

American Legion Riders
Department of Kansas
State Rally
Post 370 Overland Park, Kansas
September 26, 2026

Chairman Barry Maples opened the meeting at 1230 with the hand salute, the opening prayer by Post 370 Chaplain Richard Harper, the Pledge of Allegiance and the POW/MIA Ceremony.

Reading of the minutes of the 2025 ALR Rally: Kyle Ableman of Lindsborg Chapter 140 moved to forego the reading of the minutes of the 2025 Rally as they were posted on the website. Bob Deister of Hutchinson Chapter 68 seconded. Motion carried.

The Roll of Chapters was called – 18 Chapters were in attendance.

2026 Turkey Run is scheduled for 21 November. The SRU has been disbanded, and the clamshell is being torn down. Chairman Maples secured the Hospital Command as a sponsor for the Turkey Run. He has a form that has been filled out and is being routed. He has had to dispel some false information that the ALR was bribing the soldiers to join the Legion. The location is still being worked out as right now. Chairman Maples wanted to use the ACS building but was denied. The Riley Conference Center was identified but they charge for use of the facility. After discussion with the manager, they agreed to a flat fee of \$200 instead of \$100 per hour. Timing will be 0800 to 1600. Newton notified Chairman Maples that they wouldn't be able to supply the rolls. The count of families will stay at 250, and it will be focused on E-4's and below, Gold Star Families, and exceptional cases.

2026 Operation North Pole is scheduled for 5 December. Many of the same issues are in play for this event as well. The location is also still being worked out as right now.

Department ALR Secretary Chris Krueger Chapter 180 Great Bend reported:

- The 2026 Kansas Legacy Run rolled on 12 June with 52 riders, 10 passengers, 3 chase truck drivers and another 10 supporters. We raised \$17,904.89 for the Veterans and Children Foundation, plus a late contribution made on the National Legacy Run for \$500.
- The National Legacy Run had 5 participants from Kansas. We left Lincoln, NE with over 240 motorcycles and ended at the George S. Patton Center for Leadership at Fort Knox, KY after a 5 day ride through NE, IA, IL, IN and KY.

\$1,011,563 was raised nationally for the Veterans and Children's Foundation, with 521,000 raised during the run.

- Assistant Chief Road Guard Michael Haas died because of injuries sustained in a crash on Day 3 of the National Legacy Run. A dignified escort was performed on Friday 4 Sept from Des Moines, IA to Mike and Terri's home in Bentley, KS, by members of the Bentley Fire Department and American Legion Riders from Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday 3 Oct at Post 68 Hutchinson, at 1600 hrs (4pm).

Chairman Maples reported that the 2027 22nd Annual Fort Dodge run will be Sun 6 June.

Clay Childs mentioned a repatriation ride for two WWII brothers on 10 Oct at 1230 – more info to come.

Resolutions:

- Realigning Area to Districts – Committeeman Zeitvogel read the proposed to resolution. Carol Zeitvogel Chapter 17 made a motion to adopt the resolution. Dan Hammond Chapter 40 seconded.
- Discussion:
 - Clay Childs Chapter 5 mentioned that Emporia would be the only ALR Chapter in District 4.
 - Chairman Maples detailed the number of Chapters for each District.
 - Childs also mentioned that currently Emporia is over 100 miles from any chapters in their area.
 - Chairman Maples mentioned that the Area Directors would have the district Commanders as a resource.
 - Marcia Cottrel asked if members would be able to move and the answer was that there would be no change to that.
 - Bob Deister 69 Hutchinson advocated for keeping the current format because of the chapters he would lose and urged a No vote.
 - Frank Otter Chapter 63 recognized the Districts that would need to have a Director named.
 - Vawnie Jones Chapter 19 asked if the Area Directors could still work with the chapters that they're losing.
 - Dan Hammond Chapter 40 mentioned the advantages of having the Areas aligned with the Districts and how the current model causes issues for him.
 - Committeeman Zeitvogel asked how much contact the area directors have currently with the District Commanders. He mentioned that the ALR Chapters are the glue in many Posts and that the Riders are the public face of the Post in many cases.
 - Carol Zeitvogel Chapter 17 mentioned strengthening our Districts which would strengthen the Department.
 - Stan Britt Chapter 62 mentioned that maybe there are District Commanders that

- need to be brought up to speed on what the ALR is doing in their District.
 - Chairman Maples mentioned the friction that can exist between the Chapters and their supporting posts and how the realignment could help with the issue.
 - Secretary Krueger called the roll of the Chapters – the results were 29 Yes, 7 No.
- Chairman Maples mentioned that he will inform Jimmie and take the resolution to the DEC meeting at Mid-Winter Forum.

Open comments from the ALR family:

- Kyle Ableman 140 Lindsborg announced that they would cover \$100 of the cost for the Turkey Run facility.
- Cindy Cash Chapter 370 announced that they would cover \$100 of the cost for the Turkey Run facility.
- Chairman Maples went over the quantities that each Chapter would be supplying for the Turkey Run. Kyle Ableman 140 Lindsborg announced that they would supply the rolls.
- Kenny White asked how donations for Operation North Pole should be handled. Chairman Maples recounted the change from buying toys to handing out gift cards, and the breakdown of how much each age group receives. He also mentioned that sending money is the best way to handle donations.
- Committeeman Zeitvogel mentioned the 24 July 2027 - 4th ONP Dice Run, which raises money for ONP. Chapters can send funds directly.
- Kyle Ableman 140 Lindsborg mentioned the difficulties with Emblem Sales.
- The problem with sales tax on the back patch order form was discussed. Secretary Krueger will add a line for it and use a flat 10% to avoid any issues.
- In Memory patches for Ron Davis, Joe Noble and Mike Haas were mentioned, with various sources discussed.
- Dan Hammond Chapter 40 thanked all for the support that Run for the Wall enjoys from the Kansas ALR. He encouraged all to ride with RFTW for a day or however many days they can. The flags on the overpasses are something to see.

Chairman Maples thanked Overland Park Chapter 370 for hosting. Chapter 136 Mulvane will host the 2027 Kansas ALR State Rally, in keeping with the decision made in 2025 to award it to Overland Park for 2026 and Mulvane for 2027.

The meeting adjourned at 1350 with closing prayer by Richard Harper, recovery of the POW/MIA drape, and the hand salute.