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Volume 9

**NEWS LETTER**

January 2004

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## **Happy New Year!**

This is a great time for the American Legion Riders Post 1340. Last year the Executive committee spent four months working out a constitution and by-laws specific to our Post. Previously, the Post operated in accordance with the Department (or State) American Legion Constitution, which had little in the way of Post doctrine and nothing in the way of riders operations, as that is normally a Post function. We will be sending a special notification as to exactly when and where the Post ratification election will be held as soon as the document has passed the scrutiny of the Department Judge Advocate.

We have the Articles of Incorporation ready to go to the Judge Advocate, and once that paperwork is finished and the state issues the certificate, we will be incorporated as an individual entity.

We have a new officer, Kari Ecklund. Kari originally joined as a member of the Auxiliary, but after a closer look at her DD-214, she found that she indeed fell within the eligibility dates and now has become a dual member in the American Legion.

Kari has accepted the position of Photographer/Historian for the Post and I am excited that we now have a member that will record our activities for Posterity.

More Great News!! We have a website where we can provide the world with information about our great organization. Our constitution, our activities, our people, the current and past newsletters, meeting minutes, the calendar, a message board, and anything else that we want out on the world wide web is now available to us.

The website is <http://www.al1340.com/>

Its AL 1340. Com, not all 340.com the first stuff on the site might be a bit rough or unrefined but we will work on until it is a first class website.

The Activities Committee is working on an activity calendar for the year 2004 so we can have some good planning for what it is the members want to do over the year. At the moment Henry Bass is heading up the Activities committee and is leading the way for collecting information about what sort of activities the membership wants. Please get with Henry and let him know what sort of activity you would like to see more of, so the planning is truly responsive.

The new year is shaping up to be our finest ever. We have a great group of riders and a superb staff to support the membership. We are now planning the events and doing our best to get the word out as quickly as possible. The two things that will help make the Post greater still is increased membership and member participation. We need all of our Legionnaires to come out and ride with us, we need all of our Legionnaires to come to our events and wear their shirts and patches proudly. We also need all of our Legionnaires to recruit at least one member that will participate with our Post. The entire success of the Post is dependent on it's members, both new and sustained.

The next note is all about Post 1340 going high-tech. The news letter will be entered on the [al1340.com](http://al1340.com) website, it also will be sent to you via the e-mail route. The glitch just now is that I do not have everybody's e-mail address. If you have an e-mail account please send your address to [ken.larcher@faa.gov](mailto:ken.larcher@faa.gov) for inclusion on the newsletter list. The main reason for this advancement is the cost of mailing the newsletter to everyone via USPS. The mass mailings will stop sometime in 2004, so If you do not have e-mail or you just want a hard copy sent, Please send your request for continued hard copy newsletter to;

American Legion Riders Post 1340  
P.O. Box 544446  
Oklahoma City, OK 73154

The membership year ends Dec. 31,2003. If you have not renewed for the 2004 membership year you will not be active until you do after the end of the year. Please dig out those membership cards and be sure that your card says 2004. The Dues for 2004 is \$25.00 some of the members were sent a membership renewal from National that requested \$20.00. You guys lucked out on membership this year. That was a goof from 1340 all the way to National Headquarters. The next mailing from National will have the \$25.00 renewal price on it.

Well the Christmas rush is completed and was a rousing success. After a hick-up and restart on the takeoff for the children's home run, it went very well. We first went to the Veterans Center in Norman and watched the Belly Dancers dance with their bellies ( and everything else). The Veterans were entertained to the inth degree.





Mama Mary lead the post in Christmas Carols and that alone was a sight to behold. We actually got the whole room singing. Next it was hot chocolate, coffee and cookies all around. The Belly dancers took one look at the bikes and were immediately smitten and were treated to motorcycle rides in full regalia. Belly dancers Bikers and Bikes, seems like a natural setting. Soon after that the Veterans began to tire and the decision to say our goodbye's was made and we (the bikers) rode around the pavilion twice and came on home.

The Next Morning (Sunday 0800 A.M.) we gathered at Charley's Last Stand for our annual run to the Children's home in Ponca City Dutch drove his truck as he had half of the gifts destined for Ponca. W proceeded to the Big cross in Edmond at I-35 to pick-up Boyd and Keri He was riding, she was driving the other half of the gifts in the Avalanche. I know the question was there// and yes I found the correct off ramp and yes I found the Children's Home without any turn-a- rounds. Well, we got to the home and met our new sponsor child young Mr. Dontay Spinner.

We gave him(Dontay) his gifts and had the grand Play Station II opening and found that it needed some batteries and adapters and a TV to work it on. So it was off to the restaurant for lunch and to Wal-Mart for the needed stuff. One of the needed items was an actual game to play on the PS II. Well I'm here to tell you that Mr. Spinner is a biker by DNA, he went straight for the biker babes and boobs games, which I was sure, the home would reject. Dontay wound up with a four wheel driving game much to everyone's relief. We all went to the home to hook-up the PSII and we were out of our depth in trying to get it running and darkness was approaching with it's lack of heat in the air. Te staff at the home assured us that we could depend on them to get the game operating and we could feel fine about leaving. We went!

I just called Dontay and he reports that the PSII is working fine and he again thanked us for his Christmas.

Reminder: The Post meetings are held at Charley's Last Stand on the first and third Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. 4415 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> (Behind The Outback at I-40 & Meridian) OKC

The National Coalition of Motorcyclists is having their national convention here in Oklahoma City on May 6,7,8, and 9 2004. We have been tentatively asked to be one of four vendors for the activity. They are talking about us serving a Mexican type food. The place will be at I-40 and Banner Road at a place called "Ernie's Palace" This is to be the party place because the actual convention will be held

at the Biltmore Hotel on I-40 and Meridian. The attractive part is, there is to be over a thousand bikes arriving for this function and we are an invited vendor. It's not very far off so keep those dates in mind and we will discuss the possibilities during our regular meetings.



Send a picture and I will feature it in the next Newsletter  
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