

The American Legion Riders Department of California



For God and Country

DEC Minutes

June 20, 2019

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Monique Clemons
3. **Pause for MIA** - President Rey Ruiz
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Sgt. At Arms Mike Smith
5. **ALR Preamble** - President Rey Ruiz
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

President-Rey Ruiz;
Sergeant-At-Arms-Mike Smith;
Secretary-Debbie Proffitt;
Judge Advocate/Area 3 Alt VP-Ralph Wenzinger; EX
Safety Officer-Rob Carrier;
Webmaster/Public Relations-Jim Oxley;
JR Past President-Mick Sobczak;
Convention & Rally-Ken Sutton;
Legacy Run- Mike Cash; EX
Area 1 VP-Bob Perryman;
Area 1 Alt VP-Bob Gault;
Area 2 VP- Sean Ramsay;
Area 2 Alt VP-Ignacio Alvarez;
Area 3 Alt VP-Matt Dolezal;
Area 4 VP-Joel Lopez;
Area 5 Alt VP-Ron Huff;
Area 5 Alt VP-Mike Killion;
Area 6 VP-Lino Torres;
Area 6 Asst VP- Dave Corbin; EX
Area 1 Commissioner-Vacant;
Area 3 Commissioner-Ivan Frey;
Area 5 Commissioner-Paul Patricio;

Vice President-Fred Branson;
Treasurer-Leonard Phillips; EX
Chaplain-Monique Clemons;
Historian-Vacant;
Service Officer-George Smith;
Quartermaster-Mike Clement;
Membership-Rochelle Billet-Smith;
Awards/Certs-Rochelle Billet-Smith;
Ways & Means- Vacant;
Area 1 Alt VP-Rory Airheart;
Area Alt VP-Larry Goekler; EX
Area 2 Alt VP- Hy Libby;
Area 3 VP-Paul LaPierre;
Area 3 Alt VP-JD Bennett;
Area 5 VP-Gene Hobdy;
Area 5 Alt VP-Larry Brandt;
Area 5 Alt VP- John Smartt;
Area 6 Alt VP-Cristina Molina;
Area 6 Asst VP-Nancy Weatherman;
Area 2 Commissioner-Warren Halstead;
Area 4 Commissioner-Karl Wilvert;
Area 6 Commissioner-Steve Weber

Guests: Kelly Huff

7. Additions to the Agenda –

Chapter 241 Highland

8. Approval of Minutes – May 23rd Minutes

Motion to approve the May 23, 2019 minutes as electronically transmitted by Debbie Proffitt. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips

Total debits = \$16,276.47

Total deposits = \$13,707.47

Current balance = \$69,062.62

Account balance as of February 7 = \$70,922.93

Motion to accept the finance report as given pending audit by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Debbie Proffitt. Passed by vote of DEC.

10. Presidents Report – Rey Ruiz

*Not been out and about.

*Getting ready for the Scholarship Run.

*Sent info to Fred about the Area 5 President meeting July 27 at 10:30am at post 716 and about the Area 3 President meeting on August 17.

11. Vice President Report – Fred Branson

*Got back after an 11-thousand-mile trip.

*Have been and still am catching up on emails.

*Planning on attending the Area 3 and Area 5 President meetings.

*Will be on the Scholarship run.

12. Sgt. At Arms Report – Mike Smith

*Attended the Chapter 3 meeting in Hanford. Everyone was gracious and welcoming.

*Will be joining the Scholarship Run on day 3 in Bakersfield.

13. Secretary Report – Debbie Proffitt

*COOs will be updated tomorrow afternoon as needed. Unless I have time on the run, no more updates until the 29th.

*Been doing a lot of work for the Scholarship run.

*Rey-Percentage of COO reports in...46.3% = 44/95 reports. A1 – 7/14; A2 – 5/10; A3 = 7/19; A4 = 0/2; A5 – 18/34; A6 = 7/16

14. Area Reports –

a. Area 1 VP – Bob Perryman

- *Poker runs coming up
- *Has a Low-key- Gets 1st place in every parade it's in. Getting invitations. Always advertising for the Legion and the Riders.
- *Has contacted all the Area 1 chapters. Has down that 12 of 14 chapters have turned in COOs.
- *Met with Rockland post 620. They are an all veteran post. Interested in getting Sons, Auxiliary and Riders started.
- *Will be at convention so won't be able to ride in the Scholarship Run. Did donate the fees.
- *Will have surgery in July. Because of this he will be at Yountville but won't be riding.

b. Area 2 VP – Sean Ramsey

- *Thanks for the support for him and his family through a very trying time. Thanks to Hy Libby for stepping up. Had 2 deaths in the family and had to step back for a while.
- *Supported the VA Hospital in Livermore. Went very well.
- *Have 5 chapters left to get COOs in.

c. Area 3 VP – Paul La Pierre

- *Will be on the Scholarship Run. Will be heading out Tuesday. Will be leading a platoon.
- *For Jim Oxley- Been having much frustration sending out emails to POCs. A lot of kickback happening.
- *Mike Cash just had his 3rd surgery. Saw him Monday. He was pretty sedated from the pain.
- *Area 3 President's meeting will be August 17.

d. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

- *COOs- Chapter 359 will need help doing theirs. Chapter 804 will be getting theirs in.
- *Will be having a firework stand. Money will go to help Brooklyn Elementary at Christmas and to also fund small scholarships for 2 high schools.
- *Will be attending the chapter 359 meeting on July 19th.

e. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

- *Area 5 President meeting is July 27 at 10:30am at post 716 Los Alamitos.
- *Have been calling chapters about the COOs.
- *Will be at the Chapter 777 meeting on Saturday.
- *Will start having the Alternate VPs send status reports to me so I know what's happening.
- *Raffle tickets- Each chapter received 500. The chapter sells the tickets for \$1 each and keeps the money collected. Trying to help the smaller chapters.
- *Will be going to as many events as possible. Have already gone to 9 meetings and several events.
- *Was glad to be part of the services for WW2 veteran Rogers at RNC.

e. Area 6 VP – Lino Torres

- *Chapter 432 is suspended. The commander doesn't think the Auxiliary and Sons are a part of the riders. They can't find their bylaws. Rey suggested they use the template and make new ones. Rey will help with the commander.
- *Chapter 241-? Debbie stated they are really hard to get to respond.
- *Alt VPs-
- *Corbin is working on getting chapters to report mileage.
- *Cris- will be at the funeral for LEO Esmeralda Ramirez. Chapter 43 has a fundraiser coming up.
- *Nancy- Coordinating events between chapters. Doing PGR rides together and upcoming poker runs.
- *Chapter 50- will be having 5 new applicants.
- *Working on getting miles logged.

15. Committee Reports –

a. Quartermaster – Mike (Patch) Clement

- *Orders are coming in- Processing orders for 37 patches. 16 for the south and 21 for the north. There is a 10 day turnaround after the payment is made.
- *Area VPs need to give their chapters a refresher course on ordering.
- *Debbie-Is there a way that when the chapter receives an invoice that the Treasurer can be CC'd on it? That way he knows to be looking for the payment. Jim will work on hooking the Treasurer up.
- *George-Do orders have to be paid by check? Could a chapter pay by credit/debit card or PayPal? Mike-It would be an accounting issue.
- *Rey-Chapter 5328 put in an order and has received no invoice. Mike will resend the invoice.
- *Uniform Manual stated specific measurements and areas for patches in the upper part of the vest. These need to be looked at as they don't work on a smaller vest.
- *Ken-Chapter 108 sent in an order on 6/17 and haven't received an invoice. Mike will resend.
- *Chapter 130 sent an order for 1 veteran patch. Haven't received an invoice. Mike looked and there were 2 orders. They only need one order. Mike will resend the invoice.

b. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

- *Working on the email problem. Security is up on all email providers. They perceive the emails as spam. This is an ongoing problem. Jim asked Paul to resend his emails and to let Jim know the outcome.

c. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

- *Ken has been playing phone/text tag with Dennis.
- *On June 27th at 8pm there is a convention call in.
- *Cris stated that she will speak to Karl at the post to see about having the Are Preident meeting in October.

*For rooms at convention, Friday May 1 and Saturday May 2, she stated that the Best Western next door to the post has 80 rooms and will block all if needed for \$169 per night. Ask for Jorge Zamora. If a longer stay is needed the rate should still apply.
Best Western Hollywood Plaza Inn 2011 N Highland Avenue LA 90068
323 851 1800

d. Judge Advocate Report – Ralph Wenzinger

e. Service Officer – George Smith

*Blue Water bill. For Navy vets. Going to the President to be signed.
*Monitoring veteran issues daily.

f. Safety Committee – Rob Carrier

*Will be on all 3 days of the Scholarship Run.
*The Area 5 safety training went well.
*For Chapter 1000- Fred can put in the 7200 miles he rode? Yes
*Will be attending the Area 3 and Area 5 President's meetings.

g. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

*Need to have access to the website.
*Need someone to replace her on the committee for Area 3.

h. Historian – Currently Open Position

i. California Legacy Run – Mike Cash/Rochelle Billet-Smith

*Final meeting tomorrow night.
*53 riders-50 riding with 2 cages.

j. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

*Progress

k. ALR Commissioner Area 1– Currently Open Position

*Larry Leonardo will not appoint since his term is near an end.

16. Old Business

a. Historians (1 per area) ADHOC

*Sent an email out to all Area VPs.

b. Financial Review from Hollister on convention?

*The review is not ready yet. Will have it for the next DEC meeting.

- c. Cambria chapter 355 turned in their charter.
- d. 862 had voice an interest in regrouping but there has been no progress.

17. New Business

a. ALR News Letter Editor in Chief

*Vote to ratify Mick Sobczak as Editor in Chief of the ALR newsletter was passed by vote of DEC.

b. Old Convention & Rally Merchandise (Monique)

*Monique stated that after conventions and rallies there was excess merchandise that sits. She asked if it could be added to the Quartermaster store so it could be sold and the proceeds going to VA&R, etc.

*It was stated that it would have to worked out between the Quartermaster and Webmaster to get it set up.

*It was suggested that the information could also be put into the Newsletter.

*Motion to put the excess merchandise in the Quartermaster store and use the proceeds for VA&R by Monique Clemons. 2nd by Paul LaPierre.

During discussion it was brought up that the merchandise it the property of the chapters who hosted conventions and rallies. It would be up to each chapter whether they agreed.

*Monique rescinded the motion.

*Monique will chair an Ad Hoc committee to contact chapters to see what they want to do.

c. Ratification of Michael Phillips as Chairperson of the Trial Board Committee

*Rey sent out emails to see who would be interested in being Chairperson. Received many replies. Ultimately chose Michael Phillips.

*Vote to ratify Michael Phillips as Chairperson of the Trial Board Committee passed by vote of DEC.

d. Secretary Reimbursement (Mick)

*Motion to reimburse Debbie for the remainder of her costs for convention by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

*This was for being in Hollister early to bring 47 chapters into compliance so we could have a quorum at convention.

e. Chapter 421 Highland

*Motion to accept Chapter 421, Highland, as the ALRDOC 96th chapter by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Larry Brandt. Passed by vote of DEC.

f. Jim Shrader- Founding member of original Chapter 229

*Roy Westbroek sent a message that Jim Shrader had passed away. His wife, Debbie, is having issues with the VA and is in need.

*Mick made a motion that the ALRDOC donate one \$1,000 to Debbie Shrader. 2nd by Milo Barclay. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Leonard Phillips will be notified.

g. 2nd ALRDOC Vice President- Fred

*Permission was asked to explore adding a 2nd Vice President. Then there would be one for the north and one for the south. There is concern that the north doesn't have a voice.

*Mick- A resolution will have to be written. Mick will help Fred with the wording.

f. Outreach Committee- Fred

*Fred would like to put together an outreach organization within the membership committee to work with the big 6 rider's groups, LEOs, VFW, Buffalo Soldiers, etc. To support and be supported.

*Cristina- Rode on a run to support fallen fire fighters with the Fire Hogs. Will help Fred.

*Mick- Reminder that you can't enter into any type of agreement with any MC.

*George- We can ride with others and support them. We can have better communication of getting out events out to them and their events out to our riders.

*Mick-Will work with Fred.

*Rey-Made Fred chair of an AD Hoc committee to explore this.

g. Uniform – ALR Officer Badges (Mike)

*There was concern that a rider at a post, who was also the commander of the post, was wearing a post commander badge in the area of the rider officer positions are.

*Only ALR on the top portion of the vest. You can wear any other tag in the lower personal area.

*Mike will get the Uniform committee to work on the verbiage.

h. **Sick / Memorial**

a. Recovery-Mike Cash

*Had 3rd surgery. In a lot of pain.

b. Recovery-Mick Sobczak

*Doctor gave permission to start taking short rides.

c. Passing-Tim McCord Chapter 595 on June 8.

d. Jim Shrader- Chapter 229

e. Buck Guest- Chapter 684- having cancer treatments for the next 6 weeks.

i. **Good of the Riders**

- a. Scholarship kicking off Tuesday 25th everyone ride safe to this event. I should be arriving about 5:00 PM.
- b. TAL Convention assuming the schedule the ALR should be arriving between 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM.

*Dinners on Friday...

*Post 328 6-8pm

*Post 262

*Post 79

*Post 112

- c. Veterans Suicide Awareness Run- Mick

*22 a day

*Would like all Areas to have a simultaneous run on Saturday, February 22 to benefit charities that support PTSD.

Mick was made chairperson of an Ad Hoc committee to include all Area VPs and Area Alternate VPs,

- d. Rally-Mick

*Mick stated that they are firming up the design. By Monday will have a list of the hotels, flyers and registration set up.

- e. TBI-Debbie

*Debbie stated that her father had severe TBI while in the service during WW2. She was able to get his medical records. With these she was able to get him benefits because his TBI was confirmed as the cause of his dementia. If you know anyone with TBI and/or PTSD please make sure they have copies of their service medical records as it could bring more ratings as time goes on.

- j. **Next Meeting Date** – 25 July 2019 1900 or 7:00 PM

- k. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons

- l. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 9:06pm