

The American Legion Riders Department of California



For God and Country

DEC Minutes

January 25, 2018

1. Call to Order - President Mick Sobczak @ 7pm
2. Invocation – Milo Barclay
3. Pause for MIA - President Mick Sobczak
4. Pledge of Allegiance - Sgt. At Arms Caleb Homer
5. ALR Preamble - President Mick Sobczak
6. Roll Call - Secretary Debbie Proffitt-- those in attendance **highlighted in yellow**

President-Mick Sobczak;	Vice President-Randy Brenneman;
Sergeant-At-Arms-Caleb Homer;	Treasurer-Leonard Phillips;
Secretary-Debbie Proffitt;	Chaplain-; VACANT
Judge Advocate-John Bart-EX;	Historian-; VACANT
Parliamentarian-Hy Libby;	Safety Officer-Ken White;
Service Officer-George Smith;	Webmaster/Area 6 Asst VP-Jim Oxley;
Quartermaster-Patrick Tafoya;	JR Past President-James Adames;
Membership-Gary Teicher-EX;	Public Relations- Ron Carmichael;
Convention & Rally-Dee Pittenger;	Area 1 VP-Fred Branson;
Area 1 Asst VP-Rich Bergin;	Area 1 Asst VP-Cory Perryman;
Area 2 VP-Warren Halstead;	Area 3 VP-Paul LaPierre;
Area 3 Asst VP-Ken Sutton;	Area 4 VP-Joel Lopez;
Area 5 VP-Rey Ruiz;	Area 5 Asst VP-Ron Huff-EX;
Area 5 Asst VP-Gene Hobdy;	Area 5 Asst VP-Ray Ficek;
Area 6 VP-John Archuleta;	Area 6 Asst VP-Milo Barclay;
Area 6 Asst VP- Jim Ross;	Area 1 Commissioner-Bob Perryman;
Area 2 Commissioner-Terry Baughman;	Area 3 and Legion Commissioner- Vince Cole;
Area 5 Commissioner-Paul Patricio;	Area 6 Commissioner-Steve Weber

Guests:

Jeric Wilhelmsen- Secretary ch 43-
Monique Clemons

7. Additions to the Agenda

None

8. Approval of Minutes –

Motion to approve minutes of 12-21-2107 as electronically transmitted by George Smith. 2nd by Warren Halstead. Passed by vote of DEC.

Finance officer not getting minutes. Send to alrcadoctreasurer@gmail.com.

9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips

*Balance \$53,821.94; Incoming this month will be \$6,350.00 from per capita. Will update. \$430.00 delegate fees. Big Bear paid startup of \$25.

*Ch. 43 paid on PayPal. I have no access as that was before all was transferred to the new PayPal. I need ideas. Mick will send an email to Anthony Serio and have him transfer all monies to the Union Bank account along with screen shots.

*Area VPs have updated spending of their funds. No deductions in November as we had Rally and all were paid out of the Call In monies not the VP accounts. I need an address for Dee and Joel to mail their checks. Gave Caleb's check to Mick to deliver. Safety Officer asked about his check. Anthony stated the minutes showed he wasn't there. Need update. Debbie checked the minutes and he is listed as in attendance.

*Sending out Area reports as to which chapters have paid/not paid. There will be a new one as of this evening. Still have 14 chapters not updated. Green means OK, # or 0 indicates have gotten nothing from them. 5 days left. Can pay by check or PayPal postmarked by January 31 and won't be considered late.

*Doing good on delegate payments. 24 of 83 chapters have paid. Do what you need to do to get the payments in. Email or call if you need to.

*Checking on the \$580 that there is no receipt for, it went to Union Bank. Withdrawal within the bank. Ask Van for paperwork about withdrawal. July shows up. No receipts to account for the \$580. Only thing not accounted for from the previous treasurer. Mick-If anything looks nefarious the JA will send a letter. Then look to get a recoupment of the funds. Leonard will research and provide documentation.

*Motion to accept finance report as electronically transferred pending audit by Warren Halstead. 2nd by Rey Ruiz. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Service Officer- hasn't been getting the report. Leonard will send it. Asked that the report be sent to all and Jim Oxley.

*Rey- last year Ch. 354 was a new chapter and thought they had to pay delegate fees. They paid \$30. This needs to be corrected. Leonard will credit the amount toward their delegate fees this year.

*Paul- Ch 26 has 41 members but paid \$430. \$20 via PayPal. Ralph said to donate the \$20 excess to the ALR.

*Mick- asked about whether the Squadron 26 was still suspended. No, they are back in good standing. 😊

10. Presidents Report – Mick Sobczak

*Stay on topic today, we have lots to discuss

*Has been busy traveling including to posts 123 and 229.

*President's meetings coming up

*Forrethill still needs a corrected charter. Waiting on a signature.

*Mick will be riding the Area VPs asses to get rosters and per capita in by January 31, 2018.

If not in on time then those chapters will be suspended at the February 22, 2018 DEC meeting.

*Area VPs to get the Area Commissioners involved on the 28th to contact the Post Commanders.

*No delegates in/no fees paid on time then chapters will not seat delegates at convention.

11. Vice President Report - Randy Brenneman

*Area VPs- big, busy time.

*Has been getting cc'd on a lot of emails, thanks.

*3% of chapters won't respond.

*Keep the pressure on.

*Membership report- last 2 months there has been a decline of 40 members. This could be due to the rosters being updated.

*Talk to each of the chapters about recruiting and membership retention. Members have preconceived ideas and become disillusioned.

*Some chapters are not very active because of the weather.

*Membership is up 4.9% from last year.

*Work membership of the chapters that are red or yellow on the area dashboards.

12. Secretary Report – Debbie Proffitt

*Area VPs will start getting daily roster updates.

*Delegates- Rosters are January 31. Jim can't close the rosters and leave only the delegate column open. Looking to have a 4 day window open in March when the POCs can enter their delegate info.

*Randy suggested that the delegate lists could go to the Area VPs and to Debbie to input. That way they wouldn't be messed with. VPs will let the chapters know to get their lists in by email and not use snail mail.

*Last year we were chasing delegates up until sign in at convention. Mick will send an email that says if deadline not met the chapter won't seat delegates. Everyone has the ability to scan documents, so no excuses.

*Randy- fees must be paid whether a chapter seats delegates or not. Nonpayment means chapters will be put on suspension.

*Mick- the charter for chapter 456 was revoked for nonpayment of fees for 2 years.

*Per the state by laws, chapters are to have elections in April, May or June. There are several chapters which held elections already. Mick would like to know who's having elections early. VPs- inform your chapters that their by laws must be in line with the state by laws. The bylaw template was updated last year and has the correct dates in it. Any one already elected will have an 18-month tenure. Randy- check to see if it was an election for just one officer.

*In February, Debbie will be setting up a Credentials Committee call in. Margie Johnson from 460 said she would help. If you know of anyone else who would like to help at convention let Debbie know. Mick- send Caleb an invite. Milo- When will help be needed? Friday afternoon/evening at the Holiday Inn and Saturday morning at the Jr. Seau center. Milo will also help.

*Rey- flags on vests for convention with the white or silver borders? OK for 6 months.

*In trying to contact chapters, many are not responding to emails or phone calls. I texted a few officers and got quick responses. Something to think about.

13. Sgt. At Arms Report – Caleb Homer

*Two days ago sent out an after action letter on the National Commander's visit.

*Lots of positive feedback of the escort.

*Jim Oxley- Just to verify, last May the DEC voted to use the ALR membership cards as official ID for delegates and alternates at convention. Confirmed.

*Area VPs- membership cards must be printed by January 31 before rosters lock.

*At convention, Caleb will appoint Assistant Sergeant At Arms. Need to get input for potential Asst. SAA's so he can contact them ahead of time.

*Debbie- asked if the flag patches must be in compliance for delegates and alternates. Yes, waving flags are ok. They must have a gold or black border.

*Rey- Asked about the time frame for the white or silver bordered flags. 6 months or until Doc Bart renders judgement.

14. Area Reports

a. **Area 1 VP-** Fred Branson

*Scheduled the Area President's meeting the 2nd Saturday in February.

*Waiting for a report from Bob Perryman on those riders impacted by the fires.

b. **Area 2 VP-** Warren Halstead

*Having the Area President's meeting on Saturday.

*Doing many rides for escorts in good and bad weather.

c. **Area 3 VP-** Paul LaPierre

*Kudos- chapters 476 and 684 were on the way back from the Barstow Veterans Home and ran across a gal and her toddler at Kraemer Junction whose car had broken down. 476 went back to California City and brought back a repo rig. Towed the disabled vehicle to Cal City and put her up in a hotel room. Brought her to the Legion Post for meals. Went and got part and fixed the vehicle for her.

*Area 3 President's meeting is February 10 at 1pm at chapter 11 in Madera. There will be a steak dinner afterwards.

*Kudos to chapter 684- One member, Mike Cash, sponsored the Remembering Our Fallen display for the month. Escorted it from Pasadena with Milo. Areas could get more involved with it as it tours around California.

d. **Area 4 VP –** Joel Lopez

*I've been out of commission and Mom is in hospice.

*I almost had a heart attack. My sugar was above 500. Temporarily lost my eyesight. Was in the hospital but now all is under control.

*The chapter added one membership. Our treasurer resigned.

*Will get the chapter fees updated.

*Area 5 emails will have Area 4 events.

*Participated in the Nation Commander escort. A plaque was given to her.

c. **Area 5 VP –** Rey Ruiz

*Area 5 has been active in various memorials, escorts, etc.

*We are prepping for convention.

*For convention- when you pre-register add your chapter number and what size t-shirt you want. Print your ticket right then.

*On Saturday, January 20th went to the Legion meeting at post 229, Adelanto, for a membership drive. Looking to restart the 1st chapter in California. Goal is to have them started before convention. The Commander is supportive. Emails were sent to the members of the former chapter in Barstow.

*Working on Alpine. Have a meeting with Seal Beach February 13.

*The Area 5 President's meeting will be February 23-25 in Riverside at chapter 79.

*Chapter 149 has a poker run on the 10th.

*Will try to be at the Area 3 President's meeting.

*Have a meeting on Tuesday with 229 to have a 6pm formation meeting to get paper prep completed.

d. **Area 6 VP – John Archuleta**

*Was ill and out of commission for a month.

*Called all the chapters. They will have their money in on time.

*I heard talk of a possible Santa Monica chapter. Is that in Area 6? Yes. Mick- Looking to bring members from Palisades post 283, the Culver City post and the Santa Monica post. They're all within 15 minutes of each other.

*The President at Ch. 361, Guadalupe, resigned. The COO is messed up but the roster is correct. Need a new COO. Will get it tomorrow.

*Caleb- asked to exit the meeting. Confirmed.

*Will try to go to the Area 3 meeting.

*Membership cards- Chapters need to print them? Confirmed.

*Milo has been a great help.

*Will set up a President's meeting for latter February. Need to find a location.

15. **Committee Reports**

a. **Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya**

*Is in New Mexico.

*Emblem Sales is back open.

*Ordered white berets from Emblem Sales. They have to be custom made, as they aren't in inventory. Takes about a month to get berets made.

*All is going fine.

*Mick- All finances for Quartermaster are on a line item in the budget. Your account was not added to the tax return. By convention, close account and all funds go to the Treasurer. They will still be available anytime. The \$1,500 line item hasn't been touched.

*Will send bank statements for account to Leonard.

*James Adames- PayPal for the Quartermaster? Patrick says he's always received checks. He's never had a PayPal account.

*Work it out with Leonard.

*Mick- Leonard, do we need an amended 990N? No, should still be ok.

b. **Public Relations – Ron Carmichael**

None

c. **Convention and Rally – Dee Pittinger**

*Pre-register

- *Get your hotels
- *Convention is for all in compliance members to be a part.
- *Seau Center confirmed? Must be confirmed by February 8th or DEC will change the venue by the 15th. Things need to get resolved.
- *Mama Dee will try to get convention confirmed.
- *Leonard- Was the hold up because of money?
- *Mama Dee- As of December they hadn't received the seed money.
- *Leonard- Will hand deliver the money to Ken.
- *Mama Dee- Don't think that was the hold up. Will try to get answers.
- *Mick- Will needs receipts for the seed money.

d. **Judge Advocate Report** – John Bart

None

e. **Service Officer** – George Smith

- *District 9 had a Service Officer training.
- *Patrick and I attended training and an Amvet VSO Officer did the training. Recommend to send post VSO to any training.
- *May 5- Post 149 will have the DAV, 25000 direct mail letters to veterans, at the post will be 9 service officers to help anyone who needs it filling out claims.

f. **Safety Committee** – Ken White

*Progress

g. **Webmaster** – Jim Oxley

- *Rosters will shut down at end of the month. No extensions.
- *Membership cards need to be downloaded by January 31. Download, then print.
- *Redid the POC system. Easier to take off old POCs. It's more automated. Seems to be working.
- *Having problems with email server. Emails sent out are going to spam. Will be looking for a new outgoing email server.
- *Randy- Chapters now can print individual ID cards.
- *Do emails go to all members or only those who signed up?
- *Main mailings go to those who signed up.
- *Jim- POC only goes to POC and DOC members.
- *Emails for password requests are bouncing.
- *Mick- Get the cost for an email server that will send out 20,000 emails per month and get it to the budget committee so there can be a line item.
- *Will remind people if they want anything on the new budget.

h. **Membership Officer** – Gary Teicher

- *Mick- Area VPs check the website. 11 chapters lost 10 or more members. Area 5, etc. -57, -34, -21, +23, +27, etc. Could be roster corrections.
- *1,62% decline from last month.
- *2115 members= 1432 Veterans; 356 Sal; 327 Aux with 49 Active Duty.
- *If you have a wife that rides, she needs to be an Auxiliary member and a Rider member if she qualifies.

i. **Jr. Past President** – James Adames

*Progress- Nothing but progress.

j. **Dept. Commissioner** – Vince Cole

None

K. **Jeric Wilhelmsen**- Public Relations project.

*He is the Past Commander of Post 43

*Currently the Secretary of Ch. 43

*Is a video journalist- Has done things for the National American Legion Facebook page and the American Legion magazine.

*Will be working with Weston Scott of “We are the mighty”.

*Honored to be able to use his skills

*While thinking of creating a video or 2 for the DOC, has also been thinking about the message of the videos.

*Membership- who can be a member? Awareness of charities, escorts and rides.

*Best use? Value? Make a few videos.

*Primary video at 3-5 minutes long showing the big picture, scenery, interviews, wide variety of demographics.

*Shorter videos for social media. 30 second versions targeted to certain demographics, i.e. younger, older, type of bikes, etc.

*2 major shooting days. Would need a liaison for northern and southern California.

*Would cast 4-6 riders and coordinate a day to film.

*Then make the video and receive input.

*Budget? Mostly for travel expenses. For flash and graphics, pros would be hired. Otherwise, Post 43 would handle most everything.

*Mick- how much of a budget are you looking for? \$500? Leonard, we have \$1180 in discretionary spending? Spent \$580.

*Randy- Ron Carmichael is working with James Adames and Geni Lefler. He would be a good contact for the north.

*Ch. 82 has a retired police officer who is a rider.

*Christy Swanson is a pro rider from Post 507 Santa Clarita.

*Mick will be a go between with the Area VPs for Areas 4, 5 and 6.

*Need info by the February 22 DEC meeting.

*Ideas for women riders, sport bikes, young, old, active duty, traditional bikes, etc.

*Each Area could have 2 people.

*Rey- Film the audience during the Area VP meeting. February 24 at the Riverside post.

*Caleb rejoined the meeting and said he'd do anything to help.

*If you have any ideas, send messages to Jaric.

16. **Old Business**

None

17. **New Business**

- a. ALR DOC Vendor out to bid...moved to Good of the Riders.
- b. Installation of new Department Chaplain

*Department Chaplain- Ratifying Roy Van Westbroek from Ch. 262. Longest continuous member since 1999 with chapter 229. Has 2 sons that are Squadron members.

*Motion to ratify Roy Van Westbroek as ALRDOC Chaplain by Rey Ruiz. 2nd by James Adames. Passed by vote of DEC.

18. Sick / Memorial

- a. Area 5- Keith Grissom
- b. Area 6- John Archuleta has had walking pneumonia.
- c. Ken Patrick- WW2 vet passed December 30. He was instrumental in having a chapter at post 852. In his will he asked that riders escort him.
- d. Bud Newland- 91- in Albuquerque. Had a fall, broke his hip, will have surgery. 4-6 weeks to recover. Patrick to get a card and deliver it. Mama Dee will try to get his address there.

19. Good of the Riders

*New vendor-

*Current vendor is Patch from District 9. Mick and Randy have received over 40 complaints of the high prices and the high shipping. At convention, members will vote on a vendor. Mick has talked to Patch at length and there is a lot to being the vendor.

*Any prospective vendor must be able to do embroidery and silk screening. Veteran owned gives them points. Having a government contract is good.

*Pat will send out the requirements to the Area VPs.

*At the minimum they must match what Patch does now.

*There is an app that can be downloaded to use for shipping to homes in different zip codes so that the order goes from the vendor to the buyer. This would be a plus.

*Caleb- daughter, 5, unofficially welcomed as a future rider.

*Leonard- PayPal charging correctly for accounts. Has been on the transplant kidney list for 4 years. Now at #4 on the list. In the next few months, he could be called to Portland to get a kidney. Will put Debbie on the account in his absence as alternate signer. She will have the checkbook. He will still have online access if it happens. Will be gone 6-12 weeks.

*Paul- may know of a vendor. Need scope of requirements. Patrick will send the requirements.

*Rey- may have a vendor.

*Milo- Bead vendor at convention? Yes

20. Next Meeting Date – 22 February 2018 at 7 pm.

21. Benediction - Milo Barclay

22. Adjournment – President Mick Sobczak @ 9:32pm