



ALR Meeting June 24, 2023 2023 Department Convention

Meeting called to order – 1:42 p.m.
Colors Posted, Prayer, POW/MIA Recognition, Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Officers

- Director – Tony Propst – present
- Secretary – Darlyn Tillery – present
- Treasurer – James Fultz – present
- Chaplain – Michael Schwartz - absent
- Sgt. At Arms - Cecil McCollum - present
- Assistant Sgt. At Arms – Tina Vaughters - excused
- Area 1 Assistant Director – Gabriele Barnett - present
- Area 2 Assistant Director – Thea Fultz- present
- Area 3 Assistant Director – Darryl Mercer – present
- Area 4 Assistant Director – Gary Evans - present
- Past State Director – Johnny Brown - absent

District Directors

- 1 Jay Beasley - present
- 2 No Chapters
- 3 No Chapters
- 4 Rob Julian - present
- 5 Leroy Young - present
- 6 Rodney Blich - Excused
- 7 Albert Harper - present
- 8 Vacant
- 9 Darlyn Tillery - present
- 10 Robert Wilson – present
- 11 Julie Huffman – present
- 12 Tom Wilson, Jr. – Absent

Role Call of Chapters

		Chapters in Attendance			
029	Marietta	127	Sugar Hill	216	Austell
050	Peachtree City	135	Savannah	233	Loganville
056	Jefferson	163	Statham	258	Jonesboro
110	Monticello	172	Warner Robins	294	Powder Springs
123	Lexington	178	Augusta	516	McDonough
093	Commerce	192	Evans	594	Warner Robins

Minutes:

Motion to accept the March Meeting Minutes. 2nd and Accepted

Finance Report: Jim Fultz

Everyone was given a copy of the budget report so that we did not have to go over each line item. The beginning balance was \$8,378.95. The total income so far this year was \$40,294.96. Ending balance, after total expenses of \$29,087.28 is \$11,207.68. Motion to accept pending audit – 2nd and Accepted

Director's Report - Tony Propst

- **Membership** - Currently we have 42 ALR Chapters in the state with a membership of 934 which is only 2.2% of the total Legion Family membership. Our number of chapters is down, but our total membership has increased by almost 5%. For the ALR 537 members are Legionnaires, 178 are Auxiliary and 219 are SAL. Although we are only a small percentage of the total Legion Family membership, we accomplish great things and provide more than our fair share.



- **Wreaths Across America** – Our department ALR sponsors seven national and state cemeteries in and around the state where Georgia veterans are laid to rest. Last year over 2.7 million wreaths were placed on veteran graves at 3,207 locations worldwide. In Georgia, there are 168 sponsored locations where 734 wreaths were sponsored through the Department ALR last year and 288 have already been ordered for 2023. It's never too early to purchase a wreath for a veteran's grave. Go to www.dogalr.org for printable forms or find a link to our page for online ordering. The wreaths are now \$17 each. Wreath laying at all cemeteries this year is on December 16.
- **Oratorical Contest/Auxiliary National President Escort** – Legion Riders attended the Department Oratorical Contest in March and escorted the Auxiliary National President from Augusta to Savannah when she visited in April. Unfortunately, the National Commander's visit was cancelled this year. We did have a group of riders visit Girls and Boys State in Valdosta last week.
- **Fundraising** – Through our fundraising efforts and donations from ALR Chapters, we've made the following donations this year:
 - \$1,000 Dept. Oratorical Contest Prize Fund
 - \$2,400 Sponsorship of 8 young men to Boys State
 - \$2,800 Sponsorship of 8 young ladies to Girls State
 - \$9,200 Commander's Project for Georgia veterans non- appropriated needs
 - \$15,400 Total Donations

We have also raised another \$1,000 for next year's Department Oratorical Contest and \$3,000 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund which will be donated this August.

- **The Legacy Scholarship Fund** - This is the premier project of the American Legion Riders, and all donations are gratefully appreciated. Last year they were able to raise a record 1,324,548 million dollars. This fund is used for scholarships for children of soldiers killed in action or any veteran deemed 50% or more disabled since September 11, 2001. The ride will leave Kokomo, Indiana on August 20 and the final stop will be in Concord, NC, on August 24th. This year the National Convention will be in Charlotte. Since inception 16 years ago, Legion Riders have helped raise over \$15M and the fund is now self-sustaining. Starting in 2024, the annual charity motorcycle ride will be fundraising for the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF). The foundation funds the Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program, which assists military and veteran families, with minor children at home, when they are faced with unexpected financial hardship. Funds are disbursed as cash grants solely to be used for essential household costs.
- **The DOD Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Program** – Legion Riders of Georgia are commemorative partners with the DOD for this program. The program thanks and honors veterans of the Vietnam War Era for their service and sacrifice. All veterans who served from June 1, 1954 through May 15, 1975, are eligible for this recognition. The commemorative period will end on November 11, 2025. We are authorized to present the DOD Lapel Pin to eligible veterans and work with the Georgia Department of Veterans Service to present Vietnam veterans with the State Certificate of Honor. There's also a special recognition and pin for the Spouse of a deceased Vietnam Veteran.
- **Centennial Coins** – I have 11 coins left. They are \$10 each. If you want one, please see me.
- Please be sure to tell all new riders about the free life insurance throughout the legion.

Reports -

Area 1 Assistant Director – Gabriele Barnett (July 2022 – June 2023)

- Total Miles – 222,797: Total Volunteer Hours 13,929: Total Donations \$11,056
- Two participated in the National Legacy Ride
- Two members of Area 1 participated in the Snowball Express. Event sponsored by the Gary Sinise foundation – invites children of military families who have lost a parent to Disney World in Florida.
- Christmas Parades and Christmas Parties for disadvantaged children.
- WAA Participation as well as fundraisers, funeral escorts and activities supporting veterans.
- 23 Riders escorted the National President to Savannah
- 16 Riders put a total of 7,500 flags on veterans' graves
- Riders took part in the Ride for America

Area 2 Assistant Director – Thea Fultz

- District Directors are present and will give their reports.
- Ride for Veterans Transition is now a 100% Ride. It was a great success. Good turnout.



Area 3 Assistant Director – Darryl Mercer

- Rider's Retreat – Plans being made for retreat for 22-24 September. The host hotel will be the Wyngate Hotel of Warner Robins. Room rate \$85.00. Registration will be at Post 172. Further information will be forthcoming.

Area 4 Assistant Director – Gary Evans – recently appointed – no report

District Reports

District 1 – No Report

District 2 – No Chapters

District 3 – No Chapters

District 4

Members: 28 – 27 Legion, 1 Auxiliary

Miles: 5,871

Hours: 1,113

Donations: \$11,400

Benefit ride for Laconte Jackson

Ride to benefit Homeless Veterans – Area 2

Boys & Girls State, Valdosta

District 5

Members: 194 – 105 Legion, 46 SAL, 43 Auxiliary

Miles: 106,215

Hours: 6,673

Donations: \$33,437.60

Posts in the District participated in Patriot Guard funeral processions, wreath laying activities, Motorcycle By-Stander Training, and several fundraisers.

Three rides for Veteran Suicide – Salute the Fallen, Save the Brave, Mission 22

Two rides to support Cancer Research

Five to support Veterans

ALA National President Escort

Boys State & Girls State

District 6

No Report

District 7

No Report

District 8

Vacant

District 9

Members: 144 – 78 Legion, 39 SAL, 27 Auxiliary

Miles: 110,932

Hours: 2,966

Donations: \$11,944.35

37 Special Missions reported in addition to regular meetings, rides, and escorts

Guest: Department Commander – Melvin Weaver and Senior Vice Jim Fultz

Commander Weaver wanted to thank us for our support and our many contributions to the GA American Legion.

He asked for our continued support during the next year and said the Riders represent the Legion better than anyone and that we are the best at collecting donations. He said we “work hard, and if we come to the reception tonight” we can “play hard”.

District 10

Members: 138 – 92 Legion, 20 SAL, 26 Auxiliary

Miles: 52,532

Hours: 1,916

Donations: numerous

Participation: Meetings, Funeral Escorts, Fundraisers, Chapter Rides, Dinners.



District 11

Members: 69
 Miles: 58,792
 Donations – 11th District donated to NEF, Fisher House Fort Gordon, VA Hospital – Augusta, GA War – Augusta, Special project Fort Gordon Military Kids, Christmas House, the Veteran’s gift shop at hospital. Both chapters donated to Wreaths Across America.
 Legacy Scholarship Ride
 National Auxiliary President Escort
 Boys State and Girls State
 Ride for America
 Memorial Day – Over 9,000 flags on veteran’s graves and 240 crosses for veterans

District 12 – No Report

Sick Call and Riders Down

Laconte Jackson Sr. – ALR Post 516 was lost on April 2, 2023, at 36 yrs. old. A presentation was to be made from the Riders Down fund to his family on July 11.
 Joe Hogue – Chapter 70 – Hit broadside and lost a foot. \$250 from the Riders Down fund.
 Marley Redlin – Chapter 294
 Peggy Becker – Chapter 163
 Joseph Shores
 Cecil McCollum – prayers to keep him out of the hospital

Old Business

Approval was received to reimburse Thea Fultz \$265 for the pins she gave out for the Ride for Veterans Transition.

New Business

- The Road Name for the outgoing Commander will be “Trouble”.
- The incoming Commander, Melvin Weaver has approved the appointment of Gabriele Barnett as the new 2023-2024 Georgia ALR State Director.
- Election of Assistant Directors for Area 1 & 3
 - Area 1 Assistant Director is Cindy Guthrie from Chapter 192 Evans
 - Area 3 Assistant Director is Darryl Mercer from Chapter 594 Warner Robins

Awards and Presentations

Veteran Transition from Homelessness

029	Marietta	070	Villa Rica	216	Austell
050	Peachtree City	135	Savannah	258	Jonesboro
056	Jefferson	163	Statham	294	Powder Springs
516	McDonough	594	Warner Robins		

- **Boys and Girls State Visit**
 - Valdosta – Chapter 13
 - Villa Rica – Chapter 70
 - McDonough – Chapter 516
- **100% Participation Streamer and Certificate**
 - Villa Rica – Chapter 70
- **Rider of the Year Certificate and Patch**
 - Robert Julian – Peachtree City – Chapter 50
 - Cecil McCollum – Statham – Chapter 163
- **American Legion Rider of Honor**
 - Nomination for the State of Georgia is Robert Wilson – Statham – Chapter 163 Only 12 nominations accepted nationally for the year.
- **New District 9 Director** - Darlyn Tillery – Sugar Hill – Chapter 127 given District Director cap.

New State Director – Gabrielle Barnett

- Director Barnett handed out Certificates of Appreciation for all the hard work that had been given by District 1 and District 11.

Donation – Wreaths Across America – Donation of \$225 received from Sugar Hill, Chapter 127 after the deadline.

- Will be put in the account and used for next year’s fund and put in the Commander’s Project Donation.



New Fall Bonanza – Announced by Gabrielle Barnett

- New fundraiser for the ALR. Tickets are ready to be handed out today. There will only be 1,500 tickets sold. It will run for 61 days from November 1 – December 31, 2023. Different amounts can be won on different days. Once a ticket is pulled as a winner, it is returned to the pool, so you have multiple chances to win. Amounts shown on flyer. Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. We have the possibility of making \$20-25,000.

Good of the ALR

- Ride for the Brave Tour – This ride is for the Veterans Suicide Project. It starts in California and will be coming to Georgia through Alabama to Fairburn, Georgia. We will escort it to Savannah. The ride is due in Fairburn on July 25, 2023.
- Thea Fultz mentioned that several rides have occurred where T-shirts were given out for the ride. However, they did not have the proper American Legion Rider logo on them. Please be sure to use the appropriate logo when having anything printed, otherwise they really can't be worn.
- Austell – Chapter 216, is hosting a Poker Run on August 5 to benefit the Shriner's. They will have food, music, a band, etc. The flyer will be sent to the DOG ALR website.
- A template for ALR Membership cards will be placed on the DOG ALR website for chapters to download and use for their groups
- Sheila Tinsley has been appointed as the new DOG ALR Secretary and was given the appropriate cap to wear.
- "Be The One" is a new program that the American Legion is promoting. It means you should be the one who checks on fellow riders, legion members, and any veterans that you have not seen in a while. You never know when your phone call or visit may be the one thing that stops them from committing this act. "BE THE ONE"

Prayer, Colors Retired, Dismissed: 3:12 pm.

Any reports not listed were due to no written report being submitted and the tape recording being inaudible from so far away.