**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

April 23, 2020

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Fred Branson
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;

**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;  **Area 3 VP**-Paul LaPierre; **Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez; **Area 5 VP**-Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Lino Torres

**Guests:** PP Albert Villa; PP Jim Banakus; A5 Commissioner Tracy Dalton; A6 Alt VP Cris Molina; Ch 25 President Mike Johnson; A5 Alt VP Mike Killion; A5 Alt VP John Smartt; A6 Alt VP Dave Corbin; Area 5 Alt VP Larry Brandt

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – March 26th Minutes

Motion to accept the electronically transmitted March 26, 2020 minutes by Mike Smith. 2nd by Paul LaPierre. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips/Rey Ruiz

\*$30, 249.24 in reserve fund.

\*$84,509.89 income

\*$76,159.73 debits

\*January statement balance $81,604.29

\*Motion to accept the finance report as electronically transmitted pending audit by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Mick Sobczak. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* Tuesday March 31 conducted conference call with Paul Brown and DEC members to discuss and review bank account.
* Thursday April 2nd attended the conference call for the 2020 convention.
* Wednesday April 8th attended ALRDOC Budget meeting.
* Thursday April 9th attended the conference call for the 2020 convention.
* Monday April 13th Participated in California Legacy Committee call.
* Thursday April 16th attended the conference call for the 2020 convention.
* Thursday April 23rd attended the conference call for the 2020 convention.

1. **Vice President Report** – Fred Branson

\*Took one bike ride.

\*Talking to Randy Breneman every other month.

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

\*Sat in on the Area 6 President’s meeting call in on March 29.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Tracking reports went out Monday to all Areas. Tracking went out yesterday to those who had updates.

\*Only one signature is needed on the bylaws or Delegate Report while in Covid safe at home.

\*Doing buddy checks twice a week with chapter 716.

\*Family is doing well.

\*Put a notice on the Department Facebook page about a drive by parade at the Long Beach VA on Saturday morning.

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

\*Still shut down. All posts closed.

\*Last page of the bylaws template doesn’t have signature lines.

\*Suicide awareness run-Raised $3,224. Took a ride with 3 others to deliver the check to the Veterans Resource Center. They attack the root of the suicide feelings. They have a mental health division, housing for homeless vets, clothing and are in 6 locations in northern California. Chapter 521 will be sponsoring them yearly.

\*A few riders are doing short rides.

\*Keep in mind that going out may affect others. Take this situation seriously.

\*All Area VPs have not been participating on the DEC calls.

* 1. Area 2 VP – Sean Ramsey
  2. Area 3 VP – Paul La Pierre

\*Memorial Day is coming. Chapters may be putting up flags at the entrance to the cemetery.

* 1. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez
  2. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*All events are shut down. Some chapters are reposting events for dates down the line.

\*Working on tracking compliance.

\*Have been doing buddy checks with all chapters.

\*Am high risk for the virus.

\*Ron Iverson passed away this year. Recently his wife passed away.

* 1. Area 6 VP – Lino Torres

\*Finished the roof on the garage.

\*Had the Area 6 President’s meeting on March 29. Thank you to Cris Molina for setting it up. Seven chapters called in. Another sent report.

\*Dave-Several members participated in a drive by salute to a local veteran in the hospital with Covid.

\*Dave’s wife has made 250 masks for local hospitals, etc.

\*Will have a big ride in Area 6 and any others who want to join after Covid is done.

\*Cris-Represented Chapter 43 and the riders helping to distribute over 1,000 meals to families in San Fernando.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. Quartermaster – Mike (Patch) Clement

\*Things have been slow.

\*Orders trickling in.

\*Between last year and this year there are 8 chapters invoiced that haven’t paid.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*Have been getting a lot of requests to change the dates of events.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*Convention is on and the dates are October 2, 3 and 4, 2020 in Hollywood.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Ralph Wenzinger

\*Have been hunkered down at home.

\*Participating in Legacy Run Committee meetings and convention meetings.

\*Did the Bylaws training by the Legion Department.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Hoping everyone is getting emails

* 1. Safety Committee – Rob Carrier

\*No report. Have been posting videos on the website.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Added 4 members.

* 1. Ways & Means – Dennis McClury

\*Received a phone call from Redwood City. They bought 10 more quilt tickets. San Mateo will be buying more tickets. Area 2 will have 100% participation from all chapters.

\*Quilt is now over $11,000.

\*Will be laid off on June 1 after 18 years.

* 1. Historian – Mick Sobczak

\*Working on the history book.

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Have a committee meeting Monday. Will decide whether to postpone or go with the June date.

\*Leonard stated he had received a W9 ad needed to know whose tax ID to use, the ALRDOC or Legion Department. Rey stated to go with ours.

* 1. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

\*Talked to Sean. He’s at work.

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No report.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Update on 5 Rules –

\*Was on a call with Debbie, Fred, Paul Brown, Fred, Lino and Gene. Sample documents were sent in April 21. Talked about lots of things and got lots of good information for both sides.

\*Have another call next Tuesday.

\*Have not turned anything over yet.

* 1. Convention Postponement.

\*Sent a letter out to all members last month.

\*Only 2 people asked for refunds.

\*Hotels are getting on board. Waiting for discount codes.

1. **New Business**
   1. 2019-2020 Budget? Budget for the 2019-2020 closes May 1st. Without convention a 2020-2021 Budget cannot be approved.
      * 1. What to do?
        2. Do the 2019/2020-line items continue until convention OR End 0f Year?
        3. Do unused balances roll over into 2020-2021 Budget?
        4. Potentially two (2) conventions within one (1) physical year.

\*Leonard stated the management reserve fund could be used to cover.

\*Motion to use up to $5,000 of the management reserve fund to continue operations until the 2020/2021 budget can be approved. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Accept Resignation of Rob Carrier as the State Safety Officer.

\*Rob will be working to keep his post afloat.

\*Motion to accept the resignation of Rob Carrier as Safety Officer effective May 1, 2020 by John Smartt. 2nd by Paul LaPierre. Passed by vote of DEC.

\*Many comments on the great work that Rob has done.

* 1. Ratification of State Safety Officer – Recommendation of Mike Killion.

\*Motion to accept Mike Killion as Safety Officer effective May 1, 2020 by John smart. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

\*Mike was the recommendation from Rob and is currently the Area 5 Safety Officer.

* 1. 2020 Rally – Chapter 28 Petaluma

\*Mike Johnson President Chapter 28 stated that since Rally and Convention were within a month of each other, that most people would find it a hardship to go to both events, and both might have low attendance. He spoke with Area VP Bob Perryman and the chapter members and made the decision to cancel Rally for this year. Rey would like to award Rally to Chapter 28 in 2022.

* 1. 2021 Convention April 23, 24 & 25

1. **Sick / Memorial**

\*Cindy Gano’s Uncle Chuck passed away in Lancaster. They will be going down to pick up his ashes and bring them home. Thank you to Lino for his visits with Uncle Chuck.

\*Kathy Grossi, chapter 83 member, has been put on hospice and is not doing well.

1. **Good of the Riders**

\*Cris Molina-Sunday, April 26, there will be a drive by memorial for a Simi Valley family who lost a family member, Diego Pongo, in Iraq.

\*John Smartt- Important to continue to do buddy checks with your chapters.

\*Dennis-If you’re in the south and need quilt tickets, Gene and Mick have 100. Otherwise, call the number on the flyer.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 28 May 2020 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** – Fred Branson
3. **President’s Charge-** President Rey Ruiz
4. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:14pm