**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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**14th Annual American Legion Riders**

**Department of California Convention**

**July 16-18, 2021, Sanger, California**

**Minutes**

**Saturday July 17, 2021 @ 8:55am**

• Called to order @ 8:55am

• Pledge of Allegiance

• Chaplain invocation- ALRDOC Vice President Fred Branson

• POW/MIA Ceremony

• Preamble to the ALR Constitution was read by all.

For God and Country, we associate ourselves as members of the American Legion Family, constituting the American Legion Riders for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain Law and Order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in All Wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the Master of Might;

To promote Peace and Goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;

To participate in parades and other ceremonies which are in keeping with the aims and purposes of the American Legion;

To promote motorcycle safety education programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion Family members with the same motorcycle interests;

To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

• Roll Call of Officers- Yellow denotes presence

**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;

**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

• Roll Call of Chapters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AREA 1** |  |
| **28** | **Petaluma** |
| **77** | **Woodland** |
| **84** | **Auburn** |
| **96** | **Fort Bragg** |
| **111** | **Healdsburg** |
| **119** | **Placerville** |
| **130** | **Grass Valley** |
| **163** | **Alturas** |
| **233** | **Elk Grove** |
| **383** | **Fair Oaks** |
| **437** | **Clearlake** |
| **521** | **Rio Linda** |
| **587** | **Foresthill** |
| **620** | **Rocklin** |
| **709** | **Rancho Cordova** |
| **AREA 2** |  |
| **31** | **Salinas** |
| **69** | **Hollister** |
| **82** | **San Mateo** |
| **105** | **Redwood City** |
| **202** | **Brentwood** |
| **694** | **Marina** |
| **D9** | **Antioch** |
| **D10** | **San Leandro** |
| **D13** | **Santa Clara** |
| **D28** | **Prunedale** |
| **AREA 3** |  |
| **3** | **Hanford** |
| **11** | **Madera** |
| **16** | **Stockton** |
| **20** | **Porterville** |
| **23** | **Sanger** |
| **26** | **Bakersfield** |
| **83** | **Merced** |
| **88** | **Turlock** |
| **100** | **Lemoore** |
| **108** | **Sutter Creek** |
| **221** | **Tehachapi** |
| **263** | **Escalon** |
| **476** | **California City** |
| **509** | **Fresno** |
| **684** | **Ridgecrest** |
| **711** | **Lake Isabella** |
| **872** | **Hughson** |
| **AREA 4** |  |
| **309** | **Glendale** |
| **359** | **Norwalk** |
| **804** | **Los Angeles** |
| **AREA 5** |  |
| **53** | **Hemet** |
| **60** | **Brawley** |
| **79** | **Riverside** |
| **112** | **Ontario** |
| **132** | **Orange** |
| **133** | **Huntington Beach** |
| **146** | **Oceanside** |
| **149** | **Escondido** |
| **155** | **Colton** |
| **200** | **Lake Elsinore** |
| **201** | **Lemon Grove** |
| **229** | **Adelanto** |
| **255** | **National City** |
| **262** | **Fontana** |
| **281** | **Irvine** |
| **289** | **Riverside** |
| **299** | **Chino** |
| **328** | **Norco** |
| **354** | **Buena Park** |
| **364** | **Santee** |
| **365** | **Vista** |
| **416** | **Encinitas** |
| **421** | **Highland** |
| **428** | **Banning** |
| **460** | **San Diego** |
| **468** | **Julian** |
| **519** | **Palm Springs** |
| **555** | **Midway City** |
| **574** | **Moreno Valley** |
| **584** | **Big Bear Lake** |
| **595** | **Perris** |
| **716** | **Los Alamitos** |
| **739** | **Indio** |
| **742** | **Corona** |
| **835** | **Rancho Cucamonga** |
| **848** | **San Jacinto** |
| **852** | **Murrieta** |
| **853** | **Borrego Springs** |
| **AREA 6** |  |
| **30** | **Pomona** |
| **43** | **Hollywood** |
| **48** | **Oxnard** |
| **50** | **Paso Robles** |
| **66** | **San Luis Obispo** |
| **136** | **Arroyo Grande** |
| **176** | **San Fernando** |
| **180** | **Azusa** |
| **211** | **Lompoc** |
| **241** | **Baldwin Park** |
| **311** | **Lancaster** |
| **348** | **Palmdale** |
| **484** | **Simi Valley** |
| **507** | **Newhall** |
| **534** | **Orcutt** |
| **741** | **Camarillo** |
| **790** | **West Covina** |

• Convention was convened.

• Welcome

Rey-Welcome and good morning Legion Riders and welcome to the 14th Annual Legion Riders convention finally. Though it’s been 2 years since we’ve been able to conduct our business, we can finally move forward. We meet virtually but we meet safely. We come to you from the Headquarters of the American Legion in Sanger, California. As always, the Riders lead the way. To my knowledge this is the first Rider virtual convention. There might have been some on the east coast but the first in our area. We will set the tone for those to follow. For the last year we operated within the 2019-2020 approved budget. Almost all state officers, for the first time, rolled over into the longest term for their position that has lasted 2 years. You will elect new state officers over this weekend as well. It’s important to say, just as at a live convention, delegates must be present to vote during the voting. Thank you for attending, let’s get started.

* Introductions-

ALRDOC Vice-President Fred Branson read a list of the Past Presidents and Past Secretaries.

Past Presidents Past Secretaries

2006-2007 Jim Banakus-Ad Hoc Chair-Ch 534 2006-2007 Jeff Gallagher-Ch 555

2007-2008 Terry Baughman-D 28 2007-2008 Jeff Gallagher

2008-2009 Luis Diaz-D 10 2008-2009 Jeff Gallagher

2009-2010 Steve Weber-Ch 48 2009-2010 Anita Bart-Ch 23

2010-2011 Luis Diaz 2010-2011 Anita Bart

2011-2012 Luis Diaz 2011-2012 Anita Bart

2012-2013 Albert Villa-D 28 2012-2013 Rita Christolear

2013-2014 Albert Villa 2013-2014 Rita Christolear

2014-2015 James Adames-Ch 328 2014-2015 Steve Weber-Ch 48

2015-2016 James Adames 2015-2016 Steve Weber

2016-2017 Mick Sobczak-Ch 53 2016-2017 Monique Clemons-D 10

2017-2018 Mick Sobczak 2017-2018 Debbie Proffitt-Ch 716

2018-2019 Mick Sobczak 2018-2019 Debbie Proffitt

2019-2020 Rey Ruiz-Ch 328 2019-2020 Debbie Proffitt

2020-2021 Rey Ruiz-Pandemic-ofcrs. rolled over 2020-2021 Debbie Proffitt

Fred stated that he was honored to have served as the ALRDOC Vice President for the last 2 years.

ALRDOC Jr. Past President Mick Sobczak introduced American Legion Department Commander Autry James.

Autry James-

Rey, thank you for the invitation. Mick, thank you for the introduction. Fred, thanks for being Fred.

It’s important to see the Department leadership out and about. Thank you to the Riders. Please continue being out there on rides, at the Vas and in the community. I hope for great success this year.

The Legion’s model this year is One Team, One Fight. We are one organization. Legion, Riders, Sons and Auxiliary. We must work together.

Several things you will notice will look a little different this year.

I am looking forward to working with your officers. Thanks to those who have served.

Have a great convention. I’m looking forward to seeing you on the road.

Mick introduced Judi Leonardi-

Judi Leonardi-

Thank you. I’m here to talk about American Legion Baseball. The State Championships will be in Clovis July 24 through July 27. Please attend. There will be a banquet on July 23. Contact me to get tickets.

July 24 there will be a Legion picnic at the Clovis Memorial lawn.

The DAV will be helping to transport residents from the VA hospital.

The Mayor’s Office will be putting up a banner in town.

Those who are most grateful for the opportunity to play come from the underprivileged Title 1 funded schools.

We are finding that many young people don’t know what the word veteran means.

CAamericanlegionbaseball.org has lots of information.

There’s nothing more American than apple pie and Legion baseball.

Thank you.

* Convention Announcements
* Charters to New Chapters

Area 1-Clearlake Chapter 437

Area 5-Brawley Chapter 60

-Chino Chapter 299

-Banning Chapter 428

Area 6-Pomona Chapter 30

-Azusa Chapter 180

-West Covina Chapter 790

* Riders Safety Awards

Certificates for most miles ridden by a chapter per area-

Area 1-Chapter 77 Woodland- 1,356 miles

Area 2-Chapter 105 Redwood City- 7,779 miles

Area 3-Chapter 221 Tehachapi- 13,084 miles

Area 4-None submitted

Area 5-Chapter 328 Norco- 18,342 miles

Area 6-Chapter 311 Lancaster- 10,126 miles

ALR Cup for the chapter with the most miles ridden by a chapter in the ALRDOC-

Area 5-Chapter 328 Norco 18,342 miles

* Awards to Chapter with best recruiting & retention

Area 1-Chapter 163 Alturas added 5 members

Area 2-Chapter 105 Redwood City added 3 members

Area 3-Chapters 11 Madera and 88 Turlock both added 6 members

Area 4-Chapter 359 Norwalk added 1 member

Area 5-Chapter 328 Norco added 11 members

Area 6-Chapter 790 West Covina added 12 members

Announcements-

\*Sam Flores accepted a Certificate of Appreciation given to the Department for being able to use the Sanger facilities.

\*Mark Rice-Area 1-the link for caucus is now in your email.

\*Ch 255-District 22 in Area 5 put together a 3-rifle shooting team. They won California and had the top shot in air rifle. Robert Barlow and others coach. Kids aged 12 to 18 can be on the shooting team. Contact us if interested.

\*Robert Stover-In Area 3 the Vets Freedom Program is still running. They have power chairs, wheelchairs, walkers, etc. available at no charge to vets and their families. Go to ALRHanford.com. If anyone in any other Areas is interested to start this, let me know.

\*Kelly Huff-Thank you to Debbie for all she does for the Chapter and the Department.

\*Ch 328-State Rally will be in Norco September 17 through the 19th. Please pre-register.

\*Ch 23-Two years ago the state did Suicide Prevention rides. We are challenging all Areas to have a ride again next year. Our ride will be March 19, 2022.

\*Ch 229-A tri-state (Ca, NV and AZ) poker run is scheduled for October 9th through 10th, 2021. Proceeds to Ronald McDonald House in the IE (Inland Empire).

• Committee Reports

President-Rey Ruiz

American Legion Riders, Delegates, DEC and guests,

* Even though we have had a challenging year with Covid, the Riders have been busy, we were able to get our Legacy Run in this year.
  + This year’s run took us from the George A. Ingalls Veterans Memorial a Medal of Honor recipient from Norco, CA. and ending at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery. We Laid wreaths at various City Veteran’s Memorials, Bataan Memorial, Honoring our Fallen Wall at Rosie the Riveter Park, Faces of Freedom Memorial and the Central Coast National Cemetery to mention a few.
  + Although we may not make a significant donation this year to the National Legacy Fund, we will donate so far $17,791.94 which we raised during this 2 1/2-day ride. IF you weren’t on this run you missed out on a great time. The comradery and friendships and conga lines that were developed during the run were unforgettable just ask anyone that was on the run. IF you want to be part of this, guess what you have an opportunity to do so. SAVE THE DATE June 10th – 12th 2022. More details to come, check for updates on the website californialegacyrun.org
* Currently our membership is down to 2,048 a reduction of 75 riders.
* With 100 active Chapters now as of Friday’s DEC where we voted in three new chapters to represent California
* Between April 1, 2020 & March 30, 2021 the ALR has logged 627,562 miles. A major reduction from 2019 of approximately 50%. But we will be on the road this year and get back over 1 million miles,
* The American Legion Riders have contributed over 9,038 volunteer hours, raised $93,864.87 at various events and donated $100,544.00 to various charities.
* When elected in May of 2019 to my 1st term, I had stated that I wanted open communication. Many of you have received emails from me with DEC Agenda’s, Minutes from the DEC Call in, Links for visibility to the website to see Resolutions, Proposed Budget, By-Law changes and so on. I did so because I started in one of those seats, you’re in now. We arrived at convention and received one (1) packet per delegation. Almost always we had no clue what resolutions we were going to be voting on. If you’re here today and don’t know what or how you’re going to vote, it’s on you the information has been sent many times. If you don’t receive my emails, that’s because you have checked not to receive emails on your rosters. If you want to receive them have your POC (point of contact) for your chapter or district uncheck the box.
* Thank you.

Vice-President-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

Secretary-Debbie Proffitt

Welcome to everyone. We will be trying to make things easier for the chapters this coming year.

Credentials Committee-Debbie Proffitt

This year the committee couldn’t be the ones to check all the delegates in. We will see you next year.

Judge Advocate-Mark Rice

President Ruiz and Riders of California,

It has been nearly a year since I received this appointment. I want to thank the Department for trusting me with this position. Here is a review of the year:

I reviewed the Department Bylaws and noticed that there were some needed issues that needed to be updated. President Ruiz assigned me to head a committee to review them and make some recommended changes. A revision was written and presented first to the DEC and then posted on the Department website in March 2021. They are being considered at this convention. This will require all Chapters and Districts to write new Bylaws. Supportive resources are being put in place to help make this easier. New Sample Bylaws will be available by the end of July.

Through an incident, the Department disciplinary system brought some problems to the surface which is dealt with in the new Department Bylaws and will be reflected in the Chapter/District Bylaws. The change will bring the ALR more into alignment with The American Legion.

NEC Resolution 19 (which was superseded by NEC Resolution 5) is requiring us to change our leadership titles from President/Vice-President to either Director/Vice-Director or Chairman/Assistant-Chairman. This is being carried out with the Department Bylaws Revision.

One of my main goals was to try and create a pattern of good communication so I can help members know what is going on with the bylaws and national resolution affecting all chapters.

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 September at Norco.

Past President’s Club-Ken Sutton

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

Public Relations/Webmaster-Jim Oxley

The website is working great. All officers should know who your POCs are.

Any questions, there are links on the website to email me.

Go to the resources tab, there is good information there.

Constitution and Bylaws-Mark Rice

The Committee has met several times to work on updating the ALRDOC bylaws.

Membership-Rochelle Billet Smith

We have 100 active chapters and 2,042 riders.

Area 1 has 15 chapters. Area 2 has 10 chapters. Area 3 has 17 chapters. Area 4 has 3 chapters. Area 5 has 39 chapters. Area 6 has 16 chapters.

We have 1,351 Veterans, 526 Sons, 325 Auxiliary and 57 are Active Duty.

California Legacy Run-Rochelle Billet-Smith

California Scholarship Run-2019

48 riders. Raised $23,706.06

No accidents, medical issues or mechanical breakdowns.

California Legacy Run-2021

31 riders. Raised $17,791.94

No accidents or medical issues. One mechanical breakdown.

California Legacy Run-2022

Dates-June 10-12, 2022

Two routes, Northern and Southern. Riders to meet at the end of day 2 and ride together on day 3.

Registration for 2022 to be available December 1, 2022.

Safety Committee-Mike Killion

No Report

Uniform Committee-Mike Smith

The following is a summary of the Uniform Committee meetings during the 2020-2021 year.

The Uniform Committee was directed to look into the wearing/location of an officer patch within the Past President’s Club.

* The recommendation from the Uniform Committee to the DEC was:
* Having an officer position from other than a Chapter, District or the DEC, as described in Sections 3(c) and 3(d) is not appropriate, as this section is specific to the American Legion Riders. It was determined this section is reserved exclusively for a Chapter, District of DEC officer position.
* If an officer of the Past President’s club elects to put a patch on their vest/jacket, which denotes them as an officer of said club, this patch should be placed in the ‘Personal Area’ only as described in Sections 3(c) and 3(d). During this discussion, although not specific to the placement of a patch, the Uniform Committee would recommend a pin rather than a patch. This is a recommendation only which was through discussion with the committee members.
* Lastly the uniform committee recommends to the DEC the following with regard to a verbiage change to Sections 3(c) and 3(d). This change reflects the addition of the Past President’s Club to the last sentences in each of these sections. IF approved, the amended verbiage for the final paragraph of these sections shall read:

"The only officer patch authorized to be worn in this area is to be specific to the American Legion Riders. Examples of this are; President, Vice President, Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms. Post Officer patches, Past President's Club and Area Commissioner, are allowed, but only in the Personal Area of the vest/jacket."

The Uniform Committee was directed to look into the requirement of the wear of the US Flag and the requirement of the wear of the POW/MIA patch/KIA patch. The Uniform Committee recommended the following:

* It is recommended to the DEC a change to the By-Laws be presented at the next ALR convention which would make the wear of the 50 State American flag a requirement. This can be accomplished in making a word change from ‘should’ to ‘shall’ within Article XV, Section 4. If this change is adopted by the membership, the ALR Uniform Manual Section II Vest/Jacket § 3 (a) verbiage would be changed from ‘should’ to ‘shall’.
* It is recommended to the DEC a change to the By-Laws be presented at the next ALR convention which would make the wear of the POW/MIA or KIA patch, or pin, a requirement. It is not recommended placement be dictated and the current verbiage within the ALR Uniform Manual is sufficient. This recommendation was based upon the American Legion’s commitment to the accountability of our countries POW/MIA’s. For reference the verbiage used for this is included below.

The Uniform Committee was directed to formulate a recommendation for the wear of a ‘Support Patch’. The Uniform Committee recommended the following to the DEC:

1. A Support Team member is an American Legion family member (i.e. T.AL., S.A.L. or Auxiliary) who does not meet membership requirements to be an American Legion Rider, but who has volunteered and helped their ALR chapter to further the American Legion and ALR.
2. The designation of a Support Team member is awarded by the chapter members with majority approval. The governance, control and overall design of the patch are the responsibility of the awarding chapter.
3. The award can be a patch set or shadow box.
4. The designation of Support Team member does not create another class of American Legion Rider; subsequently a Support Team member is not an ALR member, has no voice, no vote and cannot be added to a chapter’s roster as a member.
5. If a Support Team member elects to purchase and wear a vest/jacket it is recommended:
6. The American Legion patch and Support Team member patch be worn on the back of the vest/jacket.
7. When applying patches/pins to the front of the vest/jacket, the ALR DOC Uniform Manual should be consulted for appropriateness. To ensure no confusion of membership status is conveyed, no patch that may designate the wearer to be a member of the ALR should be worn on the front of the vest.
8. Below is the representation of the back of the Support Team member vest/jacket.
9. When creating a Support Team patch, it is recommended the patch be constructed of black material, measuring 9 inches in length and 4 to 5 inches in height, with 1 inch lettering.

Quartermaster-Mike Clement

Debbie-Most of the patches ordered were ordered from Area 5 = 38 orders

Six chapters ordered 10 sets of patches.

6 chapters ordered 11 or more sets of patches.

All patches ordered had an average of 9 days from order to production to shipping.

The biggest setback was waiting on payment verification.

We received no complaints in the past 2 years.

Service Officer-George Smith

No Report

Ways and Means-Kathleen McClary

Good morning delegates and members of the DEC. With the passing of my husband, Dennis, in January, I became the Chairman for Ways and Means. I will be looking for members from each area who would be interested in helping out with raising money within the American Legion Riders to fund various Veteran’s charities and especially the American Legion’s Legacy Scholarship.

The 2021/2022 Legacy Scholarship quilt is done and tickets will be distributed to the Area VP’s as soon as they are ready (hopefully within the next two weeks) for distribution to the chapters, along with If we can sell ten tickets to every Post, Squadron, and Unit, as well as fifty percent of each Chapter’s strength, we will raise over $100,000 for the Legacy Scholarship fund.

ALR Commissioner-Bob Perryman

No report is a great report.

President Rey Ruiz-

We’ve had a challenging 2 years. We’ve made it through good and bad issues. We’re starting a new year and need to let past issues go. We need to move forward. The past is the past. We have the right to freedom of speech and to vote. Remember, having a title is not why you joined the ALR. Our goal is the same, to give service to our veterans, have events and raise funds. We all joined to give back. Some of us never intended to be an officer. We got mentored, saw something that needed to be done and took the position and ran with it. We’ll be starting a new year with new officers and appointed officers. Be visible. Do good. Raise funds and move forward.

• Riders Everlasting Observance (11 a.m.)

Area 1-

Bill Meridian, Duke Callahan, John Jackson, Mike Ross, Mike Stanchia, Ron Vansant, Terry Sligar, Willard Banard,

Area 2-

Al Keller, David Morgan, David Vogel, Gary Tollie, James Scagliola, Ryan Sparks, John Hopper, Robert Shannon, Rod Pergin, Shawn Rehm, Steve Martin.

Area 3-

Benny Alva, Bill Willis, David Fletcher, Jerry Lefebvre, John Bart, John Anderson, Karen Schaffer, William Lowery, Dennis McClary, Kathy Grossi, Kim Bingaman, Randy Boggs, Carlos Sidebottom, Ivan Frey, Robert Bingamon, Steven Driver, Terry Treadwell.

Area 4-

None

Area 5-

Bob Murray, Craig Short, Daniel Lively, Dennis Mulvaney, Dennis Wolfe, Gerald Kirby, James Zigler, Jim Schrader, John Bloecher, Steve Miller, Tedd Hybbert, Tim McCord, Kenny King, Lee Mastro, Richard Lindner, Robert Pacheco, Mark Yarbrough, Ron Iverson, Sheryl Johnson, Vicky Legat, William Forey.

Area 6-

Bill Willis, Lino Torres, Wayne Sirex.

TAPS was played by Mike Smith.

Lunch 11:30am to 1pm

• Reconvened @ 1pm

• Area Reports

Area 1-Bob Perryman

Chapters raised $7,847. Donated $9,242. Had 1,711 volunteer hours. Rode 23,400 round trip miles. Supported 61 events. Supported lots of local food banks, escorts and flag lines for funerals, Veteran’s Day parade drive byes, veteran birthday ride byes, Christmas parade ride byes, Wreaths Across America at several cemeteries, Christmas toy rides and toys collections all over Northern California, suicide rides in February, several welcome home veterans, several veteran celebrations of life, Wounded Warrior fly fishing camp, Boys State, and the Vietnam Veterans celebration at the capital.

The Area is opening up. Chapters are getting out and doing escorts, etc.

This will be my last report as I will not seek reelection as Area VP. I have served under 4 Presidents as Area 1 VP. Area 1 is awesome. They pull together when things go wrong.

The Alturas chapter is struggling.

I am proud to have been the Area 1 VP. It’s been the highlight of my retired career. I salute Area 1.

Area 2-Ignacio Alvarez

Chapters raised $16,396. Donated 425,809. Had 2,325 volunteer hours. Road 23,005 roundtrip miles. Supported 195 events. Supported Korean War Memorial visit, Operation Care and Comfort, Samaritan House child welfare foundation, County veterans of the year, the local food banks, Wreaths Across America, Welcome home escorts, Yountville VA hospital, Toys for Tots, Operation Dignity, Golden Gate National Cemetery, Operation Freedom Paws, Suicide Awareness, KSBW Share Your Holidays, Salinas Valley Women’s Shelter, Veteran’s Transition Center, Turkey Trot, Patriot National Flag escort, Veteran escorts, flag lines, Veteran’s Day parades, Honor Our Fallen dedication, Flag Day ceremonies, Memorial Day rides, Community awareness and PGR escorts.

It's been a pleasure to take over as the Area 2 VP. Thanks. Will now be moving forward.

Area 3-Ralph Wenzinger

Chapters raised $25,188. Donated $32,169. Had 4,707 volunteer hours. Rode 38,507 roundtrip miles. Supported 359 events. Supported AL post and Aux Unit 3, Sheriff Olsen family fundraiser, Veteran’s Affairs voluntary service awards, Budd Ray Memorial Scholarship Fund, Sikh Riders Blood drive, Bakersfield toy and food run, AL Legacy Scholarship fund, AL posts 83 and 88, Chowchilla VFW, California Legacy Run,

Turlock VFW, Helmets for Heroes, AL post 100, Tamarack Wilderness cleanup, Wonder Valley Outreach, Oakhurst Outreach, Officer Diaz Marathon escort, Firemen/Police dinner, Alcove Dignity House-Stockton, Wreaths Across America, 40/8 Honor Flight-Fresno, Indian Wells Valley council of Navy League Blue Jacket awards, Ridgecrest Veteran’s Advisory council, Toys for Tots, One Spade Youth Packers, VA&R emergency disaster fund, Special Needs toy run, Back the Blue rally, 9-11 Memorial ceremony-Bakersfield 9-11 memorial, 9-11 flower laying ceremony at Kern County Veteran’s Memorial, Dedication of Freedom Flagpole at Greenlawn Cemetery-Bakersfield, Camp Hamilton Veteran’s Day ceremony, Medal presentation to a WW2 veteran, Veteran’s Day flag raising at retirement home, Corona virus testing security, Runway cleanup, 1st responder birthday drive bye, Post 684 Auxiliary gift cards for active duty/deployed for Thanksgiving and Christmas, Refurbished roadside markers, VFW save the ship, 9-11 protest flag parade, weekly escorts of Basic Trainees from recruiting center and 122 funeral/flag line/escort missions.

On behalf of 384 members and 17 chapters we send out greetings. We have a chapter that has Chapter 328 in their sights for the mileage cup.

The California Legacy Run had 31 riders, mostly from Area 3. We are challenging other areas for 2022.

Hopefully, I won’t be leaving as the Area 3 VP.

Thanks to Paul LaPierre and the other Area Alt VPs.

Area 4-Patrick Gadut

No report.

Area 5- Gene Hobdy

Chapters raised $45,061. Donated 59,395. Had 17,735 volunteer hours, Rode 72,835 roundtrip miles. Supported 864 events. Supported 100 miles for Hope, girls Scouts, Legacy fund, AL Boys state, Christian ministries, Suicide awareness, St. Joseph church needy family, Patriots with Paws, Injured Warrior Foundation, San Clemente family outreach, Volunteers of America, Helping Hands, Orangewood Children’s Home, Long Beach VA hospital, Shelters for Soldiers, Homes for Our Troops, Wounded Warrior Homes, Final Honor, Paws for Purple Hearts, Pathways of Julian, Julian School District, IWAR Warrior Foundation, Veteran’s Village of San Diego, Operation Transition Outside the Wire, Veteran’s Memorial Park, Pecos, Texas, Sparks of Love, Legion of the Silver Rose, Blue Star Mom’s, Nurses in Training, Post 742 blood drive, Fallen Heroes funeral escort, WW2 veteran’s birthday, Walk Across America welcome, Life Stream blood drive, Legacy Run to Tombstone, Rolling to Remember veteran’s ride, Perris cemetery Memorial Day ceremony, Perris 9-11 Memorial service, Moreno /valley 1st responders toy run, Barstow VA Home support run, Boy Scout troop 256, Field of Valor, Orange County, Warrior Freedom Station, Post 132 blood drive, Wreaths Across America, Fort Rosecrans Memorial Day ride bye, Balboa Park flag ceremony, Marine Corps plaque escort, Vietnam Memorial Wall escort, Injured Warrior Appreciation run, Thanksgiving meal box give away, Admiral Shelton birthday ride bye, Run to Remember, Piestewa challenge, 2nd annual Sgt John C Barcellaro Memorial run, Doc Bart donation.

Shout out to Rey, Debbie and other members through the pandemic.

I will be stepping down this year. Shout out to Area 5, they’re a great group of people. Thanks for letting me represent you.

I’m proud of getting out and supporting events, veterans, the community and drive byes during the pandemic.

Shout out to the Area 6 VPs Lino Torres and Dave Corbin.

Was at the end of the Walk Across America at the Santa Monica Pier and was on the Barstow VA support run.

Area 6-David Corbin

Chapters raised $10,616. Donated $8,980. Had 1,787 volunteer hours. Rode 28,087 roundtrip miles. Supported 188 events. Supported the Boys and Girls Club, Operation Snowflake, Turning Point, many meals, Ventura Veteran’s Home, Veteran’s hospital, Toys for Tots, school supplies for children, American /cancer Society, LASD stand for those who stood for us, 12th Ann. Sarah’s Ride, Back the Blue rally, Buddy Watch walk, Girls State, Lancaster Veteran’s Home, Lompoc Veteran’s Home, Post 50 Aux Poppy drive, Toy Bank of greater Paso Robles, Loaves and Fishes, SLO veterans clinic, Wildhorse Children’s foundation, Hope of the Valley, The Dream Center, Warriors Road USA, Legion of the Silver Rose, Mobile Vietnam Wall escort, Salute to Veterans ride, Fallen Heroes Cart escort, Deputy Cortez funeral escort, Dale Runge escort, So. California burn ride, WW2 veteran Murray Shapiro escort, Korean POW David Woods birthday drive bye, Private Cruz funeral escort, ALR Pony Express ride, Sarah’s Ride, WW2 Walter Allsop funeral escort, Vandenburg AFB POW/MIA flag escort, Field of Flags Palmdale, fireworks stands and blood drives.

Hello to all and Rey. I stepped in when Lino passed. Thanks for the help.

I won’t be running for Area VP this year. I’ll be moving to Texas.

We’ve added 3 new chapters. Thank you all for the help you’ve given me.

• Recess to Area Caucus/Elections until 2:30pm

Reconvened at 2:30pm.

• Report of Area Elections

Area 1-Vice President-Pete DePalma; Alt VPs-Mark Rice, Fred Branson, Bob Perryman and Mike Johnson

Area 2-Vice President-Robert Lopez; Alt VPs-Ignacio Alvarez and Michael Picasso

Area 3-Vice President-Ralph Wenzinger; Alt VPs-Paul LaPierre, Robert Stover and Ken Sutton.

Area 4-No report-TBD at a later date.

Area 5-Vice President-Edmond Arguello; Alt VPs-TBD at a later date.

Area 6-Vice President-Cristina Molina; Alt VPs-Penni Brown and Stephanie Huff.

• Old Business

None

• New Business

2022 Convention

Chapter 43, Hollywood, won’t be able to host convention in 2022. We need a chapter or chapters from Areas 4, 5 and 6 to send in an intent notice by the August DEC meeting on August 26th so they can be voted on at the state Rally. If no one from Areas 4, 5 or 6 steps up it will open up to Areas 1, 2 and 3.

• 1st Nominations of Candidates for Executive Office

President-Rey Ruiz, Mick Sobczak.

VP-Gene Hobdy, Mike Smith.

Sgt. at Arms-Cory Wattenbarger, Ken Sutton, Mark Lawrie.

* Introduction of Resolutions

The resolution and bylaws were put onto the ALRDOC website as well as sent to all Area VPs to distribute to all chapters three months ahead of the 2021 convention so that the chapters could have knowledge of them and be able to discuss them with their members.

Vote on Resolutions

Resolution 1-Give veterans the choice of what the lower flare on their patch set states. It would change from just veteran to Veteran, U S Marine Corps, U S Army, U S Air Force, U S Navy, or U S Coast Guard.

A motion was made to reject the resolution by Terry Baughman. 2nd by George Glover. There was discussion. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was 201 to reject the resolution and 15 to keep the resolution. **Resolution failed.**

Vote on By-Laws amendments

Motion to accept the bylaws revision by Mark Rice. 2nd by Tracy Dalton.

Mark let the delegates know that he would go Article by Article so anyone could ask questions or give input on that specific Article.

Article 1- Name- No challenge

Article 2- Nature- No challenge

Article 3- Membership Eligibility- No challenge

Article 4- Officers- There were questions about why the titles needed to be changed from President/Vice President to Director/Vice Director. Mark explained about the NEC Resolution 5. There was a motion to give the chapters the decision on whether they wanted to use Director/Vice Director or Chairman/Asst Chairman. The motion was not seconded and the motion was rescinded.

Article 5- Organization Chapters- No challenge

Article 6- Organization Districts- Motion to strike the last sentence from Section 1 by Ignacio Alvarez. 2nd by David Leavitt. After discussion, the Judge Advocate agreed to strike the last sentence of Section 1.

Article 7-Areas- Motion to strike the wording of they/their and replace with he/she by Chapter 555. 2nd by Leif Meisinger. There was much discussion for and against the motion. The motion was ruled out of order.

Article 8-Administration-

Motion to leave the rest of the bylaws until Sunday by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Mick Sobczak. **Passed by an affirmation vote and a sigh of relief.**

Convention was adjourned at 4:50pm and will reconvene tomorrow at 9am.

**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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**14th Annual American Legion Riders**

**Department of California Convention**

**July 16-18, 2021, Sanger, California**

**Minutes**

**Sunday April 18, 2021 @ 9am**

• Reconvened at 9am

All sang Happy Birthday to Kathleen McClary.

Continuation of voting on bylaws from yesterday.

Article 8- Administration- no challenges.

Article 9- Executive Committee- no challenges.

Article 10- Finances- no challenges.

Article 11- Standing Committees- no challenges.

Article 12- Past President’s and Past Director’s Club- Alerted that the word “January” was misspelled. Motion by Robert Stover to take out Section 3 with the wording about “bylaws” for the Past President’s and Director’s Club. 2nd by Leif Meisinger. Discussion was had and the motion and second were withdrawn when it was shown that the current wording was passed by the membership at the 2019 ALRDOC convention.

Article 13- Members in Arrears- no challenges.

Article 14- Discipline- no challenges.

Article 15- Uniform- Asked to add flag description as specified in the Uniform Manual to Section 4. The corresponding wording was read from page 8 of the Uniform Manual. “Such American flag must not have any wording or other embellishment on or touching the flag except an appropriate gold or black border on or touching the flag, \*unless expressly approved of by the ALR DOC Executive Committee and Uniform Committee.”

Article 16- Electronic Meetings and Correspondence- no challenges. In person meetings are the norm. If for some reason an electronic meeting is needed it can be used. Mark stated that electronic signatures can be used to sign Department and chapter documents. If 2 signatures are needed, as on the Bylaws, and a script font is used, each signature needs a different script font.

Article 17- Parliamentary Authority- no challenges. Mick brought up that there is a double negative in the statement and that a comma needed to be placed in the appropriate spot. Mark stated that he will make the change.

Article 18- Amendments- It was brought to Mark’s attention that there is reference to Article 8, Section 22. This would need to be changed because as currently written there is no

Section 22 and should reference Article 8, Section 21. The change will be made. Robert Stover made a motion to change the word “may” to “shall” in the first sentence of Section 1 to state the bylaws “shall” be amended by resolution at convention. 2nd by Charles Beard. After a long discussion period, Robert Stover stated he would move to amend the previous motion to be “shall, except in exigent circumstances” in Section 1. 2nd by Mick Sobczak. There was a point of order brought up that “exigent circumstances” needed to be defined. Rey stated in the language that was put into the resolution to postpone and delay the convention was “something brought in by the Federal, State or Local government, the Governor of California, a pandemic and so on”. This language should be sufficient. Mark stated that what may not be an emergency to the public may be an emergency that pertains to the operation of the Department. Robert Stover stated he would withdraw the motion and rewrite it and bring it to the 2022 convention. Since there was a motion and 2nd, it needed to be voted on. Rey asked for an affirmation vote of “no” to strike the motion. Point of order raised that if the 2nd to the motion withdraws their 2nd then the motion can be withdrawn. Mick withdrew his 2nd of the amended motion. Robert withdrew the amended motion. Charles Beard withdrew his 2nd to the original motion. Robert withdrew the original motion. There were no other challenges.

Appendix A- Changing President/Vice President to Director/Vice-Director at the end of the next voting cycle- No challenges.

A rollcall vote was taken to accept the ALRDOC bylaws. Yes = 171, no = 38. **Bylaws passed with noted changes.**

• Announcements

* Finance Report

2019-2021

Total Debits $181,640.47

Total Deposits $149,774.31

Current Balance $41,569.26

Actual Bank Balance $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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | 2021-2022 Budget |
| Telephone Conferencing | $ 100.00 |
| Zoom | $ 1,999.00 |
| President Fund | $ 2,000.00 |
| VP | $ 1,500.00 |
| JAG | $ 250.00 |
| Secretary | $ 500.00 |
| Treasurer | $ 350.00 |
| Jr Past President | $ 250.00 |
| Chaplain | $ 300.00 |
| Parliamentarian | $ 250.00 |
| Historian | $ 250.00 |
| Area 1 VP | $ 500.00 |
| Area 2 VP | $ 500.00 |
| Area 3 VP | $ 500.00 |
| Area 4 VP | $ 500.00 |
| Area 5 VP | $ 500.00 |
| Area 6 VP | $ 500.00 |
| Sgt. At Arms | $ 500.00 |
| Membership Officer | $ 250.00 |
| Safety Officer | $ 500.00 |
| Service Officer | $ 250.00 |
| Quartermaster | $ 250.00 |
| QM Merchandise Payments | $ 250.00 |
| Convention Chair | $ 250.00 |
| Convention Seed | $ 3,000.00 |
| Rally Seed | $ 2,000.00 |
| Office Supplies | $ 1,000.00 |
| Rally Call-In | $ 6,000.00 |
| Web Site | $ 380.00 |
| Legacy Run | $ 8,600.00 |
| Award, Plaques & Flags and Poles | $ 250.00 |
| Returned checks | $ 25.00 |
| ALR DOC Insurance | $ 1,000.00 |
| Emergency Relief Fund | $ 2,500.00 |
| Donations VA & R | $ 2,500.00 |
| Legacy Run Donation | $ 2,500.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$ 42,754.00** |
| **Management Reserve** | **$ 41,638.97** |

Motion to amend the following officers’ amounts to $400 each, Membership officer, Service officer, Convention Chair, Historian, Parliamentarian, Jr Past President, Treasurer, Chaplain and Judge Advocate, by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Pete DePalma. **Passed by affirmation vote.**

Motion to accept the 2021-2022 ALRDOC budget pending audit by Penni Brown. 2nd by Leif Meisinger. **Passed by affirmation vote.**

* 2nd Nomination of Candidates for Executive Office

President-

Rey Ruiz accepted yesterday’s nomination.

Mick Sobczak accepted yesterday’s nomination.

No new nominations.

VP-

Gene Hobdy accepted yesterday’s nomination.

Mike Smith accepted yesterday’s nomination.

No new nominations.

Sgt. at Arms-

Cory Wattenbarger accepted yesterday’s nomination.

Ken Sutton accepted yesterday’s nomination.

Mark Lawrie accepted yesterday’s nomination.

Donny Brannon was nominated but declined.

George Glover was nominated and accepted.

• Candidates addressed the delegates.

• Election of Officers

President-**Rey Ruiz 144 votes**, Mick Sobczak 65 votes

Vice President-**Gene Hobdy 112 votes**, Mike Smith 98 votes

Sgt. at Arms-**Cory Wattenbarger 84 votes**, Ken Sutton 61 votes, Mark Lawrie 35 votes, George Glover 28 votes

• Installation of new Officers by Terry Baughman.

• New Officers took positions.

• Good of the Riders-

\*2023 Convention will be in Areas 1, 2 or 3. Please be talking with your chapter to see if your chapter can host the 2023 convention.

\*2022 Convention will be in Areas 4, 5 or 6. Please be talking with your chapter to see if your chapter can host the 2022 convention. Any applicants will be voted on at the ALRDOC Rally in September. If an Area 4, 5 or 6 chapter does not step up then the 2022 convention could be hosted by Areas 1, 2 or 3 if necessary.

• Benediction- Chaplain Fred Branson

PRESIDENTS CHARGE:

“Till we meet again let us remember that our obligation to our Country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, State, and Nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion Riders and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our Country, our organization and ourselves that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom and democracy.”

ADJOURNMENT: @ 2:32pm