

## Ohio American Legion Riders Meeting

January 17, 2015

Mid-Winter Conference Crowne Plaza Hotel Columbus, Ohio

Sign-in roster was passed for everyone in attendance to sign with Post and email requested.

**Per sign-in sheet Chapters present are: 23, 85, 88, 221, 239, 254, 257, 297, 326, 336, 338, 374, 389, 397, 449, 490, 514, 532, 627,677, 678, 685, 703, 733, and 763.**

Call to order: Sam Postlethwait, ALR State Director. He lead salute to colors, Pledge Allegiance, and ALR Preamble. The opening prayer was given by Frank Newland, Post 326 Shelby.

Jerry Wilson, Department ALR Liasion, introduced Bill Sloan, National ALR Director.

Bill addressed the following:

- 1) He deals with ALR problems on national level and he has had no problems in Ohio for over two years.
- 2) He hears only good things about Ohio and that is evident by the strong attendance at the meeting. Riders group has grown rapidly.
- 3) Rider issues around the U.S. are being addressed by a permanent National ALR Committee consisting of eight people that were appointed at the National level. The committee addresses concerns about ALR issues.
- 4) The Posts need to make rules and the Riders design own program at Post level regarding patches, meetings etc.
- 5) National does not want to tell us what to do. They do not dictate dress codes. Only issue is the trademarked back patch. He said that several State Departments had conterfeit back patches and the American Legion attorneys made the vendors stop making them. However the Department of Wyoming has unique patches with a Walrus but it was approved by Headquarters and it is not the main back patch. American Legion has 44 different emblems that are trademarked and they need to be protected. He said that we cannot use other groups back patches. He said that there is an ongoing debate about the use of rockers. They are alright as long as they do not touch the Emblem Sales back patch. He said that rockers are a good way to identify the post but new groups may choose not to use rockers.

- 6) Resolution 35 is trying to clean up having support members who do not own motorcycles but they must be a member of the Legion family in order to join the Riders.
- 7) The 2015 Legacy Run is August 23 through August 26. It will start in Indianapolis, Indiana and end at Post 22 in Baltimore Maryland. They are planning on coming through Ohio and will need gas stops, lunch and dinner stops and overnight stops. They are forming a planning committee now. Last year they had 300 bikes and over 500 people per stop. They may go through Fort Wayne to Rt 30 and across upper part of Ohio or possibly down through Portsmouth.

Bill thanked us for the opportunity to talk with us and he said that he heard that the Ohio Riders were the best in the Nation per Brenda McGowan, Department of Ohio.

Brian Mull, Post 514 Willard asked Bill Sloan why anyone can order ALR merchandise from Emblem Sales? Bill said that this is true and some State Departments, like California has a quarter-master who must place all orders for ALR merchandise. He said that the Department Adjunct could get with Emblem Sales and they must check a spreadsheet before filling an order. Jeff "Speedy" King, Post 221 Massillon said that he got an ALR flag without proof that he was a Rider.

Rex Mellot, Post 733 Bettsville, said that the handout information packet provided by Department today has outdated information in it. He said that a Post must make a motion to accept ALR group in their Post. He also said that we need sample charters. Rex also said that ALR National Riders website is [www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders). Bill Sloan said that any Ohio Chapter that is not listed on the National website "chapter locator" should call him and get the information added.

Ohio Department Commander, Dave Hilliard was introduced and he introduced his other officers. He said "wow" there are a lot of people here!" Fantastic job! He said that there is a lot of work going on in Department of Ohio! Commander Hilliard introduced the National Commander, Mike Helm. He said that the ALR was the largest group of people at this meeting. He said that the ALR adds a special energy to the Legion. He also mentioned that the ALR raised almost \$1,000,000 in 2014 for the Legacy Fund. He asked that we bring our

energy to other parts of the American Legion and to other veteran organizations like the V.A. Mr. Helm presented Post 14 with a plaque for 2010 Legacy Contribution for District 7.

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Jeff Drushel, Post 88 Ashland asked why we can't have a National Romp. Bill Sloan answered that if we call it a National ROMP this infers that the National American Legion is putting it on and then the liability falls back on the National Legion. He suggested calling it the All American ROMP. He wants to bring back ALR "Riders of Honor". Maybe National could make the patches.

Joan McGirr, Post 397 Vermilion, asked if we are a National program. Bill Sloan said that Resolution 35 says the ALR is a National program to be administered as a Post program. National Commander, Mike Helm, said that when you make anything a National program you lose freedom to do what you want.

Dave Hilliard, Department Commander, thanked Sam Postlethwait, Jerry Wilson and Brenda McGowan for putting this meeting together and for the good leadership. He said "all I can say is wow" !

Dave Hilliard introduced SAL Commander, Kyle Catlett, and his fellow officers. He said that he thinks it is remarkable what the ALR does. They also introduced SAL National Vice Commander Central Region, Ron Wyatt , who brought greetings from National SAL and he thinks it is outstanding that the ALR raised over \$20 million for the Legacy Fund. He said that he had the pleasure of meeting two of the Legacy's recipients whose father died in the War on Terrorism.

Sam Postlethwait said that there were two handouts that he wanted to bring to everyone's attention. One was for a Bus Trip sponsored by Department of Ohio the first part of October 2015 to Washington, DC and the other was for the Ohio Veterans' Memorial Park in Clinton, Ohio. The handout lists their 2015 Fund Raisers. He asked ALR membership to try and support these events.

Jerry Wilson asked the group about any new chapters. He said that he knows of five new ones in the State. He said that his Post would not survive without the ALR members. Every Post needs monetary help from their ALR group.

Gary Mack, Post 532 Columbus, said that there are handouts for the State ROMP in Columbus. He asks that Department, District and Post level representatives spread the word about the ROMP to their membership. He said that primitive camping would be available behind the Post. Gary said that he wants to discuss possibly starting a statewide patch for the ROMP with small rockers with Post #, city and year or a ROMP pin with bars under with Post #, city and year. This would start with 2015. Motion was made and seconded to get a Pin with bars. Membership passed. Cost would be covered with registration fee.

Steve Anderson, Post 336 Paynesville, complained that he has never received any email from the State regarding upcoming events and he has given his information a number of times. He said that they cannot support other Rider events if they don't know about them. He needs a calendar of events on State website.

Bill Sloan said that you can add any events to the National calendar that can be sorted by State. You can add events. You just sign into legion.org with membership number and put in the information.

Brian Mull, Post 514 Willard said that they are hosting the Bikers Ball on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. Bring \$1 lottery ticket and pay a dollar to enter drawing to win all lottery tickets. Also bring a can good that are then donated to veteran home nearby.

Ralph Tharpe, Post 627 Newburgh Heights, talked about the Rittman POW MIA Balloon Launch August 8<sup>th</sup> 2015. He said that there are two staging areas. One is in Brookpark at 10:00 a.m. with kick stands up at 11:00 a.m. and the other is in Seville at noon with kick stands up at 12:30 p.m. There will be a police escort. There were 750 bikes in 2014 and goal for 2015 is 2000 bikes. He said that they had 90 shirts left over from 2014 and theses were donated to Wade Park V.A. He said that there is a great After Party that is a lot of fun.

Tim Shigley, Post 532 Columbus sees that we have communication problems. We need to be more unified and we must show patience to get this figured out. He said that the Legion needs membership and there are thousands of people with motorcycles that we need to recruit.

Rex Mellott, Post 733 Bettsville said Regional ROMP is in Virginia 2015. Check National website for details.

Hope Reisling, Post 514 Willard said that the State and Regional ROMP for 2016 is in Willard on July 14, 15, 16 and 17.

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Kevin Townsend, Post 221 Massillon said that they are planning the First Annual Poker Run on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. There will be a pancake breakfast and first bike out will be 11:00 a.m. He said to check our website at [alrpost221.com](http://alrpost221.com).

Dan Archibald, Post 763 Beaver Creek said that they are now part of Ride and Grab and Riders were welcome to come Grab!  
He also said that they are hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fisher House Poker Run planned for May 30 with May 31<sup>st</sup> rain date. They had 60 bikes in 2014 and Shelby road the furthest. They donated \$2000 to Fisher House to help vets families at Wright Patterson Medical Center. He has raffle tickets available for sale today.

Barry Workman, Post 490 Whitehall said we need to post all poker runs in one place. Jerry Wilson said to call Brenda McGowan at Department Headquarters at 800-930-8961 and push 3 for Brenda's extension. Brenda will post for you.

Rex Mellott, Post 733 Bettsville said that Ohio ALR has a Facebook Group (not a page) and Mindy Hinkle, Post 257 Loudonville, does a great job making posts. [www.ohiolegionsriders.webs.com](http://www.ohiolegionsriders.webs.com) is the website. Mindy's email is [mshinkle2011@gmail.com](mailto:mshinkle2011@gmail.com)

Steve Anderson, Post 336 Paynesville said that we need a collective site. He said that we have all kinds of pages and only 10% of members know about them.

Frank Newland, Post 326 Shelby said that if you really want to go to support other posts you will find a way to find out.

Chip Stark, Post 221 Massillon said that they have an IT person and our site puts out all of our information.

Before we adjourned, Sam Postlethwait announced that the Whitehall ALR members **road their motorcycles** five miles to today's meeting. Bravo!