Who are the Legion Riders?

The Legion Riders at Post 189 officially came into being on February 2nd, 2006—when a small group of Legion family members decided to come together as not only Riders, but as friends. Our group sprang into action immediately and began preparations for our First Annual Benefit Ride, for the Landstuhl Hospital Care Project, in May of that same Spring.

We were the first motorcycle group to support the LHCP cause—and our Fundraiser being a “POKER RUN” caused quite a stir among some of the other organizations that had been supporting the LHCP, to that point. Many of the other organizations were Southern Church/Faith based and they were uncomfortable with the word “Poker”. The ever diplomatic Karen Grimord (LHCP founder/president) was able to smooth the waters and we were eventually welcomed to the team.

That first event was a real challenge as we did ‘battle' with some pretty interesting weather—the morning was a beautiful and sunny Spring day—but it soon gave way to nearly gale force winds, rain and even some sleet. We slogged through and had a great time, even in spite of Her Highness—Mother Nature!

We have come a LONG way in our first 6 years—but the mission is unchanged..."For God and Country—United We Stand (and Ride)!!

Who are WE???

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Who are WE???
Photos posted to our web page are submitted by members and friends, they must be approved and will be posted if space is available—our webmaster does this in a volunteer capacity—please be patient.

Web Page - ALR189.COM

Our Webmaster - John Buck - has done a fantastic job putting together the Group’s website. It has become one of the “GO-TO” places for motorcycle event information in our area. In addition to news and events you can find important links to other motorcycle groups, motorcycle-friendly businesses, motorcycle related retail businesses and military support organizations.

There is also an awesome gallery for photos taken from our rides. There is information on how to submit photos to the webmaster for posting. It's important to note that although the Chapter pays for the domain space for our web-page - John does all the work on the page as a donation to our group. Please be patient on submitted photos and know that not all submissions will be posted, due to space and content.

If you are a budding web-builder and would like to assist John...feel free to contact him: webmaster@alr189.com
**Intake—Member Submissions**

This section of the Newsletter will be reserved to allow members to submit stories about rides they went on - either with the group, with a group of friends or on one of those “Lone Wolf” days when we just cruise solo...listen to the motor...smell the flowers and just be at peace with ourselves.

On July 20th, Chapter President Paul Russo and SGT at Arms Bill Fowler had the honor of leading the Department Annual Convention parade, along with other ALR members from around the state, in Rochester. Immediately following the parade Paul and Bill along with Treasurer—Resi and Secretary—Sophie attended the Legion Riders Department annual meeting in the host Hotel. Our members can be proud of our Department level leadership—the meeting ran smoothly and members were able to voice opinions on a variety of subjects. The entire slate of officers (including Paul as District 5 & 6 Coordinator) were re-instated for another year term. One very exciting note was that the National Legion Riders 2013 “Romp” will be held in Hannibal NY, next June (more to follow on this event).

After a great time enjoying the convention Hospitality Rooms a group of the Legion Riders ventured into the Rochester streets (yes—on FOOT!) and made their way to the Dinosaur Pit BBQ Joint. They were immediately greeted by a friendly group of Bikers displaying M/C Patches with the letters IOOB. We HAD to ask what that meant and they informed us they were from the “International Order of Old Bastards—M/C” - well, of course we felt right at home with those boys! Turns out they were in town for their own convention and there were IOOB guys there from across the US.

As with all good things—Saturday morning was time to get up and head home. After a cup of coffee and some goodbyes to other ALR members Paul and Bill headed for home. Just into the outskirts of Rochester Paul yelled at Bill to stop as the Softtail was spraying oil all over the place—OH NO!! After a short cool down period and a lot of rags and paper towels - the culprit was just a loose fitting. That was quickly tightened up and a sigh of relief was had by both. They stopped for breakfast and a half quart of oil and on they went! - Yankee

Got a Story? Write it up and we'll get it into a future issue!

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**Exhaust Pipe—Editor’s notes**

Here’s where the Editor will get to drop two cents into the bucket!

Great big thank you to Kathy & Dave Soule for stepping up to the plate and volunteering to do this newsletter in the future. They will need assistance from the key leaders in the form of notes and articles to be included and from the general membership for stories, articles and pictures to help make YOUR Newsletter better and more interesting! I suspect that Kathy will send out an email request for newsletter submissions 3-4 weeks prior to the publish dates (of the 1st of Aug, Nov, Feb & May)...please try to be prompt with anything for inclusion.

You don't need to be a “writer” to get published—get a little creative and send something in. Let the other members get to know a little bit more about you!
Chaplain’s Corner - Pastor Ken Fallon

The Soldiers Life

Author: SSgt. Scott E. Hilligoss

The soldiers life is not for all, A soldier must be willing to give his all, He is overworked and underpaid, A truer patriot was never made, Ready to go at any time, Wherever there is trouble or the first sign, His courage and honor are unsurpassed, Ready and willing to complete the task, Travelling to lands both near and far, He stands his post and looks at the stars, Wondering what he might have done, If he had not chosen to carry a gun, Remember the next time that you are driving by, And see the flag flying proud and high, That somewhere out there a soldier stands, Weary and cold in a foreign land, Protecting our country from our foes, Standing tall and proud come rain or snow.

Sick Call & Broken Wings

This is where we will keep track of members and friends that are sick or hurt.

Also we can include lost loved ones and those in need of special thoughts.

Poppy Chairperson

ALR member Kathy Soule is the Poppy Chairperson for the Post 189 Women's Auxiliary! The purpose of this program is to honor Veterans for their service and sacrifice by promoting and educating all people of the Poppy’s history and the financial benefit realized by our nation’s veterans as a result of its distribution. From the battlefields of World War I, weary soldiers brought home the memory of a barren landscape transformed by wild poppies, red as the blood that had soaked the soil. By that miracle of nature, the spirit of their lost comrades lived on. The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war, and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of wars, its petals of paper bound together for veterans by veterans, reminding us each year that the men and women who have served and died for their country deserve to be remembered. Each year around Memorial Day, Auxiliary volunteers across the country, distribute millions of red crepe paper poppies in exchange for donations to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans in their local communities. The poppy has become a worldwide recognized symbol of sacrifice and is worn by Auxiliary members to honor the men and women who served and died for their country, in all wars, including the Global War on Terror. The poppy should remind communities and this nation of the sacrifices and continuing needs of our veterans and service members. Auxiliary members must endeavor to explain the true meaning of the flower to all those who receive it. See Kathy if you would like to help with this worthwhile remembrance.
“Kickstands Up” - Upcoming Events

This section will be for a round-up of anything coming up in the next quarter that members might be interested in attending or participating in. Be sure to check www.alr189.com for the latest and updated information.

- Chenango County Fair: August 6 thru 11. Fireman’s Parade is Tuesday August 7: Red Knights, ALR 189, Patriot Guard Riders all come together to participate. More info on time, form-up etc, coming soon.

- “Almost-Annual Covered Bridge Ride” - September 29 (rain date Sep 30)

- September 11th - A Day we must NEVER forget, our Freedom Isn’t Free!

American Legion Pills

The American Legion has adopted the following Four Pillars (and associated awareness items) as part of its charter - as a Program of the Legion it is our responsibility to support them also.

THE FOUR PILLARS

I. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

- Access to VA Care
- Better Funding Formula
- Support for Veterans with Special Needs
- Career Opportunities
- A GI Bill for a New Century
- Employment and Business
- Heroes to Hometowns
- Volunteering
- Final Respects

II. National Security

- Strong National Defense
- Military Quality of Life
- Homeland Security
- Foreign Relations
- Full Accounting of POW/MIA
- Operation Comfort Warriors

III. Americanism

- Flag Protection
- Illegal Immigration
- Voter Registration and Participation
- Boy Scouts
- The Pledge of Allegiance
- Establishment-Clause Lawsuits

IV. Children & Youth

- Child Pornography
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Catastrophic Illness
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Immunization
- Family Integrity
- Media Violence
- Drug Abuse

“It’s not the Destination - It’s the Journey!”
From the President’s Tour-Pack - Paul Russo

As you are aware we the ALR of Post 189 Norwich is supporting the “We Honor Veterans” fundraiser ride through Hospice & Palliative Care of Chenango County. This will be very touching and a tremendous honor to ensure the 1st annual fundraiser is a great success. There are many families and friends that have experienced cancer and/or lost their battle with cancer. Our mission is to get the word out to as many Chenango County Veterans that Hospice care is there for them. For more information on Hospice please visit: www.hospicechenango.org

A little history on how the ALR got involved: Last year I was asked by Rowena Krum and Director Pat Outhouse to be on the Hospice Board they hoped I would help in getting the word out to veterans in our community that Hospice care is available. They considered me for this position, due to my community involvement with the American Legion for the past 21 years, ALR member for eleven years and my desire to help veterans in need.

After accepting the position, I felt a sense of being overwhelmed for this is a three year commitment and a huge undertaking. My reasons for committing to this are my experience with my mother-in-law - whom we lost on April 22nd and my father who is a WWII Disabled combat veteran. Our family has lost several family members that have survived WWII & Korea but later succumbed to cancer. My passion is to help veterans in need - because we owe it to them during their final days to let them know we care enough to make a difference, for the freedoms we enjoy today!

I believe in this mission and I realize that I could not fulfill it without the support of the American Legion and the dedicated group of ALR members that have gotten us to this point. The ALR Chapter 189 has been recognized for our work, fundraising with helping Veterans in our Community, State and Nation. The Landstuhl Hospital Care Project, thanks to “Yankee” Bill Fowler’s vision and the hard work of many members has been a model of success and has put our ALR Chapter on the map.

How we got involved with Hospice: For the last three years the Lt. Warren Eaton Post 189 has urged members to attend the annual Hospice fundraiser dinner, at the Canaswacta Country Club. Our Post purchased eight to ten tickets for Post board members and one guest to attend. Last year I was a Celebrity waiter to help raise funds. Commander Chris Thompson was introduced to Pat Outhouse along with Donna and Lex Danyluk and they were excited about the program and getting the word out to veterans. Due to Commander Thompson’s interest and backing from our Post, I created the Hospice committee. The Hospice staff committee include: Pat Outhouse, Director of Hospice; Nancy Vosbrink who has since moved and left the position on May 25 - replaced by Kendall Drexler, LMSW Clinical Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator; Donna Wood Craig, Public Relations; and Diane Spink, RN.

Our ALR committee Chairs are: Myself, Donna, Lex and Chris Thompson. I appreciate the hard work of our members in starting this great fundraiser for Hospice. As of July 24, we included our ALR board members, Jim Cushman, Sophie Libera, Resi Fuller, due to their transition onto the ALR board along with Assistant Ride Captain Dave MacLaury.

The “We Honor Veterans” Shirts have been designed to include the Hospice logo, a motorcycle resemblance, an American Flag on the left sleeve, and on the back the name and logo of sponsoring businesses (these businesses made a donation of at least $200). The t-shirt is navy blue, like our Landstuhl Hospital Shirt. A special thanks to John Blenis of Fine Line Graphics in Norwich for continued support making and designing shirts for Bike Night, the Landstuhl ride and now Hospice. Cost of shirts are: $15.00 for Small, Medium, Large and X-Large, $16.00 for XXL and $17.00 for XXXL. We had 200 shirts made! We also designed a donation/solicitation letter for smaller businesses to make a donation and/or door prizes. Many of our local businesses have supported our cause, so please ensure you visit, shop and thank them for assisting us.

The ALR 189 is supporting this worthy mission of our Post. As President of our chapter and your 5th & 6th District Vice Director of NYS ALR - I am requesting your support on Saturday August 11th, I know some might have another engagement or circumstances that we might not be able to attend. We will need volunteers to work this day to include, registration, 50/50, selling of Hospice t-shirts, pins etc. Road guards will be needed to assist with intersections. The Hospice Staff will be assisting us to learn our processes. Our Ride Captain Lex Danyluk and Assistant Ride Captain Dave MacLaury have a nice ride planned. Commander Thompson has made radio announcements and has planned presentations and a dinner at the Post, around 4:00 pm.

Hospice is sending our flyers requesting donations if people can’t make the dinner and please RSVP so we have a better head count. There will be many dignitaries and non-riders in attendance, both at the NYS Veterans Home and the American Legion Post 189.

To learn more about Hospice, to register, or to make a donation please visit www.hospicechenango.org

Together we can make a difference with Hospice care for our Veterans!

For God and Country
News you can Use - from your executive board

What's going on in ALR 189???

Your ALR Board has reorganized since May 3, 2012 and I would like to thank: Sophie Liberatore for accepting the position of Secretary, Resi Fuller for accepting the Treasurer position during our transition and preparing for our seventh Landstuhl Hospital Care Project Benefit. The ALR Board, Vice President Jim Cushman, Secretary Sophie Liberatore, Treasurer Resi Fuller and I have had two Executive Board meetings to solve issues and concerns. On Tuesday July 17 we had another Executive Board meeting to include all our ALR elected & appointed officers, Pastor Ken Fallon was gracious enough to facilitate our meeting at the Crossroads Church in Sherburne. The meeting was constructive, beneficial and we are moving forward with a process of initiating several new guidelines to address any issues that may arise.

We ask members that may have an issue with another member to simply solve it with that member. If you are unable to do that - we ask that you then communicate with our Vice President - Jim or Chaplain - Ken. If needed, these two officers may consult one another to get a resolution of anything that may come up. It's important to realize that as our group continues to grow - it becomes a greater challenge to get along with the many different personalities that make up the ALR. Our maturity and the realization of what our missions and goals are, dictate that we be civil to one another. Jim Cushman can be reached evenings after 5 pm, at 334-9266.

The ALR is a Veteran organization and the RIDERS is a program of the Legion, therefore there is a Chair of Command. We ask members to refrain from negative remarks and treat each other the way we would like to be treated ourselves. Respect your ALR Officers and appointed Officers as they bring a wealth of knowledge, both in the American Legion and their skills as riders/leaders. As we get larger we need to be flexible in adapting to change. Know our history and understand our vision, mission and purpose. (There is a wealth of information included in this initial edition - save it and refer to it later).

We also would like to inform our newest members of our History, chain of command and place in the American Legion family. Last year Donna Danyluk, Sophie Liberatore, Crystal and Joe Paino, Bill Fowler and Paul Russo developed an ALR orientation package to include Group Riding guidelines.

We are also planning on having ALR representatives from each of our Legion Families to help new members and existing members learn about our American Legion program, Roberts Rules of Order etc. Sophie, Resi and Kathy Soule are well informed of the Women's Auxiliary. Pastor Ken Fallon is willing to help with the SAL. Your Legion (Post members) are: Jim Cushman, Lex Danyluk, Jerry Reyes and Paul Russo. If anyone else is interested, please let us know!

Our American Legion Post ALR Liaison to the Riders is Lex Danyluk. The ALR Liaison position was a directive from the Department of NY American Legion Adjutant - Richard Pedro. The liaison position holder doesn’t have to be a Rider, but needs to be a Post (Veteran) member, a supporter of the ALR and should attend a majority of the monthly Post & ALR meetings. For several months the position was mentioned and explained at our meetings - there were no volunteers. Post Commander Chris Thompson needed a final decision and name to abide by the Department directive. Lex Danyluk’s name was mentioned and he accepted the position. The ALR liaison advises the ALR on how to comply with the American Legion vision, mission and purpose. The position also provides a means of keeping both organizations informed about activities and other items of note.

Each family has an Advisor: Auxiliary is P.J. Cobb, SAL is Bob Cevasco, and the ALR Program has Lex Danyluk.

Riders Charter

The American Legion Riders are members of the American Legion who are also motorcycle enthusiasts.

They can be found participating in parades, enjoying themselves at motorcycling events, and supporting the communities, in which they live, work, and play.

Members of the ALR come from the Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion families.

The American Legion Riders were formed to:

- Participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion.
- Promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest.
- Use our Association to promote and support programs of the American Legion.

The American Legion Riders is not an “M/C”, and does not practice M/C rules or regulations. The American Legion Riders is family-oriented, just like its parent organization: the American Legion.
About The Award
Established in 1984, the Woman of the Year Award recognizes outstanding women who exemplify the values and ideals of the American Legion Auxiliary, particularly those whose contributions advance the quality of life for America’s military, veterans, and their families.

Criteria & Selection
- Recipients may be an Auxiliary member or someone eligible for membership, but eligibility is not a criterion for consideration.
- Their contributions should be high profile in nature and therefore have had a wide-ranging effect and/or impact.
- The recipient should display the ideals and values defined by the mission of the organization.
- The recipient serves as an inspirational role model and/or spokesperson for the organization and membership.
- Selection is at the discretion of the national president.
- Recognition and presentation of the award occurs at the national convention.

Women’s Auxiliary Member of the Year Award

Sophie Liberatore ALR POST 189 Secretary & Dept of NY Aux Member of the Year for 2012

On Friday July 20, 12 at the American Legion Summer Convention in Rochester one of our own Women’s Auxiliary and ALR members, Sophie Liberatore was awarded the Department Member of the Year Award. She was nominated by the 6th District.

Congratulations Sophie!

The Back Page will be for member photos and profiles of members as well as a classified section for members to advertise items for sale or trade. Items should be motorcycle and/or Legion related—keep in mind that it is a copyright infringement to sell anything with a legion emblem or its likeness, such items would not be allowed to be offered here.

Meet the New Members
(Past Quarter)

Here’s where we will introduce our newest Brothers and Sisters!

Welcome!
- Ed Hooke (May)
- Chris Thompson (June)