

**The American Legion Riders  
Department of California**



*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

September 21, 2018

1. **Call to Order** - President Mick Sobczak @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – James Adames
3. **Pause for MIA** - President Mick Sobczak
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Sgt. At Arms Mike Smith
5. **ALR Preamble** - President Mick Sobczak
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt    yellow = present    green = excused

**President**-Mick Sobczak;

**Sergeant-At-Arms**-Mike Smith;

**Secretary**-Debbie Proffitt;

**Judge Advocate**-Mike Brownell;

**Parliamentarian**-Hy Libby;

**Service Officer**-George Smith;

**Quartermaster**-Patrick Tafoya;

**Membership**-Gary Teicher;

**Area 1 VP**-Fred Branson;

**Area 1 Asst VP**-Pete DePalma;

**Area 2 Asst VP**- Ernie Henry;

**Area 3 Asst VP**-Ken Sutton;

**Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez;

**Area 5 Asst VP**-Ron Huff;

**Area 5 Asst VP**-Ray Ficek;

**Area 6 VP**-Ronnie Womble;

**Area 6 Asst VP**- Blake Shiver;

**Area 1 & Legion Commissioner**-Bob Perryman;

**Area 3 Commissioner**-;

**Area 5 Commissioner**-Paul Patricio;

**Vice President**-Rey Ruiz;

**Treasurer**-Leonard Phillips;

**Chaplain**-Roy Van Westbroek;

**Historian**-Vacant;

**Safety Officer**-Rob Carrier;

**Webmaster/Public Relations**-Jim Oxley;

**JR Past President**-James Adames;

**Convention & Rally**-Dee Pittenger;

**Area 1 Asst VP**-Rory Airheart;

**Area 2 VP**-Warren Halstead;

**Area 3 VP**-Paul LaPierre;

**Area 3 Asst VP**- Ralph Wenzinger

**Area 5 VP**-Gene Hobdy;

**Area 5 Asst VP**-Larry Brandt;

**Area 5 Asst VP**- David Saenz;

**Area 6 Asst VP**-Milo Barclay;

**Area 6 Asst VP**- Tim Schueller;

**Area 2 Commissioner**-Terry Baughman;

**Area 4 Commissioner**-

**Area 6 Commissioner**-Steve Weber

**GUESTS:**

Rita Elisarraras Ch 584; Tim Junod D 28; Lisa Womble Ch 43; Leif Meisinger Ch 133; Divita Elliott-Meisinger Ch 133; Lance Heath Ch 509; Yolanda Avitia Aux 509

## 7. Additions to the Agenda –

None

## 8. Approval of Minutes – August 2018

Motion by Warren Halstead to accept the August minutes as electronically transmitted. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rey Ruiz. Passed by vote of DEC.

## 9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips

None

## 10. Presidents Report – Mick Sobczak

\*Thanks for being here this weekend. At the 2017 Rally there were 132 riders. At this point there are 70 registered today. This is a poor showing. We do this meeting during Rally so everyone can see how we operate.

\*Tomorrow Chapters will be submitting their request to hold Rally in 2019. They will have to be present to submit their request. If a chapter wants to host and they're not here then they are not considered. This is where we make friends and relationships. It's a weekend for having fun not business. Last year's host chapter, 739, isn't here this year. That's embarrassing for them.

\*Several California riders went on the National Legacy Run. 2 days of rain. Raised 1.27M\$. Minnesota has 5500 riders. California has less than half of that. No one should do anything better than us.

\*There was concern with the Sikh riders. Internal Affairs investigated. They give 100% of donations to veteran organizations. The Sikh motto is to support the country you live in.

\*This is Mick's final 7 months.

\*The National Commander escort will be January 2 thru 9. Caleb will work with Mike Smith. Will be on a float in the Rose Parade.

\*The Ocotillo Wells cross will be given to American Legion Post 853.

\*California Legacy Run- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting call in is September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Minnesota raised \$220k and California raised \$16k. Will be making decisions about the date and route. Will be contacting all the big California companies to make a \$20k donation each. Each \$20k donation sends a kid to school for a year. This will be explained to the companies.

\*There are people who signed up to be on a committee and are not responding when that committee needs assistance. Will be replacing them.

\*James- Don't get volunteered or voluntold. If you are not gonna work on the committee don't sign up. It's better to have a vacancy than someone who's a non worker.

## 11. Vice President Report – Rey Ruiz

\*Participated in the Sarah Adames Memorial Cancer ride at Chapter 43.

\*Was at the Area 2 and Area 6 President's meetings.

Trying to get out as much as possible. He travels for work so will try to visit when in the area.

\*Working with Chapter 359, Norwalk. Helped them get their paperwork finished.

\*Possible chapter in San Fernando.

**12. Secretary Report – Debbie Proffitt**

\*Upcoming deadlines are in the Newsletter.

\*4 Chapters are out of compliance not turning in their Officer Certifications.  
Area 3- Chapters 118, 355 and 682. Area 6 Chapter 66.

**13. Sgt. At Arms Report – Mike Smith**

\*This is his 1<sup>st</sup> Rally.

\*Area VPs- Convention will be here before you know it. Prep your chapters on vest compliance.

**14. Area Reports**

a. Area 1 ALT VP – Pete DePalma

\*Americanism- We need to rally the chapters to go into the high schools to help 18 year olds register to vote. There is a lot of non participation.

b. Area 2 VP – Warren Halstead

\*Happy to put on the Rally. Would like to see more people.

\*Find a new income source for your chapter. There are events hiring nonprofits to work the event. Good money. So far they have made \$6k this year.

c. Area 3 VP – Paul LaPierre

\*Have several non-active chapters. Some lacking Officer Certifications.

\*Had a great time on the Legacy Run.

\*There is a poker run at Lake Isabella tomorrow.

\*Next weekend a poker run at Tehachapi.

\*Asked questions about chapter liability insurance.

\*Check with post insurance.

\*Spend \$100-\$200 to get event insurance for a \$1-2M policy.

\*It's a CYA thing.

James- Department Officers are covered.

d. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

\*No Report

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*Are going to have a breakfast challenge with a trophy to rotate yearly.

\*Trying to bring small chapters together to host events together.

\*Want to have chapters host an annual safety course.

\*Salute to Veterans Ride is October 20. Next year all chapters will be given raffle tickets to sell. Chapters will keep the money they make.

\*President's meeting will be October 20 in the afternoon at post 519.

\*Have one fallen rider recuperating.

\*Working on 2 new chapters. Alpine and Riverside

d. Area 6 VP – Ronnie Womble

\*Very busy. Doing movie nights, the Sarah ride, PGR runs, poker runs, lunch and dinner rides. Working on more co-chapter events.

\*Post 241 was robbed in July. All of the family came together. Honored 89 1<sup>st</sup> responders. They safe, computer and rifles haven't been found.

\*Thanks to Milo Barclay for helping to set up the Passport Run for Area 6.

**15. Committee Reports**

a. Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya

b. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

c. Convention and Rally – Dee Pittinger

d. Judge Advocate Report – Mike Brownell

\*Conference calls with the Constitution and Bylaws committee- reviewing the by laws.

\*Has a template resolution for chapters with vest issues.

\*No electronic records from the Judge Advocate.

\*Any structure changes for the bylaws will need resolutions at the 2019 convention.

\*Need evidence of continued vest violations for the vest resolution.

\*DEC discussion about the wording of Alternate Area VPs vs Assistant Area VPs.

Bylaws state "Alternate" which means they need to be voted on in their Area caucuses.

e. Service Officer – George Smith

\*The Life Flight contract needs to be signed. Mick will sign.

\*Passed around the Camp Lejeune water flyer. Will make flyers to send out.

f. Safety Committee – Rob Carrier

\*Post 69 Hollister will host a motorcycle training.

\*Merced will have its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual training on October 27. Set up similar to a police course.

\*Safety Handbook- will call a meeting with the Safety Committee to look if any changes that need to be done. Will be looking at possibly adding trike safety.

\*Have attended some Area President meetings. Will attend others.

g. Membership Officer – Gary Teicher

h. Historian – Vacant

i. Jr. Past President – James Adames

\*Last Rally as Jr. Past. Has been a DEC member for 9 years.

\*Seen riders go through hard times.

\*If you volunteer do it because you want to. No other reason.

\*Area VPs- Make sure your Assistant VPs are kept in the loop about everything going on.

\*It's been my honor and pleasure to have served. Had some good fun and some bad fun. The organization is much better

\*Has been appointed technical advisor for the ALR Commissioners.

\*Talked about doing another Iron Butt. The CalTex24 raised \$18k at 10 cents a mile.

\*Has seen this organization since the beginning. We wouldn't be who we are without those that started it.

**16. Old Business**

\*Chapter 741 out of vest compliance.

**17. New Business**

**18. Sick / Memorial**

**19. Good of the Riders**

a. California Legacy Run

\*Don't schedule it on the weekend of the Western Romp.

\*Chapters- Don't schedule anything on the weekend of the West Coast Rally.

\*It's the POW/MIA weekend. Sunday morning there will be a ceremony and black and white balloons will be let go with a 3x5 card attached with a name of a California POW/MIA on it with request to return the card.

\*Jerry Martin from chapter 383 went down.

\*Talked about deciding for Rally 2 years out. Decided against it as the chapters who want to host need to be at the current year's Rally.

\*Divita- Is on the Legacy Run committee but has a time conflict.

\*Leif- What is Department doing to help the chapters? Mick- It's up to chapters to do their own recruiting. Can use the videos that were made. Must know the history of the Legion and the Riders to be able to explain it. Recruit families, not individuals.

\*Lisa- Healdsburg webpage is using the videos.

**20. Next Meeting Date – 26 October 2018 at 7 PM.**

**21. Benediction - James Adames**

**22. Adjournment – President Mick Sobczak @ 8:51pm**