

AZALR MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2025

**The American Legion Department of Arizona Fall Conference
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tucson - Reid Park**

Hosted by ALR 36, Tucson, AZ

Meeting opened according to ritual at 1501.

Opening Prayer - Jean Ellison, 62 (Peoria)

Guests:

- Gerald Valle, The American Legion Department of Arizona Vice Commander Area B, Past President of ALR 91: Be The One is not a catch phase - it's a mission.
- Gary Vaughan, The American Legion Department of Arizona Commander
- Gary Manwell, Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Arizona Commander
- Michelle Cleveland, 39 (Gilbert) - Project24SEVEN.org
- Noah McMullen, Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Arizona Past Detachment Commander - SAL approved for Tracy to wear a state level SAL cover due to running a state level program
- Ben Headen, Western Region National Vice Commander

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS (by Secretary):

CHAIRMAN: Tracy Lindsey - Present

VICE CHAIRMAN AREA A: Kirk Affolder - Present

VICE CHAIRMAN AREA B: Jack "JD" Bristor - Excused

VICE CHAIRMAN AREA C: David Hay - Absent

SECRETARY: Lisette Eckman - Present

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Brian "BK" Kempker - Present

INFORMATION OFFICER: Lowell Vahl - Excused

SAL LIASION: Robert "Slim" Vasquez - Present

ROLL CALL OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

present (2): 6, 8

excused (3): 2, 8, 12

non-reporting (5): 1, 3, 4, 5, 11

ROLL CALL OF CHAPTERS:

present (26): 5, 6, 9, 14, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 39, 41, 44, 61, 62, 78, 86, 91, 105, 108, 109, 132, 138, 141

excused (0):

non-reporting (40): 2, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 19, 23, 32, 35, 40, 45, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 66, 68, 69, 79, 81, 87, 93, 96, 97, 103, 107, 115, 117, 126, 129, 130, 131, 133, 134, 143, 147

103 members signed in

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Minutes of the June 2025 meeting were previously emailed. Motion to approve by Gerard "Ja-Hari" Brinkmann, 24 (Tombstone); seconded; motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

HME Boy State Scholarship: \$5,380.00

VCF: \$0.00

- Final total for check presentation at National Convention: \$32,943.10
- \$9,728.70 more than 2024

Motion to approve subject to audit by Robert "Slim" Vasquez Jr, 41 (Phoenix); seconded; motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS and COMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN – Tracy "Big Papa" Lindsey

- I want to start by saying thank you for your continued support. We are counting to grow and that means more support for our veterans and community.
- New National Chairman - Dave Heredia out of Maryland
- Let's not use social media as a way to air our dirty laundry. When our friends that aren't in the American Legion see these posts it puts us in a bad light. If you have a problem or dispute please reach out to me, if I can't help then I will reach out to the proper person.
- The Cardinals opening day ride we had 176 bikes thank you for all that showed up for that. The Cardinals organization was quite impressed by the show of bikes and Legion members that were in attendance.
- Communication: we need to get better at communicating with each other. I know there is no way not to step on each other's rides or events but if we communicate with each

other then we will be able to help each other out. Most of us have chapters that are large enough that we can divide and conquer and spread love with each other.

VICE CHAIRMAN AREA A - Kirk "Zig Zag" Affolder

- No report

VICE CHAIRMAN AREA B - Jack "JD" Bristol

As the Area B Vice Chairman, I have some specific goals that I wish to accomplish.

- The most important goal is to have the three districts come together as a team helping each other succeed.
- While we will be maintaining the district models (1, 11, 12) we will work to knock down the wall defining west side vs east side and bring everyone together participating in and promoting each other's events.
- Beginning in January 2026 we will be promoting two bike nights per month, on the first and fourth Fridays of the month.
- The first Friday will be held at a District 12 post and the fourth Friday will be held at a District 11 post.
- Going forward, bike nights will be promoted as AZALR Bike Night.
- We will also be communicating with District 1 regarding upcoming events that we could put a nice sized group ride together to travel to Yuma and support Post 19 in their efforts.
- Our second goal is growth. During our meetings we will spend some time sharing success ideas for recruiting new members.

VICE CHAIRMAN AREA C - David "Ahay" Hay

- No report

SECRETARY – Lisette "National" Eckman

- Please send info for the calendar in email, not text or Facebook Messenger, PLEASE.
- Meeting minutes are now available on the AZLegion.org/Riders page under documents. If you need minutes prior to what is listed, let me know. I have them all.
- I am still missing Officer information for the following ALR's: 4, 29, 79, 93, 96, 103, 130, 143, 147

APPOINTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:

JUDGE ADVOCATE - Brian "BK" Kempker

- No report

INFORMATION OFFICER - Lowell Vahl

- Excused

SAL LIAISON - Robert "Slim" Vasquez, Jr

- As of Thursday morning, the Prison Post 149 is chartered and on the Department roster.

DISTRICT REPS –

- D1 Doug Kraeg: absent
- D2 Bill “Magoo” Wood (Brian “BK” Kempker standing in): Fundraiser at Post 36 Wednesday night for the Three Points post that was damaged by fire. Otherwise, the district is doing good.
- D3 Joe “Huckleberry” Teske: absent
- D4 JW Ausbern: absent
- D5 Casey “Stash” Campbell: absent
- D6 Theryl “T” Dillon: Will be setting up a Dist 6 email,
- D7 Patrick “CB” Avila: No report
- D8 Curt “Stitch” Bancroft: Excused
- D11 Stephan Lopez: absent
- D12 Randy Dodson (absent, via email): Now that the weather is finally cooperating District 12 ALR riders are back in full force . Several chapters have had fundraisers which have raised funds for many different charities. Some of these charities are Fisher House, Nation Of Patriots, Toys for Tots, Paws, Wreaths Across America and Yuletide for Heroes. These events have raised over \$20,000. We have numerous fundraising events coming up in the near future. I will be able to give you more information at our next meeting. Thank you.

AZALR LEGACY RUN 2026: April 23-26, Kim Lindsey: Starts in Tombstone to Safford; Devil’s Highway to Springerville.

BIKEFEST 2025: October 10-12, Post 25 (Cottonwood). Gary Wilharm, Director: Long and short scenic rides; bike events outside on Saturday. Winners are:

First registered: James and Arlene Sexton, 78 (Dewey-Humboldt)

Slow Roll Race: Chad Triplett, 117 (Phoenix)

Turd Toss: Billy Schell and Sheryl McKinney, 25 (Cottonwood)

Trike race: Allen Olesen, 25 (Cottonwood)

Post with the Most: Chapter 117

Chapter 25 is honored to be able to present a check for \$2000 to VCF

Location for BikeFest 2026:

- 4, 5, 6, 24, 25, 27, 35, 36, 41, 53, 61, 62, 78, 81, 91, 105, 107, 117, 133 are eligible to vote on the location of BikeFest 2026
- 24, 36, 41, 61 all put in to host 2026 BikeFest. BikeFest 2026 will be hosted by Post 41. Date TBD.

WESTERN ROMP 2025: 37 Chapters from all over to include Washington, and Latin America.

- Western Romp 2026 will be October 8-11, 2026, Post 9, Florence;

OLD / UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Chairman Lindsey: I need to clear up a faux-pa from convention. I will entertain a motion for one vote for all the unopposed nominees for Area and District Representative positions. Ann Joy, 24 (Tombstone) motioned, Kat Valle, 91 (Chandler) 2nd; Motion passes.
- Awards (Chairman Lindsey): now we have awards for the posts that donated \$750.00 or more to VCF for the year 2024-2025. Congratulations and Thank you to Chapters 24, 25, 26, 36, 105, and 109.

NEW BUSINESS

- Reports (Chairman Lindsey): National has asked that we start reporting mileage on our reports. This does not mean every time you're on your motorcycle. It is for riding to such places as meetings, ALR events and events that benefit Veterans and the community.
- Pony Express (Chairman Lindsey): I would love to see these start back up. We raised a great amount of money for VCF when we did these in the past, if you do not know what they are then get with your District Reps and Area Vices for an explanation.
- Awards (Chairman Lindsey): I am looking to implement a couple of award type competitions. A Rider of the Year or Chapter of the Year and also the Highest Mileage Safety Award. I will have more information by our next meeting in January.
- More state events (Chairman Lindsey): Over the last year I have talked with many other state chairmen and other state riders that do so many more events than we do. They do what they call summits - it has been explained to me as a weekend type event where they go over bylaws, have events to sharpen riding, and also have road captain training. So these are things I'm working on for the future.
- Ronald DiBisaio, The American Legion Department of Arizona State Chaplain: tomorrow's memorial service is at 8 am.
- Location of Spring 2026 meeting: 26, 29, 30, 36, 61 put in for the meeting. 29 wins the vote. Spring 2026 meeting will be held March 28, 1:00 PM, at Post 29 (Glendale)

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Charlie “Gurl Scout” Sullivan, 105 (Phoenix): Area “Round Table” for the Squadrons. Flyers on the back table.
- Jose “Mo” Maldonado, The American Legion Department of Arizona Legislative Committee: During the government shutdown: how do we lead the way? Contact your legislator and find out where they stand on topics.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

January 10, 2026	Post 58, Fountain Hills
March 28, 2026	Post 29, Glendale
June 27, 2026	Department Convention, San Marcos, Chandler
November 2026	Fall Conference, DoubleTree, Tucson

CLOSING PRAYER

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ADJOURNED 1640

Submitted by

Lisette Eckman

AZALR Secretary