



April 24, 2019

2019 ALRA Directors Report

This has been my second go round as State Director for the Alaska American Legion Riders I can report that the American Legion Riders Alaska are still doing well and fulfilling the rolls we fill in and around the Post that hold ALR Chapters. As for me this has been a much less active year when compared to my first year as Director. This was for three big reasons 1st I left the State for most of the summer spending 6 weeks and all of July in the lower 48 dealing with family issues and took my son Danny and granddaughter Kahlan to Disneyland. The second was when I was elected as Director the first time I was given two clear goals. This time there was much less direction, which as it turned out was a good thing considering the length of my absence. Third I had an occasion of double vision and have been diagnosis with Myasthenia Gravis which is an autoimmune disorder and effects muscle strength and control affecting communication between the nerves and muscles. The good news is its treatable the bad news is when its acting up my depth perception is very bad and there is no way I should be riding a bike in a group when I am having these issues.

Of course my year as Director began with the Department Convention at Post 28 where I was elected to my second term and what would be my third year as ALRA Director. We also approved a couple resolutions to be passed on to Department. And I would like to take this moment to thank the Department of Alaska for the unanimous approval of those resolutions. Of course we will be bringing both of those forward again this year as the resolution asking for national leadership for the ALR did as predicted and failed in committee at the 99th National Convention while the resolution to alter the ALRA by laws to assign delegates to represent each chapter did not get through Department for some procedural issues and required changes to fall in line with Department policy.

The second thing that I would question is our incoming Department Commander assigned a person as ALRA Liaison. While I do not want to belabor this point if you want to know something about the ALRA the Director for the ALRA is the person you would want to speak too. Of course if you look at what the American Legion Riders have for National Leadership it is understandable. The National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee while may be knowledgeable and well-meaning I doubt that there are many who could identify who represents the ALRA. As an example I submit the map from the American Legion national website and you can see Alaska is not represented on the map at all.

After convention the American Legion Riders participated in many annual events such as the May Bike Blessing on the Anchorage Park Strip. We rode in escort along with the riders of Post

1 for the Kenai River Foundation Wounded Hero event in June. There were not a lot of fish caught in June and it is nice to see that the Kenai River Foundation has moved the fishing tournament back to August so the service members have a reasonable opportunity to catch plenty of fish. The riders of the ALRA rode in many 4th of July Parades in several towns and cities and played a part in honoring those who gave the last full measure on Memorial Day.

The 2018 ROMP went to Valdez and was the first time the ALRA has visited the city of Valdez. I have been told that everyone has had a good time. All in all the ROMP was a success and by the end of the riding season Riders of the ALRA had raised over \$15,000 for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. In other events the ALR had the honor of participating in as Patriot Guard here in Alaska and took part in several escorts providing funeral escorts for several veterans of past service to our country. One of the best rides I was able to participate in was one of these escorts organized by Dan Cole from Chapter 16. We started with six bikes in Homer and as we rode more and more bikes showed up and joined in until coming into Anchorage there were 28 motorcycles. Dan did an awesome job organizing and bringing together riders from different organizations and scheduling. I am sure that I would have had a unhealthy stress level pulling it off and yet Dan it seemed like it was just another day riding in the rain.

This year we have several rides planned and a few more that need to be organized, one project that needs to be addressed is the possibility of once again resurrecting the ALR Chapter at Post 20. Being from Seward I have had several occasions to travel to the Soldotna Kenai area and have been asked by legion members about the American Legion Riders. Some are already ALR members and have mixed feelings about renewing the charter while others seem to be unaware the ALR existed. Regardless there is the possibility of bring back a ALR chapter back to Post 20. So we will be looking into bring a group of riders to ride the eastern side of the Kenai Peninsula and see if we can grow the ALR again. The ALR chapter at Post 20 was the original ALR Chapter to organize in Alaska and it should always be a goal to bring it back into fruition.

Respectfully Submitted
For God and Country

Bobby Dunno