



**American Legion Riders  
Department of New York**

**Annual Meeting Minutes  
Friday, July 20, 2018 4:00 PM**

**Location: Rochester Riverside Hotel, Rochester, NY - Gleason Room**

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by DEPT DIR Bob Wallace at 4 PM. He welcomed everyone.
- **Roll Call:** Everyone signed in with membership cards. There were 53 ALR's present representing 8/10 Districts and 20/62 Counties. There were 2 guests present as well. Quorum was met.
- **Invocation:** DEPT VICE DIR Jerry Ketchum opened the meeting with a prayer.
- **Pledge of Allegiance:** DEPT VICE DIR Joe Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **POW/MIA Ceremony:** Our guest, DEPT Adjutant James Casey conducted the ceremony.
- **Welcome:** The DEPT DIR introduced the Leading Candidate for 2018-2019 NY DEPT CDR and our DEPT ALR Sgt at Arms Gary Schacher, James Casey DEPT ADJ and James Yermas PDC and our American Legion Liaison to the ALR. Gary Schacher came forward and had a few positive words to address the ALR Annual Meeting.
- **Reports of the Department American Legion Riders Officers:**
  - **Report from Department ALR Director:** The DEPT DIR gave his report. He thanked Dave Davis for his 3.5 years of Leadership to the Riders. DEPT DIR shared the Communication flowchart for the Department ALR. In addition to the Department Vice Directors assigned to Districts, he has asked every District to have an ALR Committee Chairman and an ALR Committee Chairman at County level to share information from Department to our membership at the Chapter level. The goal is to have a better flow of information in both directions. The DEPT ALR DIR's goal is that our ALR Chapters can share information when they are participating in various projects and are involved in fundraisers to let the rest of the American Legion Family know and celebrate what we do. It also creates a conduit to ask questions and share best practices with other Chapters and Districts. Another goal would be to further enhance our database of emails and contact information for each Chapter. A new form was created in 2018 for Donations from ALR Chapters to help with record-keeping and recognition. There were many phone calls and inquiries about donations that had been made. (The link to the new form: <https://nylegion.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Dept-ALR-Donation-Form-fil.pdf>). The DEPT DIR also stressed the importance of completing the Consolidated Chapter Reports that are due to your sponsoring Post prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> each year. A copy should go to the Post AND to the DEPT ALR Office. The Post includes your activities in their Consolidated Post Report that is due May 1<sup>st</sup>. By sending the DEPT ALR Office a copy of the report, we can compile an Annual Report that truly represents what our Riders do each year. Help us with communication this year!
  - **Report from Districts 1 & 9 Department Vice Director:** DEPT VICE DIR Joe Mondello was not present. He was excused and did not send a report.
  - **Report from District 2, Department Vice Director:** DEPT VICE DIR Pete DeAngelis stated that ALR Post 1636 did 40 events in the past year. They raised money which goes into The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program. They also sponsor a Boy Scout Troop in Kings County.

- **Report from District 10, Department Vice Director:** DEPT VICE DIR L. W. Murphy stated that they have 8 Chapters in their DIST (Nassau & Suffolk Co) with 136 Rider's and they performed 300 missions. Additionally, they are recruiting against 8 other Motorcycle Groups in those two counties.
- **Report from District 4, Department Vice Director:** DEPT VICE DIR Don Guernsey stated that in December 2017, they hand delivered toys and food to 2 Veteran families with Santa. They are also doing a Ride & a Gun Raffle and Dave Davis has tickets for sale.
- **Report from District 3, Department Vice Director:** DEPT VICE DIR Steve Oliver stated on April 26 ALR Post 977 sponsored an entire Honor Flight at a cost of \$15,000 raised entirely by cans & bottles that they have saved. His Post has also participated in numerous missions in the six months since the last Dept ALR Conference to include Vietnam Moving Wall Escort, Rolling Thunder Parade, Washington, DC, Candlelight Vigil at the Vietnam Wall, Leatherneck MC D-Day Wreath Ride, Creto Memorial Ride, Combat Veteran's Association Poker Run, and participated in 4 local Memorial Day Parades. ALR Post 1298 organized a motorcycle escort of the Vietnam Moving Wall from the Thruway to the Cantine Complex in Saugerties, NY. ALR Post 291 participated in the McKenna Ride to help raise money for charity and participated in its hometown Memorial Day Parade. ALR Post 337 donated \$1,000 to the Legacy Fund. ALR Post 1644 also donated a \$1,000 to the Legacy Fund. Also ALR Post 701 is having leadership problems but the Vice DIR is working with them to straighten out their problems.
- **Report from District 5, Department Vice Director:** DEPT VICE DIR Don Logan (who has been recovering his health slowly but surely) stated that 4 Chapters in his District were very busy reaching out to their communities raising monies and giving scholarships for Youth Activities. They did 4 different Rides in Jefferson County.
- **Report from District 6, Department Vice Director:** DEPT VICE DIR Joe Sullivan talked about the ALR Birthday which looks like it will be accepted as 19 NOV 1993 which will make it our 25<sup>th</sup> this year. He stated that his 11 Chapters with 340 Members accomplished a myriad of successful missions. His Post 442 in Horseheads sponsors 2 Soccer Teams and a Boy Scout Troop and his goal is to put American Flags on all sports teams shirts and Additionally he wants to educate them all on the proper respect of OUR FLAG.
- **Report from Districts 7/8, Department Vice Director:** DEPT VICE DIR Jerry Ketchum stated the Districts have been very busy and the Lima & Waterloo Chapters escorted the NATL CDR on her visit to the 7<sup>th</sup> District. He attended the first state ALR sponsored Prostate Run with Chapters from Lima, Sonyea, Hornell and Wellsville. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> District Meet & Greet was hosted by Salamanca and Machias Chapters this year. It was attended by 8 Chapters from the two Districts. The Waterloo Chapter honored Bob Plate who was the Seneca Falls Post CDR when he died in office in DEC 2017 with a Poker Run that made \$4,300 that was given in his name to the Wounded Warriors in Action.
- **Report from Department ALR Secretary:** DEPT ALR SEC Leonard Misczuk was not present. He was excused. DEPT DIR Bob Wallace shared that he had appointed ALR Member Marti Grela as Secretary for the meeting. There was a motion and second to suspend the Reading of Minutes since they were shared electronically prior to the meeting and a copy was available at the meeting. Motion carried.
- **Report from Department ALR Treasurer:** DEPT ALR TRES Leonard Englert shared some data that was gathered from National regarding our Donations from the Department of New York American Legion Family, not just the Riders. The goal is to be able to report ALR activities specifically next year. These numbers are for 2016, 2017 and the first quarter of 2018:
  - Legacy Scholarship Fund: 89 Donations.....\$ 94,051
  - Operation Comfort Warriors: 188 Donations.....\$117,718

- National Emergency Fund: 375 Donations.....\$179,218
- Over 2 ¼ years the Department of NY Family has donated to the big 3 finds a total of \$390,988.22.

- **Old Business:** None

- **New Business:**

- **Presentation of Donation Awards:**

- **Malone Chapter 219, Franklin County, 4th District**
  - Donation to Legacy Scholarship
- **Theodore Korony, Post 253, Throggs Neck Station, Bronx, 1st District**
  - Donation to Legacy Scholarship
- **Charles Harbel American Legion Riders, Post 892, Allegany, 8th District**
  - Certificate of Appreciation
  - Donation to Legacy Scholarship
- **Warren Van Riper American Legion Riders Post 435, Waterloo, Seneca, 7th District**
  - Donation to Legacy Scholarship
- **Hally-Allen American Legion Riders Chapter 1341, Livingston County, 7th District**
  - Donation to Legacy Scholarship

- **Presentation of Special Award: American Legion Rider of Honor**

- In an effort to recognize members for their work and dedication to the ALR, the ALROH is awarded. The ALROH is the highest award that the ALR can give its members, therefore careful consideration should be given when nominating a member for this award. This award shows that the recipient has gone far above and beyond the call of duty for the American Legion Riders organization. By their dedication, drive, and determination they have helped make The American Legion Riders grow and prosper. A nominee shall have been a full member for at least 3 years.
- The American Legion Rider of Honor award was presented Dan Nolin to 2 of our NYS ALR Members:
  - Joe Sullivan from Horseheads Post 442
  - Bob Macomber from Waterloo Post 435

- **Constitution and By-Laws:** DEPT DIR Bob Wallace reviewed what had been shared in the Spring Newsletter electronically: (A hard copy was available at the meeting of the former and proposed versions of the C & B).

- A very important part of the Annual Meeting will be for the membership to approve the DRAFT of the 2018 Constitution and By-Laws of the NYSALRMA. A Committee worked on amendments and revisions and shared it with the Department Judge Advocate to ensure there were no major errors or omissions. With his feedback, the DRAFT 2018 version is being presented for vote at the July 2018 Annual Meeting. The changes must have 2/3 majority vote of a quorum.

What are the major highlights?

- **Addition of Article VII - Local Chapters in Constitution and Article IX in By-Laws.** This will help clarify key points for our ALR Chapters.
- **Amendment Article VI, Section 1. of the Constitution** (the NYALRMA Director shall be a Veteran and member of *The American Legion* or a member of the Sons of *The American Legion*)
- **Amendment Article VI, Section 1. of the Constitution** (The (five) Vice Directors will each be responsible for two Districts as defined by *The American Legion* (1st/9th Districts, 2nd/10th Districts, 3rd/4th Districts, 5th/6th Districts, 7th/8th Districts) and may be members of *The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary* or *Sons of The American Legion*.)

**Other Highlights:**

- Clarified the Amendment process
  - Tweaks, formatting of text and alignment with The Department of New York American Legion Constitution and By-Laws.
  - There was a motion and a second to accept and approve the 2018 NYSALRMA Constitution and By-Laws. There was no discussion and the motion carried.
  - DEPT DIR Bob Wallace thanked the committee and those that helped with the revision process. He indicated that the newly approved document would go to The American Legion Department Executive Committee and Department Judge Advocate for their review, approval and signature. Once signed, they will go into effect.
- **Other:**
    - State Legacy Run: DEPT DIR Wallace shared that he would like to form a committee to explore implementing a State Legacy Run. Please contact him if you are interested.
  - **Nominations Committee:**
    - Nomination Committee Chairman Joe Sullivan presented the Slate of Officers and sought Nominations from the floor.
- **For the Good of the Organization:**
    - ALR Member Phil Siebert shared events that had happened during the last year in the 5<sup>th</sup> District.
    - DEPT DIR Wallace introduced our DEPT ALR Road Captain, Chris Lynch.
    - DEPT DIR Wallace reminded everyone that the Department Convention Parade would begin at 7 pm and the ALR will lead the parade. He had maps and explained where line up would be and reminded everyone that due to Homeland Security rules, we were not allowed to turn off early from the route.
- **Elections for the 2018-2019 Year:**

DEPT DIRECTOR:	ROBERT WALLACE
DEPT VICE DIR, DIST 1 & 9:	PETER DE ANGELIS
DEPT VICE DIR, DIST 2 & 10:	L. W. MURPHY
DEPT VICE DIR, DIST 3 & 4:	DON GUERNSEY
DEPT VICE DIR, DIST 5 & 6:	JOE SULLIVAN
DEPT VICE DIR, DIST 7 & 8:	DENIS OLIVER
- **Installment of Department Vice Directors by Director:** Newly elected DEPT DIR Bob Wallace conducted the Installation Ceremony for the newly elected DEPT VICE DIRIRECTORS. He presented them each a Department of New York rocker for their vests.
  - **Closing:** DEPT DIR Bob Wallace asked the Past DEPT DIR Dave Davis to accompany him at the head of the Parade. He thanked everyone for attending.
  - **Benediction:** Jerry Ketchum provided the closing prayer.
  - **Adjournment:** There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Original signed

Acting DEPT ALR SEC Marthajane Grela