

MISSION STATEMENT: *Promote and support the American Legion and its programs. To call for an accounting of ALL Prisoners of War and those missing in action and to honor the memory of those killed in action. * Support American Veterans * God Bless America!*



**American Legion Riders of Kansas
Newsletter**

“Support your ALR and your Legion Post”
www.alr136.com



“ Thanks For What You Do ”

Kansas ALR news: with the numerous communications that are sent almost daily this newsletter is a little late going out but wanted to share important information regarding the Kansas ALR .

As most of members are aware at the end of each year there is a “year end report” requested. Last years report had a question: would your ALR Chapter be willing to pay into a Kansas ALR family assistance fund \$1 per member , per year , ie: 100 members = \$100. There were 19 No's and 18 yes. At this time there will not be a State wide ALR fund, however I would encourage each ALR Chapter to earmark a fund in your account to have available in case the need arises to assist family members of our active duty personnel that are serving overseas. I would also encourage your sponsoring Post to do the same.

There is \$292.00 left over from the donations collected in November, 2006 for the 1100 Bandannas and 18 phone cards the Kansas ALR sent to the 3/2 Marines for Christmas. This money will set aside to assist a military family member should the need arise.

I have requested from the Kansas ALR Chapters: Copy of the By-Laws your Chapter is using , only if they have been amended from the Standard By-Laws posted on www.geocities.com/kansasriders1 do I need a copy of your By-Laws , all but a few Chapters have responded and I “ Thank You” for complying. It is very important this information be placed in your Chapter file.

One of the many duties of the newly formed ALR Area Directors will be writing letters that have been drafted to non-ALR Posts outlining the Mission & Purpose of the ALR to possibly gain their interest to sponsor an ALR Chapter at their Post. The Area Directors are doing a super job and they need your support. Also, they are organizing Directors meetings in their area.

All Kansas ALR members are welcome to speak with other Posts regarding the ALR, if interest is shown in that Post please contact the ALR Dept. Committee or Area Director.

ALR National Program: The Kansas ALR currently is a program of Department (Kansas). By the end of 2007 I believe the ALR will be a National Program. Your Department Committee is working with Depart Adjutant Chuck Yunker to insure there will be very little change in our operation. We (Kansas ALR) have been noticed by National for what we do and how we operate and needless to say they are very pleased. I believe what we have accomplished as Legion Riders have been a template for National American Legion. One example (Heroes to Hometowns) that was recently began by National. You will be kept up to date of any and all progress.

Beginning in 2008: a State ALR award will be awarded to a Kansas ALR member who has gone above and beyond the call supporting the Kansas ALR. This award will be presented each year beginning in 2008 at the State Wide ALR Rally. Their name will also be submitted to National ALR for the National Award. Each Chapter Director may submit one name to the ALR Dept. Chairman with a description of the Riders accomplishments. The winner will be picked by the Department ALR Committee and Area Directors.

Beginning in 2007 the State ALR meeting which will be held at the State Rally will be conducted according to regular meeting protocol.

Taxes: have had a few questions re: ALR Chapters filing taxes. We do not need to do that. Your sponsoring Post files the taxes for your Post.

Post reports: beginning immediately please submit to your Post Adjutant the hours / money spent accomplishing our "Mission" i.e.: VA Hospitals, nursing homes, phone cards, homecomings/send offs, Patriot Guard Missions etc. I take the responsibility for not informing Chapters years ago to do this as I wanted the Kansas ALR to get the credit for what we do. We are Legion Family members first and should make certain our sponsoring Post receives their credit. The Post report is more than a template for your Post achievements. When the American Legion speaks as a collective unit it has a much stronger voice. We have the opportunity to help and we should do so.

Many Sponsoring ALR Posts have Friday/ Sat. Dinners...Sunday Breakfast etc. Please make it a point to support the Post functions. As you know without our support many Legion Posts would not be able keep their doors open. Continuing to support each other we all win.

District Conventions: Each of the eight Districts in Kansas have their District Conventions in April, we as ALR members should make it appoint to attend. If you are asked by your District Commander to give the ALR report for your District notify me and I will share what information regarding the ALR Chapters in your District. These Conventions are a good opportunity to share our "Mission" with other Post Commanders and enjoy each others camaraderie.

Your ALR Dept. Committee. was very excited to announce that effective Feb. 1st, ALR 256 member Debbie Steele (Giggles) was appointed to serve as Secretary for the Dept. ALR Committee. Her duties will be to prepare minutes for all ALR Area Directors / ALR Dept. Committee meetings and at the Annual State ALR meeting held each year at the ALR State Rally.

Also, to develop a state wide calendar of ALR events to be sent to all ALR Chapters on a weekly basis. After Feb. 1st any ALR function, event, fundraiser, homecomings etc. send information to Deb (dsteele@gh-wichita.com) she will post on the State event Calendar. Date of Patriot Guard alerts / Missions etc. will be posted on this calendar but will refer you to www.kspatriotguard.org for itinerary etc.

By looking at this calendar this past month I believe we can all see how beneficial this weekly calendar is to the Kansas ALR. We now have the opportunity to support each others ALR events, fundraisers etc. and to help promote our individual ALR Chapter events.

In the next quarterly State newsletter if any ALR member would like to submit a short article re: the Kansas ALR let me know , will be glad to include it.

National ALR Rally- 5th, 6th, 7th, July, 2007 in Donelson , TN

Kansas ALR State Rally – 2007 – hosted by Ozawkie ALR 225 Date : Sept. 15th, 2007 at Post 225 / Lake Perry details will follow..

Due to our growth it is recommended that your new Chapter Officers begin their term each Jan. as Officer changes are more efficiently keep track of one time a year rather than spread out through out the year. If your Chapter can do this it would be appreciated. (not required at this time but suggested)

In April , I will e-mail all Chapters a current list of the Kansas Chapters and contacts- when you receive if you notice any incorrect info re: your Chapter, please let me know.

Currently the Kansas ALR stands at 41 Chapters with over 1600 members.
The dedication and service to the ALR " Mission" by its members is the reason for the growth

The ALR Coin

The intent of the ALR coin is to continue the tradition of the military in the spirit established by an American flying squadron in World War 1 and to foster the camaraderie among the men and women who make up the ALR. Challenge coins symbolizes our pride within each member. We also present these coins to “ special “ people. Families of our fallen KIA and the Soldier at his/her Homecoming.

Rules of Engagement

- Your Coin should be carried at all times
- A Challenge may be issued at anytime, place or circumstance
- You are responsible for your coin: If someone else drops your coin, you are responsible for the Challenge (better protect it)
- A Challenge is constituted by:
 - (a) Verbal request to produce or show a coin
 - (b) The coin is intentionally or accidentally struck on any surface
- When a challenge is issued , the coin must be produced immediately
- Anyone aware of the challenge is included in the challenge
- Everyone without a coin must by a drink of choice fr those with coins
- If everyone else has a coin, then the coin holder who initiated the challenge must by a drink for everyone
- NEVER BE CAUGHT WITHOUT YOUR COIN

ALR Challenge Coins: you should have received information regarding the re-order of the ALR Challenge Coins. Deadine, 1st, May coins \$3.25 each. contact cphans@sbcglobal.net for additional information regarding ordering.

Your Department ALR Committee / Area Directors will answer any questions / concerns or positive suggestions you have for the Kansas Legion Riders 24/7.

ALR Dept. Committee

Chairman: Cregg Hansen (Bronco 6) 316-788-4205 cphans@sbcglobal.net

Tim Heggins t.heggins@sbcglobal.net 785-922-7136

Dwight Miller 316-755-2490

Secretary: Deb Steele (Giggles) 316-806-7828 dsteale@gh-wichita.com

ALR Area Directors

Alan Hagans (Gasman) 785-731-5321 abhagans@gbta.net

Allen Longstaff (Sheriff) 620-897-6786 northforty@lrmutual.com

Deems Peterson (Doc) 913-492-5219 chevytruck@everestke.net

Greg Hansen (Ebay) 316-733-2775 hamchop@sbcglobal.net

Leonard Graber (sledgehammer) 620-673-9071 sledgehammer@ixpres.com

Thought of the day “ Borrow money from a pessimist- they don’t expect it back”

“Thanks For What You Do” ,
Cregg Hansen , Dept. ALR Chairman

American POW/MIAs will Never be Forgotten ! Ride Free and Safe !