**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

November 19, 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**-Mark Rice; **Historian/Jr Past**-Mick Sobczak*;* **Safety Officer**-Mike Killian; AB **Service Officer**-George Smith; AB **Webmaster/Public Relations**-Jim Oxley; **Quartermaster**-Mike Clement;

**Membership/Legacy Run**-Rochelle Billet-Smith; **Convention & Rally/PPC**-Ken Sutton;AB  **Ways and Means-**Dennis & Kathleen McClary; **Area 1 VP**-Bob Perryman; **Area 2 VP**-Ignacio Alvarez;  **Area 3 VP**-Ralph Wenzinger; **Area 4 VP**-Patrick Gadut; AB **Area 5 VP-**Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Dave Corbin

 **Guests:** PP Albert Villa; PP James Adames; PP Steve Weber; A3 Alt VP Paul LaPierre;

A5 Alt VP Larry Brandt; PS Jeff Gallagher

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

Add line item in budget for Historian.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – October 22nd 2020

Motion to accept the October 22nd, 2020 minutes as electronically transmitted by Mike Smith. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  Total Debits | $107,825.03 |
|  Total Deposits | $108,237.95 |
|  |  |
|  Current Balance | $73,848.34 |
|  Actual Bank Balance (statement 11/19/2020) | $73,778.11 |
|  PayPal account (riders) | $6,224.08 |
|  PayPal account (State) | $48.25 |
|  Total Balance | $80,120.67 |

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz
* October 24th Attended chapter 555 Octoberfest Midway City. Took part in the presentation from chapter 555 to post 289 Riverside/Buchannan a check in the amount of $500.00. Post was in the middle of renovations when it was broken into. Tools from volunteers and materials were stolen, as well as post artifacts.
* October 27th Attended conference call for the 2021 ALR Convention.
* November 4th Attended the Post 30 Pomona General meeting Dave Corbin & Phillip Wan also attended. Post voted to sponsor a chapter.
* November 5th attended a webinar with AL NEC and District commanders. Webinar was to review the strategic plan and movement of the National Commanders visit.
* November 9th Attended conference call for the California Legacy Run.
* November 10th celebrated the 245th Marine Corps Birthday.
* November 11th celebrated Veterans Day
* November 13th attended funeral services for a member from chapter 716 Los Alamitos Robert “Bobo” Pacheco.
* November 13th attended the AL Area 5 meeting dinner at post 742 Corona.
* November 14th attended the Area 3 Presidents meeting chapter 3 Hanford.
* November 15th attended the AL Area 5 meeting at post 742 Corona.
* November 15th attended a webinar with AL NEC and District commanders. Webinar was to review the strategic plan and movement of the National Commanders visit.
* November 18th Attended Area 1 President’s meeting.
* November 18th Attended PPC conference call (in part).

IF anyone is having live meetings/events please let me know. IF at all possible, I will attend.

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

\*Rode in Area 2 with Districts 9 and 10. Great ride.

\*On November 1 participated in the memorial ride for John Anderson.

\*Was at the Area 3 President’s meeting in November 14.

\*If anyone is having any rides or events please let me know.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Rosters will need to show that they have been updated with a December or January date. Updating the roster means that every member is actually listed on the roster WITH THEIR 9-DIGIT PERMANENT NUMBER FROM THE LEGION, SONS OR AUXIIARY. If you have members showing that are no longer members, take them out. There are many members listed with no phone numbers or emails, Please add these. If your POC goes into the roster and nothing needs to be changed an update won’t show. To show an update, the POC will click the pencil to the right of their name. Scroll to the bottom and click the blue update member button. POC will be taken back to the roster and it should now show the new date. Any problems, let me know.

\*Chapters will receive their bill for Per Capita at the beginning of January. The bill is due no later than January 31, 2021.

\*DEC, please email to me your DEC report. Makes my life easier by far.

\*On Sunday, December 6th, Chapter 716 will hold their 10th Annual Toys for Tots breakfast. $10. Eat outside or take it to go.

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

\*We are still in lock down. Though a few chapters are having local rides. Chapters 28 and 111 are active.

\*Had our Area President’s meeting last night by Zoom. Thanks to Area 3 VP Ralph for letting us use his Zoom account. Thanks to Rey and Fred for attending.

\*Have been doing veteran birthday drive-bys.

\*Some chapters are trying to adopt families for Thanksgiving. Having trouble finding families.

\*No problems.

* 1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

\*Area 2 has been busy with drive-by runs, etc. Some chapters did Veterans Day runs.

* 1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

\*Not many activities going on though there hsve been funeral escorts.

\*Attended the California Legacy Run call in.

\*On November 11th went to 4 different Veterans Day events in Bakersfield.

\*On November 14th held the Area 3 President’s meeting in person and by Zoom. Thanks to the members of the DEC who came.

* 1. Area 4 VP – Patrick Gadut

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

 \*A lot of the Area 5 events have been cancelled.

 \*On November 1st went to the memorial ride in Lake Isabella.

\*Went to the Chapter 555 Oktoberfest; the Chapter 53 bike show; the Chapter 519 bike night; and visited Chapter 221.

\*Participated in the Parliamentary Procedure Class on 11/8.

\*Attended the Area 3 President’s meeting in Hanford and the Area 1 President’s meeting by Zoom.

\*Will be attending the District 25 meeting on Sunday and the breakfast at San Jacinto.

\*In talks with the Brawley post to start a chapter there.

Area 6 VP – Dave Corbin

\* Sunday 1st of November chapters 311 and 348 took part in the opening ceremonies in Palmdale at the healing field of honor and I was honored to lead the pledge of allegiance for the event. The filed had 2020 flags to show the local support for veterans, current military, first responders, doctors and nurses.

\*Wednesday the 4th, Rey, myself and the president of 311 riders, Phil Waln, rode down to Pomona to take part in chapter 30's meeting to bring in a new rider’s group.

\*November 6th and 7th Chapter 311 performed overnight security at the Healing Field of honor in Palmdale.

\*November 11th chapters 311 and 348 took part in the Veterans day events in Palmdale. I was honored to be invited to sing the coast guard song.

\*November 22nd...I will be riding down to Pomona chapter 30 along with Rey to take part in the riders first meeting for the election of officers.

\*I am working on having the area 6 presidents meeting but with the new Covid requirements all post in my area are not open to having it. I was looking at December 5th at post 311 but the post has changed their minds. I will be working on a zoom meeting if possible, which will now be on either December 19th or 20th. I will be talking to Ralph the area 3 VP to see about using his zoom account if possible, and if not, it will be Uber.

1. **Committee Reports** –
	1. Quartermaster – Mike “Patch” Clement

\*Orders are coming in slowly and being processed. Took care of any discrepancies. Four orders are being invoiced. Order from Ch 108 is in process and will be shipped tomorrow. Seven orders went out in October where in the past years there have been many more, so a steady decline.

\*Have been updating the webstore. Now have berets available. Will be adding more merchandise in the near future.

\*Would like to have ALR jewelry available for the chapters and districts. Will use the logo from Emblem Sales. Send suggestions.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*No problems with the website.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Rey Ruiz

\*Have been having meeting and the planning is being done. At the February meeting there will be a go or no go vote for the April convention. If there is a no go vote, the alternative dates will be either July 16-18, 2021 or July 23-25, 2021.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton
	2. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

President Ruiz and all Riders of California,

\*The first part of reviewing the Department bylaws has been completed. At this meeting I will let the members of the DEC know that they will be sent to them by the end of the week. I am asking everyone to review them and to let me know of any mistakes or other suggestions they may have. They can call or email me. However, any final decisions on change recommendations will come from the committee.

\*I am also asking they do not send out to the chapters until after the DEC review. They chapters will get them in early January and will have time to review and make suggestions or ask questions. Again, final decisions will be up to the committee.

\*I some conversations with several people concerning Resolution 19, which the NEC recently passed. Here is what I found out:

\*ALR Patches: I confirmed there will be no changes necessary to our back patches.

\*Title Changes: I covered this with a recent letter to the membership which was forwarded to the Department leaders and area vice presidents were asked to send to all their chapters/districts for discussion. I was told The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission will be revisiting the resolution for the Spring NEC Meeting. This will include allowing all past presidents to keep their titles. The resolution will need to be finalized at the National Convention in Phoenix in 2021. We have a year to comply from when it was passed by the NEC. I plan to attend the convention in Phoenix. I am asking for anyone who writes a resolution to run it past me first so I review it (this is not required, but requested).

\*I do not know of any other issues at this time.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

* 1. Safety Committee – Mike “Monkey” Killion

\*The Area 5 Safety Course was rained out. Will reschedule.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Attended the Area 3 President’s meeting.

\*The membership numbers are slowly going up.

\*There are a few chapters with only one POC. There should be at least two.

\*Member 9-digit membership numbers need to be updated.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area 2** |  | **Area** | **District**  | **# of AL Post** | **# of ALR Chapters** | **%** |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | **253** |  | 2 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 25.0% |  |  |
| # of Veterans | 161 |  | 2 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 6.7% |  |  |
| # of SAL | 42 |  | 2 | 13 | 13 | 1 | 7.7% |  |  |
| # of AUX | 50 |  | 2 | 26 | 7 | 1 | 14.3% |  |  |
| # of Active Duty  | 2 |  | 2 | 28 | 12 | 4 | 33.3% |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **65** | **9** | **13.8%** |  |  |
| **Area 3** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | **426** |  | **Area** | **District**  | **# of AL Post** | **# of ALR Chapters** | **%** |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | **21** |  | 3 | 11 | 14 | 4 | 28.6% |  |  |
| # of Veterans | 302 |  | 3 | 12 | 14 | 4 | 28.6% |  |  |
| # of SAL | 58 |  | 3 | 14 | 23 | 6 | 26.1% |  |  |
| # of AUX | 66 |  | 3 | 15 | 17 | 5 | 29.4% |  |  |
| # of Active Duty  | 10 |  | 3 | 27 | 9 | 3 | 33.3% |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **77** | **21** | **27.3%** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Area 4** |  | **Area** | **District**  | **# of AL Post** | **# of ALR Chapters** | **%** |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | **22** |  | 4 | 17 | 12 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | 3 |  | 4 | 18 | 22 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| # of Veterans | 14 |  | 4 | 19 | 22 | 1 | 4.5% |  |  |
| # of SAL | 3 |  | 4 | 23 | 10 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| # of AUX | 2 |  |  |  |  | **66** | **2** | **3.0%** |  |  |
| # of Active Duty  | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Area** | **District**  | **# of AL Post** | **# of ALR Chapters** | **%** |  |  |
| **Area 5** |  | 5 | 21 | 17 | 11 | 64.7% |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | **838** |  | 5 | 22 | 29 | 8 | 27.6% |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | 27 | 6 | 22.2% |  |  |
| # of Veterans | 536 |  | 5 | 29 | 28 | 6 | 21.4% |  |  |
| # of SAL | 156 |  | 5 | 30 | 9 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| # of AUX | 146 |  |  |  |  | **110** | **36** | **32.7%** |  |  |
| # of Active Duty  | 39 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Area** | **District**  | **# of AL Post** | **# of ALR Chapters** | **%** |  |  |
| **Area 6** |  | 6 | 16 | 19 | 11 | 57.9% |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | **306** |  | 6 | 20 | 18 | 3 | 16.7% |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | **14** |  | 6 | 24 | 13 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| # of Veterans | 214 |  |  |  |  | **50** | **14** | **28.0%** |  |  |
| # of SAL | 56 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| # of AUX | 36 |  | **Total Riders** |  | **2,139** |  | **# ALR Chapters** | **96** |
| # of Active Duty  | 8 |  | # of Veterans |   | 1,421 |  | # AL Post in CA  | 460 |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL |   |   | 378 |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts  | 21% |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX |   |   | 336 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty  | 69 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Run date June 11-13, 2021

\*Hoping to have registration open by January 1.

\*November 30th is the next meeting. If you’d like to be a part of the committee, let me know.

* 1. Historian – Currently Mick Sobczak

\*Progress

* 1. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

\*Post 149 is remaining open for inside dining 7 days a week. I went to the County and they issued a letter stating that the Legion Post is not a restaurant and should stay open to feed the veterans. Many on the call asked for a copy of the letter. Mick will send it out to the DEC.

\*Area VPs should be inviting all 3 elected officers to their meetings.

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*Had one issue between a post Commander and a chapter. It was miscommunication. Problem was resolved.

\*Chapter 620 received their charter. Thanks Fred.

* 1. Ways and Means – Dennis or Kathleen McClary

\*Attended the Areas 1 and 3 President’s meeting to discuss the quilt.

\*Attended the Ch 69 poker run.

\*Was thinking of the possibility of delaying the start of the quilt raffle until convention and run it until the next convention. Leonard stated that tickets can be sent to each chapter to sell. Dennis stated that that could be part of the plan bur need face to face time at District and DEC meetings. Monique stated that we still need to sell tickets with flyers with a good picture of the quilt n them. Rey stated we could use some poster size flyers.

\*The quilt should be completed by the first of the year.

\*Need to build the ways and means committee up. Most of the people who are listed on it were contacted and had no idea they were part of the committee.

\*There were suggestions that when there is a picture of it, it could be put on the ALR website, the Run website, etc.

1. **Old Business**
	1. 2021 Rally – DEC to discuss chapters interested in hosting.

\*Chapter 328 in Norco was the only chapter in Areas 4, 5 and 6 who requested to host the 2021 Rally.

* 1. Voting on the location of the 2021 State Rally

\*Motion for unanimous consent for Chapter 328, Norco, to host the 2021 Rally by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. ALR History

\*Mick is working on putting the history together from the very beginning. It will take a little while longer.

\*Any Past President’s please send in a write u of your time as President.

\*Mick asked about glass cases to show the records, etc. from the beginning of the California ALR. Rey said he would look into it.

* 1. Bank Account update

\*Leonard is planning n an initial $50,000 deposit into the Department account leaving the balance in the ALR account until all obligations have cleared. Then, the balance left will be transferred into the Department account.

* 1. National Commander’s visit has been canceled due to Covid restrictions.
1. **New Business**
	1. Legacy Run Expenses – Leonard how and where can we access funds to order.

\*Leonard stated that they can be taken out of the Legacy Run donation line item for now.

* 1. Review of the Department Uniform Manual – Sgt. At Arms, I’m requesting that the Uniform Committee be called. The purpose is to review the Uniform Manual primarily Section II Vest/Jacket (3), (3b) provide recommendations from the committee to the December DEC.

\*Requesting to look at where the flags are placed. Manual currently states that the American flag should be placed. It will be updated to state shall be placed. POW/MIA states it is recommended, not mandatory.

\*Patch stated that all riding vests are different and placement of flags on certain vests may be a little different because some are narrower, etc.

* 1. Historian line item in budget

\*Leonard-Going through the budget from before 2013, there has been no line item in the budget for historian. Historian does travel to follow the President, etc.

\*Motion to recommend a $300 line item for the Historian in next year’s budget by Leonard. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Sick / Memorial**
	1. Ch 716 Robert “Bobo” Pacheco-Rider Everlasting
	2. Ch 119-William Bernard-Rider Everlasting
	3. Ch 149-Marten Borg-Had a medical incident and fell resulting in 8 stitches above an eye and multiple face fractures.
2. **Good of the Riders**

\*Ralph-Thanks to Bob Perryman for the comments on offering Zoom for meetings. Reach out to me if you’d like to use my Zoom for u to 100 people.

\*Mick-I have a Zoom also that can be used.

\*Mick-Am trying to win a motorcycle to raffle off through Orange County Choppers and the proceeds going to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. If I win, there will be 5,000 tickets to raffle off.

\*Leonard-Also has a Zoom account others can use.

\*Mark Rice-Area VPs-Please send me the links to your President meetings.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 17 December 2020 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:31pm