

**The American Legion Riders
Department of California**



For God and Country

DEC Minutes

August 22, 2019

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz @ 7 pm
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;

Safety Officer-Rob Carrier;

Webmaster/Public Relations-Jim Oxley;

JR Past President-Mick Sobczak;

Convention & Rally-Ken Sutton;

Ways & Means- Vacant;

Area 1 VP/Area 1 Commissioner-Bob Perryman;

Area 1 Alt VP-Bob Gault;

Area 2 VP/Area 2 Commissioner- 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; EX

Area 6 Asst VP- Dave Corbin; Ex

Area 3 Commissioner-Vince Cole;

Area 5 Commissioner/Chairperson-Paul Patricio;

Tech Advisor-James Adames

Vice President-Fred Branson;

Treasurer-Leonard Phillips;

Chaplain-Monique Clemons;

Historian-Vacant;

Service Officer-George Smith;

Quartermaster-Mike Clement;

Membership-Rochelle Billet-Smith;

Awards/Certs-Rochelle Billet-Smith;

Legacy Run-Rochelle Billet-Smith;

Area 1 Alt VP-Rory Airheart;

Area Alt VP-Larry Goekler;

Area 2 Alt VP- Hy Libby;

Area 3 VP-Paul LaPierre;

Area 3 Alt VP-JD Bennett;

Area 5 VP-Gene Hobby;

Area 5 Alt VP-Larry Brandt;

Area 5 Alt VP- John Smartt;

Area 6 Alt VP-Cristina Molina;

Area 6 Asst VP-Nancy Weatherman;EX

Area 4 Commissioner-Karl Wilvert;

Area 6 Commissioner-Steve Weber;

Guests: Warren Halstead

7. Additions to the Agenda –

None

8. Approval of Minutes – July 25th Minutes

Motion to accept the July 25, 2019 minutes as electronically transmitted by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips

*Expenses \$51,747.09 including \$23,706 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

*Deposits \$41,006.74 including patches and Legacy Run donations.

*No patch orders in the queue. Sent an email to all outstanding chapters. Some didn't respond.

*Need to know what line item to take the new website funds from.

*It was decided to take the funds from management reserve. Motion to take \$216 from management reserve for the year's payment for the new website by Mike Killion. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Motion to accept the finance report as read pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Debbie Proffitt. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Rey-Chapter 328 turned in \$3,156 for VA&R from the Sportster raffle. The check hasn't been cashed yet. Leonard stated that that check never came in. Rey will have the chapter 328 treasurer stop payment and issue a new check.

10. Presidents Report – Rey Ruiz

*August 1- Called for an emergency DEC voting member call to ratify the 3rd member and chairperson to the Department Review Board.

*August 3-Rode out to Moreno Valley Chapter 574 for their Open Mic. We have a number of talented riders singers and musicians.

*August 10-Attended a joint chapter poker run.

*August 17 and 18-Attended the State DEC in Bakersfield at Post 26. Gave the following Rider report.

Activity log summary, 433 activities, 2,659 attended, 124 funerals, 8 parades, 21 poker runs, 122 community events, 10 welcome homes, 3 outreach to homeless, 145 other, 386,952 total miles. 301 riders in Area 1, 286 riders in Area 2, 441 riders in Area 3, 18 riders in Area 4, 848 riders in Area 5, 309 riders in Area 6 for a total of 2,171 riders. 1,470 veterans, 356 Sons, 377 Auxiliary with 47 on 47 Active duty.

*I am pleased to report that a check in the amount of \$23,706 is in route to the National convention for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. These are the proceeds from the Inaugural California Scholarship Run. We are in the planning stages for the 2020 state run from Oceanside to Visalia.

*On August 21st attended the Guitars 4 Vets graduation at the Loma Linda VA hospital.

*Sent out a report on Monday on the highlights of the DEC meeting.

*Participated on the California Legacy call earlier this month. Another call is scheduled for the 26th of August. If you'd like to be in on the planning, contact Rochelle Billet-Smith.

*August 20-Attended services for Officer Moye.

*Helmets for Heroes made \$40,000 last year.

11. Vice President Report – Fred Branson

- *District meetings-Great opportunity. Go if you can. Best way to know what's happening. Chapters can go to meetings.
- *Thanks to Paul for the invite to the Area 3 President's meeting.

12. Sgt. At Arms Report – Mike Smith

- *Attended the Area 5 President's meeting on July 27.
- *Attended the Area 3 President's meeting on August 17.
- *Enjoyed them both.
- *Looking to attend more.

13. Secretary Report – Debbie Proffitt

- *Went to the Area 3 President's meeting.
- *Don't know if I will be attending Rally yet.
- *If you join after the DEC meeting has started please speak up so I know you are on the call.
- *Rey asked if I had gotten ice cream while in Hanford. You bet I did.

14. Area Reports –

a. Area 1 VP – Bob Perryman

- *Set up the Area 1 President's meeting for October 5th at Chapter 77, Woodland, from 10am to noon.
- *There have been several poker runs.
- *There is a car show on September 14th.
- *Will try to attend district meetings in this area.
- *Been having a lot of problems. I lost a brother the first part of the month. Post 83 in Eugene, Oregon stepped up while I was there. Four posts sent riders to my brother's service. They did a flag line. Makes me proud to be a part of this organization.

b. Area 2 VP – Sean Ramsey/Hy Libby

- *Completed the District 28 20th anniversary poker run in honor of Wayne Cloukey.
- *Thanks to Chapter 31 and Rick Phinney for the Epic Ride. 12,500 miles. Good press coverage. Gave 15 to 20 gold star flags to gold star families.
- *Planning on an Area 2 President's meeting in September. Info to come.
- *The Eugene, Oregon post was a stop on the Epic Ride. They made a great contribution.

c. Area 3 VP – Paul La Pierre

- *Had the Area 3 President's meeting on the 17th.
- *With the Legion Act you can now get new members.
- *One chapter has updated their bylaws early.
- *Thanks to Chapters 108, 509 and 26 for helping with the scholarship run.
- *Thanks to Rochelle, Matt, Mike and Ralph for helping with the scholarship run.
- *Promoted the West Coast Rally. Won't be able to be there. JD will take Paul's place.
- *JD is heading the planning for the Vets Suicide run on February 22.
- *Promoted the Rider convention in May at Chapter 43.

*Paul asked about the National Commander escort. Was told it will be the first week in January or the first or second week in December.

*Chapter 684 has sponsored the Remembering Our Fallen display. Will be escorting with Area 6. Then escorting down to Area 5 on September 14 or 15 to go to San Diego.

d. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

*Has been out of town. Lost Aunts.

*Will be attending the Chapter 359 meeting on September 5th.

*Need patches.

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

*Got the email for the Remembering Our Fallen escort. Will put an email out. Will need information for timing.

*Do get to the District meetings. Had to contact District Commanders to get the dates.

*Shark Squad- Will print up flyers with information on them to recruit new members. Will have them at Rally.

*Have a new chapter coming in. Chapter 112.

*Talking to the Banning post for a possible new chapter.

*Chapters 777 and 289 are having a few issues. Trying to work them out.

*Mike Yirka is home again after going to the hospital again after his accident on the way to the Area 5 President's meeting.

e. Area 6 VP – Lino Torres/Cris Molina

*Dave and Lino are riding to/in the Antelope Valley Faire.

*Chapter 311 was part of the Mountain Festival on August 17.

*Chapter 176-Doing fact finding.

*Chapter 432 is up in the air about staying a chapter.

*Chapter 50 is looking for a HD 1200 motor that can be used for a member who has stage 4 cancer.

*Area 6 President's meeting is October 12 at Post 43. 8am breakfast. 10am meeting.

*Asked about the attendance challenge. Rey said he would send out guidelines.

*Ch 817 will be having a poker run in December. Was told there is no chapter 817 at this time.

*T shirts design for convention has been sent in for approval. Karl will be the chair for convention.

*Sarah's Ride will be hosted by Chapter 507 on September 14.

*Will work with Mick for the Suicide Awareness ride.

*Condolences to Bob.

*Glad to be a part of this organization.

*Rey stated that he had sent a lot of reading material to Jay at 176.

15. Committee Reports –

a. Quartermaster – Mike (Patch) Clement

*Got everything handled for patches. 19 patches are in the queue. Received payment for 5 patches. Waiting for the centers from Emblem Sales. Should come in within 10 days. 262 is ready. When centers come in will complete chapters 620, 421, 468 and 229.

*8 chapters need to pay. 130, 468, 853, 28, 584, 289, 11 and 509.

*Will be swimming Alcatraz this Saturday.

b. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

*Website is working normally.

*Have the new chapter set up.

*Set up Leonard to see the Quartermaster orders.

*Mike-Can we move toward electronic payments for patches? This would cut down on lag time.

*Debbie stated some chapters will still send checks.

*Leonard stated there is a process where the donation button on the home page of the website can be used.

*After much discussion Jim will test a PayPal button for the Quartermaster.

c. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton/Cris Molina/Mick Sobczak

*Convention- see notes in Area 6 report.

d. Judge Advocate Report – Ralph Wenzinger

*Have been out of state on a vacation with grandson.

*Attended the Area 3 President's meeting. There were questions posed as to being at an event with Outlaw MCs. Answered the questions.

*Stated that to find the District meeting dates to go to the Calegion.org website. Go to calendar, then District. If info not there go to the Contacts, then Commander info for the District and send a message. He encourages attendance at the District meetings.

e. Service Officer – George Smith

f. Safety Committee – Rob Carrier

*No report.

*Won't be at Rally.

g. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

*Apologized for the non-readable email. Will resend.

*There are chapters who have lost/turned in their charters and need to be removed from the website.

*Got a message from Mama Dee at Chapter asking about Retired Status. Answered her questions.

*We have over 2,100 riders. Goal to get the number up.

h. Historian – Currently Open Position

i. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

*Working on the new website.

*The route has been set.

*Half of riders would like to ride on the weekend and half during the week.

j. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

k. ALR Commissioner Chairman – Paul Patricio

*Just got list of Commissioners.

*There has been some borderline bashing on the Facebook group pages. Watch what is posted.

l. Alt. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

m. ALR Advisor – James Adames

*Progress

16. Old Business

a. Historians (1 per area) ADHOC –

*One person has responded for Area 5.

b. Uniform – ALR Officer Badges (Mike)

*Motion to add to Section 3, C and D, of the Uniform Manual by Mike Smith. 2nd by Debbie Proffitt. After much discussion motion was passed by vote of DEC.

c. Outreach work with big 6 VFW, Combat Vets, Am Vets, Vietnam Vets, ALR form ADHOC Committee (Fred) Chairperson

d. Veteran Suicide Awareness California Run TBI (Mick) Chairperson ADHOC Committee

- e. Rally Hotels, T-shirts & flyers

*Ch 149 has asked that everyone pre-register. If you're not pre-registered you will not be going on the scheduled rides. Only way to guarantee you get a steak.

- f. Ratification of Ed Doitteau to the Department Board of Review Aug 1st

Completed

- g. Ratification of Ignacio Alvarez as Chairperson for the Department Board of Review Aug 1st

Completed

17. New Business

- a. Update on Chapters for failure to submit COO's by the dead-line

- ✓ Area 1 District 2 Cottonwood

- *No responses to emails.

- ✓ Area 6 Chapter 176 San Fernando

- *Working with Jay.

- ✓ Area 6 Chapter 432 Cambria

- b. New chapter 112, Ontario

- *Motion to accept Chapter 112, Ontario, as the 99th Department chapter by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

18. Sick / Memorial

- a. Hurley Holcombe Chapter 574 at home recovering from injuries.
- b. Mike Yirka Chapter 574 at home recovering from injuries.
- c. Pete DePalma had surgery Monday at the time of distribution no update.
- d. Fred Branson's brother passed away.
- e. Jerry Kirby from Chapter 716 has lymphoma and having a hard time.
- f. Rory Airheart had an accident but is doing OK.

19. Good of the Riders

- a. I have invited Paul Brown to address the DEC on the motion to assume ALR Finances

- *There is much controversy back and forth. Paul will be at Rally. Asked him for the 5 directives.

- Leonard- DEC needs to send addresses so Call In can be paid for those going to Rally.

b. ALR Commisioners

- ✓ Area 1 Bob Perryman
- ✓ Area 2 Sean Ramsey
- ✓ Area 3 Vince Cole
- ✓ Area 4 Karl Wilber
- ✓ Area 5 Paul Particio
- ✓ Area 6 Steve Webber
- ✓ ALR Commissioner Chairperson Paul Particio
- ✓ Alt. ALR Commissioner Chairperson Bob Perryman
- ✓ ALR Tech Advisor James Adames

20. **Next Meeting Date** – 20 September 2019 1800 or 6:00 PM at the Rally in Escondido

21. **Benediction** – Rey Ruiz

22. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:48 pm.