

## **AZALR MEETING MINUTES**

**January 10, 2026**

**Hosted by ALR 58, Fountain Hills, AZ**

**Meeting opened according to ritual at 1300.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Welcome by John Weedo, Director Chapter 58**

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

**CHAIRMAN:** Tracy Lindsey - Present

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

**VICE CHAIRMAN AREA B:** Jack "JD" Bristor - Present

**VICE CHAIRMAN AREA C:** David Hay – Present

**SECRETARY:** Lisette Eckman - Excused

**JUDGE ADVOCATE:** Brian "BK" Kempker - Excused

**INFORMATION OFFICER:** Lowell Vahl – Present

**SAL LIASION:** Robert "Slim" Vasquez – Present

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

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

excused (2): 3, 5

non-reporting (2): 1, 4

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

present (35): 2, 5, 6, 9, 14, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 34, 35, 36, 39, 40, 41, 44, 52, 53, 58, 61, 62, 66, 69, 81, 86, 91, 105, 107, 109, 115, 117, 131, 138, 147

excused (0):

non-reporting (31): 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 19, 23, 29, 32, 45, 54, 57, 59, 68, 78, 79, 87, 93, 96, 97, 103, 108, 126, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 141, 143

101 members signed in

## **READING OF THE MINUTES:**

Minutes of the November 2025 meeting were previously emailed. Edit: VCF Awards were for 2023-24 year, not 2024-25 like stated in the minutes. Motion to approve (with changes); seconded; motion carried.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

HME Boy State Scholarship: \$5,380.00

VCF: \$5,753.00

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

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

**CHAIRMAN** – Tracy "Big Papa" Lindsey

- National Commander's visit went well.
- Appreciate everybody that went to Open House.
- Anyone that has an issue with not knowing about things, get with your district reps. Also check the AZALR state calendar.

**VICE CHAIRMAN AREA A** - Kirk "Zig Zag" Affolder

- Everything's good

**VICE CHAIRMAN AREA B** - Jack "JD" Bristol

- Working on blurring some of the lines between districts so we have created two bike nights but they are called AZALR Bike Nights, not labeled as District Bike Nights. The first and fourth Friday of the month.

**VICE CHAIRMAN AREA C** - David "Ahay" Hay

- Recognized Sandy Smith (81) for attending the quarterly meeting. It's the first time anyone from 81 has attended. Commended Post 81 for all the work they are doing together as a family.

**SECRETARY** – Lisette "National" Eckman

- Many people are not getting the message – do not text or Facebook Messenger me about ALR stuff – send an email to [AZALRSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:AZALRSecretary@gmail.com). Please take that information back to your members!

## **APPOINTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:**

### **JUDGE ADVOCATE - Brian "BK" Kempker**

- Excused

### **INFORMATION OFFICER - Lowell Vahl**

- I was appointed Information Officer years ago because I do the webpage. Meeting minutes are now posted on the webpage. Also added a link to sign up for the emails that are sent out to everyone.

### **SAL LIAISON - Robert "Slim" Vasquez, Jr**

- Need more participation at SAL Campout, Deadhorse Ranch in Cottonwood.

## **DISTRICT REPS –**

- D1 Doug Kraeg: absent
- D2 Bill "Magoo" Wood: National Commanders visit to Southern Arizona in December, District 2 escorted him, and handed him off to District 3 Riders for the rest of the visit.
- D3 Joe "Huckleberry" Teske (Proxy: Gerard Brinkmann): Had the privilege of escorting the National commander on his visit. He then gave out Lisette's phone number, so if you weren't there – you missed out.
- D4 JW Ausbern: absent
- D5 Casey "Stash" Campbell: excused
- D6 Theryl "T" Dillon: Legacy Run will be stopping at Post 30 in Springerville as the last stop on the run.
- D7 Patrick "CB" Avila: No report.
- D8 Curt "Stitch" Bancroft (Mike Mernken, proxy): No report but keep Curt Bancroft in your prayers.
- D11 Stephan Lopez: Several chapters doing poker runs to raise funds for good things. Bike night January 23 at Post 61.
- D12 Randy Dodson: Several chapters did toy runs, Christmas for kids and group homes. Proud of District 12 for all the money they have raised and donated to different organizations. New Veterans Home location off of Cactus by US VETS; they will be having an Open House.

**AZALR LEGACY RUN 2026:** April 23-26, Kim Lindsey: Paper registration on the table. You can also use that form for T-shirt sponsorship.

**BIKEFEST 2026:** Post 41: October 14-18. A lot of rides lined up. Bands are lined up. Should have hotel information by the next quarterly meeting.

**WESTERN ROMP 2026:** October 8-11, 2026, Post 9, Florence; Facebook page is up. Band Saturday night. Registration is \$40.00 per person, not per bike. Hotels are filling up. If you want to stay at the Green Tree, call during business hours and talk to Dan.

**GTKYP:** Getting ready for the 26-27 map. This map is for the whole Legion family, not just Riders.

### **OLD / UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- New on the Annual Report this year is mileage. National wants to know how many miles we are riding/driving in support of our Veterans. Mileage is going to events that support Veterans – post meetings included. If you're on vacation and if you stop into a post, count that mileage.
- National Legal Opinion for Post Programs – if you are a Director and you haven't seen it, ask your Post Commander for a copy. Then keep signed copies on file. Riders are a program. The 4 Rules of a Program of the are:
  - a. Leadership: is elected by the members of the program but must be ratified by the Executive Board of the Post.
  - b. Rules: must be ratified by the Post.
  - c. Reports: You are required to give the post a monthly activity report; quarterly financial report; annual financial statement.
  - d. Controls: Your ALR bank account must fall under the EIN of the post. You also must have two members of the post as signatories on the bank account.

(See attachment)

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Legion of the Silver Rose, Post 27. If you don't know what it is, you should find out.
- Lowell Vahl, 39 (Gilbert): Brought up a communication issue. Apologies were made.
- Wreaths Across America at the National Cemetery is well attended for wreath placement, but not so well attended when it comes time to take the wreaths down.

- Gerald “Voodoo” Valle, 91 (Chandler) – Arizona Legion College still has spots left for January at Post 68.
- Dave Hay, 25 (Cottonwood) – comments on Bike Fest. It was the ALR Campout, which became Bike Fest. It’s an opportunity to talk with other chapters to see what they are doing and to share what you are doing. Don’t just show up, go on a ride, and leave.
- Robert “Slim” Vasquez, Jr, 41 (Phoenix) – Pool Tournament during Bike Fest
- District 6 is organizing a chili cook-off for Mother’s Day weekend at Post 86.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

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 1407**

**Submitted by**

**Lisette Eckman**

**AZALR Secretary**

**Attachment 1:**

**Four Rules of an American Legion Program**

**Whether a program is chartered by a post, department or national, it is incumbent on The American Legion that we control the actions of that program to best meet the needs of our organization, provide oversight and protect the brand. Therefore, when a body sets up a program, whether it’s a Sons of The American Legion squadron or an American Legion Riders chapter, the program itself must be answerable to the body which chartered it.**

**Rule #1 – “Leadership” – All elected and appointed leaders must be confirmed by the parent organization after each selection, or as needed.**

**Rule #2 – “Rules” – All bylaws, amendments and/or standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for confirmation and approval prior to use.**

**Rule #3 – “Reports” – The program will provide to the parent organization: (a) monthly activities reports; (b) quarterly financial reports; (c) an annual financial statement; and (d) any additional report(s) requested by the parent organization.**

**Rule #4 – “Controls” – The parent organization may provide the program with the employer identification number (EIN) and the tax-exemption status with the necessary financial controls over their usage. All program financial accounts must have a minimum of two (2) parental signatories appointed by the parent organization.**

**“Parent Organization” denotes an American Legion organization level as it relates to the program at the post, district, department and/or the national organization.**

**This will alleviate confusion and problems that sometimes occur when a program initiated in good faith by a parent organization gradually falls out of favor and begins to act as an independent body without answering to the parent affiliate. Any programs that use the name “American Legion” must follow these four rules so that national does not have to enforce intellectual property rights against a subsidiary organization using our name.**