Elect – Marty was introduced as the leading candidate for National Commander. Marty made note of the Gold Wing leadership meeting across the hall from us – we missed an opportunity to promote the ALR. When asked by someone, Marty told him he thinks we are a great asset to the Legion and we are at a very critical point nation wide of acceptance. He sees a lot of rider chapters doing the right things. There are a few that aren't doing the right things – they just want to be riders and not support the posts. We have to guard against that. We have to get the Legion Riders to understand that they are coming into a bigger family than just the riders. 99% of the right things are happening and we need to guard against that small percent that can give us a bad name. We are a start up program. We have as much potential as other Legion programs and we have to make sure this goes the right way. He wouldn't totally commit yet, but he thinks he might be the first National Commander to ride in the Legacy Run for the whole run. ALR values the American Legion and what it stands for. We do have a bright future and he hears good things about Indiana bringing the program forward and we have a lot to be proud of. We have to value the American Legion and what it stands for.

Bill Sloan – Liaison for the Legion Riders for the National Headquarters (5 years)

Bill talked about the Greenfield, Indiana, post where they have pictures of Legion Riders from 1950. He talked about the history of Legion Riders beyond Michigan post in 1973. In Kansas, there was a 1922 edition of the Legion Magazine that had an ad for Indian Motorcycles. The pictures in the Greenfield trophy case showed three classes of motorcycles that competed with others as a motorcycle drill team and rallies. So, apparently, the American Legion has had a history with motorcycles. They started talking about riders at national headquarters because people started calling them and asking what is this thing with motorcycles the Legionnaires are doing and how can I get involved with them? Bill got involved because he used to ride a motorcycle in college. The first meeting with the NEC and the legion rider founding fathers was about 4 years ago. As time went by we proved our hearts were in the right place and we police ourselves better than the average Legionnaire does. We have chapters in 619 American Legion posts today. We have chapters in 48 of the 55 departments – only Utah and Hawaii don't have chapters yet. We also have overseas chapters - Germany, China Coast, Philippines.

Nothing is concrete yet, but a year ago, if you had asked National if there are plans to make the ALR a national program, the answer would have been no – because they only had chapters in 30

departments. Any time we consider a national program, we have to look at first at the interest of the American Legion as a whole – across the country. With the Legion Law Enforcement program for children, there are only 17 Departments that are interested so it isn't being considered as a nation program. Not wide spread interest – not a universal interest. Today if you ask us about the ALR, our answer has to be maybe we have to think about it because we have chapters in every single department across the country has a program. Are we going to start a national program just because we want to? No. The worst thing we can do is put a set of rules in place and have everyone toe the same line. Three weeks ago, we met with the founding fathers – Bill Kaledis, Tramp Dare, Doc Moss from Vegas and a Neal Thomas from Colorado (state liaison) met in Indiana. We were kind of scared to hear their opinions but we needed to get their viewpoints. If we have a national program, the first question is why. What use could we give to the riders? Bill Kaledis pointed out that we could do more harm than good because we have riders all over the country with at least 18 different versions of the vest, patch and rockers. There are many different versions/combinations across the country. In some parts of the country, you could get jerked off your bike and have the patches ripped off your vests. Nationally, we don't have any idea how to deal with this, so these are the kinds of things we discussed. All over the country, the Legion Riders are already been talking to the one-two percenters and motorcycle clubs to explain what the Legion Riders are all about. Some of the problems that we thought would be big obstacles have evaporated. The group decided yes, we should have a national program so let's start putting a national program together. Our next step is identifying what we can do as far as guidelines. We determined during the meeting that National should not – under any circumstances - dictate any bylaws/constitution that would apply to the post or department. We will create a very generic set of guidelines – like minimum cc requirements – we will let the Departments make these decisions on their own. We should be free as a chapter to make that decision as long as we are not less lenient than the Department level. Will be very general about spouses being Legion family members – leave it up to the riders – (female veteran and spouse is not a member) – leave it up to the Department and Posts. We will leave this up to the riders to tell us. Posts can put in tighter rules than the National Headquarters. Maybe the "supporter" function could be a solution. This may work in some places but not others. This is very similar to the way the Legion is set up with Departments and Posts. Go to the web site to check it out. There was a question and discussion about this spouse issue and what National is doing about it. They do agree that they have to do something to incorporate female veteran spouses and their families. Is there going to be a national standard for application procedures? We don't know. We did find out that it will not be difficult for National to keep track of the riders simply by adding a checkmark saying that you are a member of the ALR to the membership database. We could possibly have a rider emblem printed on your Legion card. But, without a program or resolution, we are not allowed to spend money on anything for the riders. The riders want national to spend money to promote the riders. We just started a national web site. For instance, all the donations for the Legacy Ride had to go to the Legacy Fund. Any donations made out to the fund, could not be used to pay expenses. If the donation was made out to the Run, we could use that money. Please make your checks out to the "Run" so we can pay expenses and give the rest to the "Fund". Whether or not you go on the run, it helps if you will register to support. You will get the registration package. Use the registration dollars collectively as part of the entire Department's donation. We are going to ask the founders and national staff to get with Michigan (because that's where the ALR started) to write 2 resolutions. One to start a national program and the second to spell out exactly what National can and can not do under their authorization to form a program. We will give it to the NEC and the National Convention this Fall and if they approve Michigan's resolutions, we will have a national program. We understand that there are many riders around the country that don't want a national program, but we have to protect our copyright and the emblem the riders wear. Q&A – Will the resolutions be posted so the riders can give input? Bill will ask Michigan if it is possible. There was a question about the National ALR website. Bill is the web master and has not had time to update it yet. Jeff Fairs, the IT guru, wants news and information to put on the blog about the riders. Can we get information in the American Legion magazine – 3 million circulation. Jeff Stouffer, the editor, wants something about the ALR every month because they are getting questions in letters to the editor. We can also send information to the Hoosier Legionnaire. Bill left the meeting at about 2:00.

## Chapter Roll Call –

POST POST CITY APRIL Yes APRIL No POST POST CITY APRIL Yes APRIL No  
2 Brazil Y 173 Versailles N  
11 Lafayette N 196 Bloomfield N  
15 Wabash Y 239 Lawrenceburg N  
17 Hammond Y 243 Ligonier new April N  
36 Rochester Y 250 Mitchell Y  
42 Floyds Knobs N 252 Greenwood Y  
44 Newburgh N 258 Pierceton Y  
47 Fort Wayne new Jan Y 276 Beech Grove Y  
64 Indianapolis Y 290 Rosedale Y  
70 Shelbyville N 297 New Carlisle Y  
76 French Lick N 308 Osceola N  
82 Fort Wayne Y 313 Fairmount Y  
85 Huntington N 368 Van Buren Y  
95 Jonesboro N 409 Leo N  
97 Auburn Y 423 Orland Y  
103 Mooresville Y 430 Merrillville Y  
113 Lebanon Y 470 Fishers N  
119 Greenfield new April N 484 Millersburg N  
124 Ferdinand N 485 Schererville new Feb N  
139 Sullivan Y 492 West Lafayette Y  
148 Ft. Wayne new April N 495 Indianapolis Y  
157 Churubusco Y 500 Speedway Y

Tom Such has moved out of the state. Kim Dietz has been appointed Historian.

Bob and Mike Fathman have moved the bank account to the Fifth Third Bank.  
The Treasurer and Director can both sign checks now.

Minutes of the last meeting waived – hard copies handed out. There was a correction to the previous minutes:

Post 97 will host the State Rally in 2008. (Volunteered at last meeting – didn't require a vote)  
A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes with the above corrections.

### REPORTS FROM OFFICERS:

Assistant Director, Marty Skaggs – Bikers for Homeless Veterans will has become Bikers for American Veterans. The ALR as now become the largest sponsor of this event and Marty challenged all chapters to participate and donate.

Treasurer, Mike Fathman – The new checking account was opened with \$1,941.09. The ending balance is \$2,753.01 – includes cash.

Membership Chairman, Mike Fathman – Send all membership information and money to Mike. Mike's info is on the contact list. Dina has printed 675 cards. We have 1,132 names – paid or unpaid – on the membership list.

Run Coordinator, Mark Gosney – We already discussed ORP. For the State Rally we have planned out the ride for Saturday – we will be going to several different Legion posts with ALR members – on June 9. Registration will be 10:00 AM – 11:15 AM. On Sunday, June 10, we will be riding from Post 500 to Post 492 We will leave 492 at 11:30 and ride to the Veteran's Home in West Lafayette for closing of the books. He is still working on a ride to State Convention in Merrillville. Check the web site for future rides. Bob encouraged everyone to go to make a show of bikes.

Chaplin, Poppy – Talked about the loss of Randy Gwinn. Keep his family in our prayers.

Communications – Trent Norton – not present – Bob – We’ve had 105 hits on the web site but compared to the 1300 members we have, that’s not very many.

Historian, Kim Dietz – nothing yet.

Sgt. At Arms, Pat Phillips – If anyone has anything to say, raise your hand. Everyone is doing a good job of keeping their voices down and not disrupting the meeting.

Department Meeting – Chairman Dawg was not present. Bill Menzel conducted the meeting – We had a guest at the Department meeting this morning – Hugh Dagley, Assistant Adjutant. He talked about our constitution and by laws.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Bob was going to talk about the resolution to have Committee Chairmen be Legion riders. We found out in the meeting that we need to have a constitution first. When that gets done we will work on it.

There is a motion on the table in reference to membership cards versus a stamp on our Legion cards. We need a motion to remove this from the table so we can put it to rest. The motion was made and seconded and passed to remove this from the table. Bob talked to Steve Short and he said we could have a stamp on the card. Emblem Sales does have a roll of stamps anyone can purchase. If we do go with a stamp, Bob’s suggestion is to design a stamp. Opened to the floor – cards vs. stamps. Do we need approval for the AUX and SAL to have the stamp? Bob doesn’t think there would be a problem. There was more discussion.

A motion was made to vote on stamps vs. cards. It was seconded and passed. The vote was 53 for cards and 3 for stamps.

Mike will set up new state cards and standardize the cards for 2008. The 2008 cards will be ready by the July meeting.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES:

We have received one application for ALORH that meets the requirements. May 15 is the deadline.

Bylaw committee –

They came up with new bylaws, but since they were discussed in the Department meeting this morning we will wait. We need a constitution first and with Hugh Dagley’s help, we should have a draft by the July meeting. A hard copy will be mailed to every Director in the state to share with their members.

State Rally Committee –

Pre-registration is \$30.00 per person with a free t-shirt. At the gate it is \$30 per person with no t-shirt. Pat has copies of the agenda. The charity ride on Saturday will be to all Legion posts. The hog roast on Saturday is included in your registration fee. There are 5 bands – 2 on Friday and 3 on Saturday. On Sunday we will ride to the Veteran’s Home in West Lafayette for Closing of the Books. May 8th is the deadline for pre-registration. The bike show is Saturday morning. All proceeds go the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Bob gave out Chapter Charter Documents. Kim took photos.

Legacy Ride – This is on the web site. The route has been finalized. We start from Post 500 on 8/19 at 8:00 AM. August 25 will be the ALR Nation Rally in Reno and 8/26 is the parade. Even if you can’t go, you can register and receive the registration package. There is a Legacy Campaign kit you can purchase in which you get Legacy card you can sell for \$1/each and pin on the walls. There is also a campaign to “adopt an overpass” to salute the riders with flags as they go by. The chapters adopted

overpasses on I-74 as follows:

Exit #61 – Pittsboro – Post 495  
Exit # 58 – Lizton – Post 113  
Exit #52 – Jamestown – Post 500  
Exit # 39 – open  
Exit #25 – open  
Exit #15 – Veedersburg – open  
Exit # 8 – Covington – open  
Exit #4 - ?? – Post 103

Chapter Data Forms – We need better response. Only 10 chapters have updated their forms for 2007. The forms can be updated on the web site.

ALROH Nominations – T.J. read the write up for one nomination from Post 97 – Clarence Eley. A motion was made, seconded and past to submit this nomination.

We need to let Hugh Dagley know if we want our own ALR section at Convention. If we have a section, we have to fill it. We decided to sit with our departments.

Post 12 – Wabash – They are hosting a breakfast next Saturday for the Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Jack Butler. He is a strong supporter of the ALR. Each Department has 1 NEC and 1 Alternated. This is a great honor. The breakfast is 8:00-11:00 and all proceeds to Jack’s campaign.

**INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Reggie told us about the Blue Star Salute on May 19 at the Hendricks County fairgrounds. This is an opportunity for us to show our support for our soldiers and veterans. Flier available at web site - ALRPost500.org

Pat explained about the fine for breaking the plane of the flags.

Marty told us about the “surprise” retirement party for Bob at 6:30 at Post 500.

Department Convention is in Merrillville July 12-15. We will have an ALR Hospitality Room run by Bruno. Our meeting is at 11:00 on the 14th. The Convention is at the Star Hotel Center.

The 2006 National Romp is July 6, 7, & 8 in Nashville, Tennessee. Information is on the web site. It would be good if we could arrange to ride down as a group.

Run to the Wall – The Residence Inn is sold out because this is the 20th anniversary of the Run. Get with Bob for more information.

Al Zimmerman (AZ Monk) – The 4th District has started a new program called “Operation Hometown Heroes”. Check it out on the web site.

April 28th is the 3rd annual all-day event at Post 500. Get with Pat for details.

50/50 - \$65 to the winner.

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM  
Dina Long, State Secretary  
[earlytimesh2o@sbcglobal.net](mailto:earlytimesh2o@sbcglobal.net)

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ALR Chapter 423  
Orland, Indiana