**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

February 25, 2021

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz
2. **Invocation** – Vice-President Fred Branson
3. **Pause for MIA** - President Rey Ruiz
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – President Rey Ruiz
5. **ALR Preamble** - President Rey Ruiz
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

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

**Judge Advocate**-Mark Rice; **Jr Past**-James Adames*;* **Safety Officer**-Mike Killian; **Service Officer**-George Smith; **Webmaster/Public Relations**-Jim Oxley; **Quartermaster**-Mike Clement;

**Membership/Legacy Run**-Rochelle Billet-Smith; **Convention & Rally/PPC**-Ken Sutton;  **Ways and Means-**Kathleen McClary; **Historian-**Vacant

**Area 1 VP**-Bob Perryman; **Area 2 VP**-Ignacio Alvarez;  **Area 3 VP**-Ralph Wenzinger; **Area 4 VP**-Patrick Gadut; EX **Area 5 VP-**Gene Hobdy; **Area 6 VP**-Dave Corbin

**Guests:** A5 Alt VP-Larry Brandt; A5 Commissioner-Tracy Dalton; A5 Alt VP John Smartt; A6 Alt VP Cris Molina; A3 Alt VP-Paul LaPierre; PP Steve Weber; Ch 108 VP Steve Gast

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – January 28, 2021

Motion to accept the January 28, 2021 minutes as electronically transmitted by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

Total Debits…………………………………………$161,631.17

Total Deposits………………………………………$125,087.78

Current Balance…………………………………….$36,892.03

Actual Bank Balance (statement 11/19/2020)…..$35,623.03

State Bank Account………………………………..$50,000.00

PayPal account (State)…………………………….$15,941.29

Total Balance……………………………………….$102,833.32

\*Debit cards have not been received. Rey stated the Legion will be changing banks and will get new cards once that is done.

\*Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* February 1 – attended CLR planning meeting
* February 8 – attended ALR Convention committee call
* February 11 – attended AL DEC call
* February 12 – attended an escort for newly graduated Marines from MCRD San Diego to SOI Camp Pendleton
* February 15 – attended ALR convention committee
* February 16 – attended Uniform committee call
* February 18 – attended AL convention committee call
* February 20 – attended ALR District 13 meeting
* February 20 – attended Area 2 President’s meeting
* February 21 – AL District 29 meeting

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

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

\*Weather has been nicer. Can get out now.

\*Make sure license, registration and insurance are been checked when renewing.

1. **Sgt. At Arms Report** – Rey Ruiz

The Uniform Committee has recommendations for the Support Team patch. Rey will email out for the next meeting.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Have been helping chapters get their rosters updated and cleared and get the Per Capita paid. As of last night, all chapters in all Areas are clear for roster updates and per capita is paid.

\*Now working on Delegate Rosters, due March 22, and End of Year Reports, due April 1.

\*Still finding chapters that are not doing due diligence and using the 6-step renewal process to renew chapter members yearly. Had to take people off of several rosters because they weren’t members of the Legion family. Also, took members off for non-payment of family dues. Some hadn’t paid in 8 years.

\*Attended the Area 2 President’s meeting via Zoom.

\*Attended the District 13 meeting via Zoom.

\*Attended Convention Committee meetings.

\*Attended California Legacy Run meetings.

\*Post 716 is now open for meals between 3pm and 7pm daily.

\*If a chapter needs help with anything, let me know.

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

\*Area has been slow with closures in place. Should start opening up soon.

\*Local chapters have been having local rides.

\*The weather has been very cold.

\*Post 437 in Clearlake has voted to sponsor a chapter. Should have all the paperwork ready for the March meeting.

\*Have been involved with getting my post reopened.

\*On March 11 there will be an Area 1 President’s meeting by Zoom at 6pm.

1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

\*Thank you to all the leadership, Rey, Ralph, Fred, Debbie, who helped with the crisis at District 13. A new President has stepped in and will need guidance.

\*The Area 2 President’s meeting was small but successful.

\*Went to a birthday visit at Post 69 for an older vet.

\*The county is starting to loosen up restrictions.

\*30% of the county has had the vaccine.

1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

Events / Meetings Attended

\*February 1 – California Legacy Run Committee

\*February 6 – Pony Express ALRDOC Mileage Cup from Area 2 VP

\*February 11 – ALRDOC Ad Hoc Convention Committee

\*February 14 – Area 5 Presidents Meeting via Zoom

\*February 15 – ALRDOC Convention Committee

\*February 19 – Last Ride / Funeral service for Benny Alva, Chapter 20 - Porterville in Strathmore. In addition to Chapter 20, the ride and funeral service were attended Chapters 26 – Bakersfield; 221 – Tehachapi; and 711 - Lake Isabella.

\*February 20 – District 13 monthly meeting via Zoom

\*February 20 – Area 2 Presidents Meeting via Zoom

\*February 22 – Pony Express ALRDOC Mileage Cup to Area 6 VP

\*February 22 – ALRDOC Convention Committee

\*February 22 – California Legacy Run Committee

\*Weekly escorts of recruits leaving for military services from the Bakersfield Armed Forces Recruiting Center

Chapter Activities

\*Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions and Post closures, Chapter activities continue to be curtailed to mostly funeral escorts.

Other

\*Michelle Wattenbarger, Secretary of Chapter 221 – Tehachapi, and I are working on a calendar for Area 3 like that of Area 5’s. We hope to have it posted to the ALRDOC website in the coming weeks.

Sick /Memorial

\*Chapter Everlasting – Benny Alva, Chapter 20 – Porterville. January 31, 2021

\*Chapter Everlasting – Carlos Sidebottom, Chapter 684 – Ridgecrest. January 6, 2021

\*Chapter Everlasting – John “Doc” Bart – Chapter 23 – Sanger. February 25, 2021

\*Sick – Mike “Papa Mike” Cash, Chapter 684 – Ridgecrest

\*Sick – Robert Lassotovich, Chapter 20 – Porterville

\*Sick - Wendell Wammack, Chapter 26 - Bakersfield

Good of the Riders

\*My chapter, Chapter 26 – Bakersfield, has posted its annual fundraiser, the Veterans Memorial Run, on ALRDOC. Date of event is April 3. There will be a spaghetti feed the evening before at Post 26. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

1. Area 4 VP – Patrick Gadut-EX
2. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*Working on the Delegate Reports and End of Year Reports.

\*Have attended the Legacy Run and Convention Committee meetings.

\*On 2/11 attended the escort of a Korean War veteran from Post 574 to RNC.

\*Getting out to as many meetings as I can.

\*Attended the Legion District 29 meeting.

\*Chapter 790 out of Area 6 came to support the Chapter 262 breakfast.

\*On April 17 Area 6 chapter 30, Pomona, and Area 5 chapter 262, Fontana, will have a joint poker run.

\*On Saturday, a Navy combat vet will do a 24-hour ride on a recombinant bike.

\*Hope to put together an Area 5 Safety Course soon.

1. Area 6 VP – Dave Corbin

\*Feb 5th... I supported a PGR mission out of Tehachapi for a Navy Coxswain from WW11 to BNC.

\*Feb.6th… I supported a PGR mission out if Newhall for William Reynolds a Vietnam vet. to Eternal Valley.

\*Feb.7th… I escorted a young airman Anthony Holmes from Edwards AFB on his final ride to LAX to be flown home to his family.

\*Feb. 12th… I supported a PGR mission out of Tehachapi to BNC for A1C Delbert Christian Jung.

\*Feb.18th… I supported a PGR mission to BNC for Marine CPL. Clyde Kenneth Roysden.

\*Feb. 22nd…I supported a PGR mission to BNC for Gordon Arnold a Navy veteran.

\*Feb. 22nd...I met up with Ralph the area 3 VP to do the exchange of the rider’s cup for its next stop to Gene the area 5 VP.

\*Feb. 24th...I was honored to lead the PGR escort from Lancaster to LAX for one of our Air Force active-duty members Airman Lauren Delaney. To start her journey home to her family and her final resting place.

\*I will be having lunch Friday afternoon with Lino’s bride to talk about his funeral. She is looking at April for the service and escort. I will keep all informed on any future plans.

\*We have two chapters working on a poker run in April chapter 30 from area 6 and Chapter 262 from area 5. I know Gene has been working hard to get chapters from other areas to set up these cross over events and my thanks to him for that.

\*I have been asked by a few of my Ride Captains if the mileage has been reset or plans on resetting it for the next mileage cup.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. Quartermaster – Mike Clement

\*Have been getting patch orders out.

\*There has been a disconnect between ordering and the payments.

\*At the moment there are 4 chapters that have been invoiced and we are waiting on payment confirmations. Chapters 595, 742, 421 and 421.

\*New technology has just come out in the last month with the availability of getting reflective thread. It is a silver thread made by 3M. The top flare, that states the chapter number could be made out of this thread. I made up a sample and video and sent it to Rey. As soon as light hits it, it reflects. This will be safer riding at night. It does come at a price. Currently, top flares are $15. A reflective top flare would be $45.

\*It was asked if all new patches could have the stitching on the top flare out of this thread. It was stated that this needed to go to the Uniform Committee. If done, the price of a new patch would go from $85 to approximately $115.

\*Patch stated that name tags could be made using this thread also. Other major companies were ordering up the thread so Patch ordered a dozen spools for now.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*Rey’s email was hacked again. It looks like the hackers used the POC emails from the website. Those emails are now hidden and only a person who can sign in can see them.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*The Committee has recommended that the 2021 ALRDOC convention go virtual.

\*It could be held at Sanger with only the officers and select committee chairs present. All others would attend virtually.

\*Dates would be July 16, 17 & 18 or July 23, 24 & 25.

\*Rey stated that the DEC would meet Friday night and then Saturday would be approximately 3.5 hours and Sunday would be approximately 3 hours. We will use the same platform as the Legion uses.

\*Motion to move the 2021 American Legion Riders Department of California convention to a virtual platform in the wake of Hollister not being able to accommodate and moving the date from April 2021 to July 2021 with the DEC meeting in Sanger by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by unanimous vote of DEC.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

\*Thanks to Mark Rice for being on the call and answering questions about the bylaws.

\*Sending out monthly invites.

\*Debbie will take the PPC master list and update the members to Past President status on individual rosters.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

President Ruiz and Riders of California,

\*This past month has been the most challenging one I’ve ever had. The challenges being faced by Chapter 149 has brought to the surface a new issue. I’ve seen a lot of confusion arise as to how much a Post can control the Bylaws and activities of a Chapter. The District 22 and Post 149 Commanders and Post 149 Judge Advocate seem to feel they tell the Chapter that their Bylaws are out of order with the ALR Department Bylaws and that they can over-rule the administrative action of a Chapter. I disagree. I am in the process of working on this with The American-Department of California Judge Advocate to determine exactly where this may lay. This could very well have a bearing on the relationship of the Chapters with the Posts. I will report again on this next month. This clearly shows how important the bylaws are to both the Department and the Chapters.

\*The Charter of the American Legion National Constitution and By-laws states under United States Code Title 36, Chapter 217, Section 21704 Powers, subsection (5), “The corporation may provide guidance and leadership to organizations and local chapters established under paragraph (4) but may not control or otherwise influence the specific activities and conduct of such organizations and local chapters.”

* They initially vote to allow the Chapter to be Chartered by the ALR-DOC. The Post can vote to remove the Chapter.
* They can vote to have the Charter revoked by the ALR-DOC and seize their assets.
* They can review the bylaws before being put into full effect by the ALR JA.
* They can hold the Chapter accountable to the Principles and Bylaws of The American Legion.
* They can provide guidance and Leadership to the Chapter, but cannot interfere with the activities or operations of the Chapter as stated in United States Code Title 36, Chapter 217, Section 21704 Powers, subsection (5)
* They can have the Chapter report on its activities and financial resources to the Post EC and/or membership.

\*The Bylaw revisions have been forwarded to all Chapters and will be voted on at the upcoming Department Convention.

\*Currently, I am active in working with the Convention and Rides Commission in working to help secure a method and location for our Department Convention. They will be making their recommendations to the DEC.

\*Currently, I have been asked to provide administrative support to an issue where an ALR member was voted out of a chapter for cause in accordance with their Chapter Bylaws. Other than that, there are no other issues needing my attention that I am aware of at this time.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Having a hard time getting information from the VA. All VA’s are doing different things as far as the vaccine schedules. Have been contacting different VA’s to find out their schedules.

\*We have a lot of new members. Please make sure to tell them they need to file a claim with their VSO.

\*Leonard-There is an Urgent Care list out there to be used if you can’t get to a VA hospital. Leonard will send the link to George.

* 1. Safety Committee – Mike Killion

\*No reports of any accidents.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area 1** | | | |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **294** |  | 1 | 1 | | 14 | | | 1 | | | | 7.1% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **13** |  | 1 | 2 | | 10 | | | 1 | | | | 10.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 182 |  | 1 | 3 | | 6 | | | 1 | | | | 16.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 65 |  | 1 | 4 | | 13 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 37 |  | 1 | 5 | | 23 | | | 2 | | | | 8.7% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 6 |  | 1 | 6 | | 16 | | | 4 | | | | 25.0% | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 7 | | 10 | | | 4 | | | | 40.0% | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **92** | | | **13** | | | | **14.1%** | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Area 2** | | | |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **227** |  | 2 | 8 | | 10 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | | 8 | | | 2 | | | | 25.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 146 |  | 2 | 10 | | 15 | | | 1 | | | | 6.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 37 |  | 2 | 13 | | 13 | | | 1 | | | | 7.7% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 44 |  | 2 | 26 | | 7 | | | 1 | | | | 14.3% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 3 |  | 2 | 28 | | 12 | | | 4 | | | | 33.3% | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **65** | | | **9** | | | | **13.8%** | |  |  |
| **Area 3** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **400** |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **21** |  | 3 | 11 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 282 |  | 3 | 12 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 58 |  | 3 | 14 | | 23 | | | 6 | | | | 26.1% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 60 |  | 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 | | | 16 |  | 4 | 19 | | 22 | | | 1 | | | | 4.5% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 2 |  | 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** | | | **790** |  | 5 | 22 | | 29 | | | 8 | | | | 27.6% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | | 27 | | | 6 | | | | 22.2% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 511 |  | 5 | 29 | | 28 | | | 6 | | | | 21.4% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 140 |  | 5 | 30 | | 9 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 139 |  |  |  |  | **110** | | | **36** | | | | **32.7%** | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 33 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **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** | | |  | **2,039** | |  | **# ALR Chapters** | | | | | **96** | |
| # of Active Duty | | | 6 |  | # of Veterans | | |  | 1,351 | |  | # AL Post in CA | | | | | 460 | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL | |  |  | 358 | |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts | | | | | 21% | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX | |  |  | 318 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty | | | | 58 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Waiting on the rest of the hotel information.

\*Attended the District 13 meeting via Zoom.

\*Attended the Bennie ride.

* 1. Historian – Vacant
  2. Jr. Past President –representing, James Adames

\*Greetings everyone. Progress.

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No report is a good report.

* 1. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

\*The quilt is in progress. May take a little longer to finish as I have been busy. Will cost a small amount more for the quilter. Once done, I will put on the binding then tickets can be sold.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Support Team Patch update – Mike Smith

\*See Sergeant-At-Arms report.

1. **New Business**
   1. Historian Removal

\*Motion by Gene Hobdy to remove Mick Sobczak as Historian. 2nd by Fred Branson.

After much discussion it was decided that since Rey appointed the Historian position, he could just unappoint Mick. Gene rescinded the motion.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

Rider Everlasting-

John “Doc” Bart- Past Department Judge Advocate-Chapter 23, Sanger-February 25, 2021

Benny Alva-Chapter 20, Porterville-January 31, 2021

Carlos Sidebottom-Chapter 684, Ridgecrest-January 6, 2021

Ill-

Dennis Osorio-Chapter 69, Hollister-ill

Mike Cash-Chapter 684, Ridgecrest, infection

Robert Lassotovich, Chapter 20, Porterville, cancer

Wendell Wammack, President Chapter 26, Bakersfield, severe back issues

1. **Good of the Riders**

Ralph-Chapter 26 will be having their annual Veteran’s Memorial Run on April 3 at Post 26 in Bakersfield. There will be a spaghetti dinner on Friday night. Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite. SpringHill Suites has rooms blocked. Ask for the Veteran’s Memorial Run to get rooms for $99 per night.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 25 March 2021 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz