**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

February 24, 2022

1. **Called to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Fred Branson
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Director Mike Smith
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – SAA Larry Brandt
5. **ALR Preamble** – Director Mike Smith
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – Larry Brandt

**Treasurer** - Leonard Phillips

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Fred Branson

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon EX

**Jr Past** – VACANT

**Safety Officer** - Mike Killion

**Service Officer** - George Smith

**Webmaster/Public Relations** - Jim Oxley

**Quartermaster** - Mike Clement  

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

**Convention & Rally** – Mike Smith

**PPC** - Ken Sutton

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Historian** – John Smartt

**Parliamentarian-**James Adames

**Area 1 VICE-D** – Pete DePalma **Area 2 VICE-D** – Robert Lopez              

**Area 3 VICE-D** – Paul LaPierre **Area 4 VICE-D** – Joel Lopez

**Area 5 VICE-D** – Edmund Arguello **Area 6 VICE-D** – Cris Molina

**Guests:** PP Steve Weber; PP Jim Banakus; D10 Don Reed; Ch 69 Pete Torrecillas;

Ch 36 Molly Diaz; Ch 82 Ed Caler; Ch 105 Robert Claunch; Ch 111 Tim Madura;

Ch 20 bob Atchley; Ch 105 Andrew Trapani; Ch 383 Mark Rice.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – January 27, 2022

There were no additions or corrections to the January 27, 2022 minutes so they automatically pass as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

Total Debits 18,462.43

Total Deposits 34,161.00

Current Balance 78,805.34

State Bank Account 65,891.10

Union Bank Account 12,128.21

PayPal account (State) 16,230.07

Total in all accounts 94,249.38

Will be transferring the money from the Union Bank account to the Wells Fargo bank account and closing the Union bank account.

There are forms that have to be filled out every so often for the IRS known as charitable forms. There is a $50 late fee this year as I was late getting them in.

I will call a finance Committee meeting the beginning of March to work on the budget for next year.

I will be stepping down as Treasurer when convention is over.

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as given pending audit by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

* February 1 – Zoom meeting with Department Commander James, Department Adjutant Lambrano, ALR Vice Director Wenzinger and ALR State Sergeant-at-Arm Brandt.
* February 4 – Represented American Legion and ALR for American Legion Baseball in Clovis for Feed the Beast event.
* February 6 – Attended Chapter 348 meeting in Lancaster.
* February 9 – Zoom meeting for ALR 2022 Convention.
* February 12 – Attended and played Echo Taps at the 4 Chaplin’s Service in Sanger. The 2nd bugler is ALR member Steve Giddens who traveled from Alameda to play.
* February 18 – Attended Jr. Past President Rey Ruiz Funeral and Celebration of Life.
* February 21 – Zoom meeting for the California Legacy Run
* February 23 – Zoom meeting for ALR Convention.
* Rey’s Celebration of life was so well attended and showed how large of a role he played in the American Legion Family. I do not have an official count of the number of bikes, but I know there were at least 150. This was a great tribute to Rey and what he did for the American Legion and for each of us. Let’s keep his memory alive and continue his work.
* I one Rider went down from Chapter 43. I will leave any updates on him/accident to the Area 6 Vice Director and the Safety Officer.

1. **Vice Director’s Report** – Ralph Wenzinger

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following: February 1 – Meeting with Commander James, Adjutant Lombrano, Director Smith and SAA Brandt to discuss leadership responsibilities and bylaws. February 3 – Attended meeting at Post 785 – Visalia to discuss formation of ALR Chapter February 6 – Attended monthly meeting of Chapter 348 – Palmdale February 10 – Attended meeting at Post 18 – Visalia to discuss formation of ALR Chapter February 12 – Attended fundraiser breakfast at Chapter 3 – Hanford February 13 – Attended Recruit Escort Ride, Bakersfield Armed Forces Recruiting Center February 18 – Attended Past President Rey Ruiz’s services in Chino Hills. February 21 – Attended California Legacy Run Committee meeting February 23 - Attended Convention Committee meeting

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month: Click or tap here to enter text.

Area 3 meeting at Chapter 88 – Turlock on March 12

Fundraiser breakfast at Chapter 88 – Turlock first Sunday of the month

Fundraiser breakfast at Chapter 83 – Merced third Sunday of the month

Events planned for the months to come: In addition to the upcoming ALRDOC Convention, I will be participating in the California Legacy Run in June.

1. **Sgt. At Arms Report** – Larry Brandt

I have been going over the uniform manual per request from department, since it has not had a good look over since 2015, I'm not done studying it yet, a couple changes I know of, changing the word president to Director, and under (chapter elected headgear) I think there is a redundant paragraph but I will be bringing all my finds up when I complete my study, I can say at this time it looks pretty good.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*I have been tracking all chapters for per capita.

\*Delegate fees are due March 24 and the delegate rosters are due March 29. Chapters must pay delegate fees even if they are not sending delegates to convention. Chapters must send in a delegate roster with “no delegates” written across it.

\*Chapter POCs, please confirm that your chapter emails are correct. Many bounce back.

\*If a member goes from chapter A to chapter B, once chapter B votes the member in the member must notify chapter A to take their info of the chapter A roster before chapter B is able to add it to theirs.

\*Chapter POCs, please make sure your delegates and alternates have their alr chapter card for 2022.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. Area 1 Vice D – Pete DePalma

Events / Meetings Attended

No Events Attended

Chapter Activities

Chapters 383,108, & 119 attended Sweetheart Run 2/20/2022

1. Area 2 Vice D – Robert Lopez

\*District 28 donated a total of $4,000 to multiple charities and have ridden a total of 13,937 miles.

\*District 9 had 10 members ride to Rey’s services including Lefty who is an older rider. They will have a new member coming aboard soon.

\*Chapter 105 has done 9 missions and 3,033 miles.

\*Chapter 69 members Pete and Robert joined in the ride to Rey’s services. 1,400 miles so far.

1. Area 3 Vice D – Paul LaPierre

\*I attended Rey’s funeral.

\*Today escorted a Korean Vet to Lancaster and back so he could have eye surgery.

\*Area 3 will have a meeting on March 12, 2022 in Turlock. Information has been put on

Facebook.

1. Area 4 Vice D – Joel Lopez
2. Area 5 Vice D – Edmund Arguello

Events/ Meetings Attended

-Attended the American Legion Area 5 Meeting 28-30 JAN at Post 60 in Brawley (Guido)

-Attended Escort Ride for Rey Ruiz to Riverside National Cemetery (Guido) 18 FEB 2022

Area Chapter Activities

-12 FEB-Chapter 262, Fontana Valentine’s Dinner

-25 FEB- Chapter 299, Chino Dinner

-27 FEB-Chapter 132, Orange Breakfast

-5 MAR-Chapters 574, Moreno Valley, 595, Perris, & 848, San Jacinto are hosting Night of Destruction at Perris Speedway

Other

-ALRDOC Convention is 22-24 APR 2022 at San Bernardino Fairgrounds, Victorville, CA

1. Area 6 Vice D – Cris Molina

**RECENT GOINGS ON:**

Chapter 43:

Participated in the escort for ALRDOC Past President Rey Ruiz. Working on adding more Riders to the Chapter.

Chapter 136:

Had a fundraiser for Elder Warriors. They raised a lot of money for the program. They donated $1500 to the program and had $1769.25 for their Chapter. Great job!!

Chapter 211:

January – Salute to the Vets birthday drive-bys.

Escorted one funeral.

February – Attended U.S. Marin Toys for Tots supporters Appreciation Dinner.

Salute to Vets birthday drive-bys.

Attended and took photos of ALRDOC Past President Rey Ruiz Funeral Services. Teddy is shipping DVD copies of the photos to me and I will distribute.

Chapter 534:

Rode with Chapter 136 for their Elder Warrior’s fundraiser. Got several Riders together for lunch ride to Cambria.

Chapter 741:

Had an ALR dinner on Friday, February 4th with 25 dinners sold (30 Riders on record).

Vice Director Molina:

Along with many other Area 6 Chapters participated in the funeral escort for ALR DOC Jr. Past President Rey Ruiz. Great to see so many Chapters come together for Rey.

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AREA 6:**

No upcoming events have been reported other than the visit for the Auxiliary National President, who’s also a Rider. Her visit is in March. It has been very difficult to obtain further details regarding the times of events where we have an opportunity to participate in. Still working on that. Will communicate with everyone as soon as more information is available.

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

12 sets of patches were shipped in January.

1 set shipped in February. Ch 180 in process. Waiting on payment from Chapters 100,

555, 83 and 229.

Mock ups for the 2022 convention shirt were done and sent out today.

George-What about the reflective patches that were given to a few people to try out? Mike will get in touch with those who have them and see how they are doing with them. They can be made to order in a set of top and bottoms flare sets. Must put both on the vest. They are much more expensive but can do them. The Uniform Committee will have to approve them.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

Website is running smoothly. If you have any issues, email me.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Mike Smith
* Convention and Rally met on 2/23/2022 via Zoom.
* Site tour was to have been conducted on 2/22/2022. This was delayed to 3/1/2022 due to weather.
* T-shirts are being taken care of by the ALR DOC Quartermaster. Design and cost should be in by the DEC meeting on 2/24/2022, for 250 short sleeve shirts.
* Coins. The vendor for the coins was contacted on 2/24/2022. A quote for the coins is expected in the next few days.
* Bear Valley Rentals was contacted with regard to the rental of chairs, due to the SBD County Fairgrounds only having 275 chairs. 125 chairs will need to be rented. Cost for the additional chairs is $.75 a piece for a cost of $93.75.

Motion to spend $93.75 for 125 additional chairs from Bear Valley Rentals by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Paul LaPierre. Passed by vote of DEC.

* Bear Valley Rentals was contacted with regard to the rental of P.A. System. The original quote is $750. 00. This includes 4 speakers, 3 cordless mics on stands, 7 channel mixing board. Set-up and sound check and 2-day rental. On 2/24/22, Bear Valley Rentals gave another quote of $350 for (2) large Bluetooth speakers and (3) cordless mics. Information (if it will work for what we need) for a ‘donated’ PA system is pending at this time.

Paul stated that post 684 has a system in boxes. He will look and report what he finds.

Motion that if no free audio is found that the DEC spend no more than $350 for the rental of a PA system by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Robert Lopez. Passed by vote of DEC.

* Pre-Convention DEC Meeting place. At this time, (3) locations have been contacted; (1) SBD County Fairgrounds. The cost of having the meeting and check in conducted here is $540.00; the Holiday Inn (Host Hotel) cost is from $1000 to $1500, depending on room size; and the Hilton Garden Inn cost is $600 at the time of this report, but may change pending a call back from the hotel.

Motion to spend no more than $600 on a meeting place for registration, delegate check in and a DEC meeting for the Friday before convention by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

* Friday night spaghetti dinner is still being hosted at Post 229, by the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 229. Saturday night steak dinner is still being hosted at Post 229, however this cost will be incurred by the ALR DOC. Cost for this dinner is still pending. The DEC will be given all receipts from the Saturday night dinner.
* American Legion guest speakers have been scheduled. Local guest speakers are still pending confirmation.
* National Anthem is locked in. Calvin Chaney’s daughter in-law has agreed to sing.
* Presentation of Colors will be presented by the Young Marines.
  1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

No report.

* 1. Judge Advocate – Donnie Brannon
  2. Service Officer – George Smith

Please make sure that the posting I send out get to your Post officers.

* 1. Safety Officer – Mike Killion

\*One accident- On Rey’s funeral ride there was a rider who hit his rear brake too hard and fishtailed into the rider next to him. The rider next to him stayed up but has some muscle strains. The rider who fishtailed when down. Has multiple broken bones. I rode his bike to post 328 so his family could pick it up from there. I think the lesson learned is to have more time in the pre ride safety briefing.

\*Debbie-Gunny had brought up that riding with flashers on detracts from knowing when a rider in front hits their brakes as there is a short lag time.

\*Ralph-Has a link to a group riding video. Will email the link and mike will look at it and comment.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

**Events / Meetings Attended**

1. California Legacy Run-January 31st, 2022
2. E-Board meeting Chapter 26- February 8th, 2022
3. Chapter 26 Meeting February 9th, 2022
4. Attended meeting at Post 18-Visalia, possible new ALR Chapter
5. Attended fundraiser breakfast at Chapter 3-Hanford
6. Attended Past President Rey Ruiz’s services in Chino Hills
7. California Legacy Run Committee meeting
   1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Routes will be posted this weekend.

Fred and I will be working on the website.

Spoke to Ida, and was given permission to hold this year’s Legacy Run in honor of Rey.

\*Debbie-Rey wanted all members to register. If all members registered or donated $65 then we could raise $130,000.

\*Mike S.- All Vice Directors, get this information to all your POCs to put out to all membership.

\*Ralph-There are 3 members on this call tonight that were on the 2018 National Legacy Run. We wondered why many other states had their own Legacy runs and California didn’t. The Legacy Run takes care of the children who want to go to college of those KIA or 50% or more disabled. We own them a debt.

* 1. Historian – John Smartt –
  2. Jr. Past President – vacant
  3. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman –
  4. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

Area Vice Directors please talk to and communicate to your chapters to sell the quilt tickets not only to the riders but to the Post, Sons and Auxiliary. If all tickets are sold, we’d make at least $50,000.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Committee meeting reminders. Chair’s will need to meet prior to 2022 Convention, as needed.
   2. Convention shirt 2021-

Tabled until after the 2022 convention.

1. **New Business**

Mike-Resolutions for convention-The bylaws state that a resolution must come before the chapter for approval then must come to an area meeting for approval. Once approved by both, the resolution is emailed to the Secretary to post on the website for all chapters to see so they can discuss it and tell their delegates how to vote. Mike looked into this with the Legion Department Parliamentarian.

Area 2 meeting is March 26 in Santa Clara.

Area 3 meeting is March 12 in Turlock.

Ralph-Area Vice D’s-The Fallen Heroes Cart will be coming through California heading to Ontario to be escorted by Run for the Wall. It will be leaving Sea/Tac on May 11 and arrive in Ontario on May 14. Ralph will send an email to all Area Vice D’s.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

**Ill/injured:**

Teddy Jackson from Chapter 211 is scheduled to have surgery on March 8th. It’s a routine procedure but please still keep him in your prayers.

Chapter 43 had 2 Riders injured on the day of Rey’s funeral escort. One had soft tissue damage and has been in some pain. He did not drop his bike or fall. The other Rider had more substantial injuries to include several broken bones and 7 broken ribs. He has had multiple surgeries and is on the road to recovery now. Have communicated with Monkey and he was already on top of things. I provided additional information on the incident.

**Rider Everlasting:**

Memorial: Phillip “Tiny” Stuart – Vice Director Chapter 872 – Hughson and Junior Past Commander, SAL Detachment, Department of California, February 20, 2022

Mark Rice’s father, a 100-year-old veteran and 31-year Legion member passed away.

1. **Good of the Riders**

Cris- Have proposed the idea of Rey’s Ride to take place sometime this year. Posted on ALR social media pages. Think that Area 5, specifically Chapter 328 can spearhead as they know Rey’s favorite routes. Proceeds can benefit one or more of Rey’s favorite charities (for example, Young Marines).

Areas need to work together, not against each other. This is not a competition, this is brother-and-sisterhood where we all must come together for the good of our mission – supporting Veterans and the community. I reached out to Guido and he responded and it’s my intention to work on ways that we can support each other. I already work closely with Joel from Area 4, and we need to strengthen these bonds here in the Southern Region of the State. The Northern Region does well together and we should mirror that camaraderie.

Guido- Convention is Coming! Convention is Coming! Register at Eventbrite.com search ALRDOC Convention 2022. See you there!

Cris- Thanks to Monkey for the help at the accident. Thanks also to Scott Burris from Chapter 149, a Navy Corpsman, who helped look over the rider at the accident. This was Scott’s first ride with the ALR.

Rochelle- Didn’t see an ALR flag in the procession.

James Adames- Will not be on the next DEC meeting.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 24 March 2022 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 9:06pm