

**The American Legion Riders
Department of California**



For God and Country

DEC Minutes

July 26, 2018

1. **Call to Order** - President Mick Sobczak @ 7PM
2. **Invocation** – Patrick Tafoya
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

President-Mick Sobczak;
Sergeant-At-Arms-Mike Smith;
Secretary-Debbie Proffitt;
Judge Advocate-Mike Brownell;
Parliamentarian/Area 2 Asst VP-Hy Libby;
Service Officer-George Smith;
Quartermaster-Patrick Tafoya;
Membership-Gary Teicher-;
Area 1 VP-Fred Branson-EX;
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-EX;
Area 5 Asst VP-Ray Ficek;
Area 6 VP-Ronnie Womble-EX;
Area 6 Asst VP- Blake Shiver;
Area 1 Commissioner-Bob Perryman;
Area 3 and Legion Commissioner- Vince Cole;
Area 6 Commissioner-Steve Weber

Vice President-Rey Ruiz;
Treasurer-Leonard Phillips;
Chaplain-Roy Van Westbroek-EX;
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 5 Commissioner-Paul Patricio;

GUESTS:

None

7. Additions to the Agenda –

*Ch 741

8. Approval of Minutes – June 28, 2018

Motion to accept the June 28, 2018 minutes as electronically transmitted by Rey Ruiz. 2nd by Warren Halstead. Passed by vote of DEC.

9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips

*Been a quiet month. Usual bills and Uber payment.

*Payments for travel went out to Gary Teicher, Debbie Proffitt and John Archuleta.

*Need to get the 3 chapters who presented checks for the Legacy Run to resubmit them to the ALRDOC.

*Received requests for payment from Gene Hobdy and Hy Libby. Need receipts for travel and hotel by May after the convention.

*Account balance is \$55,520.72. Spent \$16,530. Deposits \$4,200. \$4,000 still outstanding. No pending bills except Quartermaster bills.

*Mick has \$2200 from first order of coins. Will turn in receipt for the 2nd order.

Motion to accept finance report pending audit by Leonard. 2nd by Rey Ruiz. Passed by vote of DEC.

10. Presidents Report – Mick Sobczak

*Attended President meetings in Areas 3 and 5.

*Leaving August 19 for the Legacy Run.

*Working on new chapters and getting contact information.

*Working on getting the Battleship Iowa as a chapter.

11. Vice President Report – Rey Ruiz

*Attended the President meetings in Areas 3 and 5. Enjoyed Post 509 and Paul running the meeting. Plan on being at the Area 1 President meeting in August.

12. Secretary Report – Debbie Proffitt

*COOs for Areas 1 and 4 are complete. Areas 2,3,5 and 6 have one or more delinquent chapters.

13. Sgt. At Arms Report – Mike Smith

*There are errors in the chapter bylaws startup template. Will be looking at it.

14. Area Reports

a. Area 1 VP – Fred Branson(Asst VPs Rory Airheart and Pete DePalma

*Fred is working on 3 chapters including Alturas. Putting on a lot of miles.

*Getting a committee together for Oktoberfest and end of year activities.

*Updating Rosters

- *Pete- If Fred is not on the meeting does the replacement get o vote? Yes.
- *Fred wanted all to know Debbie didn't have to twist arms to get Area 1 COOs in. We are complete.
- *Post 163 is looking to start a chapter and need help. Mick will contact them.
- *Sunday will be the Yountville picnic. 10am KSU.
- *Area 1 President meeting will be at chapter 383.

b. Area 2 VP – Warren Halstead

- *Active in final escorts.
- *\$6,500 to Operation Freedom Paws.

c. Area 3 VP – Paul LaPierre

- *11 of 13 chapters were represented at the Area 3 President's meeting with many white hats and dignitaries attending.
- *Post 16 is trying to get enough members to start a chapter.
- *Post 74 is interested. Passed information to the interested member.
- *Been busy with many events including the escort of the Remembering our Fallen wall.
- *April, Paul and Ralph will be going on the Legacy Run.

d. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

- *Had a very successful fireworks stand.
- *Were at the 359 breakfast.
- *Trying to get the Iowa off the ground.

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

- *Would like to have training classes with the safety officer once the weather gets better.
- *Working with chapter 289 to get it going again. Working on the smaller chapters that are close together to work together on events.
- *Working on having chapters sell raffle tickets for the Salute to Veterans Run next year and they would keep the money from the tickets.
- *Area 3 asked for more Sportster tickets. Proceeds to the Helmets to Heroes program.
- *One chapter pending for getting their COO in.

d. Area 6 VP – Ronnie Womble-ex (Asst VP Milo Barclay)

no report

15. **Committee Reports**

a. Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya

- *Coins went fast. 150 on back order. Should be coming in 2 weeks.
- *Had a chapter request just the center patch. Asked for pics of flares from the chapter. Usually don't send out just the center patch. The chapter had extra top and bottom flares and wanted to make complete back patches.
- *Waiting on Emblem Sales for white berets. White berets can be bought for less on line but need correct information.

- *Will be starting school in one month.
- *Area VPs need to send an email. Only a POC can order from the Quartermaster. A chapter needs to add their Treasurer to be able to order.

b. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

- *The website is moving along.
- *Will be adding PayPal to the Quartermaster store.
- *Membership emails. A few people have asked to be taken off. Right now not an option. Will add an opt out option.
- *Emails will go to the POC and the POC can get them out.

c. Convention and Rally – Dee Pittinger

- *Per Dee- Rally not getting many pre registrations. Mick will send an email.

d. Judge Advocate Report – Mike Brownell

- *Budget year runs July 1 to June 30.
- *Bylaws update- am learning on the fly.
- *Will need feedback from the bylaws committee.
- *Uniform manual should be part of the bylaws.
- *Was a Norco for the Area 5 President's meeting. Good to meet folks.
- *"Shared documentation beats conversation."
- *If a chapter is noncompliant then we need to document clearly. 241 was documented well.
- *Working on a resolution template for chapter revocation.
- *Debbie stated that there are 2 places in the bylaws talking about elected officers. Assistant Vice Presidents are included in one but not the other.

e. Service Officer – George Smith

- *Trying to stay up with stuff.
- *Jim- email bounce backs. 1 request to be taken off the list.
- *Sending information to POCs but not always getting out.

f. Safety Committee – Rob Carrier

- *T-clocs very important for every ride.
- *Had rider training area set up at the Area 3 and 5 meetings.
- *Mileage last year was at 1,099,000 miles. This year only at 95,000 so far. Only 31 of 89 chapters have recorded mileage.
- *Posting articles.
- *Chapter 133 has 10,306 miles. Chapter 311 has 11,950 miles. DEC has 11,269 miles.
- *Rider videos for training. Each Area VP was given a set to let each chapter borrow at the 2015 convention. Area VPs need to send an email to find out where they are.
- *Rory asked about out of state miles. Only the Run For The Wall, Legacy Run and West Coast Rally are currently eligible. Can have another look next year(IE. Natl. Veterans Memorial Run).
- *Debbie will send Robert pics of the Safety videos as chapter 716 bought their own set. She explained that a potential member has to view them before being voted in.

*Debbie brought up that in the safety manual there is a rider logo at the top of each page. When printing out the t-clocks page you can't read it.

g. Membership Officer – Gary Teicher

*Sorry for the confusion on the report. Tried to send it from the phone. Will resend.

*Member total is down 1 member for the month. Area 1- 285 to 283; Area 2- 266 to 264; Area 3- 431 to 436; Area 4- 14 to 14; Area 5- 807 to 805; Area 6- 325 to 325.

h. Historian – Vacant

i. Jr. Past President – James Adames

j. Dept. Commissioner – Vince Cole

*Legion appointed a new commissioner. Have to wait to find out who.

16. Old Business

a. Wearing of white beret – Committee results

*32 people are authorized to wear the white beret when conducting ALRDOC business. Head gear use is in the Uniform Manual. The committee decided the existing rules are ok.

b. 2nd set of coins ordered – shipped to QM.

c. Convention banner- Ken Sutton can get a 3 x 12 foot banner with brass grommets for \$199.41 from Folsom, CA. Banner has logos from the 5 branches of service in the following order...Army, Marines, Navy, Air force and Coast Guard. Pete will try to get a better price. It was asked if 5 banners would be better. It was determined that the large banner would be in the middle of the front of the stage at convention. The large letters ALR would be to the banner's left and the large letters doc would be to the banner's right.

17. New Business

a. Attendance Challenge and Raffle

*For every chapter and family meeting that a chapter member goes to they will have their name put on a corresponding number of tickets. They have to belong to that family to get credit. One ticket for each meeting attended. To qualify, a member cannot wear their vest to their family meetings. There will be a bonus ticket for emailing the certificate showing completion of the American Legion Basic Training course to the Area VP. The challenge runs from August 2018 through May 2019. At convention 5 tickets will be pulled from a barrel. Those 5 members will have their 2020 family dues paid. If a member is a PUPL they will get the equivalent in cash. DEC will not be eligible.

*Motion to approve the attendance challenge and raffle by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Rory Airheart. Passed by vote of DEC.

b. New Chapters

*Joel- Chapter 359- Norwalk.

*Motion to vote Norwalk chapter 359 in as the ALRDOC 90th chapter by Joel. 2nd by Warren Halstead. Discussion about missing documents. Rey mentioned they had everything at the breakfast and the packet wasn't complete. Motion amended to include the pending documents. Amended motion 2nded by Warren Halsted. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Paul- Chapter 872- Hughson.

*Motion to vote in Chapter 872 as the ALRDOC 91st chapter by Paul. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. During discussion it was determined that there are 2 different startup check lists. Rey will look at them. Motion passed by vote of DEC.

*Debbie made a motion that potential new chapter must have all their paperwork in to their Area VP and the VP must get it to the DEC no later than 7 days prior to a DEC meeting. Motion was 2nded and passed by vote of DEC.

*Debbie made a motion to increase the chapter start up fees from \$25 to \$50 as per capita had been raised to \$10 per member. 2nd by Paul LaPierre. Passed by vote of DEC. Fee increase will be effective August 2018.

*Area 6 VP Ronnie Womble had asked that Chapter 741 be considered for suspension for noncompliant vests. The information sent to the DEC wasn't complete as far as a time line and complete emails. Ronnie can send all complete documentation and email responses. What has Assistant Area VP Tim Schueller done/not done to get his chapter into compliance? What actions has he taken/not taken? Is he refusing to make his chapter update their vests and be in compliance? Will address this next month.

18. Sick / Memorial

19. Good of the Riders

*Per capita needs to be changed from \$5 to \$10 in the bylaws. It was explained that we don't have the 2017 convention minutes as the files that Monique sent were all corrupted and couldn't be retrieved. She is not answering Mick's emails. He will try again.

*Chapter challenges. Debbie explained that chapter 716 had issues their own attendance challenge to its members. For every family meeting they were a member of that they attended, they would get their name put on a ticket. For every month they brought an item for the raffle table they would get their name on a ticket. If they renewed their family and chapter dues by the August meeting they would get an extra ticket. The member with the most tickets would get a \$100 post bar card. All tickets would be put in a bucket and the first 2 pulled would get their 2020 chapter dues paid if they were still eligible to be a member.

*Mick- working with the Palisades post to be able to have 5 bikes at Fleet week to work on membership. Will send information in an email.

*Joel stated that Floyd White from Ch 359 said thanks.

*Ken- Need to look at the bylaws as far as electing Assistant Area VPs and get that straightened out.

*Mike stated it will be up to the membership in May. The bylaws state Alternate VPs vs Assistant VPs. Start looking at the bylaws now to see if any changes need to be made. It was decided that Mike will meet with any DEC on the Thursday night before Rally to go over bylaw concerns. A copy of the bylaws with the concerns highlighted need to be brought.

20. **Next Meeting Date** – 23 August 2018 at 7 PM.

21. **Benediction** - Ken Sutton

22. **Adjournment** – President Mick Sobczak @ 8:56 PM