**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

A picture containing text, clipart, gear

Description automatically generated

*For God and Country*

*DEC Agenda*

*9-29-2023*

1. **Call to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 6 pm @ Hemet, CA
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Mark Rice
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Director Mike Smith
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – SAA Marc Lawrie
5. **ALR Preamble** – Director Mike Smith
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – Marc Lawrie

**Area 1 Vice-D** – Lane Ybright

**Area 2 Vice-D** – Robert Lopez

**Area 3 Vice-D** – Mike Phillips

**Area 4 Vice-D** – Brian Toal EXCUSED

**Area 5 Vice-D** – Robert Partlow EXCUSED

**Area 6 Vice-D** – Cristina Molina

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Mark Rice

**Historian** – Louisa Carson

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

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

**Parliamentarian-** Mick Sobczak

**Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani EXCUSED

**Service Officer** - George Smith EXCUSED

**Convention & Rally** – Bob Atchley

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee ABSENT

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary EXCUSED

**Webmaster/Public Relations** – Tom Lively

**Guests: (TALDOC, TAL ALR Commissioners, ALR, etc)**

Many past and present District officers, many guests from many chapters.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – ALRDOC August 24, 2023 minutes.

Accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 9/25/23

Beginning Bank Balance $ 98,032.47

Bank Deposits $ 30,536

Interest on bank account $ 4.48

Bank Withdraws $ 70,515.30

Ending Bank Balance $ 58,057.65

PayPal Balance $ 1,546.46

Ending Total Balance $ 59,604.11

Finance Officer Notes:

Majority of the withdrawal was to our great Legacy Run fund, I will let the legacy run report out, but this is a great thing.

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as given pending audit by Mike Phillips. 2nd by Lane Ybright. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

Since our last meeting I have:

* August 28 – Jim Hackney Night Out @ NASCAR Hall of Fame
* August 29 – Presented CA ALRDOC donation to National Legacy Scholarship @ National American Legion Convention
* August 23 to September 3 – Return ride home to California
* September 12 – Represented ALRDOC and played Taps at Clovis annual POW/MIA Remembrance
* September 16 – Attended Chapter 460 San Diego Pig Roast
* September 18 – Post 20 Blood Drive
* September 21 – Taps for Chapter 20 former Rider Daryl Kulberth
* September 22 – Taps for Post 20 Honor Guard
* September 23 – Taps for Post 20 Honor Guard
* September 25 – CA Legacy Run Meeting
* September 26 – Taps for Post 20 Honor Guard (x2)
* September 26 – Rally Meeting

I have been a little busy since our last meeting. The ride to the National Convention was quite eventful. As you all know we took off while Hurricane Hillary was coming in. Thankfully we were a bit ahead of the main storm, so we got bands of rain preceding the main part of the storm. Unfortunately, one of our Riders did go down, Past President Mick Sobczak. He is still healing up and getting a little better each day.

Representing our state and presenting the check was a distinct honor. Thank you for allowing me to represent you on the National stage. I did get to attend the Annual Jim Hackney Night at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. We were able to get into the simulators and run a race. I was doing great and winning until someone took me out! I couldn’t get into the pits, so I did my best to take out other drivers! Unfortunately, my car was too damaged to do anything but drive in circles.

I would like to extend my thanks to Chapter 53 for hosting the 2023 West Coast Rally. There has been a lot of planning and work to get the Rally off the ground! A big thanks to Auxiliary Unit 53 for manning the kitchen, making sure we all get fed. I hope everyone has a great time riding and visiting with each other.

Stay safe and I will see you on the road!

Post 53 commander and Chapter 53 Director, Carl Martin, talked about the work putting the Rally together. Talked about the ride, silent auction and raffles.

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

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

August 26 – ALR Area 2 Directors Meeting Chapter 105 Redwood City

August 27 - Recruit Send Off and Escort, Bakersfield Armed Forces Career Center

August 28 – California Legacy Run Committee

September 4 - Recruit Send Off and Escort, Bakersfield Armed Forces Career Center

September 5 – Convention and Rally Committee

September 10 – Chapter 50 Paso Robles Poker Run

September 11 – 9/11 Ceremony at Bakersfield World Trade Center Memorial

September 13 – Chapter 26 Bakersfield meeting

September 19 – Convention and Rally Committee

September 24 – Recruit Send Off and Escort, Bakersfield Armed Forces Career Center

September 25 – California Legacy Run Committee

September 26 – Convention and Rally Committee

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

October 3 – Chapter 26 Bike Night at Post 26 Bakersfield

October 14 – Sikh Riders of America 11th Annual Ride – Bakersfield

October 21 - Kern River Blue Star Moms Dinner – Post 26 Bakersfield

Events planned for the months to come:

September 29 - October 1 – West Coast Rally Chapter 53 Hemet

October 7 – TAL Area 3 meeting, Post 190 Ripon

October 14 – Four Seasons Blue Star Moms Poker Run – Tehachapi

October 28 – ALR Area 3 Meeting Chapter 88 Turlock

Got the donations for Maui transported to Sanger.

1. **Sgt. At Arms’ Report** – Marc Lawrie

Have been visiting posts.

Attended the American Legion convention in June.

Went to the Chapter 460 pig roast and hit a big pot hole.

1. **Secretary’s Report** – Debbie Proffitt

No chapter left on probation. 1 on suspension because the post is suspended. Post 519 is off suspension and the chapter is coming back together. 2 other chapters timelines have been extended but not for much longer.

ALL chapters need to turn in bylaws. Please be working on the bylaws update. We don’t want Donny to get slammed on March 1. President/Vice President to Director/Vice Director and Trial Manual to Hearing Manual. You don’t have to use the new template. You can update your current bylaws. I have the last batch of bylaws if a chapter needs them.

Been participating in the California Legacy Run committee and the Convention and rally committee.

Have been working on upcoming chapter events, the Halloween party on the 14th, the Barstow Veterans Home visit, working with the Chamber of commerce to support military Christmas families, Working on Toys for Tots and Wreaths Across America.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. **Area 1 Vice D –** Lane Ybright

It was my great honor to be asked to lead the first leg of the escort followed by 1 other rider from chapter 119 and several from chapter 108 for Albert “Pancho” Villa Jr from Daneri Mortuary in Jackson out to Westley on I-5, we were met along the way by several of the Patriot Riders. There were many riders in Westley to take the reins for the second leg, while I ran back to Placerville to get to work, as I was unable to secure the day off. It was almost a five hour round trip before work, great morning.

I also took a ride this month with my own chapter that was beautiful, and the weather was perfect.

I have been trying to help a new Chapter get started in McCloud and they are very close to having all their ducks in a row. Thank you for the help from Debbie, we might get it done.

I will be riding to Hemet for the DEC meeting and West Coast Rally at the end of the month.

I was installed as the Vice Director of Chapter 119 Riders and Commander of the Sons Squadron 119.

Will be participating in the Petaluma car show.

I signed up the post for Wreaths Across America.

Held a dinner for Gold Star families.

Held a fundraiser to fill backpacks for students.

1. **Area 2 Vice D –** Robert Lopez

Had a lunch at the Livermore hospital by Area 2.

Have attended many chapter meetings in Area 2.

Have a poker run with District 28.

Raising money for Christmas trees for vets.

Will be participating in wreaths Across America.

Area 2 has a new chapter coming in, Chapter 591, Seaside.

Area 2 members participated in the California Legacy Run.

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Mike Phillips

In the month of September, I still have no motorcycle. I can’t wait to get back on two wheels and start visiting the chapters in my area.

Area 3 Chapters some of the Chapters were out there being seen this month. Below is a list of events they have participated in:

Chapter -18 Poker Run Post 50

Funeral Escort/Flag line

Dinuba High School Red White and Blue Football Game pregame celebration

Visalia Home Show Post 18 booth

Chapter -20 Chapter 460 Pig Roast

Chapter -26 Poker Run Post 50

Post 9/11 Fallen Warrior Remembrance

Saluting Our Veterans Car Show

Armed Forces Recruit Send-off Escort

Area 2 Directors Meeting

Funeral Escort

Chapter-83 Pony Express to deliver Maui Relief Moneys

Funeral Escort

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Brian Toal**/**Justin Garcia

No Report from Brian.

Justin-participated in Ride to the Flags.

Debbie-Chapter 184 Redondo Beach will be having a blessing of the Bikes on October 7.

1. **Area 5 Vice D –** Robert Partlow/William Blackstone

 I have very little to report this month  
  
I have been working/communicating with both the Palm Springs and Laguna Niguel chapters to move forward and succeed.  
  
I spent a weekend in Merced for TAL Department Training.

William-I am over 7 chapters. 5 are going strong.

I was able to participate in an Honor Flight to Washington D.C.

1. **Area 6 Vice D –** Cristina Molina

Chapter 534 – Attended Paso Robles post’s poker run on 9/10. Several other riders attended Ride to the Flags at Pt. Mugu. On 9/14 they participated in Vandenberg Space Force Base’s POW/MIA event. They presented the POW/MIA flag to the guest speaker for the event then the military members kept the flag in motion for 24 hours.

Chapter 43 – Patched in a new member and have been working to organize a ride along with Chapter 61 from Area 4. Also looking to plan a ride in 2024 to commemorate a long-time member of Post 43 who recently passed away, Chaplain Emeritus, Jimmy Weldon. They held a fundraiser at Bob’s Big Boy in Toluca Lake. Also held a Chapter BBQ at Post 43. Both events did really well. They are donating $300 to a local Marine Corps League to help them get started.

Chapter 30 – Have been supporting local events and members donated over $500 towards the Hawaii relief. Things have been quiet otherwise.

Area 6 Vice – Supported the Chapter 43 fundraiser at Bob’s Big Boy. Supported Post 817 events (no Chapter there but I transferred to their Unit). Visited and supported 2 local LAPD stations and 2 local LA Fire Stations on September 11th, Patriot’s Day, to honor our local heroes.

1. **Officer Reports-**
   1. **Jr. Past President –** Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)
   2. **Chaplain –** Mark Rice

Have been involved in the TAL DEC training.

Will be teaching at the California American Legion College.

Participated in the TAL Convention and Bylaws committee meeting.

Participated in the 9-11 service at the Cal Expo

* 1. **Historian –** Louisa Carson

9/2/23 Attended the ALR Ch 18 Fun Ride to Parkfield. We also extended the invitation to our local chapters. We had 8 other guests (suspended ALR Ch 509 Fresno) join us. The ride was awesome, and Jeff almost got bit by a snake. Six members from our chapter attended.

9/8/23 Attended Dinuba Red, White, & Blue High School varsity football game with ALR Ch 18. We road through the campus to The Green Mile where we lined up opposite of the DPD as the football team walked through. We had a total of 8 riders that led the pack that night. It was super loud and hello Friday Night Lights!!!

9/10/23 Attended the Poker Run at Post 50 Paso Robles. We visited Creston, Santa Margarita, Post 66 San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, and the VFW Post in Atascadero. It was a beautiful day and the ride was through wine country. I was accompanied by Jeff Carson ALR Ch 18 Director and Gustie Compton ALR Ch 3 Director. We also lunched with Rochelle and Ralph.

9/16/23 Attended the ALR Ch 20 Fun Ride to The Cat Haven with Jeff Carson and Road Captain Ken Ingle. It’s a non-profit organization for feline wildlife. Among the exhibits was a mountain lion that was captured after she wandered into the RiverPark area in Fresno. It is common for them to wander in the Prather and Herndon/Thompson Ave area in Clovis but this one explored more. We then had lunch at the Bear Mountain Pizza Parlor. Everyone had a great time and Glenn from Ch 20 was the Road Captain for the outing. Yup, got motion sickness too.

9/17/23 Attended the Visalia Harley-Davidson Customer Appreciation ride to Cambria. ALR Ch 18, 20, and 147 had members attended this event. We rode through the scenic route and had lunch at the State Park. Later we visited Sculpterra and explored the grounds then stopped for dinner at Bravo Farms.

9/22/23 Attended the Book Show which showcased Lino Camacho author of Purpose Driven Pain and Hope for the 22. His books are based on the Veteran and the experience they had while in the military.

9/23rd & 24th Attended the Home Show at the Visalia Convention Center to work the Veterans Booth. We helped bring awareness to The Greatest Generation Mural restoration and helped with seeking donations. We also gave out information on our Post and ALR Ch. Jeff won the Fall Wreath while Mike Phillips won a small frig.

* 1. **Judge Advocate –** Donny Brannon

9% of chapters have turning in updated bylaws.

Have been supporting groups in the area.

* 1. **Membership Officer –** Rochelle Billet-Smith

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

8/26/2023-Area 2 Meeting

8/28/2023-California Legacy Run Committee

9/9/2023-Portrait of a Warrior Ceremony

9/10/2023-Paso Robles-Chapter 50 Poker Run

9/11/2023-911 Memorial Service, Bakersfield Fire Station 15

9/12/2023-Chapter 26-E-Board Meeting

9/13/2023-Chapter 26 Riders Meeting

9/16/2023-Distric 15 Auxiliary Meeting

9/21/2023-Unit 26 Auxiliary Meeting & Post 26 Auxiliary Meeting

9/22/2023-FridaY Night Dinner, Post 26, selling Dinner Tickets

9/25/2023-California Legacy Run Committee Meeting

Area 1- 15 chapters-283 members; Area 2-11 chapters-194 members; Area 3-17 chapters-435 members; Area 4-3 Chapters-35 members; Area 5-35 chapters-719 members; Area 6-14 chapters-287 members. 1953 members.

* 1. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

Currently we have 2 orders Invoiced, 6 orders in process, 1 orders payment has been received, 2 orders were cancelled due to non-payment after several attempts were made to contact and ample time was given to remit payment and 5 orders were completed. Please pay for all orders submitted in a timely manner and your orders will get out to you as quickly as possible.

Sweatshirts are now available for order at a price of $40 plus shipping. Sweatshirts and berets as well as red Friday shirts will be available at the West coast Rally for purchase, this will save on your shipping cost.

Once again, I understand many Chapters aren’t receiving their invoices when the orders are placed. If you do not receive your invoice with 4 days of placing your order, first check your spam as I have found that some of my invoices go there. If you have not received your invoice, please email me at [alrdocquartermast@gmail.com](mailto:alrdocquartermast@gmail.com) and I will email you a copy of your invoice.

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.

* 1. **Safety Officer –** Andrew Trapani

No incidents were reported to the Safety Officer. My safety articles will be issued monthly and starting in October I will be putting out three good riding habits during the DEC Meeting.

* 1. **Service Officer –** George Smith EXCUSED

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. **California Legacy Run –** Rochelle Billet-Smith

Kickoff is may 2. Ride May 3-5. 2 routes. No excuses not to ride.

* 1. **Convention and Rally –** Bob Atchley

Today is the 2023 opening day for Rally.

2024 convention will be at Chapter 460 San Diego. Registration info to come.

2024 Rally will be at Chapter 20 Porterville.

* 1. **PP/DC –** Dennis Kee
  2. **Ways and Means –** Kathleen McClary

This month’s report is short, sweet, and to the point. The Legacy Quilt 2024 is done, the tickets go on sale at the Rally, and will be distributed to the Chapters that attend. All other tickets will be signed for by the Area Vice Directors, and then distributed by them. Also being distributed will be an informational letter including when ALL money is due, who to make checks out to, who & where to mail them, and who to contact if they need more tickets. The 2025 quilt design is in the works…just need to get some input from a few folks before final decision.

* 1. **Webmaster/Public Relations –** Tom Lively

**Webmaster**

Fixed access for several individuals and actively responding to emails.

Removed Access for several previous DEC Officers.

Added Access for new Officers.

Maintaining Calendar and News.

**Public Relations Committee Chair**

Nothing to Report. Need an area 5 rep.

1. **Unfinished Business-**

None

1. **New Business-**
   1. Safety Committee to review Cup Rules and return to DEC with any recommendations.

Marc- Expand on the explanations of the rules.

* 1. Vote on charter for Chapter 92 McCloud, Area 1.

Motion to accept Chapter 92 in McCloud as the 96th Chapter by Lane Ybright. 2nd by Mike Phillips. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Vote on charter for Chapter 591 Seaside, Area 2.

Motion to accept Chapter 591 Seaside as the 97th Chapter by Robert Lopez. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

Robert Lassotovich- Chapter 20-Health issue

Connie Schnuck- Chapter 83-Broken ankle

Mick Sobczak-Chapter 53-Continues to recover.

**Rider Everlasting**:

Chapter 53-Richard Padilla passed in July 2023.

1. **Good of the Riders-**

Ralph-I wish to thank all the Chapters and individuals who donated to the Hawaii Fire Relief

whether thru the American Legion Department of California or other organizations. I

had the honor of delivering donations from several ALRDOC Chapters to Department

Headquarters on September 6.

Rochelle- the area 3 meeting will be at Chapter 88 in Turlock on October 28.

Ralph- Please consider wearing an emergency medical card in a lanyard when riding.

X flight will be riding again this year at the national Legacy Run in August which ends

in New Orleans. Come join us.

Rochelle- gave out new road name tabs- Zippy to Ralph, Sprinkles to Trapani and Wrong Way

to Robert Lopez.

Cris- spoke to a friend. If pulled over by a Mongol say you’re a veteran organization.

Mike Phillips-October 14 is the Tehachapi poker run. $30 rider, $15 passenger.

Robert Lopez-Laguna Seca had the American Legion car and team. Preferential treatment was given to those riders who went.

Mark Rice-the American Legion car won the race circuit. Be The One program was featured. Do your buddy checks.

Donny-The goal of post 951 is to help with the transitional vets. On October 21 we will be cooking

for all of them with the Patriots to serve at 3pm. Donations would be great.

Will be having a meal at post 500 on October 11 to raise money for the vets.

Cris-The Nation of Patriots is a great organization that supports vets. All money raised goes to vet programs.

Mick-I like rain, hospital stays, ha ha. The goal is to get a bike and ride by Thanksgiving.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – October 26, 2023 @ 7pm via Zoom.
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Mark Rice
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 7:36pm from Hemet.