

## **AZALR MEETING MINUTES**

**January 11, 2025**

**Hosted by ALR 41, Phoenix, AZ**

**Meeting opened according to ritual at 1302.**

**Opening Prayer**

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (by Secretary):**

**CHAIRMAN:** Tracy Lindsey - Present

**VICE CHAIRMAN AREA A:** Kirk Affolder - Present

**VICE CHAIRMAN AREA B:** Dan Simone - Excused

**VICE CHAIRMAN AREA C:** David Hay - Excused

**SECRETARY:** Lisette Eckman - Present

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:** Jennifer Kritzer - Present

**INFORMATION OFFICER:** Lowell Vahl - Excused

**SAL LIAISON:** Dennis Pittman - Present

### **ROLL CALL OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:**

present (6): 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12

excused (2): 5, 6

non-reporting (2): 1, 4

### **ROLL CALL OF CHAPTERS:**

present (26): 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32, 36, 39, 40, 41, 44, 61, 62, 68, 91, 105, 107, 109, 115, 117, 131

excused (0):

non-reporting (41): 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 13, 16, 19, 23, 30, 34, 35, 45, 52, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 66, 69, 76, 78, 81, 86, 87, 93, 96, 97, 103, 108, 125, 126, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 138, 141, 143

### **READING OF THE MINUTES:**

Minutes of the November 2024 meeting were previously emailed. Motion to approve by Kirk "Zig Zag" Affolder; seconded; motion carries.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Hospitality Suite: \$1,015.73

- Donations at Conference:
  - ALR 109: \$300.00
  - ALR 41: \$141.00
  - ALR 5: \$100.00

HME Boy State Scholarship: \$5,491.00;

VCF: \$2,330.00

Motion to approve subject to audit by Kirk “Zig Zag” Affolder; seconded; motion carries.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS and COMMITTEES:**

### **CHAIRMAN – Tracy Lindsey**

1. National Commander visit - Thank you to all of the representation we had on the two escorts done for Commander La Coursiere Jr. As a founding member of Connecticut's riders, he really appreciated it.
2. Helmets – we were contacted by Robert “Curly” Flanagan, 57 (Ash Fork) about helmets and accessories from an organization in Indiana that wanted to donate them to AZALR. With the help of Indiana's Department Adjutant and Jeff Everman from Chapter 64 in Indianapolis, they were able to secure the helmets for us until we could pick them up. When they picked them up, there was pallets of boots available as well. We turned them down; Chapter 64 in Indy took them to a shelter for homeless vets so everyone got new warm boots for the winter. David “Gringo” McLane and Stephanie McLane, 29 (Glendale), drove out and picked everything up. They are currently being stored and waiting for a final count. If you have any suggestions on how we can use them to raise money for VCF, contact Tracy.
3. Patches – individual stars from flags cannot be sewn on our vests, as US Flag Code states that the flag must be retired as a whole. Also, we are a non-partisan organization. Items on your vest that endorse candidates should also be removed. Suggestion that you move these items to the non-visible part of your vest.

### **VICE CHAIRMAN AREA A - Kirk “Zig Zag” Affolder**

1. If you need anything from him, reach out.

### **VICE CHAIRMAN AREA B - Dan “Jackass” Simone**

1. Via email: District representatives are doing an excellent job in getting riders engaged.

### **VICE CHAIRMAN AREA C - David “Ahay” Hay**

1. no report - excused

**SECRETARY – Lisette “Lizard” Eckman**

1. Please send info for the calendar in email, not text, PLEASE.

**APPOINTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE - Jennifer “Diva” Kritzer**

1. No report

**SAL LIAISON - Dennis Pittman**

1. From the Detachment Commander Mike Bryant: New post opening in Whetstone prison. Department will waive department fees, they just have to pay National.

**BOYS STATE LIAISON - Dennis Pittman**

1. Plaque will be at Department on Monday.

**INFORMATION OFFICER - Lowell Vahl**

1. Excused - no report

**DISTRICT REPS –**

1. D1 Doug Kraeg: absent
2. D2 Brian “BK” Kempker: flyers and emails have been sent out for the Department Commanders dinner at Post 36 in Tucson.
3. D3 Rob “BEAST” Gaines: Groups that have had rides with Tombstone as their destination have been doing a great job of coordinating with 24 and they really appreciate it
4. D4 Jose “Mo” Maldonado: absent
5. D5 Casey “Stash” Campbell: excused
6. D6 Todd Harris: excused
7. D7 Patrick “CB” Avila: no report
8. D8 Curt “Stitch” Bancroft: changes in D8 – Post 40 ALR is back, 93 is reorganizing, 140 disbanded; Chapter 78 Sgt-at-Arms Greg Jones passed on NYE
9. D11 Charlie “Gurl Scout” Sullivan: thanks to the riders that came out to escort the National Commander; chapters are working good together;
10. D12 JD “Geico” Bristor: thank PDC Mike Simon, Merry Bernheim (39), David “B” Bernheim (39), for help at Whetstone.

**NATIONAL AZALR REP – Gerard “Ja-Hari” Brinkmann**

Great visit with the National Commander; someone decided to become a keyboard warrior and sent out a complaint to department and national via email. We don’t need this. Thankfully,

National saw it was bogus. We do way too many good things to let something like this get us down. Keep up the good work.

**AZALR LEGACY RUN 2025:** April 24-27, starting in Yuma. Brian “BK” Kempker, 36 (Tucson) and Kim Lindsay, 5 (Phoenix) have the route set. Event will be posted by the end of the weekend. Thursday night Yuma, Friday night Payson, Saturday night Tombstone. BK is trying to get hotels together and will hopefully be out by the end of the week.

**BIKEFEST 2025:** no report yet

**GTKYP:** Al Hazelwood: Goal is to bring American Legion family together, well raising money for various Veterans organizations.

## **OLD / UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Motion that was tabled in the April meeting by Nick Goven, 9 (Florence), dealing with an award for the Chapter with the most participants in the TT. Discussion: The most amount of steals or the most amount of members? Original motion was for most members. Motion to untable the motion by Gerard “Ja-Hari” Brinkmann, 24 (Tombstone). Motion untabled. Motion fails.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Charlie “Gurl Scout” Sullivan, 105 (Phoenix): Motion to present a trophy to a chapter who attends the most trophy steals. Seconded. Gerard “Ja-Hari” Brinkmann (24) has someone who can make the trophy, and he will donate it. Motion amended to start for the 25-26 years. Same tie-breaker rules apply. District Rep votes: yay – 3; nay – 3; Chairman has the tie-breaking vote. Motion passes.
2. Charlie “Gurl Scout” Sullivan, 105 (Phoenix): our state donated over \$23,000 last year to VCF. Challenges every chapter to raise \$500 for VCF.
3. Gerard “Ja-Hari” Brinkmann, 24 (Tombstone): \$1,015.73 left in Hospitality suite funds. Motion to take the \$1,015.73 and split in three: 1/3 to VCF, 1/3 to Boys State, and 1/3 to Girls State. Motion passes.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

1. Dennis Pittman: Commanders Homecoming will include the ALR chairman, Post 41, May 24.
2. March 6-8, somewhere in Tucson, Department has obligated \$12,000 to the ninth ever Quick Claims Clinic. One-day complete VA compensation process.
3. Kudos to our own Jennifer “Diva” Kritzer, Judge Advocate, and Jose “Mo” Maldonado, D4 Rep, for attending National American Legion College.

4. District 4 poker run 18 Jan, starting in Coolidge with breakfast, 91, 27, and ending at 9. Cards drawn at the end. \$20 & \$10, Proceeds go to the National Defense pillar including the Guard unit in Florence.
5. Dist 12 rehab dinner Feb 8, registrations encouraged. Post 26.
6. Nominations in April for District and Area Vices

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

April 12, 2025

Post 138, Mesa

June 21, 2025

Department Convention, San Marcos, Chandler

November, 2025

Fall Conference, Doubletree, Tucson

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**ADJOURNED 1407**

**Submitted by**

**Lisette Eckman**

**AZALR Secretary**