

# Texas State American Legion Riders Meeting

Austin South Park, Austin Texas, 25 September 2021

Officiating: Mark Meysembourg State ALR Advisor

Minutes: Brad Halliday 2<sup>nd</sup> Division ALR Advisor

17:00 Called to order

Colors honored and pledge of allegiance

Invocation by Chaplin Ed Richards of Chapter 593

- Bret Watson spoke about how to keep the Riders going and how Riders chapters can benefit the Posts. He emphasized that Riders are Legionnaires first and Riders second.
- Bill West, Texas Department Adjutant, addressed the group about the importance of having the Post liability insurance cover the riders on official activities and approved rides up to a million-dollar bond but not to exceed the \$1,000,000 as it's unnecessary. The reason for the liability coverage is to protect the chapter director from personal suit unless he is grossly negligent. Wearing the vest with American Legion Riders logo on it tends to make the American Legion a target for law suits.
- Alice Coleman of the Legion Auxiliary spoke about how the Auxiliary is there to support the Riders as well as the Post and wanted to remind us to include the Auxiliary in Chapter Meetings and wanted to remind ALR members who are Auxiliary to attend regular Post Auxiliary meetings and not just ALR meetings.
- Introduction of ALR Advisors by Mark Meysembourg. Mark explained that the Advisory Program is to Mirror the State American Legion Structure. Mark awarded certificates of appreciation to the ALR advisors for their hard work. Mark emphasized that the website is there to aid the chapters and facilitate communication between chapters on various subjects.
- Minutes from the last State ALR meeting were read and approved by vote pending corrections.
- Certificates of appreciation awarded to Reno Riley, for starting up our webpage. Jeff Messinger Director ALR Post 245 accepted for Reno Riley, Paul Goymerac for funding the Website. Jeff Kline for contacting posts and gathering information for the webpage and Bobby "Ronan" Nagley for building the webpage [texasalr.org](http://texasalr.org) was accepted by Andy Anderson Director of ALR Post 208
- Report on the 2021 Lone Star Legacy Run. Over \$12000 collected. 150 miles was the longest stretch. Lesson learned was to make sure no particular segments were that long in future.
- Report of the 2021 South Central Texas Regional Legacy Run given by Mark Meysembourg who was chairman. Over \$18000 in donations collected. They attended Warriors Weekend as part of the ride. Supper and Kuroki was enjoyed after the ride.
- National Legacy Run Report, over \$35,000.00 in donations collected in Texas. Four Texas Riders were part of the leadership team for the ride.
- Riders Advisors reports given, need more advisors at the district and chapter levels, at least at the district level. Reminder to be prepared for the next ALR Rally.
- 2023 State Rally theme will be "El Paso Culture".

- Mark Meysembourg explained the importance and usefulness of the [texasalr.org](http://texasalr.org) webpage. It is a tool to help chapters as well as all American Legion Riders programs and in turn benefit the Texas American Legion as a result by posting rides and activities for all chapters in the state. He emphasized that Resolution 5 is official “law of the land”, while website is unofficial, but useful and beneficial.
- Chapters announce upcoming activities (see [texasalr.org](http://texasalr.org))
- Gary Towers 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Commander addressed the meeting about the need for riders both as individuals and chapters to be more cohesive with their American Legions Posts. Monthly chapter reports should be presented to the post, keep post informed about planned activities. Please report all your service hours including but not limited to meetings and travel time both ways, activities and personal time you spend planning rides, activities and reports. Anytime you are wearing the ALR vest or garrison cap, should be counted as service hours. Make monthly volunteer hours reports to refer to for annual consolidated report.
- Closing comments by Mark Meysembourg: Remember to count all your hours, count and track all, out of pocket, expenses, fuel, meals and supplies as charitable donations for tax purposes. IRS allows a .55 cent per mile credit. Turn in chapter reports to your post adjutant monthly.

Benediction by Chaplain Ed Richards Chapter 593

18:20 Meeting adjourned