

*The American Legion Riders
Department of California*



12th Annual American Legion Riders
Department of California Convention
April 20-22, 2018, Oceanside, California

MINUTES

Saturday April 21, 2018

0900 hours

- Call to Order & Advancement of the Colors
- National Anthem-
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Chaplain Invocation
- POW/MIA Ceremony
- Recitation of Preamble to the Constitution
- Roll Call of Officers
Officers in Attendance:

President Mick Sobczak, Vice President Rey Ruiz, Sergeant At Arms Caleb Homer, Secretary Debbie Proffitt, Treasurer Leonard Phillips, Chaplain Roy Van Westbroek, Judge Advocate John Bart, Parliamentarian Hy Libby, Service Officer George Smith, Webmaster Jim Oxley, Quartermaster Pat Tafoya, Membership Gary Teicher, Convention and Rally Dee Pittenger, Area 1 VP Fred Branson, Area 2 VP Warren Halstead, Area 2 Asst VP Ernie Henry, Area 3 VP Paul La Pierre, Area 3 Asst VP Ken Sutton, Area 4 VP Joel Lopez, Area 5 VP Gene Hobdy, Area 5 Asst VPs Ron Huff & Ray Ficek, Area 6 VP Bob Archuleta, Area 6 Asst VP Milo Barclay, Area 1 Commissioner Bob Perryman, Legion and Area 3 Commissioner Vince Cole, Area 5 Commissioner Paul Patricio, Area 6 Commissioner Steve Weber

- Roll Call of Chapters
Chapters/Districts in attendance by Area:

Area 1= Ch 96, Ch 111, Ch 119, Ch 130; Ch 233, Ch 383, Ch 521

Area 2= Ch 31, Ch 82, D 9, D 10, D 13, D 28

Area 3= Ch 3, Ch 20, Ch 23, Ch 26, Ch 83, Ch 88, Ch 100, Ch 108, Ch 221, Ch 263, Ch 476, Ch 684, Ch 711

Area 4= Ch 804

Area 5= Ch 53, Ch 132, Ch 133, Ch 146, Ch 149, Ch 200, Ch 201, Ch 229, Ch 255, Ch 262, Ch 328, Ch 354, Ch 364, Ch 365, Ch 416, Ch 434, Ch 460, h 497, Ch 519, Ch 555, Ch 574, Ch 584, Ch 595, Ch 716, Ch 739, Ch 835, Ch 848, Ch 852

Area 6= Ch 43, Ch 48, Ch 50, Ch 66, Ch 136, Ch 211, Ch 311, Ch 348, Ch 484, Ch 507, Ch 534, Ch 741

- Convene Convention

- Welcome / Introduction / Remarks of Guests and Dignitaries

- Assemblyman Rocky Chavez
- Major General Eric Smith (USMC)
- Captain Royce Williams (USN)
- Tomidan Jordan (Dept. SAL Detachment Commander)
- Matt Parsons (Dept. SAL Alt NEC)
- Loretta Marsh (Dept. ALA President)
- Janice Somers (D16 VA&R)
- Chris Yates (D22 Commander)
- Larry Van Kuran (Candidate for Dept. Alt NEC / Past Dept. Commander)
- Robert Heinisch (Dept. TAL Commander) and wife
- Larry Leonardo (Candidate for Dept. Commander 2018-2019)
- Mark Jenkins (Dept. TAL Service Officer)
- Ed Grimsley (Alt. NEC)
- Wayne Yee (Dept. Historian)
- Cory Callenbeck (Oceanside Police Dept.)
- Jerry Burns (Oceanside Councilman)

- Convention Announcements

Videos- 4 ALR videos were shown to convention attendees. These were made by ch 43 videographers. Cost was \$600. Will have 10 one minute videos and one six minute video for recruiting purposes.

- Charters to New Chapters- Ch 476 California City, Ch 221 Tehachapi, Ch 43 Hollywood, Ch 584 Big Bear, Ch 229 Adelanto, Ch 133 Huntington Beach
- Rider Safety Awards-
- Certificates for Chapters with most miles in an Area:
- Area 1= Ch 96; Area 2= 31; Area 3= 684; Area 5= Ch 716; Area 6 = Ch 311
- Rider Cup- Chapter with most miles= Ch 684 with over 26k miles
- Award to Area with most new Chapters- Area 5
- Award to Chapter with most new members- Ch

*Explanation of why VP Randy Brenneman resigned. Area 6 VP Rey Ruiz was voted in as VP by the DEC prior to convention.

*Oldest rider attending = Harold "Bud" Newlin 89.9yrs ch 838
*Youngest rider attending = Josh "Squints" Pena 26yrs ch 201
*Farthest rider- 2 from ch 96 = 595 miles

*Checks donated:

Ch 108- \$1,000 to VA&R
Ch 521- \$1,500 to Legacy Fund
Ch 684- \$1,500 to VA&R
D 28- \$250 to VA&R

*June 22- American Legion night at the Sacramento River Cats ballpark in Sacramento during the Legion Convention. Recognition all night on the scoreboard, executive suite donated and the Riders will ride the warning track before the game.

*Debbie- redid the caucus forms so that there is more room to write info. Think about what committee you'd like to be on and be prepared to participate during the year.

*Mick- Will have rider of the quarter and then rider of the year at the next convention. Be prepared to work if you get on a committee.

Mick will have spark plug covers with the ALR logo on them for Harley 013 and 107 heads. \$5 per ticket. Ticket to be pulled at Rally and you must be there to win.

*Mick will try to get posts to donate hotel costs for 10 riders to go on the Legacy run. More info later.

• Riders Everlasting Observance (11 a.m.)

*Bob Pittenger-ch 848; James Cline-ch 509; David Williams-ch 48; Kent Jones-ch 200; Gary German-ch 200; Mike Pasterick-ch 200; Marion Low-ch 848; Bill Fursly-ch 803.

*TAPS was played.

• Recess for Group Photo

1200 hours

Lunch

1300 hours

• Reconvene

• Area Reports

Area 1-

*Had a Legion member in his 30's go to Post Everlasting. Leaves behind 2 kids and 1 on the way. There is a go fund me page.

*Steven Cook was injured. Has 5 young kids. There is a go fund me page.

*Riding season starts soon. Will have the largest poke run at Rio Linda.

Area 2-

*Been very busy supporting various runs, PGR runs, escorts, many charities, etc.

Area 3-

*Have 18 chapters and 12 at convention.

Area 3 continued-

- *8 riders everlasting didn't make the banner.
- *Area chapters have raised over \$34,000.
- *425 riders in Area.
- *supporting many runs, escorts, charities, etc.

Area 4-

- *Is disappointed there is still only 1 chapter in Area 4.
- *The Commander for post 804 resigned. The Riders stepped in and picked up the slack giving Christmas gifts to the elementary kids at the school across the street.
- *Participate in the Miracle on First Street toy giveaway.
- *Doing escorts.
- *Will have 2 or 3 more chapters in Area 4 including the USS Iowa.

Area 5-

- *32 charities supported.
- *Thanks to Chapter 739 for a great State Rally.
- *Participated in the Brea anniversary parade.
- *Had 8 Riders Everlasting.
- *Gave \$230,000 to charities and rode 96,628 miles.

Area 6-

- *Thanks to all the Area 6 chapters for getting your paperwork in on time.
- *I was ill for 4 months. Kudos to milo Barclay for filling in so well.
- *The Western Romp in San Luis Obispo was a success.
- *Participated in many parades, escorts, fundraisers, etc.

- Recess to Area Caucuses/Elections

1430 hours Reconvene

- Report of Area Elections

Area 1- VP-Fred Branson; Asst VPs Rory Airheart and Pete DePalma

Area 2- VP Warren Halstead; Asst VP Ernie Henry

Area 3- VP Paul LaPierre; Asst VPs Ken Sutton and Ralph Wenzinger

Area 4- Joel Lopez;

Area 5- VP Rey Ruiz(Gene Hobdy); Asst VPs Ray Ficek, Ron Huff, Larry Brandt and David Saenz

Area 6- VP Ronnie Womble

- Committee Reports

President-Mick Sobczak

-We have 6 new chapters this year. 17 chapters in 2 years for 89 chapters. The most chapters in all 55 Departments.

-Over 400 new members.

-Members rode over 1 million miles.

- California was the only Department to escort the National Commander, Denise Rohan, from touch down to wheels up. She had all good things to say about the riders. We did over 1,100 accident free miles which had her very impressed.
- We now have ALR videos.
- We will be doing a Rider of the Quarter and Rider of the Year.
- We will tentatively vote on the sight for the 2020 convention. This will make it easier for the sponsoring chapter. From here on out we will be voting on the convention sight 2 years out.

Vice President-Rey Ruiz

- LOL, I've now been VP for 18.5 hours.
- Membership- Chapters have to hit the ground running.
- The key is to have the right membership. Go for quality not quantity.
- STP- The same 10 people doing everything. Need to get more members involved.
- Read the poem "Do you just belong?"

Secretary- Debbie Proffitt

- Explained about the Chapter event forms and the New member/Renewal waiver checkoff forms attached to the agenda.
- Explained about Officer Certification, retired status, Rosters and POCs.
- Asked that delegate badges be returned at the end of convention.

Credentials –Debbie Proffitt

- Thanked Rita Elisarraras, Gene Hobdy, Anna Halstead, Warren Halstead, Milo Barclay and Margie Johnson for doing a great job at check in.
- Explained that Credentials committee member would be asked to help at convention with delegate check in.

Resolutions- No resolutions this year

Rally and Convention-Dee Pittenger

- Thanked Chapter 146 for a great convention.
- Rally will be September 21, 22 and 23. No details yet.
- 2019 convention-Ch 108 has expressed interest in holding it.
- 2020 has expressed interest.

Public Relations-Jim Oxley

- The website is growing and it's being improved for ease of use. After convention we will be moving to a secure server.
- Use Facebook and the website to get word out of your chapter events.
- Can use help with the website.

Constitution & By Laws- No changes this year

Membership-Gary Teicher

- We have 89 chapters for a growth of 7.22%.

Membership continued.

-1,404 vets for an increase of 2.63%. 352 Squadron for an increase of 6.02%. 326 Auxiliary. For an increase of 3.49%. Total 2,082 members for an increase of 3.32%.

Safety

-1,099,050 million miles ridden. Chapter 684 rode 28,842 miles.

-There were 1,679 veterans events attended. With 12,632 members attending these events. Only report how many of your own riders attend any event.

-There were a few riding accidents. We lost 1 rider after an event.

-Always use the buddy system. Never leave a rider behind.

-There should be a starting and ending point to a ride. It's a judgement call if a member wants to leave an event early.

Uniform/Quartermaster- Patrick Tafoya

-Buy from the state Quartermaster, not Emblem Sales.

-I am not the embroidery company but I work with one.

-This year we have processed 92 orders. 196 Veteran patches. 61 Squadron patches. 50 Auxiliary patches and 25 small patches.

-Chapters are having new members ordering their own patches. Patches should be ordered by the chapter Treasurer and presented to the new member when they're voted in. The back patch is a controlled item.

-Red shirt Friday shirts have been selling well. Thanks for your support. If you want short sleeved shirts make a chapter order. Send sizes it's easier with a larger order.

-Thanks for supporting the Quartermaster's table.

-Berets from Emblem Sales are \$40+ dollars. Will be researching getting them elsewhere.

-You need permission to use the Legion logo on anything. An email must be sent to Emblem Sales explaining what you want to do. Pat can help. Any questions? Email Pat.

• Old Business

None

• New Business

Vote on 2019 Convention location-

-Motion by Smokey Stover for Ch 108, Sutter Creek, to host the 2019 convention. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Discussion. Passed by vote of delegates.

TENTATIVE VOTE ON 2020 CONVENTION-

-Motion by Smokey Stover to tentatively have Ch 43, Hollywood, host the 2020 convention subject to approval at the 2019 convention. 2nd by Chris Coleman. Discussion. Passed by vote of delegates.

• Introduction of Resolutions

Vote on Resolutions-None

Vote on by laws amendments-None

• Nomination of Candidates for Executive Office

President- Mick Sobczak-accepted nomination.

Vice President- Rey Ruiz-accepted nomination.

Sgt. at Arms- Mike Smith-accepted nomination & Ray Ficek-accepted nomination.

- Announcements

Coin-Mick offered a one of a kind California Legion 100 year coin with ALRDOC on it for the highest bidder. The coin went to Mike Cash of chapter 684 with a winning bid of \$2,000.00.

District 28- Rally at Post 593 Prunedale -Come out and have a great time. Many activities planned.

Many announcements from various chapters and members.

Doc Bart gave a 6 minute speech with a long, standing ovation.

- Benediction

- Recess to Sunday Morning 0900 hours

Sunday April 22, 2018

0900

- Reconvene

- Chaplain Invocation

- Announcements-

- Pat Tafoya- fire sale at the Quartermaster table. Make an offer on the shirts.

- Rey Ruiz-Won the 50/50. Donating it to VA&R.

- President Grass Valley- Have a missing partner-He's a Vietnam Vet. Prayers please.

- Mick-On May 5 there will be an Open House for veterans. There will be Service Officers to help with claims. Post 149 from 9am to 1pm.

- Steve Soto-ch 20-9th Annual Ride for Awareness. Advertised on Facebook.

- _Ken Sutton-There will be free shuttle service at convention 2019.

- MIAP is a program that renders final honors to those veteran remains who are claimed by family. Received the Jefferson Award from CBS. This is a similar program to Veterans Without Families in Area 5.

- Ken Derr-Thanks to all who came. Fire sale on shirts. /thanks to Brenda Derr who did most of the work for convention.

- Ray Ficek-Passport books will be available after convention. Raffle will be after convention.

- Ray Ficek-Burgers and Dogs are served at the post. Check the Area 5 calendar. Explained about the Mumbles burger.

- Mick-Recognized Past Department Secretaries, Presidents, Officers and Commissioners.

New Business-

Doc Bart- Chapter Presidents- It is your responsibility to maintain order and make you're your members are in compliance. Chapter 241 Baldwin Park- It was explained by Doc Bart that Chapter 241 had been talked to and warned multiple times about members being out of compliance with patches on the back of their vests. During the escort of the Vietnam Wall on 3/24/18 pictures were taken of a 241 vest out of compliance. The Chapter was again warned. At convention Chapter 241 tried to register their delegates with out of compliance vests. They refused to bring them into compliance and left. They were seen riding around Oceanside with these vests. There was a motion to notify Chapter 241 that they had 30 days to show proof of compliance or procedures for revocation of their charter would start by JD Bennett. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. The motion passed by vote of the delegates..

- Finance Report- Read by Leonard Phillips- Motion to accept report as read pending audit by Tony Adams Chapter 555. 2nd by Vince Cole Chapter 83. Passed by vote of delegates.

- Vote on FY2019 Budget- Motion to accept budget by President of Ch 229, 2nd by President of Ch 149 Dennis Dalby. Passed by vote of delegates.

-Sanger bank account. Doc Bart explained that according to the bylaws the ALRDOC bank account needs to be at West America Bank in Sanger. Signatories will be 1. Legion Department Commander, Legion Finance Officer, Riders Treasurer and Riders Secretary. Legion won't be taking the money, it's a checks and balances system. Legion must track it because of taxes. It will be audited yearly. Motion to open a bank account in Sanger by District 28. 2nd by JD Bennett Chapter 23. Passed by vote of delegates.

-Smokey Stover brought up that a date for the 2019 convention wasn't set according to the bylaws. After 20 minutes of discussion it was decided to be on May 17, 18 and 19, 2018.

- 2nd Nomination of Candidates for Executive Office

President-no new nominations.

Vice President-no new nominations.

Sgt. at Arms- no new nominations.

- Candidates address to delegates- Mike Smith and Ray Ficek spoke to the delegates.
 - Election of Officers

President- Mick Sobczak- white ballot

Vice President- Rey Ruiz- white ballot

Sgt. at Arms- Delegates voted for Mike Smith

- Installation of new Officers

- New Officers take positions

- Remarks from new Officers

President-

-Mick-Thank you. It's humbling to do this again. I will not let you down.

-Mick recognized Shelley and stated that she supports everything he does.

Vice President-

-Will still be active in Area 5. Will dedicate his time to getting to Area President meetings and chapter events.

-Rey recognized Ida and said that there are times family comes first.

Sergeant At Arms-

-Thank you for voting for me and trusting me. Have a safe ride home.

- Good of the Riders

-Doc Bart gave a rousing goodbye speech that inspired the riders to keep doing what's right for our veterans, the American Legion and the Riders.

-There will be 17 Rider Everlasting names added to the ribbon for this year.

-Delegates spoke of upcoming events, asked for prayer requests, etc.

- Benediction

- Adjournment @ 11:20am

- DEC Meeting ½ hour after closing ceremony

Attachment 1- Chapter/District monthly events log sheet

Attachment 2- Chapter/District monthly totals sheet

Attachment 3- Chapter/District yearend report to Area VP

Attachment 4- New member/Renewal checkoff sheet

Attachment 5- Department of California 100th Anniversary Coin