**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

**Thursday, February 27, 2020**

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; **Vice President**-Fred Branson;  **Sergeant-At-Arms**-Mike Smith; **Treasurer**-Leonard Phillips; **Secretary**-Debbie Proffitt; **Chaplain**-Monique Clemons;

**Judge Advocate**-Ralph Wenzinger; **Historian/Jr Past**-Mick Sobczak*;* **Safety Officer**-Rob Carrier; **Service Officer**-George Smith; **Webmaster/Public Relations**-Jim Oxley; **Quartermaster**-Mike Clement; AB

**Membership/Legacy Run**-Rochelle Billet-Smith; **Convention & Rally**-Ken Sutton;  **Ways and Means-**Dennis McClary; **Area 1 VP**-Bob Perryman; **Area 2 VP**- Sean Ramsay; EX  **Area 3 VP**-Paul LaPierre; **Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez; **Area 5 VP**-Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Lino Torres

**Guests:** Larry Brandt; Hy Libby; Steve Weber; JD Bennett; Tracy Dalton; James Adames; Mike Phillips; Mike Johnson

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – January 23rd Minutes

Motion to accept the January minutes as electronically transmitted by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

Delegate fees still outstanding:

A1= chapters 77, 84 and 163

A2= chapters 69, 105, 202, D9 and D10

A3= chapters 20, 476 and 872

A4= chapter 359

A5= chapters 354, 460, 555, 574, 584 and 739.

A6= 484 and 741

Budget- We are $5,000 over budget but tracking well. Pending payments for patches = $12,305. Three pending deposits of $6,000+.

Working with Mike to clean up the patch orders.

Motion to accept the finance report as given pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* Sunday, January 26th attended the Area 5 meeting at Post 60 Brawley.
* Thursday, January 30th attended the conference call for the 2020 convention.
* Sunday, February 9th attended the Chapter meeting of 348 Palmdale.
* Saturday, February 15th attended the Area 5 President’s meeting in Post 53 Hemet.
* Saturday, February 22nd attended the Suicide Awareness Ride in Newhall Chapter 507 Area 6.
* Participated in California Legacy Committee calls.
* February 27th attended the conference call for the 2020 convention.
* February 27th attended services for one of our member’s son who was in a fatal motorcycle accident @ 22 years old.

1. **Vice President Report** – Fred Branson
2. **Sgt. At Arms Report** – Mike Smith

\*On 2/22 attended the Area 3 Suicide Awareness run.

\*On 2/23 played TAPS for member Sean Jones father.

\*On 2/29 will attend the Area 3 President’s meeting.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Did a presentation at the Area 5 President’s meeting on what needs to be done on the online roster and how to navigate the roster. Also did a presentation on how to order from the Quartermaster Store and the steps for payment.

\*A tracking update will be out tomorrow.

1. **Area Reports** –
   1. Area 1 VP – Bob Perryman

\*Pleased with how the Area 1 President’s meeting went.

\*On 2/22 had the Area 2 Suicide Awareness run. Started at Sacramento Harley-Davidson at 9:22am and ended at Sting Rays. 83 bikes started. There was no charge for the ride. Over 100 bikes and 250 people at Sting Rays. Sting Rays wants this to be an annual event. The Big River Band made up of all vets donated their time. The BBQ was made by a combat veteran. All 14 chapters donated $122. Collected a total of $3,224. Had a great time with perfect weather.

* 1. Area 2 VP – Sean Ramsey/Hy Libby

\*Selling tickets for the Comedy Show at the VA hospital.

\*Had the Suicide Awareness run on 2/22. 90 participants. Raised $8,500 for the Palo Alto VA Mental Health Program. During the ride, non-veteran Robert Lujan went down on Highway 101. He has always supported ALR events.

* 1. Area 3 VP – Paul La Pierre

Paul-

\*Held the Area 3 Suicide Run. Donated to the Area 6 Run.

\*On 2/29 there will be the Area 3 President’s meeting.

\*Greg “Drifty” Vincent went down on his new Indian. Air flighted to the hospital. Broken back and 7 ribs. Wearing a halo.

JD-

\*Chapters 3, 11, 23, 110 and 509 sponsored the Suicide Awareness Run. The run went from 23 to 3 to 100 to 11 and 509 as a poker run. Had t shirts and pins. 80 riders registered online. Had 110 bikes and 123 riders. Ended with over 200 people. Had tri tip for lunch. Raised approximately $10,200. 80% will go to Our Heroes Dreams. 20% will go to the Central Coast VA Medical Centre Fresno Psychotherapy in Bldg. 27.

* 1. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

\*Donated $800 to post 804.

\*Working with the Marine Corps League 1347 at the Post.

\*Helping to sponsor free breakfast for 400 kids a month at East LA College.

\*Sponsoring small scholarships to surrounding high schools.

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*Ron Iverson from Chapter 742 went down last week and has passed from his injuries.

\*Commander Ed Grimsley came to the Area 5 President’s meeting. He talked about letting the stupid stuff go and working on the Legion core values.

\*Debbie did a training on how to deal with the online roster and the Quartermaster Store.

\*Had 2 rides for the Suicide Awareness Run starting in Vista and San Diego. Was raining. Still had a good time.

\*Chapter 555 had their chili cookoff the same day and donated the proceeds to the Run.

\*Proceeds will go to the Evita De La Cruz foundation.

\*The AV memorial wall will be escorted on 3/26. Will be working with Area 6.

\*There is a Buddy Walk going on rom the east coast to the Santa Monica Pier. Set to arrive Friday, May 8. Have asked the ALR to do a flag line that morning.

* 1. Area 6 VP – Lino Torres

\*The Area 6 President’s meeting will be 3/21.

\*The Suicide Run had 80 bikes and over 160 people. Proceeds of approximately $3,000 will go to the Silver Paws Ranch. Sponsoring 2 vets for braces, $500 PetSmart gift cards and a pet bed. Thanks to all of Area 6 for the donations.

\*On 1/31 did a funeral in Camarillo.

\*On 2/1 did a Welcome Home at Fort Sill.

\*On 2/21 did a Welcome Home with the PGR.

\*On 2/23 did a funeral in Canoga Park.

\*On 2/27 will do an escort for the AV Vet Center director.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. Quartermaster – Mike (Patch) Clement
   2. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*Website is going good.

\*Getting emails to post events.

\*Disabled the email forwarding.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*On the convention call. All on track. Just a few hiccups. Register now.

\*91 have registered. Goody bags will have a pin, hat, patch, coin and t shirt.

\*After April 3 registration goes up to $65 with no shirt.

\*They have a POW/MIA table so the SAA won’t have to bring the set up.

\*Need an ALR flag.

\*Bill Churchill and Mike will do the echo TAPS.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Ralph Wenzinger

\*Have been working on the bylaws.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Keeping up on all the new stuff coming out. Making sure new vets get info and that older vets get info pertaining to them.

* 1. Safety Committee – Rob Carrier

\*Talked about safety at the Area 1 President’s meeting.

\*The Area 1 safety class is scheduled for 4/4 and is full.

\*The Area 3 President’s meeting will be in Merced and will have lunch at 11am.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Chapters are looking good. Area 1 = 14 chapters. Area 2 = 10 chapters. Area 3 = 17 chapters. Area 4 = 3 chapters. Area 5 = 37 chapters. Area 6 = 14 chapters. Total of 2,210 riders. One chapter in Area 1 needs to put info into their online roster.

* 1. Ways & Means – Dennis McClury

\*National has signed off on the copyright for next year’s quilt.

\*Lots of visits to chapters.

\*District 13 donated $1,313.13

\*Donating a 35 lb. pork to the Area 3 President’s meeting.

* 1. Historian – Mick Sobczak

\*Have camera, will travel.

\*Working on the history book. Will be done for convention.

\*Will be at the Area 6 Suicide Awareness Run.

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*The flyer is being printed today.

\*The website will go live by Monday.

* 1. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak
  2. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No report.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Past President’s Club ADHOC Committee Chair?

\*Have gotten multiple requests for those wanting to be on the committee.

\*No one wants to chair the committee. Will send more emails.

* 1. Outreach work with big 6 VFW, Combat Vets, Am Vets, Vietnam Vets, ALR form ADHOC Committee Fred Branson
  2. At the August DEC meeting, Jim Oxley was to test a Quartermaster PayPal button on the web site? I haven’t’ seen it, did it happen?

\*Leonard will be testing the Quartermaster payment button for PayPal with Jim.

* 1. New Web Site? There was talk of exploring a new web site provider, couldn’t find anything in the minutes. July, I believe our contract is expired before we pay for another year. IF we want to go with a new vendor NOW is the time to do it. This gives us time to archive and transfer information.

\*Jim-Looked around. We are outgrowing our current website. Looking at different companies. Wanting $179 per month to start.

\*Looked into Mail Chimp for emails. Have to pay.

\*Working on a possible work around to the previous server and use Mail Chimp.

\*Rey-Research it and get estimates for next month.

\*Mick-Take a look at the Legacy Run Website.

\*Rey asked Jim to reach out to Ed.

\*Dennis said to contact him. He may be able to get a discount.

* 1. Update on 5 Rules – sent a few emails for input, received a couple of emails and calls for clarification.

Rey-

\*Sent Paul Brown info. He said no go. Have had conversations back and forth. Sent him an invite to a call-in conference. He did not call in. Sent emails to the Legion about it. Will be going to the Legion DEC Finance Committee meeting in Oceanside in March.

\*Leonard and George will also be attending for support.

1. **New Business**
   1. Invitations for convention of ALA, SAL & AL dignitaries sent out 2/19/2020.

Ed Grimsley                              Department Commander

Kathie Martinez                       Department Auxiliary President

Phillip "Tiny" Stuart                Detachment Commander

Paul Brown                                Department Adjutant

Eddie Fletcher                          Department Judge Advocate

Henry Sanchez                         Department Historian

Michael Hjelmsted                 Area 6 Vice Commander

Benjamin Gibson                    District 24 Area 6 Vice Commander

John Bartos                              Area 6 Detachment Vice Commander

Jennifer Campbell                  Post 43 Commander

Autrey James                           Leading Candidate for Department Commander

Judy Leonardi                          American Legion Baseball

* 1. Area 5 Revoke Chapter 434 Chula Vista Charter

\*Motion to revoke the charter of Chapter 434 due to low membership by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Debbie Proffitt. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Area 5 Chapter 229 suspension, failure to comply Per-Capita Payment

\*Motion to suspend Chapter 229 for non-payment of Per Capita by Mick Sobczak.

2nd by Mike Smith. Discussion. Motion failed by vote of DEC.

\*Motion to suspend Chapter 229 for non-payment and to unsuspend as soon as payment is made to PayPal by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Rally bump up seed money from $1,000 - $1,500

\*Motion to raise the seed money for Rally to $1,500 by Debbie Proffitt.

\*It was stated that this would need to be voted on at convention.

\*Motion was rescinded.

* 1. Suicide Awareness Run-

\*There was 1 incident this year. Need to look at operating this like other runs with a signed release and collecting money.

\*There was discussion on next year’s run date. There were many ideas such as 2/20/2021 and 5/22/2021.

* 1. Auxiliary convention-

\*Information was garnered that the Legion and National do help the Auxiliary with costs. They aren’t needing money at this time. Will leave it up to chapters and individuals whether they want to donate.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

\*Ron Iverson-Chapter 742-Rider Everlasting.

1. **Good of the Riders**
2. **Next Meeting Date** – 26 March 2020 1900 or 7:00 PM
3. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons
4. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:44pm