**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

April 22, 2021

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Monique Clemons
3. **Pause for MIA** - President Rey Ruiz
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Vice President Fred Branson
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;

**Jr Past**-Mick Sobczak;

**Safety Officer**-Mike Killion;

**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;

**Area 5 VP-**Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Dave Corbin

**Guests:** A5 Alt VP Larry Brandt; A6 Alt VP Cris Molina; PP Jim Banakus; PP Steve Weber;

Chapter 108 VP Steve Gast

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – March 25, 2021

Motion to approve the March 25, 2021 minutes as electronically transmitted by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

Total Debits $166,802.75

Total Deposits $125,087.78

Current Balance $31,720.45

Actual Bank Balance (statement 04/27/2021) $31,546.86

State Bank Account $50,000.00

PayPal account (State) $17,953.58

Total Balance $99,674.03

\*Profiles for the Secretary and Treasurer were sent to Wells Fargo. Should have debit cards soon. Leonard explained that there are already Squares to use with no fees attached so we won’t need to purchase the Clover Go.

\*Motion to accept the Finance report as given pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

President’s Report April 22, 2021

* April 3 – Attended a Birthday Parade for 107-year-old 3 Star General Harry E. Goldsworthy
* April 5 – Attended the Legacy Run Call
* April 6 – Attended the State Rally meeting
* April 8 – Attended PGR Mission for George Santoyo jr. 73 USMC
* April 9 – Attended PGR Mission for Leroy J. Martinez US Army
* April 10 – Attended Memorial service in Sanger for John “Doc” Bart
* April 11 – Attended Chapter 595 Perris Mama Dee Breakfast
* April 17 – Attended Chapter 262 Fontana Poker Run
* April 18 – Attended Chapter 262 Fontana Breakfast
* April 19 – Attended Services for Lino Torres at Post/Chapter 311 Lancaster to BNC

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

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

\*Riding season has begun in the north of the state.

\*Attended Doc Bart’s and Lino Torres’ memorial services.

\*May is poppy month. Work with your post to distribute poppies for donations.

1. **Sgt. At Arms Report** – Mike Smith
2. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*DEC and committee chairs, if possible, please email your report to me.

\*All areas are clear for convention.

\*Event logging started April 1, 2021 and runs to March 31, 2022. Debbie will send out an information sheet which explains what can be logged and a log sheet to the Area VPs. These sheets need to be passed on to the chapter POCs in your area.

\*Rey has asked that the consolidated end of year report for each area be in to the Secretary no later than May 15.

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

\*Area is opening up and riders are getting out to ride. Eating is allowed inside now.

\*Chapter 28 and my chapter have been riding.

\*Attended Doc Bart’s service. He was quite a guy.

\*Attended a funeral for a rider’s wife later that day.

\*Good weather = more riding.

\*My back and hip have been hurting and I will have an MRI soon.

\*Got the paperwork in for Clearlake.

\*Did a ride to the Sacramento Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial on Vietnam Veteran’s day.

1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

\*Area is opening up, weather permitting.

\*Attended Doc Bart’s memorial. Honored to be there.

\*Attended the funeral for Ryan Sparks.

\*Posts are opening up, vaccinations are going on, can have food inside.

\*Activities are starting up.

\*Stay involved with and in your post.

1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

\*March 29 – Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony at the Portrait of a Warrior

Gallery, Bakersfield

\*April 5 – California Legacy Run committee call

\*April 9 – Two birthday ride-by parades for WWII and Korean War veterans.

\*April 10 – John “Doc” Bart Celebration of Life at American Legion Headquarters,

Sanger (We had 2 groups from Area 3 converge on Sanger – 40 plus Riders)

\*April 17 – Ride to Estrella Warbirds Air Museum with Chapters 20, 3 and 26

\*April 19 – Services for Lino Torres, late Area 6 VP, at Bakersfield National

Cemetery

\*April 19 - California Legacy Run committee call

\*Ongoing - Weekly escorts of recruits leaving for military services from the

Bakersfield Armed Forces Recruiting Center

\*Chapter Activities

\*San Joaquin Valley counties continue to move from red to orange tiers. I expect as

it does, more Chapters will be out riding besides funeral escorts.

\*Chapter 20 – Porterville will be holding their “Motorcycle Cannonball” fundraiser

ride on Saturday, May 8, starting and ending at the Terra Bella Veterans Memorial

building, 23941 Avenue 95, Terra Bella (off Hwy 65). There will be four

checkpoints. Activities and prizes at each stop. Registration starts at 8:00 AM; first

bike out at 9:30 AM. Cost is $25 solo / $35 two-up includes lunch.

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

\*Opening up. Lots of meals and riding scheduled.

\*3/22 went to the Chapter 519 chili cookoff.

\*4/3 chapter 579 had an open mic. Very successful. Money raised went to the MARINO Valley Pony League.

\*4/10 attended Doc Bart’s services.

\*4/11 went to Mama Dee’s posole breakfast.

\*4/17 First Area combination Poker Run with Ch 30 Pomona A6 and Ch 262 Fontana A5.

\*Attended Lino’s memorial.

\*Ed Baddeley from San Jacinto is out of the hospital. He will be moving to Washington.

\*Ch 421-Dave had neck surgery.

\*Ch 574-Mike Yirka is up and around.

\*6/19-Area 5 Safety Course at Ch 328 Norco.

\*Got a call from Sandy at D29 asking for donations for baseball.

\*Paperwork for Brawley is in.

\* Working on getting 3 chapters to be District 25.

1. Area 6 VP – Dave Corbin

\* Area 6 is finally opening up and I am hearing more and more chapters are finally getting together for meeting and group rides.

\*March 27th...post 311and the riders hosted a food drive for local veterans.

\*April 1st- I attended a meeting with a local WW11 hero to work on a book signing event for him to be held at our post.

\*April 5th- Took part in a PGR mission out of Tehachapi to BNC.

\*April 17th- I road along with 311 to the area 5 and 6 poker run...I also won high hand.

\*April 19th- we had the ALR/PGR escort for our brother Lino Torres. The family wants me to let everyone know just how honored they were with the great turn out for their family and Lino. The 311 riders want to thank each and every one that took the time to come and support our brother as well.

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

\*Been a tough month. The website was attacked by malware. Will be doing maintenance

over the next few months.

\*I will be retiring and we need to start looking for a company to take over the website.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*No response from the company for convention.

\*Mick-Is there a possibility of having an in-person convention? Ralph is looking into seeing if Fresno could be used for DEC only. All others would join virtually.

Rey-Rally is coming along. Have a meeting coming up. Most everything is planned out. Doing finalizations.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

\*No meeting this month as I had my 2nd vaccine and was down for a few days.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

President Ruiz and Riders of California,

This past month things have quieted down some from the previous 3 months. Right now, my focus will be on a resolution for one more amendment to be Department Bylaw vote at convention. It will be released prior to the convention. At this point I’ve received no feedback or requests to the revision to the Bylaws. I have started work on revamping the Bylaws Sample that we’ll be using after we pass the new Bylaws in July so it will be available following convention. I am also looking at developing some resource material to help Chapters with their Bylaws and Amendments.

I have been working in the background helping with the planning of the Convention in July. President Rey Ruiz, Sgt-at-Arms Mike Smith, and I were at Sanger on April 10th for Doc Bart’s celebration of life and took a look at the HQ facility in preparation of the same. We should have no problem conducting the Convention virtually from there. I have confirmed that the Department is currently upgrading their Wi-Fi access to help accommodate more bandwidth for both conventions. I will be involved with the AL Department Convention and will have a good idea of any potential problems that we can solve in advance.

I’ve started to sit in on some of the more critical committee meetings such as Conventions and Legacy Run to become more familiar with the inner operations of the Department. I hope to do more in the coming year should I be retained as the Department Judge Advocate.

There are no other issues pending that I am aware of at this time.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Have been trying to get the word out of all the changes at the VA.

\*Please send in anything you think should be sent out.

* 1. Safety Committee – Mike Killion

\*Chapter 200’s President had an accident. Haven’t gotten a report yet.

\*Area 5 safety course is coming up.

* 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 | | | 181 |  | 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** | | | **230** |  | 2 | 8 | | 10 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | | 8 | | | 2 | | | | 25.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 148 |  | 2 | 10 | | 15 | | | 1 | | | | 6.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 38 |  | 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** | | | **796** |  | 5 | 22 | | 29 | | | 8 | | | | 27.6% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | | 27 | | | 6 | | | | 22.2% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 510 |  | 5 | 29 | | 28 | | | 6 | | | | 21.4% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 142 |  | 5 | 30 | | 9 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 144 |  |  |  |  | **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** | | |  | **2,048** | |  | **# ALR Chapters** | | | | | **96** | |
| # of Active Duty | | | 6 |  | # of Veterans | | |  | 1,351 | |  | # AL Post in CA | | | | | 460 | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL | |  |  | 361 | |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts | | | | | 21% | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX | |  |  | 323 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty | | | | 58 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Working on the website.

\*Working on the day 2 lunch stop.

* 1. Historian – OPEN
  2. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

\*The VA is giving away iPads for those veterans that meet criteria. Contact your primary and social worker.

\*I am a member of Chapter 53 Hemet.

\*The Commander at Post 53 received an email chastising him for accepting me.

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No report.

* 1. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

\*The quilt will be complete as of Sunday. The quilting is very detailed with patriotic symbols.

\*I will be contacting Rey about tickets.

\*There will be a celebration of life for Dennis on May 8 from 2-4pm at the Merced Post.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Debit Card Update – Debbie and/or Leonard

\*See Finance report.

* 1. Delegate & Per-Capita update – Debbie Proffitt

\*All Areas are clear for convention.

1. **New Business**
   1. Convention Cost, is there an amount we want allocate?
   2. Convention Liaison – Ken Sutton, Fred Branson, Mark Rice
      1. so, what do we need to do in order to have our virtual convention? As for break out rooms we'll need one for:
      2. Area 1
      3. Area 2
      4. Area 3
      5. Area 4
      6. Area 5
      7. Area 6
      8. Resolutions Committee
      9. DEC
      10. Open room A
      11. Open room B
      12. Delegate links say 400 individual or if we have the chapter/district delegates sit together we'll only need say 100 links.
      13. Hotel
      14. Coffee, water, juice & snacks Saturday & Sunday
      15. Lunch delivered on Saturday
      16. Need ability to be recorded so minutes can be done.
      17. Commissioners need to be able to meet.
   3. Voting on proposed Chapter 30 Brawley

Motion to accept Chapter 30, Brawley, in /area 5 as the 96th chapter by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by voted of DEC with Mick opposed due to bylaws.

* 1. Voting on proposed Chapter 437 Clearlake

Motion to accept Chapter 437, Clearlake, in Area 1 as the 97th chapter by Bob Perryman. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC with Mick opposed due to bylaws.

* 1. Three-day event/ride California, Nevada & possibly Arizona – Gene Hobdy

\*May be California, Arizona, Utah and Nevada. Would be October 20-22, 2021.

Rey appointed Gene the chair of a committee to look into getting more information.

* 1. REMINDER….. NEW applications for Chapters/Districts are to be submitted to the Department President & Secretary 7 days prior to the monthly DEC call. The Department Secretary will distribute to the DEC Members.

1. **Sick / Memorial**
   1. Bill “Gimp” Willis Chapter 684 Ridgecrest Rider Everlasting 04/14/2021
   2. David Vogel Chapter 88 Turlock Rider Everlasting 04/16/2021
   3. Randy Boggs Chapter 26 Bakersfield Rider Everlasting 03/28/2021

**Rider Everlasting list will be extended until May 31 for this year.**

1. **Good of the Riders**

\*Ralph- Tentatively, the next Area 3 President’s Meeting will be on May 22, 2021, in person at

Chapter 3 – Hanford. As soon as this date is confirmed, email invites will go out.

\*On Legion.org there is an article titled “Rider’s chapter not monkeying around. This is chapter

852 and their quest for the 100 miles for hope. Mike Killion and others are mentioned.

\*Ralph-Tomorrow will be the last time I will be riding for a while. I will be having knee

replacement surgery.

\*Cris-On June 5th the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association will be having a D-Day Poker Run.

Will be at the DAV in Woodland Hills. Will post information.

\*Rey-The CVMA 33I will now be meeting at Post 328.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 27 May 2021 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:30pm