**16th Annual American Legion Riders Convention**

Tulare County Veterans Building

1771 E. Tulare Ave, Tulare CA 93274

April 21-23, 2023

**Minutes**

**Friday, April 21, 2023**

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Pre-Convention Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting

**Saturday April 22, 2023**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Opening of 16th ALRDOC Convention @ 9am**

* Advancement of Colors – California Cadet Corps
* Invocation
* POW/MIA
* Pledge of Allegiance
* National Anthem – Porterville High School
* American Legion Riders Preamble

**Greeting**

* State Director, Mike Smith

Welcome to the 16th American Legion Riders Convention!

I am very happy to see you all have made it safely!

I recognize the Post 20 Commander, Chapter 20 Director and Chapter 20 members. Thank you for all of your hard work in getting ready for the Convention!

Thank you to our distinguished guests for taking time out of their busy lives to be here on a Saturday. We love when our local dignitaries take time to come say hi to us!

For my American Legion Family distinguished guests. I know you were either asked or volunteered to be here. Your time here is appreciated!

Some of our American Legion Family guests are in the running to be part of state leadership. They came here to talk with you! Take this opportunity to talk with them.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Director and trusting in me. We, would not have been successful without your support. This last year would not have been successful without the team we have here. We grew as a family. We gained chapters and we lost them, but overall, we grew. You put in a lot miles and hours supporting Posts and Chapters. Supporting the American Legion Family. Your reported miles this year are 137,144!

What we don’t always do is look beyond the miles we rode. Your time is valuable. The reported number

of hours for the past year was 17,467 hours! The value of a volunteer hour in California is $29.95. That’s a value of $523,136.65! We did this, in the words of Cristina Molina, 2GETHER!

Many of us, me included, speak of the American Legion Family. I love this, because that is who the American Legion Riders are. We are the American Legion Family! We are all branches of

that family tree. We set the tone as we tend to be the most active. The success of our American Legion Family rests on our shoulders. We are the membership and we have the responsibility. So, keep getting out there and put those miles and hours in! Thank you will never be enough for all of your hard work, time and effort.

A LITTLE HOUSE KEEPING.

PLEASE DO NOT DRAG YOUR CHAIRS. IF YOU NEED TO MOVE THEM. PICK THEM UP.

RESTROOMS ARE OUT OF THIS ROOM TO EITHER YOUR LEFT OR RIGHT.

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOURSELF AND DON’T TRASH THE JOINT!

Prior to the introduction of our Distinguished guests, I am going to turn it over to our Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger.

Good morning, Sister and Brother Riders, honored guests, ladies, and gentlemen.

For those who I have not met previously, I am Ralph Wenzinger. I serve as Vice Director of the American Legion Riders for the Department of California.

This morning I have the honor and privilege of recognizing and welcoming several groups of women and men who sit amongst us. While they may not agree, they truly are American heroes. They have been known as soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and Coast Guardsmen. It will not be long before they will be joined by the Guardians of the United States Space Force. While they may not have worn the same uniform or served in the same arenas, they all share a common bond. They are the veterans of the United States military services.

Please stand when I call the war or period during which you served:

Korean War-0 Bosnia- in attendance Syria- in attendance

Vietnam War-in attendance Kosovo- in attendance Desert Storm- in attendance

Lebanon- in attendance Afghanistan- in attendance Desert Shield- in attendance

Grenada- in attendance Horn of Africa-0 Gulf War- in attendance

Panama- in attendance Iraq- in attendance

Somalia- in attendance Uganda-0

Have I missed anyone?

There are several other groups I would like to recognize if any are present:

Active-Duty Military-0

Blue Star Families- in attendance

Gold Star Families-2

Finally, are there any former POWs in attendance today? -0

**Introduction of Local Dignitaries**

* Tulare Police Department – Chief of Police, Fred Ynclan

Good morning, I’m honored that Tulare is the host city for convention. As a veteran it’s an honor to be here. Thanks for having us and thank you for your efforts for our veterans. Be safe.

* Tulare Fire Department – Fire Chief, Michael Ott

Good morning, I retired 474 days ago from the Air Force. It’s an honor to be here. Be safe. I see many bikes parked in the fire lane, lol. My dad was a Vietnam vet and my uncles served in Korea. Have a good day.

**Acknowledgment of Past Department Presidents/Secretaries**

Past President Jim Banakus   
Past President Terry Baughman   
Past President Luis Diaz

Past President Albert Villa

Past President/Past Secretary Steve Weber  
Past President James Adames   
Past President Mick Sobczak   
Past Secretary Jeff Gallagher   
Past Secretary Anita Bart

Past Secretary Rita Christolear  
Past Secretary Monique Clemons

**American Legion Family Dignitaries**

**Welcome by the 15th District**

* 15th District Commander Ralph Wenzinger

Good morning, California Legion Riders, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen. I am Ralph Wenzinger, the Commander of the Friendly 15th District of the Department of California. I want to thank Director Smith for the opportunity to address everyone gathered here and promised him not to drone on and on. I understand any time left over from my allotted 3 minutes will go to the Vice Director of the ALR who I am told bears a strong resemblance to me.

On behalf of the 14 posts, 7 Auxiliary Units, 5 Sons Squadrons and 5 ALR Chapters which comprise the American Legion family of the 15th District, I want to welcome you. You might find it interesting that the 15th District, located in Tulare County and the western portion of Kern County, has the 3rd highest ratio of ALR Chapters to Posts in the Department of California. Over one third of our Posts have a Chapter.

We are honored you have chosen the 15th District to hold your convention and wish you success while you conduct business of your membership. If there is anything we can do ro help you during your stay, please let us know. Thank you.

**Area 3 Vice Commander**

* Jeff Freeman

Good morning, thanks for being here. I’ve worked with the Director this year on national events. Enjoy!

**American Legion Riders Commissioner**

**American Legion Auxiliary**

* Department VA&R Chairman Linda Hayes

Thank you. It’s an honor to be here on behalf of the Auxiliary Department President. You do so much good with escorts, events, etcetera.

I will be running for Auxiliary Department Vice Director for 23/24. Auxiliary, please vote for me in June.

I look forward to seeing you and working with you in the coming years.

**Sons of The American Legion**

* Detachment Commander Jeff Flynt

Thank you. My dad was a WW2 Navy veteran.

We are a dying breed. Next year’s Son’s Commander will be a younger man,

Riders will lead in what you do in money raised and in hours donated.

I have a check for the quilt.

Have a good weekend.

**American Legion Baseball**

* Judy Leonardi (American Legion Baseball)

Last year you did a phenomenal job. We can raise funds for baseball. I have poster boards in the back to show donations. At only $100 per Post, we can raise $40,000 for baseball.

Our younger generation doesn’t know about what veterans have done for the almost 100-year-old program of American Legion Baseball. Americanism and patriotism needs to b taught to our younger generation.

All families have donated and last year the Riders were a major sponsor.

There are flyers on your seats. Please take these back and have your Posts and Chapters donate.

The Operation Family Fund charity received a plaque in the shape of a baseball bat. The ALR also received the same.

**Candidate Department of California Commander**

* John Aldridge

I am pleased to be here. I need to tell people about me. I have been an American Legion member for

37 years. I have been Commander of Area 1, District 5 and Post 306. I have served in all the chairs and on committees on all levels. My wife and I are Air force retired. Our son is in the Air force.

Working together on joint efforts, we will triumph. I will be asking for your support and cooperation in the coming year if I am elected.

**Alternate National Executive Committee**

* Larry Leonardo

Thanks for coming.

Membership is important. You are the most visible of our Legion family. You are doing great. Keep it up.

Keep reporting what you do in miles, volunteer hours, etc. Your reports go to your Director. The Director reports at the Legion Convention. Th Legion Commander reports at the National Convention. The National Commander takes all the Department reports, consolidates them, and reports to Congress.

Next month there is an NEC mtg and we will be reporting back. Communication is needed.

You’re doing a great job. I hope for a good and productive convention.

**The American Legion, Department of California**

* Jere Romano, Commander

Where are my Marines?

It’s my pleasure to be here. Many of you know of my challenges this year. I was diagnosed with stage 2 thyroid cancer and underwent rounds of chemo and radiation. I’ve lost 61 pounds. My cancer is now gone!!

I couldn’t do anything without the real Commander-my wife Martha Romano.

We are hurting. There is so much toxicity in posts. There are many challenges with cliques. The biggest threat to our posts are the cliques and the infighting. There was an officer at the Indio Post who turned their Post in to ABC because the Post wasn’t following ABC rules and the clique said they didn’t have to. Instead of working together it came to this.

Being a member and an officer is not about you!!!!! We need to lift each other up. Together-it only works if we do it together.

I’ve been to big and small posts. I’m the biggest supporter of the Riders. The Riders are incredible. Look at the money raised for the California Legacy Run.

I hope everyone has a safe trip home.

**Roll Call of Officers-yellow denotes present at convention**

Director Mike Smith   
Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger   
Sergeant At Arms Marc Lawrie

Treasurer Stan Tehee   
Chaplain Fred Branson -Excused  
Service Officer George Smith   
Quartermaster Mike Phillips   
Historian Mick Sobczak   
Membership Rochelle Billet-Smith   
Safety Andrew Trapani   
Webmaster Jim Oxley -Excused  
Judge Advocate Donny Brannon   
Parliamentarian Hy Libby   
Area1vice D Mark Rice   
Area2vice D Robert Lopez   
Area3vice D Paul LaPierre   
Area4vice D Brian Toal   
Area5vice D Edmund Arguello   
Area6vice D Cristina Molina

**Roll Call of Chapters**

3, D9, D10, D13, 16, 20, 26, 28, D28, 30, 31, 43, 48, 50, 53, 60, 61, 64, 69, 77, 79, 82, 83, 84, 88, 95, 96, 100, 105, 108, 111, 112, 119, 130, 132, 133, 136, 146, 147, 149, 163, 176, 180, 184, 200, 202, 211, 221, 229, 233, 255, 262, 263, 264, 281, 289, 299, 311, 328, 348, 354, 359, 364, 365, 383, 416, 421, 428, 437, 460, 468, 476, 497, 507, 509, 519, 521, 534, 555, 574, 584, 587, 595, 684, 694, 711, 716, 739, 741, 742, 755, 785, 804, 835, 848, 852, 872, 951

**Department Awards and Presentations**

* Charters to New Chapters

Chapter 61 San Pedro Battleship Iowa A4

Chapter 64 Santa Cruz A2

Chapter 95 Oroville A1

Chapter 264 Lincoln A1 transfer

Chapter 497 Bloomington A5

Chapter 755 Covina A6

Chapter 785 Visalia A3

Chapter 951 March Air Field A5

Chapter 26 Bakersfield- reissue

* Certificate to the Chapter in each area with most new members

Area 1 Ch 383 6 new members

Area 2 Ch 69 3 new members

Area 3 Ch 108 6 new members

Area 4 Ch 61 5 new members

Area 5 Ch 112 9 new members

Area 6 Ch 348 3 new members

* Mileage Awards

Cup returns to Ch 328 with 15230 miles

Area 1 Ch 96 2062 miles

Area 2 Ch 69 9581 miles

Area 3 Ch 221 13412 miles

Area 4 Ch 184 1012 miles

Area 5 Ch 328 15230 miles

Area 6 Ch 311 9609 miles

* Oldest Rider

83 year old Ralph Hiller Ch 112 Area 5

* Youngest Rider

26 year old Kyler Zachery Ch 785 Area 3

* Farthest Miles Rode to Convention

514 miles Jesse Lauderdale Ch 163 Alturas Area1

* Shortest Miles Rode to Convention

1.7 miles Kenneth Ingle Ch 785 Area 3

**Riders Everlasting Memorial Service, ALRDOC Interim Chaplain Robert Lassotovich**

D 13 Johnny Santias; Ch 28 Craig Krogstad; D 28 Alfred Ulrich;

D 28 Linda McIntyre; D 28 Frank Calabro; Ch 53 Roger Cordom;

Ch 53 Rick Padilla; Ch 69 Frank Parra; Ch 69 Dennis Osorio;

Ch 84 Michael Mahoney; Ch 108 Patrick Henry; Ch 130 Don Ridenour;

Ch 132 Frances Schuster; Ch 132 William Schuster;

Ch 149 Tony Azares; Ch 163 Shawn Brimble; Ch 163 Dave Coones;

Ch 211 Theodore Jackson; Ch 255 Yolanda Nash; Ch 354 Terry Chappell;

Ch 383 Jerry Townsend; Ch 421 James Polen; Ch 460 Robert Rank;

Ch 509 Kirk Kellerhals; Ch 951 Gavin Hong;

**Convention in Recess for Convention Group Photo and Lunch, to 1:00 p.m. – 2:30pm**

**Convention Reconvenes**

**Area Reports**

* Area 1 – Mark Rice

Director Smith and Riders of California,

This past month has been a very busy for me with Legion work.

The Wall That Heals will be coming to Citrus Heights CA at the end of March. Chapter 383 Director Lee Payne is working with the City of Citrus Heights and Post 637 in arranging an escort. He has been made the lead for putting it together. He is actively contacting Chapters for Riders to participate. At the moment things are looking doubtful due to a projection of rain and high winds.

There is no progress to report on the transfer of Chapter 233 to Post 55 in Elk Grove.

Chapter 709 has been faltering. I have not been in touch with anyone at the Chapter lately.

There will be a Military Ball for Armed Forces Day to raise funds for Operation Comfort Warrior in

Sacramento on May 20th. Some of the riders for Chapter 383 will be proving escort support at the ball.

Information and tickets can be found at https://www.sacmb.com/.

I held a virtual Area Meeting online Monday March 13th at 7:00 PM. Participation was marginal. We shared activities and members were reminded of upcoming events and reports due to Department.

* Area 2 – Robert Lopez

Proud of all the riders especially with all the weather. District 28 did many missions to support charities. District 10 did a great job with their flag retirement program. The state of California now has new rules in regard to retiring flags. District 9 did a great job this year. District 13 are doing what they can. Chapter 69 doing a fantastic job on rider’s missions.

Area 2, thank you for being who you are and all you do.

* Area 3 – Paul LaPierre

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chapter** | **Rider Ever Lasting** | **Money Raised** | **Money Donated** | **Events supported/Hours** | **Miles** | **Riders within Area 3** |
| **17 Chapters reporting** | **2** | **$39,269** | **$37,458** | **580/8,458** | **72,416** | **422** |

**Charities that benefited from Area 3 Contributions**

American Legion Boys State

Legacy Scholarship Run

American Legion Auxiliary

Financial Assistance to ALR family who lost their home to a fire

Donated $1,000 to a Veteran to purchase mobile scooter for her husband

$500 to the son of an ALR Veteran to help pay for the cost of the Future Medical Leaders conference

Veterans Gift Cards

Honor Flight Breakfast/flight support

Kids Christmas Party

Kern County HS Athletic Dept

Services to Disabled Veterans

Welfare Checks

Boy Scouts

American Legion Youth Baseball

Lake Isabella Little League

KRV ASO Soccer

IWV Navy League Bluejacket Dinner

Merced College Scholarship

Bristol Hospice Kids Camp

Financial Assistance to Veterans

Kern River Blue Star Moms packing of Supplies

Tulare County Veterans Stand Down

Budd Ray Memorial Scholarship

Kern County 999 Officer Down 16th Annual Support Ride

Sikh Riders of America 10th Annual Motorcycle Run

39th Annual Bakersfield Toy Run and Food

Kern River Blue Star Moms, Associated

Castle Air Force Museum fund

Tunnel to Towers

Horses for Warriors

Turlock Jr High School Band

Veterans of Kern County

Bakersfield National Cemetery Flag Project

Wreaths Across America

Western Regional Vietnam Memorial Wall

Veterans Assistance & Rehabilitation (VA&R)

Lemoore Police Department Presents on Patrol

Valley Children’s Hospital Bell ringing ceremony for Max Garcia

Gold Star Family/Fallen Hero’s tree dedication,

Blue Star Mom’s tree dedication at Fresno

Performed Honor Guard/Flag Lines at 41 funerals

Hospice of Amador and Calaveras County

Flag Line and Taps at West Hills College 9/11 ceremony

Woodlake Airport Runway Clean up

Parkfield main street clean up and Three Rivers Mission.

Several in and out of state runs to visit other Legion Post

Cerebral Palsy Awareness Event.

Chowchilla Women’s Facility

Flags to the City of Fresno

Toys for Tots

City of Lemoore Christmas Parade fund

City of Lemoore Veteran’s Day Parade fund

Flag Retirement Ceremony, Lemoore Veteran’s Park

Omega Mental Health

Honor flights

Clovis and Liberty Cemetery

Fresno, Association of US Army

Veterans of the round table

Greatest Generation Mural restoration project

Toys for Tots

Research and Rescue

Monthly Food Distribution

Adopt A Highway Clean Up

Check-A-Vet Program

Elementary hungry kids

Amber Bridges

CA Remembering Our Fallen

Ben Nickels Family Fund

Our Heroes Dream

Portrait of a Warrior

donated $500 gift card for Cycle Gear to raffle off with the Legacy Quilt to help raise more money.

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| --- |
|  |
| **OTHER THAN Poker & Bike Nights**  Flag Line for Officer Carrasco Jr.  CPAK Food Distribution  Kern HS Special Olympics  West Coast Rally  Patriot Guard Rider funeral escorts  Wall Rededication in Dinuba  Installation of Chapter 785  Opening Ceremony Great King’s County Veterans Stand Down  American Race with Chapter 785  Our Hero's Dreams Golf Tournament  Delano Veteran's Kings County Veterans Day Remembrance Color Guard  33rd Annual Westchester 4th of July Parade  Birthday Parade for WWII Navy Nurse,  Delano Inaugural Veterans Parade  911 Memorial Ceremony-Fire Station # 15  17th Annual Armed Forces Support 911 Ride  Bakersfield National Cemetery Event to Memorialize Veterans  Prayer & Pledge at the Kern County Veterans Memorial  Escort the Fallen Hero’s Cart from Santa Nella to Bakersfield  Flag Day with School Flag Folding Ceremonies  Porterville Veteran's Homecoming Court Pageant  Patriot Day 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony  Ride for Awareness  Veterans Day Dance & Parade  Escort Veterans Funerals  Patriot Golf Tournament  Fallen Hero Cart Escort  Remembering Our Fallen Escorts  Run for The Wall  Tour of Honor  Over 50 Basic Military Recruit Escorts  Kern County Honor Flight Escorts  Annual POW-MIA Services  Lead Bakersfield Veterans Day Parade  Attended Veterans Day services at Kern County Veterans Memorial and Camp Hamilton  Memorial Day services at Bakersfield National Cemetery, Camp Hamilton and local cemeteries  Tehachapi Mountain Festival Parade with Chapter 221  Placed Christmas Wreaths at Bakersfield National Cemetery  Veterans without Family Service at Bakersfield National Cemetery  Vietnam Veterans Services at Bakersfield National Cemetery  Carry the load  Vietnam Veterans Recognition ceremony  Four Chaplains Service  Pro Youth Paint Run  End of the Trail 10k  Starbucks Coffee with a Vet  Military Graduation  Four chaplains  Vietnam Memorial Wall Ceremony Dinuba  Vietnam Memorial Wall escort  Kern County Veterans Services Department  9-11 Services at Minter Airfield  Blue Star Moms fundraiser dinner  Escorted Veteran’s Memorial  Sanger Veterans Parade  Porterville Veterans Parade  Trunk or Treat X2  Pony Express X2  Route Recon for Rally with Chapter 20  Community Events with our AL 711 Family  Information and fundraising Booths  Fundraising events for KRV children and local events  Special Olympics in Lancaster  VFW Memorial Day Cemetery Ride  Riders supported thunder on the lot  Barbeque Meet and Greet  Support 911 Ceremony  Western Days  Veteran Day Parade ride to cemetery  Annual “Laying of the Wreaths”  Riders rode to visit fellow post member at Hospital  Post 476 Chili cook-off  Family Fun Day Chapter 43 Hollywood,  CA ROF Escort (x3)  Honor Flight Veteran Escort  CPAK Food Distribution  Kern HS Special Olympics  USS Arizona Memorial Flags/Maintenance |

* Area 4 – Brian Toal

Chapter 309 Star post is disbanded.

**Chapter 184:**

December 2022: San Pedro Christmas parade with Chapter 61

January 2022: Amazing Chili cookoff

February 12 – Chapter 184 took Safety course with local PD- Ride to Live.

Coordinated with Blue Star mothers to present a quilt to Torrance motorcycle cop and Marine.

March 17 – Luck O’ the Glock raffle was very successful.

**Chapter 61:**

Formally charted the USS Iowa Chapter this year

We have continued to get Area 4 more active and do events together and will continue in the future to work together with chapters across the state.

* Area 5 – Edmund Arguello

Events, Meetings, and Area Chapter Activities Attended

Suicide Awareness

Boy & Girl’s State

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Inland Empire

American Legion Legacy Scholarship

The Wall that Heals

Girl’s State

Toys for Tots

Woman’s Auxiliary & Nurses Scholarship Program

Cancer Awareness Fundraiser

Veteran Adaptive Sports Camp

Coachella Boys & Girls Club

Loma Linda Children’s Hospital

National Night Out

American Legions

Wounded Warriors

CVMA SUR

K9 Guardian

Heroes Luncheon

Paralyzed Vets of America

Honor Flight

Thanksgiving at American Forces Service Center

Fallen Officers Foundation

951 Transitional Veterans Program

Ontario USO

Norco H.S. College Scholarships

Helmet For Heroes

Next Step Service Dogs

Hickman Elementary for school supplies

Wreaths Across American for Miramar National Cemetery

Wreaths Across American for Riverside National Cemetery

Veterans Hospital for canteen books

Honor Flight San Diego

Chula Vista Veteran’s Home

Barstow Veteran’s Home

Final Honor Carriage

Military Order of the Purple Heart San Diego Chapter

Patriots and Paws

Breathe Degrees program USMC

ALR Legacy Run quilt

Peer Center Long Beach VA

Warrior Foundation Freedom Station

13th MEU Memorial Day

Fisher House

Bikes for Camp Pendleton Marines and Navy Families

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **$ Donated** | **Volunteer Hours** | **Mileage** | **# Events Supported** |
| **$150,256** | **38500** | **170297.4** | **1124** |

* Area 6 – Cristina Molina

Distinguished members of the American Legion Riders Department of California Leadership, Special Guests, and you, my Brothers and Sisters,

Here is my Area 6 report. You know my favorite word...

TOGETHER we:

Raised over $43,000.

Donated over $32,000.

Volunteered almost 2000 hours

Rode 34,000 miles

Attended over 150 events

Supported over 50 different charities that included local schools, Veteran-focused groups, children and youth community groups, and EACH OTHER’s special fundraising events.

We had Chapter members recognized by their local cities as Veterans of the Year. We attended poker runs, romps, and other bike events.

We welcomed home those returning from deployment, we retired flags, and we made sure our own were laid to rest with respect and dignity.

We sure did a lot, and we did it TOGETHER.

I toned down the use of the word TOGETHER, because there's another word we need to remember... and that is the word FAMILY. We are born into a family where the bond is blood. Here, we are a chosen family, brought together not by blood, but by the desire to do right for our Community, State, and Nation. I have a sister who's 10 years older than me. I can't stand her most of the time. We differ on literally everything, including politics, but if she needs me, she knows I'm there... because she's family. Family members argue with one another. Sometimes they talk about each other. Sometimes they can't stand each other. But when push comes to shove, they'll have each other's backs, because that's what family does. They love and sometimes hate each other simultaneously. A painful part about family can be when one member tries to hurt another intentionally because they don't think the same way, or because of countless other reasons. THAT IS NOT OK. That is NOT what family does. Again, they can argue, but they have to always know they can trust one another to have their backs. For my Veterans in the house... those who were in combat situations... did you know the political or religious beliefs of those who fought alongside you? Did you care? Or did you trust that they had your six NO MATTER WHAT? This organization needs to get back to that and those of you who've served should know that better than anyone else. And those of us who are Auxiliary and Sons are here because WE WANT TO SUPPORT VETERANS and we understand how to be part of this FAMILY.

I want to extend a special thanks to those Riders Family members who've chosen to come together... those who have ignored the "area lines" and ride and enjoy the company of other Riders regardless of their Chapter or Area. That's what family does. They come TOGETHER for the common cause. Under the leadership of Director Mike Smith and these individuals on either side of me, I've seen real family bonds form within this organization. I am excited about what’s to come. And I'm going to challenge EVERYONE in this room to continue the good work of this organization, to put differences aside, and to do what's right for our AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY.

And hey… Don’t forget, we need to do this… what’s the word? TOGETHER.

Thank you for your time.

**Recess to Area Caucuses/Area Elections**

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Convention Reconvenes**

**Report of Area Elections**

**Area 1 Vice Director- Lane Ybright**

**Area 1 Alt Vice- Sam Fergason**

**Area 1 Alt Vice- Mike Johnson**

**Area 2 Vice Director- Robert Lopez**

**Area 2 Alt Vice- Peter Torrecillas**

**Area 2 Alt Vice- Andrew Trapani**

**Area 3 Vice Director- Mike Phillips**

**Area 3 Alt Vice- Ken Sutton**

**Area 3 Alt Vice- Cory Wattenbarger**

**Area 3 Alt vice- Gus Compton**

**Area 4 Vice Director- Brian Toal**

**Area 4 Alt Vice- Jeric Wilhelmsen**

**Area 5 Vice Director- Robert Partlow**

**Area 5 Alt Vice- Rey Maldonado**

**Area 5 Alt Vice- William Blackstone**

**Area 5 Alt Vice- Oliver Wardenaar**

**Area 5 Alt Vice- Jeff Beck**

**Area 5 Alt Vice- Austin Vang**

**Area 6 Vice Director- Cristina Molina**

**Area 6 Alt Vice- Stephanie Huff**

**Area 6 Alt Vice- Pernell Rush**

**Area 6 Alt Vice- Milan Morgan**

**Officer & Committee Reports**

* Director

Since the 2022 Convention, I was very happy to have been able to get out and visit a few places and visit with my ALR Family. I will only highlight a few things that stand out to me. I was on 44 Zoom calls. 3 Installations. 4 Poker runs. 2 parades. Played Taps at 11 funerals, a 2 Legion DEC’s and 1 Sons of American Legion DEC.

* May 2022
  + 5/7 – Chapter 20 Cannon Ball Run
  + 5/9 – Legacy Run Meeting (Zoom)
  + 5/14 – Chapter 716 Blessing of the Bikes
  + 5/16 – Legacy Run Meeting (Zoom)
  + 5/17 – Online meeting with Jere Romano and others, to discuss having a mid-year DEC with all branches of the American Legion Family. Location being discussed is Ontario, CA.
  + 5/23 – Legacy Run Meeting (Zoom)
  + 5/24 – 2022 ALR Convention After Action Meeting (Zoom)
  + 5/31 – Legacy Run Meeting (Zoom)
* June 2022
  + 6/4 – Attended Chapter 119 Placerville Poker Run. Great ride. Nicely done by the Chapter. Well attended. Managed to win all the prizes I put in for.
  + 6/9 – 6/12 – Attended the CA Legacy Run. Logged in 1547 miles. On 6/9 rode from Porterville with members from my chapter to Fort Bragg for the kickoff. If you haven’t rode in north, you really should make the time. The roads are great and the scenery is even better. During the run managed to make it home to attend my daughter’s dance recital and rejoin the run in Turlock.
  + 6/25-26 – Attended The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons-of-the-American Legion Conventions. Addressed the membership at each convention.
* July 2022
  + 7/4 – Attended The Great American Road Race with Chapter 785, Visalia. American Legion Riders led runners at beginning of race.
  + 7/5 – By-laws Ad-hoc Zoom meeting
  + 7/11 – Ca Legacy Run Zoom meeting
  + 7/14 – Safety Committee Zoom meeting
  + 7/18 – Chapter 20 West Coast Rally meeting
  + 7/19 – By-laws Ad-hoc Zoom meeting
  + 7/23 – Went to Chapter 534, Orcutt Poker Run to support them.
  + 7/30 – Attended Area 5 Meeting at Chapter 53, Hemet
* August 2022
  + 8/1 – Attended Area 1 Meeting via Zoom
  + 8/9 – While at the Rally in Sturgis, SD, rode in the Black Hills State University Jacket Run, which benefits Veterans at the University.
  + 8/15 – Legacy Run Meeting via Zoom
  + 8/16 – Safety Committee Meeting via Zoom
  + 8/24 – Chapter 20 WCR Meeting via Zoom
* September 2022
  + 9/5 – Chapter 20 Rally Meeting
  + Chapter 785 Visalia Poker Run
  + 9/12 - Sounded Taps for Marine Captain Neal Joel Schneider
  + 9/14 – Chapter 20 Rally Meeting
  + 9/19 – Legacy Run Meeting (Zoom)
  + 9/20 – ALR Safety Committee Meeting (Zoom)
  + 9/23 – Met with Department Commander Romano at American Legion HQ in Sanger.
  + 9/24 – Area 3 Meeting Chapter 221 Tehachapi
  + 9/24 – Chapter 184 Redondo Beach Pig Roast/1 Year Anniversary
  + September 30 to October 2, 2022, West Coast Rally, hosted by Chapter 20.
* October2022
  + October 17, 2022 Legacy Run meeting, via Zoom
  + October 18, 2022, traveled with State Vice Director to Santa Cruz for installation of Chapter 64 officers. Chapter 64 had a dinner following the installation. Food was great!
  + October 22, 2022 traveled to Chapter 428 Banning for Bike Rodeo.
  + October 25, 2022 visited Chapter 555 Midway City Oktoberfest.
  + October 25, 2022 PPC/DC meeting, via Zoom
  + October 29, 2022, attended American Legion 15th District Meeting at Post 779 Terra Bella
* November 2022
  + November 3, 2022, conducted site check with Chapter 20 for the 2023 ALR Convention
  + November 4, 2022, attended Our Hero’s Dreams Golf Tournament Kickoff
  + November 5, 2022, participated in Delano’s inaugural Veteran’s Day Parade. Chapter’s 20, 26 and 785 were in attendance.
  + November 11, 2022, participated in Porterville’s Veteran’s Day Parade, 104th year.
  + November 12, 2022, attended Chapter 20 Veteran’s Day Dance.
  + November 15, 2022, attended ALRDOC Safety Zoom meeting
* December 2022
  + December 21, 2022 traveled to Comfort Suites in Tulare for tour, with Chapter 20 Director
  + December 21, 2022 CA Legacy Run Zoom Meeting
  + December, 2022 Chapter 20 Convention Meeting
  + December 28, 2022 Past Presidents/Directors Meeting
  + December 20, 2022 Chapter 20 Convention Meeting
  + December 12, 2022 CA Legacy Run Zoom Meeting
  + December 17, 2022, conducted installation of officers for Chapter 951, March AFB
  + December 19, 2022, attended Chapter 20 Christmas Wrapping event
  + December 19, 2022, attended funeral in Lindsay, CA
  + December 27, 2022, attended funeral in Visalia, CA
* January 2023
  + January 6, 2023, attended Theodore ‘Teddy’ Jackson funeral
  + January 9, 2023, attended Post 20 Blood Drive
  + January 11, 2023, attended funeral in Visalia, CA
  + January 12, 2023, attended funeral in Porterville, CA
  + January 14, 2023, conducted installation of Officer for Chapter 497, Bloomington
  + January 14 and 15, 2023, attended American Legion, Department of California DEC in Orange, CA
  + January 16, 2023 CA Legacy Run Zoom Meeting
  + January 17, 2023 Chapter 20 Convention Zoom Meeting
  + January 19, 2023, attended funeral in Dinuba, CA
  + January 21, 2023, attended American Legion District 15 Meeting at Post 785, Visalia, CA
  + January 23, 2023 CA Legacy Run Zoom Meeting
  + January 24, 2023 Convention and Rally Zoom Meeting
  + January 25, 2023, attended funeral at Tule Indian Reservation
  + January 27, 2023, attended/played Taps at 2 funerals in Porterville.
  + January 30, 2022, CA Legacy Run Zoom Meeting
  + January 31, 2022, Chapter 20 Convention Zoom
* February 2023
  + February 4, 2023, addressed TALDOC Area 3 Meeting.
  + February 10, 2023, attended/played Taps at funeral in Porterville.
  + February 11, 2023, attended/played Taps at funeral in Fresno.
  + February 11, 2023, attended/played Taps at 4 Chaplains Service in Sanger.
  + February 13, 2023, Convention and Rally Zoom
  + February 16, 2023, Flag line in Reedley for slain Selma PD officer Carrasco
  + February 17, 2023, attended/played Taps in Delano.
  + February 18, 2023, attended/addressed TALDOC Area 3 Revitalization at Post 83 in Merced
  + February 20, 2023, CA Legacy Run Zoom
  + February 21, 2023, attended/Played Taps at Santa Nella National Cemetery.
  + February 23, 2023, attended funeral in Fowler
* March 2023
  + March 2, 2023, Convention site tour
  + March 6, 2023, CA Legacy Zoom
  + March 7, 2023, Credentials Committee Zoom
  + March 8, 2023, Chapter 20 Convention Zoom
  + March 11, 2023, Chapter 26 Poker Run
  + March 11, 2023**,** Attended American Legion Birthday Celebration at Post 779 Terra Bella
  + March 13, 2023, Area 1 Meeting Zoom
  + March 15, 2023, Chapter 299 Wild Wings Wednesday
  + March 18, 2023, attended District 15 Meeting at Post 20 Porterville
  + March 20, 2023, Blood donation at Post 20 Porterville blood drive
  + March 20, 2023, Chapter 20 Convention Zoom
  + March 20, 2023, CA Legacy Zoom
  + March 21, 2023, Convention and Rally Committee
  + March 22, 2023, Finance Committee Zoom
  + March 27, 2023, Chapter 20 Convention Zoom
  + March 28, 2023, Convention and Rally Zoom
* April 2023
  + April 1, 2023, Area 3 Meeting
  + April 3, 2021, CA Legacy Zoom
  + April 4, 2023, Chapter 20 Convention Zoom
  + April 10, 2023, CA Legacy Zoom
  + April 10, 2023, Chapter 20 Convention Zoom
  + April 11, 2023, Convention and Rally Zoom
  + April 12, 2023, ALR Finance Zoom
  + April 17, 2023, CA Legacy Zoom

I want to thank you for allowing me to be here. It has been an honor to represent you all during the past year.

* Vice Director

Since our last convention in Victorville, I have participated in the following:

Monthly meetings of the ALRDOC Executive Committee

The California Legacy Run (Southern Route)

The West Coast Rally in Terra Bella

Five Area Director’s meetings

Five Chapter Officer Installations

Thirty-two ALRDOC committee meetings

Forty-five other Chapter, American Legion, community, and veteran’s related events / meetings.

I also attended meetings of my own ALR Chapter and American Legion Post. I authored an article about the California Legacy Run which appeared on the American Legion, Department of California website (Calegion.org) in July 2022.

In the upcoming year I plan on attending the California Legacy Run, the West Coast Rally, and individual Chapter events such as Chapter 20’s Cannonball Run next month. I am hoping to participate once again in the American Legion Legacy Run this August and, for the first time since 2017, the ALR Western Region Romp. This year’s Romp is being held in Tombstone Arizona.

If I am re-elected ALRDOC Vice Director, I will try to attend a director’s meeting in each Area and travel to other meetings as requested by the Director.

Sick:

Louisa Elizondo Carson – Chapter 785

Eddie Orosco – Chapter 20

Robert Lassotovich – Chapter 20

Jenny Brownell – wife of Mike Brownell - Chapter 711

Cory Wattenbarger – Chapter 221

Paul Swanson – Chapter 460

Mark Rice – Chapter 383

Fred Branson – Chapter 96

Prayer was said by Robert Lassotovich.

* Secretary

We had a busy year. Everyone eventually got their paperwork in.

New obligation timelines will be out in the next few weeks.

Certification of Officers is due July 31.

* Credentials

The Credentials Committee met in February. The team makes delegate check in go smoothly.

* Resolutions
* Convention and Rally

I would first like to thank Director Smith for the appointment to Convention and Rally Chairman. I knew

going in with a new job it would have its challenges. As our Director makes up for his stature with his

personality I as well made my lack of time work with the help of others.

A very special thank you to Debbie “Den Mother” Proffitt for always being there to guide me and help

out when needed. Your understanding and grace have kept me from giving up on more than one

occasion and I always look forward to seeing you, Art and the bear children.

The time has come when we have made it to convention and the road was bumpy twisty and curvy, but

that doesn’t matter. What matters is we have made it through another year together. As the beautiful

and confident Chris always reminds us together is what matters.

We may not all get along or see eye to eye but that should not keep us from our mission of riding

together and building the American Legion Family stronger and better with every event and mission that

we complete.

We have all seen things and lost loved ones, cried and laughed together. That is what is the most

important. Not where, what or how rally and convention were. The best part no matter what is getting

to see the faces we may only see once or twice a year catching up and creating memories that will carry

us through to the next time there is a rally or convention.

My sisters and brothers thank you for all being here. Enjoy your time here with longtime friends and the

new ones you will meet. Cherish these moments as today is a gift and tomorrow is not guaranteed.

May we all have a fabulous weekend together and be sure to thank Chapter 20 for all of their efforts for

Rally and Convention a great task for to take on both.

I look forward to my time with all of you and seeing you all again in September with Chapter 53 in

Hemet. The Great Mick will put on one fabulous show, I am sure.

Thank you again for your time and your presence. For me it is the greatest gift.

* Public Relations
* Constitution & By Laws

On March 16, 2023 The American Legion Departmen of California HQ held an Emergency DEC meeeting via Zoom.

* There were 60+ persons in attendance.
* Commander Jere Romano stated the American Legion Riders Department of California Bylaws were sent to everyone for review on 3/1/2023. Allowing more than 10 days for review.
* He asked if there was any questions or if someone could make a motion to accept them.
* Immediately there was a point of order called by past Commander Autrey James
  + He stated that it is customary for the bylaws to be presented to the ALR DEC and then the ALR general membership prior to comeing to Legion DEC for approval.
* Commander Romano asked if anyone objected to allowing the State JA for the Riders to speak.
  + There was no objection.
* I gave them the dates in which they were approved at both the ALR DEC and the General membership with the results exceeding the required 2/3.
* Past Commander James retracted his Point of Order and our bylaws moved to motion.
* They passed unanimously.

We already have a template prepared at the chapter level that I would be happy to share with any POC.

I will be reaching out in the upcoming months to try and get any chapte that has older or outdated bylaws to update using the new template. Feel free to share my contact information that I have put in the chat, I will communicate directly with all the chapters.

I plan on creating a form that will track all the chapters and the date their bylaws were last updated.  
  
\*\*More to come\*\*

* Membership

Active Chapters-97

Area 1-15

Area 2-11

Area 3-17

Area 4-4

Area 5-36

Area 6-14

Total Riders- 1,920

Total Veterans- 1,223

Total Sons- 375

Total Auxiliary- 322

Total Active Duty- 37

* California Legacy Scholarship Run

The 4th Annual California Legacy Run raises money for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund and provides opportunities to honor fallen Veterans and to interact with members from several American Legion Posts between Southern and Northern California.

In memoriam Dennis McClary

Dennis served as the DOC Ways & Means Chairman from mid-2019 until 2021. During 2019 Dennis heard about the California Legacy Run, and how little California had been donating to the American Legion’s Legacy Scholarship Fund. During a chapter meeting he saw a barn quilt that the chapter VP had made and asked Kathleen, his wife, if she could make a real quilt like that to raffle off. This was the start of the DOC Legacy Quilt Raffles. The first year was sponsored by Chapter 83, and Dennis and Kathleen drove all over the state selling tickets at chapter meetings, Area meetings and AL DEC meetings, raising over $11,000. Along with selling the tickets, Dennis also educated people on what exactly the Legacy Scholarship was. Dennis helped design the 2nd Annual Legacy Quilt, but never got to see it completed.

He loved the American Legion, American Legion Riders, and all that they stand for, but the Legacy Scholarship Fund was always near and dear to his heart.

This year’s run is open to all riders, not just ALR.

Date: Kick off Thursday, May 4th, 2023. Run is May 5th, 2023, thru May 7th, 2023

Registered Riders over 50

Cost: $50.00

Last year we raised over $58,000. This year my goal is to raise $80,000.

* Safety

No incidents were reported to the Safety Officer.

This coming year I will be promoting additional motorcycle training such as intermediate and Advanced motorcycle riding programs offered by the MSF and CMSP. Also, having riders looking into other avenues such as civilian motor officer classes offered by most Sheriff’s offices.

The more education you have the less likely you are to have an accident. Take classes.

* Uniform
* Quartermaster

Currently we have 6 orders Invoiced and 2 orders were shipped on 4-19-23. Please pay for all orders submitted in a timely manner and your orders will get out to you as quickly as possible.

During the past year we had numerous orders, however I am unable to give exact figures as when I assumed the role of Quartermaster no orders were ever marked as completed in the system. I marked all previous orders that were in the system as completed and in doing so this game them the date of completion as this year. In the coming years I or the Quartermaster will be able to give accurate numbers as to the amount of orders that were fulfilled during that ALR year.

I am currently looking at vendors to produce Red Friday shirts as well as ALR sweat shirts in various colors to be added to our store. I am looking for the best quality and price for our members.

If you have any questions regarding your orders feel free to give an email or a call. Leave a message and I will return your call as I don’t generally answer numbers I don’t know. 559-759-7705.

* Webmaster

30 to 60 days to launch the new website. It will be moved then will be in the process of being updated.

* Service Officer

If you haven't seen a Veteran Service Officer, do so. Addressed the Legionnaires, SON's and Auxiliary, on behalf of the members of the family and friends that have served.

Stressing the importance of getting your military documents, copies of orders and medical records then seeing a VSO, not only for yourself but for their spouses and family.

Document any injury you received while serving. Checking your hearing from when you joined to now and filing for any loss of hearing. Tinnitus, do you have a high pitch squeal or whooshing sound? Does it interrupt your sleep?

!0% disability provides your college-age children tuition-free access to any University of California or California State University.

Make sure you pass the information I send out to your Post's, Auxiliary and SONs to make sure we cover all our AL Family Members, their friends and loved ones.

Make sure you know if you have any questions to see me anytime while at the conference or to email or phone me anytime with any questions.

* Past President/Director Club-

Ways and Means-

The 2023 Legacy Quilt Raffle is coming to an end. The Chapters have sold what tickets they could or made donations in lieu of selling them. Most of the Areas did fairly well. As of April 18th, Area 1 had sold 48.35% of the tickets distributed, Area 2 had sold 67.65% of tickets distributed, Area 3 had sold 82.63% of tickets distributed, Area 5 had sold32.85% of tickets distributed, and Area 6 had sold 15.33% of tickets distributed. All totaled as of April 18th I had collected $7,750 in ticket sales and $410 in donations for a total of $7980. I hope to be collecting quite a lot more at the Convention since there are still so many tickets out there that are unaccounted for. All money collected so far and that collected at the Convention will be turned over to Stan Tehee, State Treasurer on Sunday April 23, 2023. Final accounting for the 2023 Legacy Quilt will be given at the May DEC meeting.

**Convention and Rally Future Locations**

* Convention 2024 Location Voting (Areas 4, 5, 6)
  + Chapter 421 (Area 5) Highland unable to host
* Convention 2025 Location Voting (Areas 1, 2, 3)

Ch 69 Hollister would like to host. Motion to confirm Ch 69 Hollister as the 2025 convention host by Jeff Gilman of Chapter 28. 2nd by Oliver Wardenaar of Ch 460. Passed by vote of delegates.

* Rally 2024 Location Voting (Areas 1, 2, 3)
* Rally 2025 Location Voting (Areas 4, 5, 6)

**Resolutions/Amendments to By-Laws**

* Introduction of Resolutions

1. Past Secretary vote

* Voting on Resolutions

Motion to approve the past secretary vote resolution by Sean Kane. 2nd by Leonard Phillips.

Much discussion for and against the resolution was voiced.

Voice vote was taken of convention delegates. Resolution was passed by convention delegates.

* Introduction of Amendments
* Voting on Amendments

**Nomination of Candidates for Executive Officers**

* Director

1. Mike Smith Ch 20 incumbent

* Vice Director

1. Ralph Wenzinger Ch 26 incumbent

* Sergeant-at-Arms

1. Marc Lawrie Ch 951 incumbent

**Announcements**

Please see our vendors who are here today.

Kirsh helmets who graciously donated a $150 certificate for a base helmet.

Martha Romano- has the Commander’s Angry Bear shirts for $25.

Chris Wenzinger- Has the raffle tickets for the 25/25/25/25 raffle at $5 each.

Bill Bryant update- Bill from Chapter 119 had a major medical need for a generator. The DEC donated $1250 toward it. He sends his thanks.

The cutting of the Director’s hair for the highest bid. Unbeknownst to the Director, Robert Lassotovich had come up with an idea for each chapter to donate $100. The money was given to the Area Vice Director’s during their caucuses. All told, with donations from chapters, from the floor and those that came in through PayPal at that time, $12,204 was raised for the Legacy Run. So, in the end, not only did Director Smith get his hair shaved off but SAA Marc Lawrie had his beard and mustache shaved off. A good time for a great cause was had by all.

**Benediction**

**Recess @ 4:40pm**

**Convention Reconvened @ 9am Sunday**

**Finance Report**

* Vote on Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

General Accounting as of 4/17/23

Ending Bank Balance $ 80,603.61

PayPal Balance $ 21,906.52

Ending Total Balance $ 102,510.13

Finance Officer Notes:

We have had a good financial year in 2022-2023. Our current budget has a surplus beyond our management reserve of $41,638.97 of at least $27,535.66 and that is if the budgeted $33,335.50 fully used in April.

We have some planned changes to the budget for the 2023- 2024 year. One proposed change is to reduce the price of the Zoom conferencing licenses. In the beginning of the pandemic this was used with a large license and the ability to have a large number of attendants, but as we have become more educated in the system we now know that this large of a licenses is not needed, this reduces this line item to a little over a quarter of what it is now. Also, we found that the teleconference has been largely replaced by zoom, which also has simple telephone conferencing configuration. So, this line item was removed.

I also wanted to review some of the proposed increases in the budget.

First, the website line item. This is the largest change suggested by the finance committee. Originally the budgeted amount was $150 in 2010 and changed to $380 in 2018. This item has been artificially low because we have had a member, Jim Oxley, who has programmed and hosted our website. This is a very difficult task, and he is retiring from this position, so we are looking at the cost for his activities. This has been quoted at $3,000 and the finance committee has placed that number into the budget. There may be come cost cutting as we dig into this next year, but at this time the committee would feel comfortable leaving the $3,000 in place as the website is a very important part of the group.

The Director’s line item. This was last increased in 2017, regular inflation from 2017 to 2023 has been 23%, meaning that if the Director was doing the same amount of as previous Directors, the $2,000 should be $2,460. Our Director is a very active one and the finance committee has taken the active role and inflation into account and suggested raising the line item to $3000.

The Vice Director’s line item. This was last increased in 2017 as well, regular inflation from 2017 to 2023 has been 23%, meaning that if the $1,500 of 2017 should be $1,830 in 2023. But our Vice Director is as active as our Director and the finance committee has taken the active role and inflation into account and suggested raising the line item to $2,500.

The last time the Area Vice Directors saw an increase in their line items was in 2018, since then the inflation been 20.14% and this would mean that the current line-item total of $500 would be $590. The finance committee proposes changing these line items from $500 to $750.

Motion to accept the 23-24 ALRDOC budget as given by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Ken Sutton. Passed by voice vote of the delegates.

The drawing for the Kirsh helmet was drawn.

The drawing for the CLR quilt was drawn-Winner is Chapter 460.

**2nd Nomination of Candidates for Executive Officers**

* Director

1. Mike Smith – no new nominations

* Vice Director

1. Ralph Wenzinger – no new nominations

* Sergeant-at-Arms

1. Marc Lawrie – no new nominations

**Candidates for Executive Officers Address to Delegates**

**Director**

**Vice Director**

**Sergeant At Arms**

A motion to have the delegates do a white ballot vote to include Director, Vice Director and Sergeant At Arms by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Ken Sutton. Passed by voice vote of the delegates.

A white ballot vote was taken and all were agreed to Mike Smith, Director, Ralph Wenzinger, Vice Director and Marc Lawrie, Sergeant At Arms.

**Election of Executive Officers**

* Director – Mike Smith
* Vice Director – Ralph Wenzinger
* Sergeant-at-Arms – Marc Lawrie

**Installation of New Officers by Commander Jere Romano**

**New Officers Take Positions**

**Remarks from New Officers**

**Director**

Thank you to Paige, Zoey and Patty for supporting me over the last year.

Thank you all for your support over the last year and I’m looking forward to the coming year.

**Vice Director**

Thanks to each of you for allowing me to be your Vice Director and serving you. Looking forward to the coming year.

**SAA**

Thank you for this year. Looking forward to another year.

**Good of the American Legion Riders**

Lane Ybright-Area 1- Hope to see all of you. Will visit all chapters in my area.

Robert Lopez-Area 2- Thank you for all you do and having the confidence for giving me a 3rd term.

Mike Phillips-Area 3- Thank you Paul for mentoring me. Will do my best.

Brian Toal-Area 4- Keep the rubber side down.

Robert Partlow-Area 5-mThank you for voting for me. I will see all of you this year.

Cris Molina-Area 6- Thank you area 6 for the trust and support. Let’s get this done together. I will be there to support all other Area Vice Directors.

Mike Smith-Thanks to Luis Torres for delivering the CLR shirts and patches.

Mike Smith-This year those who wear a white beret will have their mileage count for their chapter miles.

Robert Stover- had a good time and had great camaraderie. We can’t forget our 22 veterans who are dying each day of suicide. If you haven’t seen someone in a while, reach out to them. Find out why people aren’t coming around anymore. Call them and check up on them. To me this is unacceptable. It doesn’t take that much time to call and reach out a hand. There has been a 22% increase in active-duty suicides.

Robert Lassotovich said a prayer.

Bobby Brown-Chapter 229-asked for a donation of $1000 from the DEC. Since they weren’t able to complete convention last year due to their post being suspended. They had started the leg work and continued to help the DEC. He explained that the chapter needed the help. Motion to donate $1000 to chapter 229 by Oliver Wardenaar. 2nd by James Adames. There was much discussion for and against the motion. A standing vote of delegtes and DEC was taken. The motion failed.

Wendell Wammack-Ch 26- Invites everyone to come see the new WW2 memorial in Bakersfield.

John Botwright-Ch 83- I love the preamble. I appreciate all and it’s an honor to be here.

Wayne Keckley-Ch 108- If you’re trying to get names of veterans who could use a visit, meals, a small tree at Christmas etc. contact your local county hospice.

Frank Pightling-Ch 3- My Facebook was hacked. I no longer have access. If you get weird stuff it’s not from me.

JD Bennet-Ch 785-Introduced those running Old Glory Rebel- They were here selling shirts and hoodies. Thy made a donation of $120 to the CLR.

Wayne Madsen-Ch 460- There are so many veterans in need. Paul Swanson has moved to Tennessee to be closer to his daughters. Please reach out and call him.

Commander Jere Romano- I’m thankful to be here. The Legion is hurting for members. We are 7500 deficient this year. This means cutting the budget including the budget for VSOs. RECRUIT. We need the members. Revitalize at your post. I’m begging. We need people to fill Committee Chairs. I’m donating an additional $100 to CLR.

Wayne Madsen-Ch 460- We would like to look into hosting the 2024 convention and see if it would be possible for us.

Bob Atchley-Ch 20- Will look into hosting the 2024 Rally.

Liz Doidge-ALA Secretary- Thanks for all the changes the Riders help make.

So far, we have collected over $11,000 for CLR.

**Benediction**

**Adjournment @ 10:28am**