



ALR Meeting June 23, 2018 Department Convention

Meeting called to order – 2:00 p.m.
Prayer, Salute, Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble

Attendance

Role Call

Executive Officers

Director – Tony Propst – present
Assistant Director – Mike Burwell – present
Assistant Director – Larry Hammond – present
Assistant Director – Darryl Mercer – present
Assistant Director – Johnny Brown – present

District Directors

1 Keith Fry – (Anthony Coleman present)
2 Jessie Frazier - present
3 Javier Bermudez – excused
4 Frank Stone – excused
5 Arlie Tucker – present
6 Rodney Blitch - present
7 Steve Vaughters - present
8 Vacant
9 Ric Cline - present
10 Robert Wilson – (Rick Baugh present)
11 Cecil McCollum – (Gabriele Barnett present)
12 Tom Wilson, Jr. – absent

Past Director

Mike Hendrick – present

DOG ALR Staff

Darlyn Tillery – Secretary - present
Stanley Franklin – Treasurer - present
Pat Buchanan – Chaplain - excused
Tina Vaughters – Sgt. At Arms - present
Ric Cline - Sgt. At Arms - present

Road Captains

Glen Brumbelow – excused

Role Call of Chapters



Chapters in Attendance

12	Rockmart	111	Dallas	192	Evans
42	Cartersville	127	Buford	232	Snellville
47	Calhoun	149	Jasper	233	Loganville
56	Jefferson	163	Statham	251	Duluth
70	Villa Rica	167	Chatsworth	258	Jonesboro
75	La Grange	168	Hinesville	335	Sylvester
77	Conyers	172	Warner Robins	594	Warner Robins
110	Monticello	178	Augusta		

Guests:

John Pizzo - Department Commander, John Pizzo, was present and wanted to thank us for all we do; and he told us to have a good meeting.

Ex-Rider in Chief; Alternate NEC; Director of Boys State, Phil Youngblood - Director Youngblood stated that he felt that there was no other group in the American Legion who represented the American Legion Family better than the Legion Riders. When he was commander, the riders put forth more effort and enthusiasm in raising money for Legion causes than anyone else. Next year at Boy's State he wants to change things up a bit and have the boys become more involved with the riders. He wants the boys to be able to come out and greet us on arrival.

SAL Commander, Jamey Holloway - Jamey said he always appreciates the Riders. We always come in numbers when needed. He remembered on the National Commander's Escort this year looking up the road and seeing what seemed like miles of bikes. "It doesn't matter if it is cold or rainy, you can count on the Riders to be there." The Riders truly represent the whole Legion Family and are always thinking "Family First".

SAL Adjutant, Ronnie Grist - Ron said that they had just had the junior boys camp the previous weekend and that he wanted to thank Post 82, and the 4th and 9th District for coming up and interacting with the boys.

Minutes:

Motion to dispense and accept the previous Spring Conference Meeting Minutes. 2nd. Accepted

Director's Report - Tony Propst

- Currently we have 48 ALR Chapters in the state with membership of 1,026. 630 are Legionnaires, 189 are Auxiliary and 207 are Sons of the American Legion. We just added a Chapter at Post 75, La Grange and hope to add additional Chapters this year.
- Even though we have added a chapter we have lost membership. Our membership is down as is the membership of each group of the Legion family. We had a total decline in Legion membership last year of 3,553. We need to work at membership for every group of our Legion Family.
- We have been partners with the DOD in recognition for Vietnam Veterans and it has come to their attention that the surviving spouse of a Vietnam Veteran should also be honored. So, they have created a very nice pin and a certificate for these special ladies and there is now a request form on the dogalr.org website. If you know anyone who qualifies, please assist them in filling out this form.
- Our Executive Committee approved funding for the Department Centennial coin. We will receive 5% of the sales after our expenditure is recovered. The coins will sell for \$20.00 each. There is a link on dogalr.org for ordering, or you can see Barbara or Tony at the Rider's table in the foyer. The coin is a beautiful piece that will be cherished.
- The Executive Committee also approved a \$250.00 donation to the Charlie Knox Appreciation Gift that will be presented to Charlie at the Convention Banquet.



- The Executive Board also established requirements for the 100% Participation Streamer. Each Chapter must have at least one (1) representative at each event. Members of the DOG ALR Executive Committee do not qualify as a Chapter representative. All the details for the 100% Participation Streamer are on the dogalr.org website. The required events (7) are:
 - DOG Rally at Department Convention
 - Old Soldier's Day Parade
 - Fall Conference ALR meeting
 - Atlanta Veterans Day Parade
 - Spring Conference ALR meeting
 - National Commander Escort
 - Riders' Retreat
 - Optional Events (1)
 - The Ride Home to Andersonville
 - Boys State Ride & Visit

Tony will also talk to the new Auxiliary President and inquire if we can visit Girl's State and get them involved too.

- The Executive Board approved changing our Cash 3 drawing to December to allow more time for sales. The Area Directors will distribute tickets.
- Actions on our resolutions this morning were extremely disappointing. Tony has been told three different procedures to follow and every time he has followed each one and each time he has hit a brick wall. The three resolutions have all been pushed back to us. We previously voted on them, so Tony will update our constitution and bylaws and submit them; and if they have a problem with them, they will let him know.

The one resolution, which was supposed to be presented to National, was for the ALR to be recognized as an organization like the SAL. Again, they dropped the ball and did not get it presented to the DEC. Therefore, it could not be presented at convention. Now it must be presented to the DEC and we will have to wait on it to be voted on at their first meeting. After that they will have to do a role call of the posts for approval before it goes to National.

- The website is up to date. If you have ALR flyers for Tony to put on the website, please send them to him as a pdf file.
- We still need volunteers for the following staff positions: Road Captains for Areas 2, 3, and 4.
- If you would like to have an Assistant Director or Tony install your Chapter Officers, please contact us immediately.

Stanley Franklin –(Guest) Newly-Elected Dept. Commander

As our newly elected commander, Stanley repeated what Phil Youngblood stated; that the ALR is the traveling billboard for the American Legion because we are comprised of all legion groups. We are really going to emphasize Family First this year and we need to support all organizations whenever possible.

Finance Report – Stanley Franklin

- We started the month of June with \$6,185.64 and ended the month with \$6,044.47.
- Stanley went over each entry explaining any expenditure and any deposits. He suggested that we adopt these figures. It was so moved, and the motion was carried.
- Stanley introduced the ladies from Angel Flight and asked that we consider their organization as a fundraiser next year.
 - Angel Flight organization provides free medical flights to people in need. Just as an example, it may be a young child from southern Georgia that has cancer and needs to get to Atlanta every week for treatment. This puts a tremendous strain on the family and this is where Angel Flight can help. The Peachtree Dekalb office serves AL, GA, MS, NC, SC and TN with volunteer pilots and volunteer aircraft. They can do as many



as 10 missions a day seven days a week. They do this all with volunteer services and donations. They would like to be considered as a recipient of our fundraising.

- Every year the Legion provides a Child Welfare Grant. This year Angel Flight applied for the grant and John Pizzo presented a check to Angel Flight for \$22,500. Stanley suggested that we use the coin profits to fund a donation to Angel Flight.
- Stanley presented the proposed budget for 2018-2019. This is simply an expense budget and gives us a starting point. There were no changes made to the budget. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the budget.

Charter Presentation – John Pizzo/Tony Propst - Presented the charter to our newest Chapter, La Grange.

Area Assistant Director - Mike Burwell

- This was the 20th year for Ride for America and the fee for the ride was waived. However, the ride was not as well attended as expected due to the inclement weather. They did however raise \$25,000 due to the help of their sponsors and they hope next year their numbers will be up again.
- Atlanta Veterans Day Parade will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2018. Mike did not have any other details on the ride at this time, but he will provide this info as he receives it. He has requested that we lead the parade as usual.

Area Assistant Director – Larry Hammond

- National Commander's Escort – April 19, 20, and 21. We had the National Commander and the National Auxiliary President on the ride. Everything went very well, and Larry proceeded to thank all the State Troopers and local county and municipal officers for making the escort such a success.
- Boy's State – Larry specifically thanked Statham for meeting up with the ride and escorting Charlie Tucker to Boy's State. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when everyone saw him. We had about 15 bikes on the ride and Charlie was happy to be part of this event.
- Old Soldier's Day Parade – The first Saturday in August. The paperwork has been completed and we are just waiting on a staging time for meeting at the Alpharetta Post. When Larry receives it, he will pass it on.
- Centennial Ride – This is a request from our new commander. In 2019 there will be 34 posts in the state of Georgia that have been in existence for 100 years. Stanley would like us to have a ride visiting as many of these posts as possible. We will have to divide the ride into two rides. One covering the Northern posts and one covering the Southern posts. This will make it convenient for everyone to participate.
- Boy's State 2019 – We will start rides in different areas; north, south, east, and west. We will have a meeting point and then all ride in together. We would like to get more riders involved and we are hoping that this will allow everyone to participate. We will ride in and park between the buildings and they will have the boys come out and greet us. They will get a chance to see the bikes and intermingle with us before we go inside for the presentation.
- The Legacy Run is coming up and Larry will again be a tail gunner. He just wanted to caution everyone that the Legacy Run is not a leisure ride. It is a lot of fun but riding in the group is very challenging, as you will ride closer and faster than you usually do.

Area Assistant Director – Darryl Mercer

- Rider's Retreat – Darryl thanked everyone for coming and gloated about being the Grill Master. He said he had to use the grill at hand and it wasn't what he was used to. He is requesting a new Grill Master for next year...any volunteers? He will however continue his classes on "The Art of Fishing."
- The Ride Home will be September 20 and 21. It will start in Warner Robbins and end with a ceremony at Andersonville. You can find information at the www.theridehome.com website. We will also go to the Mennonite Restaurant after the ceremony.



- Run for the Fallen – This is something that had just come to Darryl’s attention. They are literally running a mile at a time down to Savannah on route 80. Every mile they stop to honor a different fallen veteran. You can donate money, or you can run a mile, there are several different ways of participating and Darryl will get us further information.

Area Assistant Director - Johnny Brown

- Johnny first told everyone that if they missed the retreat, they missed a good weekend.
- Wreaths Across America – Very important program. If every American Legion Group in each Post would buy just 10 wreaths, we would have 5,120 wreaths and that would bring us \$25,620 revenue from the rebates. This year we will provide wreaths for the Marietta State Cemetery, Milledgeville State Cemetery, Chattanooga National Cemetery, Fort Mitchell National Cemetery and the Georgia National Cemetery. We will still be short of our goal, but we will be a lot closer to it. The ceremony at the Sloppy Floyd Building downtown will be on December 10 at 11:30 and the wreath laying at the cemeteries will be on Saturday, December 15. Please use the form on the DOG ALR website.
- Any area 4 posts – if you have rides that you want to let people know about, if you will send Johnny your flyers he will send them out to the rest of the area.

Unfinished Business

Resolutions – Tony wanted to go over these resolutions even though we had discussed them before. He wanted them to be clear; voted on; and recorded.

- Resolution 17-1
 - Article 3a Section 3 - Election of Assistant Directors – in the past we have had an open forum. We would like to change that to the format of nominations being taken for a specific area.
 - Article 5 Section 5 - Uniform – Currently our uniform is stated as the ALR vest and headgear. We would like to change that and add that the ALR vest, headgear, black pants and white collared shirt is the official uniform for official meetings, funerals, escorts, etc.
 - Article 7 Section A - Revenue of DOG ALR – in the past we have just had the statement that we needed two signatures on our checks and we would like to change that to read that two of the following signatures: ALR Director; ALR Treasurer and one ALR Assistant Director named by the executive board are the only authorized signatures.

A motion for the changes for this resolution was made; seconded; voted on; and approved.

- Resolution 17-2
 - The intent of this resolution would be to allow the past Rider in Chiefs to become members of the American Legion Riders whether or not they own a motorcycle. We have several exceptions where we have people wanting to volunteer and help the riders with leadership; such as Phil Youngblood, and technically they can’t.

A motion for this resolution was made; seconded; voted on; and approved.

- Resolution 17-3
 - The intent of this resolution would be to change the head gear of the Director and Asst. Directors of the ALR to follow the other state departments and change their head gear to a white beret so that they will be recognized as a Department Officer. Head gear would be:
 - DOG ALR Director – white beret
 - Assistant State Directors – white beret
 - District Directors – blue beret
 - Appointed Staff- maroon beret

A motion for this resolution was made; seconded; voted on; and approved.



New Business

- Election of Assistant Directors for Area 2 & 4.
 - **Area 2 – Larry Hammond**
 - **Area 4 – Johnny Brown**

A motion was made; seconded; voted on; and approved.

- There are about five shirts left from the National Commander’s Escort. Tony asked that he be allowed to donate them to Post 264 for their bi-monthly veteran’s dinner. They bring out vets for dinner and they can use them as gifts or giveaways for the vets.

A motion was made; seconded; voted on; and approved.

District Reports

District 1

Members: 31 Total – 22 Legion, 6 Auxiliary, 3 SAL

Miles: 3,494

Hours: 285

Donations: \$61

Memorial Fund Raiser, Memorial Day Event Hinesville Cemetery, Memorial Day Event Bonaventure Cemetery, Hunter Flight Flag Line & Escort Hunter Army Air Field, Veteran Visit

District 2

Members: 25 Total – 25 Legion

Miles: 1,042

Thunder Beach Rally, Numerous Post Programs, Numerous local MC events

District 3

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

District 4

Participants: 276

Miles: 14,594

Hours: 1,112

Donations: \$3,426.00

28 Nursing home visits and 3 escorts

District 5 (June 2017 – May 2018)

Members: 204– 106 Legion, 48 Auxiliary, 50 SAL

Miles: 173,534

Hours: 17,547

Donations: \$29,999.93

District 6

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

District 7

Members: 157 – 64 Legion, 35 Auxiliary, 58 SAL

Miles: 53,730

Hours: 20,290

Donations: \$10,320

Meetings, Escorts, Parades, Funerals, Flag Retirement

District 8

Vacant

District 9

NO REPORT SUBMITTED



District 10

Members: 145 – 91 Legion, 23 SAL, 31 Auxiliary
Miles: 60,079
Hours: 7,660.5
Donations: \$6,100
Participation: Funeral Escorts, Fundraisers, Chapter Rides

District 11

Members: 32 – 19 Legion, 12 Auxiliary, 5 SAL
Miles: 4,821
Hours: 6,489
Donations: \$681.00

District 12

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

Certificates of Appreciation

National Commander’s Escort

12 Rockmart	13 Valdosta	42 Cartersville	47 Calhoun	56 Jefferson	77 Conyers
110 Monticello	111 Dallas	123 Lexington	163 Statham	167 Chatsworth	172 Warner Robins
233 Loganville	251 Duluth	258 Jonesboro	335 Sylvester	512 Albany	594 Warner Robins

Rider’s Retreat

47 Calhoun	111 Dallas	121 Blairsville	135 Savannah	163 Statham
167 Chatsworth	178 Augusta	192 Evans	232 Snellville	233 Loganville
251 Duluth	337 Grovetown	594 Warner Robins		

Boy’s State Ride and Visit

56 Jefferson	163 Statham	232 Snellville	233 Loganville
--------------	-------------	----------------	----------------

Rider of the Year

Rodney Blicht

Good of the ALR

Tony mentioned that we had previously voted on the DOG ALR Director having a pin to give out like the other commanders and directors. Tony has designed his pin and has gotten 500 to handout. His wife, Barbara, sold the old Preamble Coins that the department had laying around in storage and between those coins and some others they recouped enough money to pay for the pins.

There was a question from the floor as to whether we could list bike sales on the website. Tony said we do not want to get involved in that.

Motion to close the meeting. Seconded, Prayer, Dismissed: 3:52 pm