**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes Pre Convention**

July 16, 2021

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz @ 6pm
2. **Invocation** – Fred Branson
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; AB

**Judge Advocate**-Mark Rice;

**Jr Past**-Mick Sobczak;

**Safety Officer**-Mike Killion;

**Service Officer**-George Smith; AB

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

**Quartermaster**-Mike Clement; EX 

**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;  AB

**Area 5 VP-**Gene Hobdy;           **Area 6 VP**-Dave Corbin

**Guests:** Area 5 Alt VP Larry Brandt; Area 6 Alt VP Cris Molina; Michelle Wattenbarger ch 221; Cory Wattenbarger ch 221; James Davis ch 221; Area 5 Alt VP John Smartt; PP Jim Banakus; Robert Partlow P ch 416; Alex Loser T ch 709; Parliamentarian & PP James Adames; Sam Flores; Art Odom P ch 716.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – June 24, 2021

Motion to approve the June 24, 2021 minutes as electronically transmitted by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total Debits | $181,640.47 |
| Total Deposits | $149,774.31 |
|  |  |
| Current Balance | $41,569.26 |
| Actual Bank Balance (statement 11/19/2020) | $38,355.68 |
| State Bank Account | $50,000.00 |
| PayPal account (State) | $20,454.07 |
| PayPal account (Legacy) | $0.00 |
| Total Balance | $108,809.75 |

All monies have been deposited. Looking at August 1 being the date to turn over all monies from the old bank account to the state account.

Motion to accept the Finance Report as given by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* Well, here we are finally, never would I have thought that
  + I would be the longest (1) term President 26 months 2 weeks and 13 days
  + Possibly the shortest-term President roughly 8-9 months (if re-elected)
  + AND the last President to be elected (if re-elected)
* It has been a rollercoaster ride these past 26 months. WE for the most part survived and almost everyone is gearing up for a promising year. I want to thank everyone that served in one capacity or another within your Department, Area, District, Post, Unit, Detachment and/or Chapter. Remember, we as American Legion Riders only exist

because we are members of the American Legion FIRST!

I want to thank all who served on the DEC these past 26 months. Without your dedication we could not have gotten here. In the next term there will be new faces on this panel. At the Post DEC, I will make recommendations for appointments I would be grateful to have your support on the ratification of these appointments.

Should I be elected for a 2nd term on Sunday, you can expect more of the same and then some. Open communication between the membership and the DEC. WE work for the membership, I have sent out the DEC Agenda and Minutes to the members monthly. There are many of our members that are grateful to receive them and a few that want to be removed from the list. That’s OK, information is the key to success. WE need to encourage feedback from the membership It won’t always be positive. Take it with a grain of salt, bad criticism is an opportunity for improvement.

Those of you that no longer will be on the DEC, please make a clean transition with those coming in. Help to mentor them, don’t tell them how you did the job, everyone works differently, let them know what worked for you and what didn’t They will determine how to run with it. Be available to them for guidance and support.

Thank you all for a great 26-month term.

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

We have opportunity to start building posts and chapters

Revitalization at posts late third quarter/early fourth quarter

Work with multiple posts in your district; make sure all are asking post 1000 members if they are also potential riders. Invite them to riders’ meetings.

Community events are also available

If any posts/chapters are interested in a Four Chaplains service, contact me. We are doing our third service in February. The legion owns the ceremony, different churches host it. Some great word of mouth for attending.

Attend your district meetings and ask for a few minutes to upsell the benefits of sponsoring a chapter. It’s the best way to show your non-sponsoring posts what we do and how we can help.

Final time to say this: find a flagpole that you can use to raise a flag on significant dates. Write a letter to the editor about what you are doing. We have a weekly newspaper here that publishes our letters and we get a lot of mileage out of that.

Raffles are a great way to put a face on what we do. Riders and posts can work together to set up tables for poppy drives and raffles. We are there to help our community and we do this best when our community supports us.

I am available at fbransonalr96@gmail.com. If you have ideas that can be shared, please reach out to me. I appreciate all your support the past two years.

Thank you for all you do

For God and Country

Fred Branson

Dept Vice President

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

It has been my greatest honor to be the ALRDOC Sergeant At Arms. I have traveled our great state and met so many of you. Thank you all for this great experience. Be safe and keep the shiny side up.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

Been working on getting everything squared away for convention.

After convention I will send out a list of chapter obligations for the year along with due dates and who to send them to. These will go to the Area VPs and chapter POCs.

Delegate reports continue to come in after being changed.

I ask that all committee chairs and Area VPs please email their convention reports to me.

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

No report

1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

Area 2 has been supporting escorts and drive-by celebrations.

Chapters have been doing veteran escorts, flag lines, Honor Our Fallen dedication, Flag day ceremonies, Memorial Day rides, Community Awareness and PGR escorts.

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.

July 5 – California Legacy Run meeting

July 8 – Practice Zoom meeting for ALRDOC Convention

July 11 – Armed Forces Support Foundation Fundraiser

July 12 – California Legacy Run Meeting

1. Area 4 VP – Patrick Gadut

1. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

Started 3 new Chapters 299 Chino – 428 Banning – 180 Azusa (helped Dave Corbin)

Sat. 6/26 - Attended 10th annual Poker Run – Chap. 460 San Diego

Attended motorcycle rodeo – Chap. 262 Fontana

Sat. 7/3 – Attended Purple Heart Ceremony for WWII Marine Veteran who died at the battle of Peleliu at Chapter 289 Riverside.

Sun. 7/4 – Attended 4th of July Parade in Moreno valley with Ch 574

Fri. 7/9 – Attended Bike/Burger night at Chap. 555 Midway.

Sat. 7/10 Attended Chapter meeting of 804 E. L.A. – Worked on co-operation between the Areas.

Wed. 7/14 – Attended Dist. 29 District Commander Installation

Have been very busy finishing up on the 3 locations for the ALR Convention. Being sure all delegates have been brought up to speed on the procedures.

1. Area 6 VP – Dave Corbin

June 26th…Took part in the Veterans food give away with Vets4Veterans in Lancaster.

June 27th…Attended the installation of Officers for post 311.

June 30th…Attended the E-board meeting for the 311 Riders

July 5th…Attended a celebration of life for an Army brothers baby girl that sadly had drowned.

July 7th…Attended the Vets4Veterans meeting in Palmdale Ca.

July 15th…Attended the Vets4Veterans outreach program to talk about the American Legion riders and the PGR.

July 16th…Presented a check $3000 to Vets4Veterans from the 311 riders for their training program for local veterans.

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

Numbers are down for the last year.

All orders, from ordering to shipping, is averaging 9 days.

Have had no complaints over the last year.

Only one person wouldn’t use the online ordering.

Disappointed that the Legacy Run pins got lost and had to be reordered.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

Email send outs from officers seem to be working. Have had no kickbacks or returned emails.

All going ok.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

All things have been set for convention and rally. As far as rally goes, I have been working tirelessly to make sure that the word is out for the rally in Norco in September.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

We are still hoping for better attendance but are making headway. We are still helping out with current and incoming officer training on a regular basis.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

President Ruiz and Riders of California,

Most of my focus this past month has been with working of preparing for the American Legion Department Convention. I did some research on some things so I could give some good answers at the convention:

NEC Resolution 5: Resolution 19 was replaced with Resolution 5-2021. In short, tittles do have to be changed. I cleared it with the National ALR Advisory Committee how we are approaching it through our bylaws, and it is acceptable to him. All those who have served as a President at any time will still retain the title Past President.

Flair Resolution for Convention: I have been unable to find any other Department that is doing what is proposed in the resolution. Florida was cited as an example, but they way they are doing is is different from this resolution. Theirs are added on in a non-touching fashion and many variations are used.

I attended the TAL-DOC Convention in Sanger as the Constitution and Bylaws Commission Chairman. I was able to pass along some of the pitfalls in conducting a virtual convention to the ALR Convention Committee.

I have been preparing for the presentation of the ALR-DOC Bylaws revision and have completed a new Sample Set of Chapter Bylaws which will be available soon after the convention. I’m asking some Riders to read them first and send me some feedback before making them available in general. I hope to have a Bylaws Writing Guide available soon as well. Work has begun on that.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith
  2. Safety Committee – Mike Killion

No report.

* 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 | | | 177 |  | 1 | 3 | | 6 | | | 1 | | | | 16.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 71 |  | 1 | 4 | | 13 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 35 |  | 1 | 5 | | 23 | | | 2 | | | | 8.7% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 5 |  | 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** | | | **220** |  | 2 | 8 | | 10 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | | 8 | | | 2 | | | | 25.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 143 |  | 2 | 10 | | 15 | | | 1 | | | | 6.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 34 |  | 2 | 13 | | 13 | | | 1 | | | | 7.7% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 43 |  | 2 | 26 | | 7 | | | 1 | | | | 14.3% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 3 |  | 2 | 28 | | 12 | | | 4 | | | | 33.3% | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **65** | | | **9** | | | | **13.8%** | |  |  |
| **Area 3** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **384** |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **21** |  | 3 | 11 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 271 |  | 3 | 12 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 54 |  | 3 | 14 | | 23 | | | 6 | | | | 26.1% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 59 |  | 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** | | | **828** |  | 5 | 22 | | 29 | | | 8 | | | | 27.6% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | | 27 | | | 6 | | | | 22.2% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 530 |  | 5 | 29 | | 28 | | | 6 | | | | 21.4% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 148 |  | 5 | 30 | | 9 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 150 |  |  |  |  | **110** | | | **36** | | | | **32.7%** | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 32 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **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** | | |  | **2,054** | |  | **# ALR Chapters** | | | | | **96** | |
| # of Active Duty | | | 7 |  | # of Veterans | | |  | 1,351 | |  | # AL Post in CA | | | | | 460 | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL | |  |  | 365 | |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts | | | | | 21% | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX | |  |  | 325 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty | | | | 57 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

**California Scholarship Run-2019**

1. 48 Riders
2. Raised $ 23,706.06
3. No accidents, no medical issues, mechanical breakdown

**California Legacy Run-2021**

1. 31 Riders
2. Raised $17, 791.94, check to be presented August 26,2021 in Phoenix, Arizona at The American Legion Legacy Run
3. No accidents, no medical issues, one mechanical issue, bike placed on trailer pulled by chase vehicle.

**California Legacy Run-2022**

1. Dates, June 10th,2022 through June 12th, 2022
2. Two Routes, Northern & Southern, Riders to meet on Day 2 & ride together on Day 3
3. Website, donation button still available for donations

Registration for 2022 to be available December 1st, 2021

Rochelle gave patches to all the Area VPs.

She also gave new road name patches to Mike Smith-Tripod; Donny Brannon-AAA and Mark

Rice-Tumbleweed.

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

Progress

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman
  2. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

No report.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Area VPs are we set up at designated locations for convention?

All Area VPs in attendance replied in the affirmative.

* 1. Quilt tickets, do we have them to distribute to Area VP’s?

There was a glitch in ordering the quilt tickets. The information had to be reset. Ten thousand tickets will be available in 2 weeks. I will divide and package them for the area VPs. /the quilt will be at convention tomorrow.

1. **New Business**
   1. California Legacy Run our donations will be $17,791.94 that the Department of California will be presenting to the National Commander in Phoenix.
   2. Motion & Voting of proposed Area 5 Chapter 299 Chino our 98th Chapter

Motion to accept Chapter 299, Chino, as the ALRDOC’s 98th chapter by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Motion & Voting of proposed Area 5 Chapter 428 Banning our 99th Chapter

Motion to accept Chapter 428, Banning, as the ALRDOC’s 99th chapter by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Motion & Voting of proposed Area 6 Chapter 180 Azusa our 100th Chapter

Motion to accept Chapter 180, Azusa, as the ALRDOC’s 100th chapter by Dave Corbin. 2nd by Mick Sobczak. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Appoint James Adames as Parliamentarian for convention.

Dec voted for approval of James Adames as convention Parliamentarian.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

Rider Everlasting- Steve Bridgman President, Chapter 872 – Hughson, July 4 from a stroke.

1. **Good of the Riders**

Ralph Wenzinger- Exploring establishing Chapter at Post 124 – Merle Reed, Delano

Cris Molina gave a shout out to Quartermaster Mike Clements for getter here a beret in a very timely fashion after she had lost hers. Great service.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 26 August 2021 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** – Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 6:40pm