**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

*DEC Minutes*

*October 26, 2023*

1. **Call to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 1900 hours
2. **Invocation** – George Smith
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 Excused

**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 Absent

**Area 6 Vice-D** – Cristina Molina Excused

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee Absent

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Mark Rice Excused

**Historian** – Louisa Carson

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon Excused

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

**Parliamentarian-** Mick Sobczak

**Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith

**Convention & Rally** – Bob Atchley Excused

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee Absent

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary Absent

**Webmaster/Public Relations** – Tom Lively Excused

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

Area 3 Alt Gus Compton, Ch 591 Mary Hostetler, Ch 82 Ed Caler, Ch 328 Jeff Beck,

D 28 Greg Martin, PP Steve Weber, Ch 69 Pete Torrecillas.

PP Steve Weber-Keep up the great work.

PP Mick Sobczak-Proud of you.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

Chapter 263 Escalon.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – ALRDOC September 29, 2023 minutes.

Accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee
2. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

* September 26 – Post 20 Honor Guard Funeral (x2)
* September 29 – October 1 – West Coast Rally at Post/Chapter 53 Hemet
* October 4 – Poncho Villa Celebration of Life in Jackson, CA. Played Taps for Poncho.
* October 11 – Chapter 20 visit with veterans at the Sierra Hills veterans assisted living.
* October 17 – Porterville Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Committee meeting. Spoke to Chamber about motorcycles not being allowed into the parade. The committee agreed to allow 10 motorcycles in as a trial. No motorcycles have been allowed in the parade for years. Small victory for Chapter 20.
* October 21 – Chapter 20 visit with veterans at the Gateway Post Acute Nursing home
* October 21 – Porterville Homecoming Queen Sock hop
* October 23 – TAL Convention Committee Zoom
* October 23 – CA Legacy Run Zoom

Congratulations to Chapter 53 on a successful West Coast Rally!

Congratulations to Tom Lively and JD Bennett on their graduation from the 2023 Californian American Legion College!

Loss of Legionnaire/Rider Charles ‘Chuck’ Landreth Chapter 852, who was involved in a motorcycle accident. I will leave further information to our Area 5 Vice Director, Robert Partlow.

Attendance at meetings is low (Area/District etc.). Area Vice’s, if you are not, you need to be pushing your Area meetings. Sometimes, Facebook and emails are not enough. Make a phone call. Talk with them directly. It may take more than one phone call. District meetings. If you are not already going, consider going to them.

CA Legacy Run Tickets. Area Vice’s you should all have your tickets. Please make sure your chapters get their tickets and start selling them.

It has been a slow month for me. This is just due to timing. As always, family comes first. I will be traveling to the Area 5 meeting on Saturday.

National Commander visit- Will be December 15-22. He will come in to San Diego on the 15th and leave via LAX on the 22nd. The itinerary is in the planning stages.

Stay safe and I will see you on the road!

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

September 30 – West Coast Rally Chapter 53 -Hemet

October 3 – Bike Night at Post 26 hosted by Chapter 26 – Bakersfield

October 7 – TAL Area 3 meeting at Post 190 – Ripon

October 11 – Chapter 26 – Bakersfield general membership meeting

October 12 – Kern County Veterans Stand Down – volunteered at Post 26 Family Booth

October 14 – Sikh Riders of America 11th Annual Fundraiser Ride benefitting Chapter 26

October 18 – Honor Flight Kern County Welcome Home flag line at Meadows Field, Bakersfield

October 22 - 90th Recruit Send off and Escort of 2023 at Armed Forces Career Center, Bakersfield

October 23 – California Legacy Run Committee meeting

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

October 28 – ALR Area 3 Meeting Chapter 88 Turlock

Events planned for the months to come:

November 4 – TAL 15th District meeting Post 20 Porterville

November 11 – Bakersfield Veterans Day Parade / Ceremonies

November 18 – Barstow Veterans Home visit with Areas 3,4,5, and 6

November 19 – Meet and Greet Post /Chapter 476 California City

Congratulations Ch 53 on Rally. Thanks to the DEC members who helped out. Also, thanks to Area 2s Della Lopez who helped out.

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

Great job on Rally.

Been to a few chapter events.

Chapter 951 fed over 300 veterans and their families at the Vet Village with the help of Chapters

497 and 328 and other groups.

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

The November DEC meeting will be the 3rd Thursday, November 16th and the December DEC meeting will be the 3rd Thursday, December 21.

I’m still not getting everyone’s reports.

Chapter dues renewals are due by December 31.

Roster updates are due in December or January.

Per Capita is due no later than February 14 to the Treasurer. Please don’t send per capita until after the 1st of January.

Barstow- Saturday, November 18. We will meet at the Lenwood Barstow Outlets area. Eat lunch first wherever you want. After you eat, meet behind In N Out from noon. We will be KSU from the area behind In N Out at 12:30pm sharp.

Ch 716 celebrated their 15th charterversary.

I will have the Area 5 quilt tickets at the Area 5 meeting.

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

I made it back from Hemet safely. I may not be off work in time for the meeting on

Thursday.

1. **Area 2 Vice D –** Robert Lopez

**District 9**

Rolling 9’s Riders Participated in Escort Community Kickoff Event for Now

medically retired Marine Sergeant Kyle Garcia Sponsored by - Homes for Our Troops. The ceremony was followed by a light lunch and an opportunity to meet Sergeant Garcia!

Rolling 9’s Riders Participated in a recruiting dance: Titled: BE THE ONE: Hosted at Post 202 757 1st Street Brentwood, Ca 94513.

**District 28**

 Attended four Honor Missions for: Leonard Joseph Dultra USN; KIA/MIA WWII Wilbur A. Mitts, USN (part1 & 2); Gregory Mayer USA

 Volunteered 523 hours at Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey (INDYCAR) and Porsche Rennsport Reunion 7.

 Issued Food Bank meals for Chualar Community.

Events within my Chapter in the coming weeks & month:

• Friday October 6th – Honor Mission: Rodney Rocero USAF

• Saturday October 7th – ALR District 28 POW/MIA Poker Run &amp; Remembrance Ceremony

• Sunday October 8th – ALR District 28 American Legion Riders District 28 Monthly Meetings.

• Thursday October 12th - Issue Food Bank meals for Chualar Community

• Friday October 13th – Honor Mission: Kenneth Nier USMC

• Saturday October 14th – ALR Chapter 69 First Annual Ed Hawkins run to Castle Air Force Base.

• Saturday October 21st – ALR District 28 Run to Operation Freedom Paws

• Sunday October 22nd – Escort Army Ranger Shawn Patterson

• Thursday October 26th – Honor Mission: William Randolph “Andy” Milo USMC

• Saturday October 28th – American Legion California District 28, Hero’s Open golf tournament

Events planned for the months to come:

• Saturday October 28th – American Legion California District 28, Hero’s Open

• Thursday November 9th - Issue Food Bank meals for Chualar Community

• Saturday November 11, Monterey County Vietnam Veterans Memorial and ALR District 28 Annual Veterans Day Ceremony

**Chapter 69**

Participated in 3 honor missions.

Upcoming events:

Ch 69 Veterans Day Poker Run, Watsonville Veterans Day Parade and the Salinas Veterans Day Parade.

**Chapter 105**

Since our last meeting we participated in the following:

Hawaii Relief Fund, 23rd Marine Regiment Training Ride, Post 474 Veteran Garden Dedication, Retaining Wall for Vietnam Veteran and 105 Post member Leo McArdle Welcome Home SFO (Korea & Vietnam)

Upcoming:

Veterans Day Ceremony & Car show

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Mike Phillips

Inthe month of October, I still have no motorcycle. However, I did attend the West Coast Rally.

On October 28th Area 3 will be having our Director’s meeting, hosted by Turlock, Chapter 88. I can’t wait to get back on two wheels and start visiting the chapters in my area.

Below is a list of events Area 3 Chapters have participated in during the last month:

Chapter - 3 West Coast Rally

Chapter - 18 West Coast Rally, Funeral Escort/Flag Line, Memorial Ride San Joaquin National Cemetery, Fun Ride to Castle Air Museum Honor Flight Escort and 3 poker runs.

Chapter - 20 West Coast Rally and 2 poker runs

Chapter - 26 West Coast Rally, poker run and Escort New Recruits to MEPS

Chapter - 100 Three Rivers Mission

Chapter - 221 999 foundation Poker Run, Hosted their Poker Run, PGR Escort for Jack Robinson

Chapter - 684 West Coast Rally

Chapter - 711 KRV Toys for Tots Fundraiser, Kern County 999 Foundation Ride, Kern

Valley High

Homecoming Parade and Chapter 221 Poker Run

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Brian Toal

Chapter 184:

October 7 – Chapter 184 Anniversary pig roast and bike blessing super successful

No input from other Area 4 Chapters

1. **Area 5 Vice D –** Robert Partlow
2. **Area 6 Vice D –** Cristina Molina
3. **Officer Reports-**
   1. **Jr. Past President –** Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)
   2. **Chaplain –** Mark Rice

Since the previous DEC held at the West Coast Rally (which I attended), I have done the following:

I attended the California American Legion Collage as a facilitator, teaching Bylaws and Resolutions. I also did the Invocation for the opening of the course.

I visited three Posts as the District 6 Commander.

I have not received any notices of injury, illness or transfers to Chapter Everlasting.

* 1. **Historian –** Louisa Carson

09/29-10/01/23 I attended the West Coast Rally all three days. I gave my report and was able to capture a bit of the history on Post 53 Hemet. Posted on social media.

10/04/2023 Attended the Greatest Generation Mural meeting to get the next fundraisers and the progress on the restoration for the mural. Jeff and I will be escorting the mural until the meet point for the local ALR Chapters who want to escort the mural with us.

10/04/23 I attended The Hog Fest 2023 hosted by ALR Chapter 136. We had tire trouble but were able to make it in time to catch up to all the riders at the Post. Posted on social media.

10/08/2023 Attended the HOG Customer Appreciation Lunch in Cambria. We also recruited 2 members and spent the ride with members of ALR Ch 20 Porterville &amp; ALR Ch 147 Clovis. Posted on social media.

10/11/2023 Attended the Fleet Reserve Bike Night in Lemoore. 4 Members attended and 1 participated in the slow ride race.

10/12/2023 ALR Ch 18 Monthly Meeting

10/14/2023 Attended the Blue Star Moms Poker Run in Tehachapi. ALR Ch 18, 20, 147, and 476 were there to support the families. The slide show included Janet Tehee, Michelle Wattenbarger, and myself as we are Blue Star Mothers and members of ALR in our respective chapters.

10/15/2023 Escorted Gene Richert to Fresno as he was the only veteran from Visalia attending this round of The Honor Flight to Washington D.C.

10/18/2023 Fleet Reserve had another bike night and we spoke to another rider as a possible member.

10/21/2023 ALR Ch 18 Fun Ride to Castle Air Museum was attended by ALR Ch 147, 476, 509, and American Riders Group. Total of 18 bikes, 22 ALR members, 5 guests, and 1 Humble Warrior all had a blast!!! We even had a few of our members tell their stories of working around the aircraft or training. Posted photos on social media.

10/22/2023 ALR Ch 88 Turlock Frank Goldsmith Memorial Ride We attend in support for our ALR Family. I got to get a bit of the stories of Frank and the past presidents while building the American Legion Post for Turlock. Posted photos on social media.

10/23/23 ALR Chapters 3, 18, 20, 100, Combat Vets, and PGR all attended the services for William “Wild Bill” Chartrand and stood flag line to honor him. They escorted him from the funeral home to the church then to his final resting place. Photos are in process in order for me to post and honor him.

* 1. **Judge Advocate –** Donny Brannon
  2. **Membership Officer –** Rochelle Billet-Smith

9/30/2023-West Coast Rally

10/3/2023-ALR Chapter 26 Bike Night

10/10/2023-ALR Chapter 26 E-Board Meeting

10/11/2023-ALR Chapter 26 Meeting

10/14/2023-Sikhs 11 th Annual Ride-Our Chapter received a $5,000.00 Donation.

10/18/2023-Honor Flight

10/19/2023-Auxiliary Unit 26 Meeting

* 1. **Parliamentarian –** Mick Sobczak

Progress

Chuck Landreth joined chapter 852 will I was President. Keep his wife, Yvonne, and his family in your prayers.

* 1. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

Currently we have 1 order Invoiced, 1 order payment received, 7 orders shipped, 1 orders payment has been received 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.

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 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.

At Rally I sold $1900 in hoodies. Zip hoodies are on reorder.

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

An incident was reported that on Saturday a rider in Area 5 Chapter 852 had a rider go down and became part of Rider Everlasting. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

My safety articles will be issued monthly and starting in October I will be putting out three good riding habits during the DEC meeting.

In early November I will be holding a ZOOM Safety Committee Meeting to discuss a review of our current Safety Handbook along with changing the policy in the Cup to losing mile for only the ride on which the incident happened instead of all miles, and then present it to the DEC.

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

Sent out PACT ACT info to the chapter POCs.

If there is anyone who needs info on anything please call.

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

Fixed access for several individuals and actively responding to emails.

Maintaining Calendar and News.

**Public Relations**

Nothing to report.

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

Have 2 posts and 2 stops pending. Hope to have the website live by December 1.

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

2023 West Coast Rally Report

Carl Martin & Don Downing gave Post Rally report

Carl reported that the Chapter grossed $10729.56. Gave a breakdown of expenditures. Food $1792.31, Misc. $3796.68, total expenses $5588.99, net profit $5140.47. Auxiliary was given $500.00 for their assistance. The Chapter was thanked for putting on a great Rally. Director Smith congratulated the Chapter for pulling together and putting on a great Rally. Debbie asked if Carl had received the financial reporting form. Carl hadn’t seen it. Debbie will resend.

2024 ALR/DOC Convention Report

Chapter 460 San Diego, Margie Johnson was asked to stand in for Wayne Madsen.

6 months out report to DEC:

They have two hotels contracted. They are near the post. Band for Saturday night has been signed. Auxiliary will be doing dinner for Friday night during sign in. Sign in, DEC meeting and dinner will be held at the Chapter 460 building. Paul Swanson has designed the poker chips and in the process of being ordered. Margie designed the t-shirt and has been approved by the Chapter. Margie was asked to send the renderings for both the t-shirt and poker chip to Debbie and myself for committee approval. Post 731 just about 1/2 miles down the road has offered 5-7 spaces at their post for dry camping. Ralph Wenzinger through Debbie spoke of t-shirt concerns short sleeve verses long sleeve and material type. Margie said that there will be a convention meeting the next week. At this time, they are considering short sleeve. She will bring the concern to Wayne at the meeting. Suggested color other than black, grey or white. Online registration is getting setup. Not using Eventbrite. Pre-registration will give them an idea of what shirt count will be ordered. Pre-registration will end approximately 1 month before convention with regular registration to continue. Pre-registration opening to open first of the year. That may be changed to a sooner date pending t-shirt order timeline. T-shirts to be included with pre-registration.

Recommended that the Chapter develop and post a save the date flyer. Include hotel and dry camping info on flyer. Get that flyer out to the webmaster and Debbie to be sent out. Director Smith recommended dignitary invites. Some invites have already been sent out. Need to identify Color Guard, National Anthem singer if possible. Try to use young adult and children to fill these positions. Don Downing extended his assistance to Chapter 460. Check with hotels to see if breakfast is available. Margie thought they might have burritos. Check with hotels if there are parking fees and if so, would the hotel be willing to eliminate those fees.

2024 West Coast Rally Report

Mike Daugherty reported

11 months out:

a. Report to DEC a Chapter/District Rally Committee is in place, has the timeline list and is meeting and working on the requirements. Reported that a Chapter 20 Rally committee is in place and meeting have started. They have received Rally Guideline list. Have gone over the initial planning.

2025 ALR/DOC Convention Report

Chapter 69 Hollister, No one attended meeting.

No report given

Next meeting to be held on October 21, 2023 at 1900 hrs.

Meeting closed at 1950 hrs.

* 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 went on sale at the Rally, and were distributed to the Chapters

that attended. All other tickets were picked up by the Area Vice Directors or a

representative thereof, to be distributed by them. Also distributed was 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 set, and some preliminary work has been done. The 2025 quilt

will be displayed at the 2024 Convention in San Diego, and tickets will be

distributed at that time so Chapters will have basically a year to sell tickets. Areas

3 and 5 will be distributing tickets to Chapters at their respective Area Meetings.

1. **Unfinished Business-**
   1. Update from Safety Committee on progress of Mileage Cup Rules review.

Will call a committee meeting in November.

1. **New Business-**
   1. 2023 National Commander visit to California.

See Director report.

* 1. Chapter 182 returning charter.

Motion to accept the return of the chapter 182 charter by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Marc.

Lawrie. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Chapter 263 Escalon- they had been given extended deadlines but still nothing. Mick stated per the bylaws, deadlines can’t be extended so they are automatically on probation. Mike Phillips will try to establish communication with them.
  2. Post 509? When will suspension be lifted. Apparently, the post is ready to come off suspension. The TAL DEC meetings keep getting pushed back and the post and chapter are frustrated.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

Ch 53- Patrick McDowell is now on hospice.

Chapter 26-John Archuleta-having health issues.

Chapter 711-Andy Lamar-is having surgery.

Chapter 711-Jenny Brownell-has cancer.

**Rider Everlasting:**

Chapter 852- Charles ‘Chuck’ Landreth- passed October 21, 2023 due to a motorcycle accident.

Mike stated that he plans on being at the funeral/services.

1. **Good of the Riders-**

Robert Lopez-Thanks to Mike Phillips Chapter 591 in Seaside has their patches.

Mike Phillips-Just became a grandpa to baby Paisley born today.

Ralph-Daylight Savings time is coming up next weekend. It will be darker earlier. Double check the lights on your bike.

Andrew Trapani-Thanks for the reminder. The winter safety article will be out soon.

Mike Smith-My oldest daughter has my 3rd grand in progress.

Mick-Oldest grand graduates this year and the youngest is in progress.

George-My grands are older. 18 and 21.

Rochelle-The Safety Officer got a new patch. “Sprinkles”

1. **Next Meeting Date** – November 16, 2023 via Zoom. 3rd Thursday
2. **Benediction** – George Smith
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:19pm