

American Legion Riders Commander 's Adhoc Committee Report January 2010

This report of the 2009-2010 Department of Illinois American Legion Riders Adhoc Committee is to hopefully bring you the Legion rider up to speed with the good things that we the committee have been trying to get accomplished for the Riders across the state.

Commander Flanagan formed this committee not only to bring continuity to all Riders and chapters within the State of Illinois, but also to bring continuity between the Department and the Riders. The Department wants to play a more active role in helping the riders grow.....this is a good thing! The Riders in turn will help the Legion family grow as well. By communicating our thoughts and ideas to all we will accomplish many good things together, whereas in the past we had been splintered and fragmented.

Since last July the riders committee have participated in the Legion Family Caravan meeting and planning process. Then this month we participated in the actual Caravan. This membership caravan travelled the state visiting many posts carrying not only the Legion Family message, but this year the American Legion rider message as well. Your committee chairman and vice chairman covered the entire caravan and you were also represented by division representatives in their respective divisions. Hopefully, this worked and we will do this again and we will cover more posts that have Rider Chapters. This year was a learning curve.

We have designed a single page application and information brochure for the Legion Riders. We think that you will like it. It will be out soon. By soon, we are hoping within the next month or so. Hopefully we will be able to mail some of these items to each chapter.

The commander tasked the committee with several items to work on, the brochure above being one of those. Among the other items on the list to report back to the Commander on are; the state rider structure and going forward what it should be an oversight committee or officer structure. State bylaws; leave as is or make changes. Maintain an article in the Department Newsletter, we have since December and will continue to do so. The article in the Department Newsletter will be found under the heading "ALR News from the Saddlebags". Each post home gets a copy or two of this. Any individual can subscribe to this for \$5.00 per year. I'm working to get a subscription out to each President/Director of each active chapter in the state. It will most likely be mailed to your post.

Commander Flanagan has opened both meetings to date and the Vice Commander Richard Groharing has sat in on one as well. They have been in attendance not to ramrod the meetings but to give some input. They want the Rider program in Illinois to be a successful part of the Legion family just as all of us do.

We need chapters to step up and volunteer to man the booth during the state convention which will again be held in Springfield this year. The dates will be July 14-17, 2010. That is Wednesday through Saturday. Choose to man it with 3 volunteers for a half day or come up with 6 for a full day. Contact your division representative to volunteer. The contact information is on this website.

Bringing the National Romp to Illinois is another item that we have discussed. Having/hosting this event would bring Illinois back to the leadership position within the national structure. Illinois can pull this off. We have great Rider groups and posts that have the facilities and talent to make it happen. If this were to happen it would be most likely 3 years down the road.

Legacy Scholarship Fund donations. Illinois Riders should be at the fore front of these donations. Why not send our donations to department headquarters. We would then be able to turn in one large amount at the end of the run. All chapters could still get their recognition and the large donors would still get their recognition from National. Think about it, we have a great state and a great group of Riders.

Charters from the state are going out to chapters. Let me be clear, this is not from National. This is state recognition only. We are sending these out to all chapters of record whose posts are certified and if the chapter has a letter of authorization on record with the Department signed by its post commander along with its annual slate of officers form. Please make sure you send this information to Department of Illinois and not to National. When sent to National it never gets back to Illinois. You can record your post on the ALR National site, but send your information to Department of Illinois Headquarters.

Touching back on the Department State convention, it would be good to have a group of Legion Riders at the convention, wearing our vests and our blue covers. We are Legion Riders but we are also Legion members and a part of a very large Veterans organization. By wearing our "Blue Cap" along with our Rider vest we show that we DO belong and that we are proud that we DO belong.

The above was a brief synopsis of what we as Adhoc Committee members have been doing. There will be more in the future. Stay tuned and keep in touch. Our Legion cares and we DO belong.

Your Committee,

Wayne Erickson Steve Nunn

Roy smith Don Walden

Dave Montee Joyce correll