



Department of Texas Mid-Winter DEC

ALR Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2026

Call to order 1500

ALR Chairman Mark Meysembourg

Posting of colors, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance was conducted

Special guests were introduced:

Rich Huntley Department of Texas Commander

Danny Muth Candidate Department of Texas Commander

William Wallcae Department of Texas Judge Advocate

Introduction of ALR Division Officers

Michelle Birkett 1st Division Chairman

Brad Halliday 2nd Division Chairman

Brown Zvala Actin 3rd Division Chairman

Jim Sullivan 4th Division Chairman

Last Meeting Minutes, a motion was made to dispense with the reading of the prior meeting minutes, motion passed.

Vice Chairman reports, Nothing significant to report

Bastrop Chapter 533 provided an update on the 2026 State ALR Rally.

New State Rally page created on Facebook Registration is open and all are encouraged to register early to ensure enough T-Shirts are ordered.

Hotel blocks reserved.

Menus for dinners set

Road Captains and team working on ride routes

Rally information is shared on the Texas ALR website and Regional ALR Facebook pages

Discussion:



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Clarification on lodging: Bastrop State Park cabins are ADA accessible and located directly across from the Post

Attendees encouraged to stay tuned for further updates

Jim Sullivan provided an update on the progress of the 2027 State Rally being hosted by Chapter 79, Alpine Texas. He spoke of an ALR camping trip without a business agenda, just a time to relax and socialize with other ALR members.

2026 National Legacy Run. Starting in 2026 a donation recognition plaque will be awarded to those who have donations exceeding \$750. The donation amount increased from \$500 was voted on and approved by the National ALR Advisory Committee

2026 SCTX Legacy Run

Eddie Garcia, Director Chapter 172 (Mercedes) provided an update on the 2026 SCTX ALR Legacy Run.

Dates: 6 – 8 March 2026

Location: South Padre Island, TX (hosted by Posts 172 Mercedes and Post 101 Pharr)

Event details: Open to all Riders state-wide and out of state it is a family friendly event

Lodging Holiday Inn and Resort, South Padre Island

Initial block of 25 rooms reserved more available if needed. Hotel offers family accommodations (Thursday – Monday)

Activities: Friday evening: Fellowship gathering at the resort

Saturday afternoon (~3PM) Mass escort ride from Post 498 Port Isabel across causeway onto South Padre Island

Saturday evening: Dinner, awards, recognition of donations, silent/live auction

Additional rides and activities in coordination with Port Isabel still under way

Registration is open and closes on 1 February

Notes: Focus on centralizing activities around the resort due to long travel distances.

Updates and finalization will be given at Mid-Winter DEC 31 January 2026 Austin Renaissance



2025 ALR State Rally Donation Hold back

The Decision to hold back money to assist in the funeral expense for the tragic flooding in Kerr County, has been determined to not be needed. Per the American Legion Department of Texas Development Foundation, the money was designated for funeral expenses for the Kerrville flood event. Since the money will not be needed the funds have reverted to the National effort for 2026.

Texas ALR Webpage

Kevin Mead provided an update on the ALR State webpage. Kevin along with Chris Curtis serve as the current Webmasters. They have been working to update the site with the pervious meeting minutes. They are also tasked with updating active Chapter directories. A reminder was given to make sure each chapter turns in contact information including: Director's name, Phone number, and email address.

The importance of completing a Post Consolidation Report which Chairmen or Webmasters who are requesting this information.

The ALR website gives everyone the ability to add Chapter events to the calendar or you may email your event or flyer or details to Kevin. You can also find other important ALR information under the resources tab.

Notes:

ALR specific events only will be posted on the Facebook page. Anything that refers to "Poker Run" will be declined. Poker Runs are considered a "game of Chance" and are illegal gambling per the Texas Attorney General.

Special Awards:

Texas ALR Chairman Mark Meysombourg present 2025 American Legion National ALR recognition awards to those Chapters and Post that exceeded \$500 in donation to the VCF.

ALR moving to a Department Level Program:

The ALR Department Chairman was asked to provide input on moving the ALR under the Department.



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The ALR Committee has submitted a resolution to have the American Legion ALR to become a Department level program. This resolution was approved by Department.

Discussion occurred on why to pursue moving the Texas ALR to become a Department level program.

Moving the ALR under the Department provides structure and guidance to the program. As of now each chapter operates independently. Mark Meysombourgh stated that all chapters must adhere to National Resolution 5.

William Wallace, Department Judge Advocate, explained that the Chapters still fall under the purview of the Post. This means that the Chapter must be approved by the Post General membership and must adhere to the Post's Constitution and By-Laws. He went on to explain that the ALR would set their own requirements as it comes to meetings. This would include identifying the numbers needed to constitute a quorum.

The decision was made to continue to move forward with having the ALR move under the Department. Actions to be completed by Convention

- Write and submit a Standard Operation document

- Submit document to Vice Chairmans for distribution and review

- Incorporate comments

- Provide to Department Americanism Committee for review and approval

- Have document approved for vote during Department Convention in July

Texas ALR Patches

Texas American Legion Riders Patch are on sale for \$5.00 each. See Mark Meysembourgh to purchase.

Closing activities were conducted.

Respectfully submitted

Ed Richards