



ALR Meeting March 25, 2023. Department Spring Conference

Meeting called to order – 1:38 p.m.

Colors Posted, Prayer, POW/MIA Recognition, Pledge of Allegiance

Before the start of the meeting Cecil McCollum asked to say a few words. Cecil wanted to emphasize that we all need to make “buddy checks”. He had been in the hospital for most of August and September and he said that having several of the riders make buddy checks on him meant everything to him.

Roll Call

Officers

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

District Directors

- 1 Earl Coolman - Excused
- 2 Vacant
- 3 Vacant
- 4 Rob Julian - present
- 5 Leroy Young - present
- 6 Rodney Blitch - Excused
- 7 Steve Vaughters - present
- 8 Robert Kohn - Absent
- 9 Tom Hinehline - Absent
- 10 Robert Wilson – present
- 11 Julie Huffman – present
- 12 Tom Wilson, Jr. – Absent

Role Call of Chapters

- 006 Milledgeville
- 029 Marietta
- 070 Villa Rica
- 110 Monticello
- 127 Sugar Hill

Chapters in Attendance

- 135 Savannah
- 163 Statham
- 167 Chatsworth
- 172 Warner Robins
- 178 Augusta
- 192 Evans

- 216 Austell
- 233 Loganville
- 294 Powder Springs
- 516 McDonough
- 594 Warner Robins

Minutes:

Motion to accept the October 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 \$32,319.96. Ending balance, after total expenses of \$12,764.69 is \$19,555.27. 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 880. 530 are Legionnaires, 154 are Auxiliary and 196 are Sons of the American Legion. Membership is still in an ebb and flow. There are two more chapters becoming reality, so things are looking good. We always need new members.



- Our **Fall Sweepstakes** was successful. We were finally able to meet our minimum goal of \$10,000 but we had some participation issues due to the lack of distribution in Districts 7 and 9. Still we carry on. A list of winners is posted on dogalr.org.
- The **Home Defense Raffle** is going well. The drawing will be immediately after this meeting. Barb still has tickets if you want to buy any. They are 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10 or 8 for \$20. The prizes are a 45-cal model 1911 pistol, a SCCY 9 mm pistol and a 12-gauge pump shotgun.
- The **National Commander's Visit** has been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.
- **Wreaths Across America** – Our campaign went very well. We sponsored 734 wreaths in 2022. There were over 2.7 million wreaths placed on veteran graves at 3,207 locations. 168 locations were in Georgia. Both State cemeteries were fully covered along with the National cemeteries in Andersonville and Canton. Marietta National was at 50.5% so we need to make sure we all send one or two wreaths to Marietta to bring them to 100%. The theme for 2023 is "Serve and Succeed". We already have 288 wreaths ordered for 2023 so we need to keep up the good work. Wreath sponsorships have gone up to \$17 per wreath. This is the first increase they have had. The new order form and a printable flyer are available on the dogalr.org website.
- **The Commanders Project** for Georgia Veterans is a joint project of the Department Commander, Detachment SAL Commander, Department Auxiliary President, and Department ALR Director. All funds raised are donated to various VA hospitals and clinics around the state to support Georgia Veterans for non-appropriated items that they need and desire. The VA centers submit a "wish list" of items needed and funds are disbursed at the Department Convention each year. It was very shocking to hear at the DEC meeting that so far this year we only had \$12,000 donated to that fund. We need all money donated by May 1, 2023, to appropriate all funds before the National Convention. We have never had a flyer on the Commanders Project Fund. One is now up and on the dogalr.org website.
- **The Legacy Scholarship Fund** is another project we all need to consider. 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 1.3 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. Not sure where the ride will begin this year, but it is held the week before the convention, and usually covers about 1,000 miles. It ends at the National Convention site. This year the National Convention will be in Charlotte. Again, there is a printable flyer available on dogalr.org. If you would like to donate you can send it to Tony at: 129 Brandi Dr., Hiram, GA 30141, and it will be combined into one check from the Georgia ALR. We can give it to Gabrielle to present at the National Convention.
- **Membership** – All ALR members must have current Legion Family membership. Any member who has paid their ALR dues but not their Family dues is now EXPIRED, and you cannot participate in ALR activities. Each chapter membership chair must make sure that all members have current Legion, SAL, or Auxiliary membership to be active in the ALR. No exceptions.
- **Post Elections**- All Post elections, including the ALR, must occur within the timeframe required by the Department of Georgia Constitution. The constitution states in part: Article IX Post Organization, Section 6: "prior to the Department Convention on June 23rd, each Post shall elect its officers annually at a time not less than 15 days (June 8th) nor more than sixty days in advance (April 23rd)." Your Chapter Officer Certification is due to Tony within 7 days of your elections. This is required for delegate voting at convention.
- **The Department Convention** – will be in Duluth at the Sonesta Hotel from Friday, June 23rd to Sunday, June 25th. Our meeting will be on Saturday, June 24th. Registration is \$10.00 now and \$30 after May 12. Of course, today they cut that in half for those only attending the Rider's meeting.
 - We will be electing Assistant State Directors for Area 1 (Districts 1, 10 & 11) and Area 3 (Districts 2, 6, 8 & 12). Candidates to date:
 - Area 1 Cindy Guthrie, Chapter 192, Evans
 - Area 3, Darryl Mercer, Chapter 594, Warner RobinsIf you would like to run for an open position, please send Tony an email indicating your intention and the Area. You do not have to reside in the Area, just be willing to serve. Also, we still need an Assistant State Director for Area 4 (Districts 7 & 9). Each chapter will appoint two delegates for voting.
- **Rider of the Year** – If you have someone you would like to nominate for this honor, please send your nomination with justification to Tony by May 1st and he will get with the Assistant State Directors, and they will determine a winner of the award.
- **100% Participation** – We are going to have to make some substitutions for these events.
 - The Commander's Escort – will be replaced with the ride to Boys/Girls State. We will be visiting both in one day. We are working it out where we can visit one in the morning and visit the other after lunch. The visit will be Thursday, June 15. Information is posted on the dogalr.org website.
 - The ALR Retreat – will be replaced with a significant ride that will be in Area 2. Thea will tell us more about this. It will leave from Jonesboro. We figure this is central to just about everyone.



- **Donations** – This morning Tony made donations to the following during our Legion meeting: \$1,500 Boys State (5 boys); \$1,750 Girls State (5 girls); \$6,750 Commanders Project. This is probably the most we have ever donated.
- **ALR Website** - Please send your ALR event information and/or flyers to Tony for the website. If you would send those copies to him in PDF format it would be greatly appreciated.
- Please be sure to tell all new riders about the free life insurance through the legion.

Guest – Bill Simmons, Georgia Department Commander

Commander Simmons wanted to take a moment to thank us for our generous contribution to the Commanders Project. This project helps all the VA hospitals in the state to get some of the things these vets need. Things that the government does not provide. Riders do better than anyone else at fundraising and riders bring the most recognition to the Legion. Riders are always out there riding with vests on showing the American Legion emblem reminding people of the veterans that have made sacrifices. Keep up the good work. Thank you again and again!

Reports -

Area 1 Assistant Director – Gabrielle Barnett

- Total Miles – 28,867: Total Volunteer Hours 4,701: Total Donations \$6,041
- Participation in the Savannah Veteran's Parade
- 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.
 - Upcoming Events:
 - National Auxiliary President Visit
 - State Legacy Ride – Being planned for next year. Need committee Volunteers. Contact Gabrielle.
 - Ride for America – 25th Anniversary – May 29 – Post 233 – 7:00 am
 - National Legacy Ride – Registration opens the first week in April. Ride in August.

Area 2 Assistant Director – Thea Fultz

- District Directors are present and will give their reports.
- **Ride for Veterans Transition is a 100% Ride**
 - Date: May 7, 2023
 - Post 258 Jonesboro
 - Registration: 9:30-10:30 am - KSU 11:00 am
 - Riders: \$25.00, Passengers \$5.00 – Monetary Donations Accepted
- No written report received.

Area 3 Assistant Director – Darryl Mercer

- Rider's Retreat – Time was running out to plan a retreat. We have decided to host a "retreat" in Warner Robins. There are a couple of Posts that are in that area and the thought is to have different events at each post; dinner at one; and, possibly lunch at another. We will check on the dates of September 22-24th. When it has been confirmed we will post hotels, and details. Motion was made to check out the dates of 9/22-9/24 with the participating posts (172, 594 and 3). 2nd and Accepted.
- Boys State/Girls State Ride – Visit to both will be on June 15. We will visit one in the morning and one in the afternoon with lunch at Boys State. Tony will post nearby hotel info on website for those riding down on 6/14.

Area 4 Assistant Director – Vacant

District Reports

District 4

Miles: 2,957

Hours: 400

Donations: \$11,400

Benefit ride for Jarred Dodgen's had a total of 93 riders and they were able to donate \$10,000 to the family.

Great ride and all posts were involved.

Robert needs a good waiver. If you have one, please contact him.

District 5

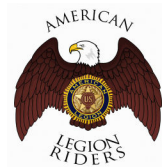
Members: 193 – 104 Legion, 44 SAL, 45 Auxiliary

Miles: 28,123

Hours: 1,968

Donations: \$11,503.03

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



Save the Brave ride will be coming through Georgia on July 25. They will come into Fairburn, and we will escort them to Savannah. Info will be sent to Tony.

District 6

No Report

District 7

Members: 35 – 13 Legionnaires, 8 Auxiliary, 17 SAL (Only Received Numbers on 2 Chapters)

Miles: 14,556

Hours: ?

Donations: \$2,375

Various Rides, Dinners, Funeral Escorts, Meetings, and other events. See chapter reports attached.

District 8

No Report

District 9

No Report

District 10

Members: 137 – 92 Legion, 20 SAL, 25 Auxiliary

Miles: 35,761

Hours: 1,685

Donations: numerous

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

Robert wanted to emphasize the importance of the buddy checks. It is so much better to spend time with someone while they are here as opposed to laying in a casket. We should all help each other out and try to participate in each other's events.

Also don't forget the Ride for America coming up at Post 233. It is one of our 100% Participation events.

District 11

Members: 35 – 23 Legion, 2 SAL, 10 Auxiliary (Info taken from Post 178 Report)

Miles: 1,920

Hours: 327

Donations: \$1,219.00

Events consisted of Turkey Shoots, Hospital Escorts and Visits, Wreaths Across America, and a Children's Christmas Party.

On April 1 they are having a Going Away event for Pat Garrett. He will be moving back to Texas. He will be at the post for about one hour at 3:00 pm if you would like to say goodbye. May 13 the District has a rodeo.

Sick Call and Down Riders

Cecil McCullen – for continued improvement and to stay out of the hospital.

Paul Richardson – Chapter 57

Marley Redlin – Chapter 294

Mike Burwell and his Family – Chapter 233

Peggy Becker – Chapter 163

Old Business

We have a replacement charter for Post 23, Hiawasse. As there is no rep from Post 23 in our meeting Gary Evans has agreed to deliver it to Hiawasse.

New Business

Director Propst suggested that we make a change to the Constitution and By-Laws.

Article II – Meetings; A- Department; Section 4 reads:

Section 4. Nine (9) members shall constitute a DOG ALR Executive Committee quorum.

The change proposed would read:

Section 4. A quorum is required to approve any business coming before a meeting.

a. Nine (9) members shall constitute a DOG ALR Executive Committee meeting quorum.

b. Nine (9) members of the Executive Committee and Twenty-Five percent (25%) of the Chapters shall constitute a DOG ALR General Membership Meeting (Rally)

The motion was made, 2nd and approved by unanimous consent.



Good of the ALR

Post 233 donated \$1,000 to the DOG ALR.

Post 123 donated \$250 to the Legacy Fund and \$250 to the Commanders' Project

Post 110 donated \$250 to the Legacy Fund and \$200 to the Commanders' Project

There were several other checks that were given to Tony earlier in the day that were included in the donation that he gave to the Legion in the morning General Session.

Tony would like to finish the year with the same financial status as when we started, therefore, he will get with the Asst. Directors and decide how to use the \$1,000 and present it along with the other checks at the DEC in the morning.

Gabrielle broke tradition and gave Tony a gift from the riders at our meeting instead of the banquet as many will not be there in the evening. We wanted to thank Tony for the years he has served and for bringing the Riders back to where we are this year.

There was an open discussion about young vets joining the riders and looking for resources for PTSD. It was suggested that some posts might want to conduct PTSD support groups. It was also suggested that we tell them to look up PACT ACT online. There should be resources there.

Robert Wilson said that his Post had started the free breakfast Wednesdays and many of the vets come to breakfast, and this gives them a chance to talk with fellow vets who have the same issues.

Cindy Guthrie spoke about the importance of the Legacy Ride. Her brother was killed in combat and left 4 children. The Legacy Scholarship Fund will enable them to go to college when they might not have been able to go.

Prayer, Colors retired, Dismissed: 2:40 pm.

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