**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

June 24, 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** - 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**-Mark Rice;

**Jr Past**-Mick Sobczak;AB

**Safety Officer**-Mike Killion; AB

**Service Officer**-George Smith;  EX

**Webmaster/Public Relations**-Jim Oxley; EX

**Quartermaster**-Mike Clement;  

**Membership/ Legacy Run** -Rochelle Billet-Smith;

**Convention & Rally/PPC**-Ken Sutton;

**Ways and Means-**Kathleen McClary;EX

**Historian-**Vacant

**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:** A5 Alt VP Larry Brandt; Cory Wattenbarger-Ch 221; A5 Commissioner Tracy Dalton; Bob Atchley-Ch 20.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – May 27, 2021

Motion to accept the May 27, 2021 minutes as electronically transmitted by Ignacio Alvarez. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips
2. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* Attended calls with Legacy Committee
* June 6th attended the District 21 meeting
* June 11th – 13th attended the California Legacy Run
* June 19th attended Chapter 30 Pomona’s Breakfast
* June 19th attended the Area 5 Motorcycle Safety Training
* June 19th attended Proposed Chapter 180 Azusa’s Brisket competition cook out
* June 21st 100th Birthday Parade for John Dupuis

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

\*Chapters are starting to get their ducks in a row. Starting to meet in person again.

\*Attended the North state Inter Motorcycle show.

\*Attended the California Legacy Run. Lesson-Invite other clubs such as the Combat Vets, VFW MC, VFW riders, DAV riders, etc.

\*Chapters need to start having membership drives at their posts.

\*I won’t be running for ALRDOC Vice President again. I’m grateful for the time I’ve had here and the opportunity to serve,

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

5/31 Memorial Day/Avenue of the Flags

* Worked from 5/29 to 5/31 for set-up and break down

CA Legacy Run

* June 10 traveled to Norco Chapter 328
* June 11 to 13 CA Legacy Run
* Our JA, Mark Rice, was given his new road name; Tumbleweed. Mark took what could have been a nasty fall, but rolled with the fall like a pro, needing little to no help in recovering. The offending tumbleweed was apprehended and remanded to the proper authorities.

Flag Day

* June 14 Flag Day Ceremony with my Post.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Certification of Officers is due July 31.

\*Please email me your monthly DEC reports. Thank you to those who are doing this.

\*Had a great time on the 2nd Annual California Legacy Run.

\*Convention-each Area VP will need to make sure the Alt VPs have copies of each chapter’s delegate reports to be able to certify the delegates. Black berets and ALR vests are to be worn at **all times** for delegates on Zoom at convention, whether Zooming in from a meeting place or at home.

\*Please email me the report you will be giving at the DEC convention.

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

\*6/1-Conducted the Fort Bragg Chapter officer installation.

\*6/9-Conducted the Placerville Chapter installation. They are becoming more active.

\*Post/Chapter 521 had a Grand Reopening this weekend.

\*Chapter 28 has been busy with various ceremonies and is raffling off a rifle.

\*Chapter 620 had a recruitment day.

\*Bill Bryant at Chapter 119 has raised $10,000 through Helmets for Heroes.

\*Post 74 will be having a beer wagon raffle on July 4th.

\*Attended the California Legacy Run with Mark and Fred.

\*On Memorial Day there were lots of activities with multiple Chapters and at multiple locations.

\*Will be conducting an Area 1 President’s meeting before convention.

1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

\*Chapters were active in Memorial Day activities.

\*6/8-There was a stand down.

\*6/12-Post 31 hosted the dinner for the California Legacy Run and also had a band.

\*More activities are starting up.

1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

\*Due to my partial knee replacement surgery on May 5 and on-going recovery, my activities have been curtailed. I expect to be off my motorcycle until at least sometime in July.

\*May 31 – Spoke on behalf of David Fletcher, Rider Everlasting from Chapter 26, at Camp Hamilton Veterans Memorial Park tree dedication.

\*June 5 – Participated in set up for California Legacy Run set up at Post 328 – Norco.

\*June 8 – Conducted installation at Chapter 221 – Tehachapi.

\*June 11 to 13 – California Legacy Run.

\*June 19 – Transported mascot of CLR “Lil Cash” to Tehachapi to be transferred to Mike Cash.

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

\*Attended usual breakfast & poker runs.

\*Have been calling chapters to check in for questions or issues before the convention. Pushing to get the COO'S in.

\*Memorial Day - Attended services in Indio at the Coachella Valley Cemetery & the War Memorial Cemetery Rancho Cucamonga.

\*June 6th fund raiser BBQ for Final Honor's. Horse drawn coach that does free services for veterans on Wed. at Mira Mar.  Over $18,000 raised.

\*Started paper work for two chapters - 299 Chino & 428 Banning. Hope to vote in next month.

\*On June 10th, night before Legacy Run went to Chap. 180 Chino - Started paper work for new chapter. Helping Area 6 VP David Corbin.

\*June 11th - June 13th did Legacy Run

\*June 17th - Did ALR Escort of the 9/11 memorial from Palm Desert to Perris. Last minute request w/ 10 bikes showing up.

\*June 19th had Area 5 Safety Course - Then went to Post 180 Azusa for BBQ competition fundraiser to support Chapter & Post.

\*Will be at Chap 460 Poker Run this Sat. & Chap 132 breakfast this Sunday.

1. Area 6 VP – Dave Corbin

\*May 31st..I took part in two Memorial Day events in town...at the Lancaster Cemetery and Joshua Cemetery.

\*June 2nd...I did a PGR escort here in Lancaster for a WW11 veteran Thomas Conroy. We did a birthday ride by last summer and he remembered us and wanted us to escort him and we were honored to do so.

\*June 3rd... did a PGR escort out of Tehachapi to BNC.

\*June 5th...went to post 507 meeting and the final vote for officers.

\*June 19th. went to the reopening BBQ at post 311 to welcome all the members back as the post is open.

\*June 22nd... took part in the post 311/Vets4Veterans meeting for upcoming Fiesta party.

\*As of now we have two posts have offered to host the zoom meeting for area 6. Post 790 West Covina and Post 211 Lompoc. The word will be sent out and hopefully the post will make arrangements to be at one of the two chapters. I will be working with both posts as well to make sure it goes well.

\*My room is booked for the convention.

\*Cris-Attended the Firehose Memorial Ride and the CVMA D Day Poker Run.

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

\*Slow month in June. Have had orders for 7 Veteran, 5 Squadron and 6 Auxiliary patches.

There are 2 orders outstanding for Chapters 460 and 108. Ken Sutton stated Chapter 108 had paid and had the receipt.

\*POCs need to learn how to navigate the website.

\*I apologize about the Legacy Run pins. They are lost somewhere in customs. The company will send more.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*The website update went well. Everything is working.

\*I have been working on our outgoing emails problem. Part of the problem was the number of emails we send at one time, about 2000. When you send so many emails at one time, they think they might be spam. To fix this problem I created email queue that holds all of the emails and sends 500 each hour until that are all sent. That way only 500 emails are sent at one time.

Hopefully that way they will not be flagged as spam. If needed I can turn it down to 250 emails being sent each hour. In the last week I saw that Rey sent 2 emails to 2000 members each.

As far as I can tell everything is working OK.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

No report.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

\*Still hoping for more participation but attendance is growing.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

Most of my focus this past month has been with working of preparing for the American Legion Department Convention. Work on the ALR Documents has slowed, but all will be available for the ALR Convention in July. I am in Sanger for the AL Convention and will be taking notes on techniques, issues, and potential pitfalls. I will also be talking with the Department Adjutant about our Convention. One thing we need to do is to have some training made available prior to our Convention so that delegates officers can become familiar with hope things are going to be handled.

This past month I received bylaws for two Chapters applying for a charter out of Area 5. Both were returned for rewrites due to errors.

Due to a couple of concerns, I looked at the rules for the Facebook page for the American Legion Riders - California. I am concerned that members may be blocked by a page administrator/moderator if they are personally blocked from the member’s personal page. The only time anyone in the Department should have a concern about what a person is posting on their page is when it can cause some for of harm to other member’s safety or the reputation of The American Legion or the American Legion Riders. If a person. Is doing harm in any way then it should become a matter for discipline under the bylaws or the Department Trial Manual. I am requesting the ALR-DOC maintain some level of administrative control over Social Media Pages using the name or representation of the American Legion Riders of the Department of California. I also recommend that rule 10. *“Blocking Admins or Moderators is cause for removal”* be removed from the American Legion Riders California Facebook page.

I attend the Legacy Run a couple of weekends back and found it to be a first-class event that raised a lot of money. I hope to join the planning team for next year to help draw more support out of Northern California. I will be attending the American Legion Department convention this week as well as the National Convention in August.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith
  2. Safety Committee – Mike Killion
  3. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*5/31-Attended a tree dedication at Camp Hamilton.

\*6/8-Attended the officer’s installation at Chapter 221.

\*The number of members is trickling down.

\*Think of different ways your chapter can reach out. Possible all chapters could have an open house in the Fall.

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*The Legacy Run was June 11-13. There were no accidents, no medical issues and only one mechanical issue. Thank you to Posts 328, 716, 741, 50 and 31 for the great meals and hospitality. Thank you, Ignacio, for the great band, we had fun in the Conga line.

\*It took the first 2 days for all the riders to get used to riding with each other. By day three the platoon riding formations were awesome.

\*Bidding for the California Legacy Run mascot, Lil Cash, was held the evening of day 2.

\*Not as many riders this year.

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

No report is a good report.

* 1. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

\*I will order quilt tickets on Monday, just need info on where to send invoice and how many they want ordered to start with. If there are any questions, people can call me after 0900 tomorrow.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Have all Area VP’s set up a couple location to gather for convention? If so, what are the locations?

Area 1-Working to have each chapter come in on a Zoom link as the area is so spread out.

Area 2- Have Post 105. Looking to see if it would be possible to also have Post 69 or/and District 28 host.

Area 3-Is good.

Area 4-Will get with Patrick.

Area 5-Is good.

Area 6- Working on it.

* 1. Quilt tickets, will be have them in Sanger to distribute to Area VP’s.

1. **New Business**
   1. California Legacy Run during the 3-day ride raised $17,654 in Donations, Merchandise & Auction. The final numbers aren’t in yet as to what the Department of California will be presenting to the National Commander in Phoenix.

\*Ignacio stated that the Chapter had been gifted 4 quilts and would like them to be used for a raffle, etc. He will bring them to convention and Rey will take them to be used at Rally.

* 1. Rider Everlasting ceremony – we have 67 Riders being added from 2019, 2020 & 2021. So, what do we do?
     1. Read all names and respond to each name?
     2. Read all names by year and respond once at the conclusion of the names for the year?
     3. Read all names by year and respond once at the conclusion of all names being read for the three (3) years?

I will have one streamer made for each year 2019, 2020 & 2021 with the names of Riders that passed in that year.

\*Ralph suggested that the names be read from each area and there would be a response after each area. This idea was met with agreement.

\*Motion to conduct the Rider Everlasting ceremony by area with one response by the Sergeant At Arms after each area reading by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Dave Corbin. Passed by vote of DEC.

\*Zoom-Ralph hasn’t been able to set it up yet. Rey will send out the paperwork for the convention on Monday.

\*Rooms for the convention will be at the Best Western. Each person must book their own room.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

None reported.

1. **Good of the Riders**

\*Bob-Will not be Area 1 VP next year.

\*Rey-Mick had wanted to have 100 chapters by the Legion’s 100th year. It took us an extra 2 years but we will be voting in 3 chapters at the Pre convention DEC meeting bringing us to 100.

Would rather have quality chapters than look for quantity.

Ralph- Will be looking into interest in establishing a chapter at Post 124 – Delano.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 16 July 2021 1800 or 6:00 PM @ Sanger, CA.
2. **Benediction** – Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:22pm