**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

July 23, 2020

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – JD Bennett
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; AB **Secretary**-Debbie Proffitt; **Chaplain**-Monique Clemons;

**Judge Advocate**-Ralph Wenzinger; **Historian/Jr Past**-Mick Sobczak*;* **Safety Officer**-Mike Killian; **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 & Kathleen McClary; **Area 1 VP**-Bob Perryman; **Area 2 VP**- Hy Libby AB  **Area 3 VP**-Paul LaPierre; **Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez; **Area 5 VP**-Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Lino Torres

**Guests:** Mark Rice; A5 Comm Tracy Dalton; PP Poncho Villa; A5 Alt VP Larry Brandt; Steve Gast Ch 108; Duane Kecley P Ch 108; A6 Alt VP Dave Corbin; A3 Alt VP JD Bennett; A6 Alt VP Cris Molina; A2 Alt VP Ignacio Alvarez; Patrick Gadut P Ch 309; PP James Adames; A6 Comm Steve Weber

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – June 25th 2020

Motion to approve the June 25, 2020 minutes as electronically transmitted pending correction by Mike Smith. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC. Debbie will correct the Area 3 report.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

None

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

\*Been busy with the resolution and getting the post up and running.

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

\*Nothing to report. Covid cases are rising so not doing much.

\*Slowly trying to work within the constraints of Covid.

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

\*No report.

\*Now retired.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Been tracking the resolution ballot returns and the Certification of Officers. Tracking goes out daily to the Area VPs and Alt VPs if there has been an update.

\*Post 716 is now open a few hours a day, 3 days a week serving dinners outside.

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

\*Stay in Place order is still in effect.

\*There have been people close to us with Covid who have died.

\*All chapters doing only local rides.

\*Ch 28 did a MIA ride Wednesday at the Dixon Veterans Cemetery.

\*Mike Ross of Ch 119 is now on hospice care with a failing heart.

\*Tyler Davis of Ch 521 was T boned on his bike by a car. Is at UC Davis. Had surgery on arm and wrist.

\*County isn’t allowing group gatherings so the Car show was canceled. Ch 521 has lost all of their fundraisers for this year.

* 1. Area 2 VP – Hy Libby/Ignacio Alvarez

\*Ignacio-Joe Gunter served 30 years as a Police Detective after serving in the Marines in Vietnam. Joe also served as Mayor for the city of Salinas for the last 8 years. Three chapters in Area 2 escorted and honored Joe with a flag line at his services.

\*Mike C.- There will be a memorial march for USMC Corporal Sarah Castromada on August 1 at 2pm. The march will also be remembering Army soldier Vanessa Guillen.

* 1. Area 3 VP – Paul LaPierre

\*Nothing to report. There have been a few PGR rides.

\*Been a blast being Area 3 VP for the last 2.5 years. Thanks for the fun and guidance.

\*Rey thanked Paul for his service to the DEC.

* 1. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

\*Post 359 is shut down so the riders aren’t doing their monthly breakfasts.

\*Post 804 did very well with their fireworks stand.

\*Been getting meals out to the older Legion members.

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*Fundraisers have been canceled.

\*Posts 555, 328 and 716 are opening for dinners.

\*Had a meeting with the Area 5 Alt VPs, Kelly and the Safety Officer. Looking to possibly have a safety course in October. Looking to possibly have an Area 5 President’s meeting the 2nd weekend in October at Post 132 with masks and social distancing.

\*Passport Run has been postponed and will start at the next convention.

\*John Smart, Ch 149, came up with an idea to sell hoodies. Each Chapter would sell them and keep 20%. Th other 80% would go to the Legacy Scholarship.

\*The Ch round robin of smaller chapters working together is coming together.

\*Working on getting the COOs in.

\*August 1 there will be a memorial ride for a Chapter 155 member.

* 1. Area 6 VP – Lino Torres

\*Hoping to have an Area President’s meeting at Post 211 if possible. If not will do a call in.

\*Will be having a birthday drive by parade for Rick Ring- President of Chapter 348.

\*Dave- July 3 welcomed home a sailor who got over Covid

\*July 5- Participated in a birthday ride for a 102-year-old veteran.

\*July 19- Post had an outdoor swap meet.

\*Cris- July 3- Participated in a 101km ride for 101-year-old Sydney Walton.

\*July 15- Participated in a drive by for WW@ veteran Richard Abrams.

\*Had a Zoom call with The Painted Turtle Camp to put together a ride.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. Quartermaster – Patch

\*Sales have been down.

\*Last month received 4 orders. Chapters 43, 88, 100 and 100.

\*Black and white berets are in. In process of sewing the patches on. Will be on the website soon. Go to the Emblem Sales website to determine your size.

\*Cris-Kudos for the quick turnaround.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*Been working on the PayPal buttons. Debbie and Leonard helped with testing.

\*The PayPal button for the Quartermaster is up and running. There is a new page to check the status of an order.

\*When an invoice goes out it goes to all Chapter POCs.

\*When an order gets paid the notice now goes to the Quartermaster, Treasurer and Secretary.

\*Working on a PayPal button for new chapters to be at the bottom of the chapters page.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*Next convention meeting is Thursday, August 20 at 5pm.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

\*Next meeting is Thursday, July 30 at 7pm. This meeting is for all past department presidents and all past chapter presidents. Call in number is 805-369-1762.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Ralph Wenzinger

\*This is my last report as Department Judge Advocate.

\*Rey- Thanked Ralph for all he’s done this year.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Not much information has been put out by the Federal Government.

* 1. Safety Committee – Mike (Monkey) Killon

\*Will be scheduling safety courses in Areas 5 and 6 when safe to do so.

\*Concerned that accidents, whether riding with a group or riding alone, are not being reported so we can look at safety issues.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Area 1 has 5 new members; Area 3 has 5 new members and Area 5 has 9 new members.

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Next meeting is July 29 at 7p. Looking at possibly changing parts of the route.

\*Nothing new on the quilt raffle. Dennis started a new part time job and hurt his back.

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

\*No report is a good report.

* 1. Ways and Means – Dennis or Kathy McClary

\*If there is convention in October the quilt drawing will be held then. If not, then the drawing will be mid-September.

\*If anyone wants tickets contact Dennis.

1. **Old Business**
   1. REMINDER: COOs are due July 31. 49 of 94 Chapters reported 52.13% as of Monday 7/20. Area VP’s start the push.
   2. UPDATE: PayPal store button.

\*See Webmaster report.

* 1. Reversal of Hy Libby as Area 2 VP. Hy was elected as President to his Chapter. In accordance with our By-Laws, Hy is ineligible to be the Area VP.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 11 10. No ALRDOC Area Vice President shall at the same time hold the Office of President of any American Legion Riders Chapter. Nor may any ALRDOC Area Vice President be allowed to assume the office of Chapter President for the duration of his time in office. No President of an American Legion Riders Chapter shall at the same time hold an office as an ALRDOC Area Vice President. In that such a dual role creates a conflict of interest in the due administration of the Riders program by the ALRDOC Executive Committee. This section does not deny any PAST Chapter President the opportunity to serve as an ALR DOC Area VP. (Section re-numbered due to removal of previous Section 10.)

1. **New Business**
   1. Ratification of Ignacio Alvarez as Area 2 VP

\*Motion to accept Ignacio Alvarez as Area 2 VP for the duration of the term by Fred Branson. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Resignation of Area 3 VP Paul Lapierre

\*Motion to accept the resignation of current Area 3 VP Paul LaPierre by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Lino Torres. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Resignation of Asst. Area 3 VP Matt Dolezal

\*Motion to accept the resignation of Area 3 Alt VP Matt Dolezal by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Lino Torres. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Ratification of Ralph Wenzinger as Area 3 VP

\*Motion to accept Ralph Wenzinger as Area 3 VP for the duration of the term by Mike Killion. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Ratification of Paul Lapierre as Asst. Area 3 VP

\*Motion to accept Paul LaPierre as Area 3 Alt VP for the duration of the term by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Ratification of Ken Sutton as Asst. Area 3 VP

\*Motion to accept Ken Sutton as Area 3 Alt VP for the duration of the term by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Ratification of Mark Rice as Department Judge Advocate

\*Motion to accept Mark Rice as Department Judge Advocate for the duration of the term by Bob Perryman. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Ratification of Patrick Gadut as Area 4 Assistant VP

\*Motion to accept Patrick Gadut as Area 4 Alt VP for the duration of the term by Debbie Proffitt. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. **ARTICLE IV**

**OFFICERS**

Section 1. The elected officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice President, Sergeant-at-Arms, and six (6) Area Vice Presidents, the appointed officers shall be the Judge Advocate, Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain. The six (6) Area Vice Presidents and Alternate Vice Presidents will be elected at the annual convention of The American Legion Riders by the respective Area delegates to the convention seated and present in the Area caucus. The Alternate Area Vice President shall represent the Area in the absences of the Area Vice President.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Section 13. The Department President, the Department Vice-President, and the Department Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected at the regular Department Convention and shall hold office until the close of the following Department Convention. The election of the six (6) Vice Presidents representing the six (6) areas of the Department shall be by vote of the delegates of the Chapters of each specific Area, provided further that the Area Vice-President shall be a member of a Chapter of the specific Area they are elected to represent.

Section 14. No elected officer the Department Executive Committee shall be elected to the same office for more than three (3) successive terms.

*So, what does this mean for the current Department officers? Is the 2020-2021 year a roll over year and is NOT part of the three (3) consecutive because 1. There was NO convention and elections as in section 13 & 14 above? 2. This was a continuance/roll-over of the 2019-2020 year and is one (1) successive term? A term is not determined other than in section 1 (will be elected at the annual convention).*

\*The Judge Advocate stated that according to the bylaws a term was convention to convention. If there is no convention in October then the current officers will continue in place as an extension to their term.

1. **Sick / Memorial**
   1. Ch 716 - Don F. needs prayers.
   2. Ch 521-Tyler Davis-accident.
   3. Ch 119-Mike Ross-on hospice.
   4. Ch 149-Shelley Sobczak-infection.
   5. Ch 23-Doc Bart-Stage 4 cancer. No prognosis at this time.
2. **Good of the Riders**

\*JD Bennett stated that there is GoFundMe for Doc Bart. That Doc’s Dr. told him his out of pocket expenses to fight the cancer would be approximately $40,000.

\*Debbie stated that in the past the DEC has donated toward medical expenses of a member in extenuating circumstances.

\*Debbie made a motion for the DEC to donate $500 to Doc Bart. 2nd by Rochelle Billet-Smith. Discussion was had about how Doc is a founding member of the ALRDOC, was on the DEC for 10 years and it was his speech at the 2015 ALRDOC convention that kept us a program of the Legion.

\*PP Poncho Villa suggested that another $500 be added to make a total of $1,000 donated to Doc Bart.

\*Mick moved to strike the $500 from the original motion and replace it with $1,000. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC.

\*Original motion with updated amount was passed by vote of DEC.

\*JD expressed gratitude to the DEC.

Debbie will put the GoFundMe on the state Facebook page.

\*Poncho stated he had received an email about a celebration ride for Mayor Joe Gunter from District 28. This will be Friday, KSU at 10am from Salinas High School.

\*Ralph stated that the National Legion was still fundraising for the Legacy Run. Depending on the level of the donation would tell which merchandise would be received.

\*Rey-The same WW2 veteran that had the 101-year birthday ride in SoCal will be up in the Bay area and there will be another celebration. The California Legion Commander, Ed Grimsley, will be there. Rey will get the information and put it out as many from that area didn’t know about it.

\*Lino-Asked if anyone could do a write up on Doc Bart and his membership with the Riders. Mick volunteered.

\*Debbie-Asked Mick about the resolutions so they can be put on the website for all to see. He stated he sent them as a zip file 2 weeks ago. No one got it. He will resend.

\*Mick-Shelly had an infection from elective surgery and was in the hospital for 4 days. She is resting now at home.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 27 August 2020 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:42pm