

2007 Officers

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Dates to Remember

July 5 - 8 National Romp
Post 88 Nashville, Tennessee
July 12 - 15 Department Convention
Merrillville Meeting July 14 11am-1pm
Hospitality Room by Bruno. Check our web-site for
a ride planned by the run coordinator Mark Gosney.

If your Chapter has not paid your dues you have no vote at the State meetings. You need to pay any back years dues to be up to date. You also will not receive a Chapter Charter Document until up to date with your dues.

**Submit information for the Newsletters at:
kimdtz@yahoo.com**

Make sure you say ALR State News
submission in the Subject line or it
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If you would like your newsletter to go to a
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address and I will use that address on your
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Please contact me if you have corrections
or changes in any information used in this
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Thank you

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Indiana State News



**American Legion Riders
Indiana State**

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

Volume 1, Issue 3

Spring State Meeting

State Auxiliary President, Vickie Koutz

was introduced for a presentation of a check received from Post #2, Brazil.

National Commander Elect

Marty was introduced as the leading candidate for National Commander. When asked by someone, Marty told him he thinks we are a great asset to the Legion. We are at a very critical point for national acceptance. He sees 99% of rider chapters doing the right things but we need to guard against that small percent who can give us a bad name. We are a start up program with as much potential as other Legion programs & we have to make sure it goes the right way. We have a bright future & he hears good things about Indiana bringing the program forward. We have a lot to be proud of. We must value the American Legion & what it stands for.

Bill Sloan – Liaison for the Legion Riders

National Headquarters

Bill talked about the Greenfield, Indiana, post where they have pictures of Legion Riders from 1950, showing three classes of motorcycles that competed with others as a motorcycle drill team. He talked about the history of Legion Riders at the Michigan post in 1973. In Kansas, a 1922 edition of the Legion Magazine run an ad for Indian Motorcycles. The American Legion has a history with motorcycles. At the national headquarters people were calling to ask, what the motorcyclists & the Legionnaires are doing & how can I get involved? The NEC & the Legion Rider founding fathers first met about 4 years ago. As time went by we proved our hearts were in the right place. We police ourselves better than the average Legionnaire does.

A year ago, if you had asked National if there were plans to make the ALR a national program, the answer would have been no, as we only had chapters in 30 departments. Any time we consider a national program, we have to look first at the interest as a whole. 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 619 American Legion posts today. We have chapters in 48 of the 55 departments, only Utah and Hawaii have no chapters. We also have overseas chapters -Germany, China Coast, Philipines.

We met in Indiana with the founding fathers – Bill Kaledis, Tramp Dare, Doc Moss from Vegas & Neal Thomas from Colorado (state liaison). We were scared to hear their opinions but we needed to get their viewpoints. If we become a national program, why? What could we give to the riders? Bill Kaledis pointed out that we could do more harm than good as the riders all over the country have many different versions/

combinations of vests, patches & rockers. In some parts of the country, you can 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 have already talked to the motorcycle clubs to explain what the Legion Riders are all about. Some of the problems that we thought would be big obstacles have evaporated. It was decided, yes, we should have a national program.

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 Chapters make decisions as long as they are not less stringent than the Department level.

There was a question and discussion about the spouse issue being Legion family members (female veteran's spouses are not members) & what National is doing about it. They do agree they have to do something to incorporate female veteran spouses & their families. We will leave this up to the riders to tell us. This is very similar to the way the Legion is set up with Departments & Posts. Go to the web site to check it out.

Q&A:

1. Will there be a national standard for application procedures? It will not be difficult for National to keep track of the riders simply by adding a check-mark to the membership database saying you are a member of the ALR. We could have a rider emblem printed on the Legion card.

2. Will the resolutions be posted so the riders can give input? Bill will ask Michigan if it is possible. Jeff Stouffer, the editor, of the American Legion magazine 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.

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 ALR.

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.

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 & the second to

spell out exactly what National can & can not do under their authorization to form a program. We will give it to the NEC & the National Convention this Fall. If they approve Michigan's resolutions, we will have a national program.

Legacy Ride 2007 - Reno Nevada

The ride will start at Post 500, Speedway, departing on August 19. Watch the State web site for more details.

Please make your checks out to the "Run" so we can pay expenses & give the rest to the "Fund". Any donations made out to the fund, can not be used to pay expenses. Whether or not you go on the run, it will help if you register to support. You will get the registration package. We can use the registration dollars collectively as part of the entire Department's donation.

By Laws Committee

Mark Gosney, T.J. Small, Steve Winniger & Poppy. A new set of bylaws were prepared but we found out that we need a constitution first. Hugh Dagley's will help put it together and it will be presented at the July meeting.

Awards -The American Legion Rider of Honor Award

TJ read the write up for one nomination from Post 97, Clarence Eley. A motion was made, second & passed to submit this nomination.

Membership Chairman

Please send all membership information to Mike Fathman & he will send your membership cards out to you. His address is on the State officers contact list.

New Historian Appointed

Due to the move out of State by Tom Such, Kim Dietz was appointed to be Historian.

Bikers for American Veterans

Bikers for Homeless Veterans has changed their name and the ALR has become the largest sponsor of the event, says Marty Skaggs.

"Operation Hometown Heroes"

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