

**The American Legion Riders  
Department of California**



*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

November 15, 2018

1. **Called to Order** - President Mick Sobczak @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Milo Barclay
3. **Pause for MIA** - President Mick Sobczak
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Paul LaPierre
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;  
**JR Past President/Tech Advisor**-James Adames;  
**Convention & Rally**-Dee Pittenger;  
**Area 1 Asst VP**-Rory Airheart;  
**Area 2 VP/ A2 Commissioner**-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 3 Commissioner**-Ivan Frey;  
**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;  
**Alt Quartermaster**- Mike Clement;  
**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 Commissioner**-Bob Perryman;  
**Area 4 Commissioner**-Karl Wilvert;  
**Area 6 Commissioner**-Steve Weber

GUESTS:

\*Rochelle Billet-Smith Ch 26

**7. Additions to the Agenda –**

None

**8. Approval of Minutes – October 2018**

\*Motion by Milo Barclay to accept the October 2018 minutes as electronically transmitted. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ronnie Womble. Passed by vote of DEC.

**9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips**

\*Mick- The \$500 for Evangelina Maestras was sent out.

\*No report sent out.

**10. Presidents Report – Mick Sobczak**

\*The National Commander's visit will be from January 2-9, 2019. Next week will send the information out. Will start the escort on January 2 from Pasadena.

\*Has 5 herniated disks from the accident. Will be getting 5 epidural shots.

\*Will send out an email about clothing to go to the fire victims at the different shelters.

\*Gene- pick up point for Area 5?

\*Areas 1 and 2 collection points?

\*Chapters to make the deliveries?

**11. Vice President Report – Rey Ruiz**

**12. Secretary Report – Debbie Proffitt**

\*Deadlines- Rosters need to show a November or December update. Per Capita is due to the Treasurer by December 31. Delegate fees can be paid at the same time but no later than 30 days prior to convention.

\*Last year the rosters were frozen on February 1. This year I don't see a reason to freeze them. It makes more work for me to put in each chapter's delegates and alternates and any membership changes. Since rosters will be printed December 31 there is no need. It was agreed to.

\*Certification of Officers- will be due June 30, 2019. There is a 30 day grace period to end July 30, 2019. After this date COOs are delinquent. I would like to see a wording change in the bylaws to reflect this and to reflect that roster updates are due by December 31 and are delinquent February 1.

\*Working on an online Delegate Report that would generate from the roster.

\*Talked about finding a way to electronic signatures that would eliminate the printing, signing, scanning and THEN emailing to the secretary. Several members suggested DocuSign, E sign, etc. It will be looked into.

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

\*The route is being worked on for the National Commander's Tour. Caleb is assisting. Should have route out by December 1.

\*Having a patch issue with a founding member of a chapter. Says all the back patches on his vest are grandfathered in. Refuses to remove them. Will file a complaint to revoke his membership.

## **Sgt At Arms Report** continued

\*Went to the Safety Course hosted by Chapter 83. Suggest everyone go to one.

### **14. Area Reports**

#### a. Area 1 Asst. VP – Rory Airheart

\*Post 28 Petaluma, is working on forming a new chapter. Have 4 members, working on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

\*Post 709 Rancho Cordova, is starting the paperwork for a chapter.

#### b. Area 2 VP – Warren Halstead

#### c. Area 3 VP – Paul LaPierre

\*The Area 3 President's meeting will be February 23, 2019 at Hanford Post 3. Lunch at 11am. Meeting at 1pm.

\*Humbled by the amount of activities that were supported on Veterans Day and the Palmdale street name change to honor Ronald Lee Ermey.

\*Looking forward to the National Commander's escort.

\*Chapter 872 is alive and well.

\*Chapter 118- Sent an email to the Bishop chapter members, received no response. Sent email to Area 3 commissioner and cc'd Area 3 Commander.

\*Post 16 gave their chapter documents to Ken Sutton. Will send to Debbie. Debbie will scan and send out. The startup fee has been paid. Post Commander is excited.

\* Nothing new about Ch 682.

#### d. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

\*Had a Veteran's Day ceremony at Atlantic Park. The Post is having problems so the riders took over to do the ceremony. Riders are holding up the Post.

\*Every year the Post does gifts for Brooklyn Elementary school across the street. Since the Post is having issues the Riders have stepped up to get this done.

\*Working on a chapter at the battleship Iowa. Have 2 interested, need 3 more. Kiki not real interested. Will talk to the Commander at post 411 about having legion members join to make a chapter.

#### c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*Working on 3 new chapters.

\*Chapter 289- talking to the Post Commander about possibly getting a chapter going again.

\*Rey has been working to get a chapter in Chino.

\*Barstow ride is Saturday.

\*Getting smaller chapters to work together to do fundraisers and events.

Examples...Chapters 716.519 and 738 worked together to raise \$4,000 for SOS.

Chapters 133 and 132 worked together for Quartermania. Chapters 155 and Bloomington worked together.

\*The Big Bear post has risen from the ashes of not doing well to being successful. Joined the Chamber of Commerce.

- \*Chapter 739 had a cook your own steak event. Getting the community involved.
- \*The breakfast challenge is up and running with 5 chapters taking part. 7 judges will be traveling to the breakfasts.
- \*On January 19 Chapter 149 will have a Safety course.

d. Area 6 VP – Ronnie Womble

- \*Had lots of Veteran's Day events and events at Chapter 43.
- \*On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> there will be an Area 6 President's meeting at the Lompoc post.
- \*On the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter 43 will have a meet and greet walking poker run for their 1 year anniversary. Ride to Fillmore for lunch afterward.

## 15. Committee Reports

a. Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya

- \*School is closed because of the smoke from the fires.
- \*Lots of orders, going out quick.
- \*200 coins left in sets of 10.
- \*XL, L and 3X sweatshirts left on the website.
- \*Sourced out the white berets. Ordered 3 different versions. Will look at them and see which will work best. Will bring down the cost.
- \*Recommend for have chapters to have patches on hand to give to new members. Members cannot order their own. The person ordering is to be one of the POCs.
- \*On the bottom of the Quartermaster page there is a contact button. Will respond quickly. Am always available by email.
- \*Emblem Sales will do their yearly closing before Christmas to the end of January. Pat will stockpile patches.

b. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

- \*Working on the Delegate form.
- \*Was contacted about the California Legacy Run and putting up a page for info and registration. Will try to have it up by first of year.
- \*Would love to see each Area have their own webmaster to put info on the website. Ray is doing it for Area 5.

c. Convention and Rally – Dee Pittinger

- \*Ken gave updates through the minutes. The 3 hotels on the flyer are full. Other hotels are available.
- \*No information from the Rally. Mick stated to contact him for info.
- \*Not riding yet.
- \*Ken- will check on other hotels. Is having a convention committee meeting on November 27.

d. Judge Advocate Report – Mike Brownell

\*The last month has been crazy.

\*Thanksgiving- Has looked back on the year and is very thankful.

\*Bylaws- Reminder for chapters to get them in. Area VPs look at them and keep a copy but send back to chapter with areas highlighted that need to be updated. CC them to Debbie.

State bylaws- Alternate VP vs Assistant VP- I recommend assistant VP but will be up to membership.

\*The Trial Manual is on the website. Read it. Be familiar with it.

\*If you have questions about bringing charges against a member, did you read the chapter bylaws and the Trial Manual first?

e. Service Officer – George Smith

\*The National Commander will be having lunch at Post 105, Redwood, on January 7. The riders will escort the Commander to the Post and then wherever he is going afterward.

\*The American Legion National sends out emails from time to time asking the members to vote on different subjects. Need to read these.

f. Safety Committee – Rob Carrier

\*15 people came to the motorcycle training course.

\*The Course is not entry level. It's more like an MS2 course.

\*Safety Handbook- contacted the Safety Committee members. Have the month of November to look at it. Will finalize it in December. Will then send it out to DEC to look at for changes.

\*Will be at the Area 6 meeting.

g. Membership Officer – Mick Sobczak

\*Has Gary's report.

\*From September to October gained 9 members. 1 son, 3 Aux and 5 vets. Gained 1 new chapter. Lost 11 members from this time last year. Have 1,463 veterans, 350 Sons and 340 Auxiliary.

h. Historian – Fran Del Santo

i. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Report emailed in as she couldn't be heard during the call in.

\*11/7/18 Attended the Chapter 20 meeting and discussed the run.

\*11/14/18 Attended the Chapter 26 meeting and discussed the run.

\*Contacted local hotels for rooms.

\*Spoke to Thunder Press magazine regarding placing an ad.

\*Attending the District 15 Auxiliary meeting on 11/17/18 to discuss the run and Auxiliary riders.

j. Jr. Past President/ALR Tech Advisor – James Adames

\*Watch political ads on the web pages and Facebook pages. We are apolitical.

\*Seen postings about the services for the officer shot at the Thousand Oaks shooting. Well attended.

k. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

## 16. Old Business

None

## 17. New Business

\*Rory- There is a rider who is a veteran. Is the Post liaison appointee to the Riders. Has PTSD. Has been put on probation by the Post for his behavior of showing anger to people who don't agree with him. The Commander put him on a 90 day probation. The Commander was asked to appoint another liaison but refused. What can we do?

\*Mick- Not a lot of recourse since it is a Post issue. Commander should make a new appointment.

\*Rory- The Commander is new.

\*Mick- Will call Bob Perryman.

\*Suspension vs Probation.

\*James- Will need to look at the Post bylaws and the State bylaws.

\*Other recourse would be to go to the District Commander through Bob Perryman.

\*Mick- Let us know how this was resolved next month.

## 18. Sick / Memorial

\*Rory- Joe Spencer from Chapter 77, Woodland, went down on a curve as the tailgunner on a ride Veteran's Day. Was life flighted to Mercy General in Redding. On a ventilator with multiple spinal fractures from waist to neck and possible head fractures.

\*Mike Benito- rider who has been down, paralyzed. Making slow progress and in a wheelchair. Can put him in retired status.

Ray Ficek- Couldn't get off mute, emailed report in. Tom Donnar from Ch 460 went down on the way to the Area 5 President's meeting. Had surgery and is recovering.

\*Vaughn Wilkinson from Chapter 255 went to Post Everlasting.

## 19. Good of the Riders

### **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ALR DOC-**

\*Quartermaster working on patches. May 1999 to May 2019. Should be available at convention.

\*Hoping for celebrations in each Area for our 20<sup>th</sup> year.

\*We were the 5<sup>th</sup> department to have a program for ALR.

### **Fire damage-**

\*There will be collection points to drop off the donations.

\*Ken- researching, going tomorrow. No clothing. Need gift cards and gas cards.

\*Rory- No clothing. Gift cards. Need stuff for animals.

\*Debbie- read the list of needs for animals.

- \*Bob Perryman and the posts 45, 259 and 521 have raised \$4,600 for the fire victims.
- \*Ronnie-Ch 43 will be a collection point.
- \*Post 149 and Post 328 will be collection points.
- \*Chapters will need to Pony Express the donations north.
- \*Gene will put out an email to Area 5 after the meeting. Debbie will email him the needs list.
- \*Mick will piggy back off Gene's email and put one out Department wide.
- \*Go Fund Me was mentioned. Mick stated they take 8%. On the website people can use PayPal. They only take 2.5%. Put fire fund in memo.
- \*There was an American Legion Post in Paradise.
- \*Ken- Check for fees on the MasterCards and Visas. \$20-\$25 are suggested amounts.

20. **Next Meeting Date** – 20 December 2018 at 7 PM.

21. **Benediction** - Milo Barclay

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