**021021The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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**13th Annual American Legion Riders**

**Department of California Convention**

**May 3-5, 2019, Hollister, California**

**MINUTES**

**Saturday May 4, 2019**

**0900**

• Called to Order & Advancement of the Colors @ 9AM

• National Anthem was sung

• Chaplain invocation

• Pledge of Allegiance

• POW/MIA Ceremony

• Preamble to the ALR Constitution

• Roll Call of Officers- Yellow denotes in attendance

**President**-Mick Sobczak; **Vice President**-Rey Ruiz; **Sergeant-At-Arms**-Mike Smith; **Treasurer**-Leonard Phillips; **Secretary**-Debbie Proffitt; **Chaplain**-Roy Van Westbroek;

**Judge Advocate**-Ralph Wenzinger-; **Historian**-Fran Del Santo; **Parliamentarian**-Hy Libby; **Safety Officer**-Rob Carrier; **Service Officer**-George Smith; **Webmaster/Public Relations**-Jim Oxley; **Quartermaster**-Patrick Tafoya; **Alt Quartermaster**- Mike Clement; **JR Past President/Tech Advisor**-James Adames; **Membership**-Gary Teicher; **Convention & Rally**-Dee Pittenger-EX; **Awards/Certs-**Rochelle Billet-Smith; **Legacy Run-** Mike Cash-EX**; Ways & Means-** Leif Meisinger; **Area 1 VP**-Fred Branson; **Area 1 Asst VP**-Rory Airheart; **Area 1 Asst VP-**Pete DePalma; **Area 2 VP/ A2 Comm**-Warren Halstead-EX; **Area 2 Asst VP**- vacant; **Area 3 VP**-Paul LaPierre; **Area 3 Asst VP-**Ken Sutton-; **Area 3 Asst VP**- Ralph Wenzinger; **Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez; **Area 5 VP**-Gene Hobdy; **Area 5 Asst VP-**Ron Huff; **Area 5 Asst VP**-Larry Brandt; **Area 5 Asst VP**-vacant; **Area 5 Asst VP**- David Saenz; **Area 6 VP**-Ronnie Womble-EX; **Area 6 Asst VP**-Milo Barclay-EX; **Area 6 Asst VP**- Blake Shiver; **Area 6 Asst VP**- Tim Schueller; **Area 1 Commissioner-**Bob Perryman; **Area 3 Commissioner-**Ivan Frey; **Area 4 Commissioner-**Karl Wilvert; **Area 5 Commissioner**-Paul Patricio; **Area 6 Commissioner**-Steve Weber

• Roll Call of Chapters - Yellow denotes in attendance

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| Area 1 - District 2 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 3 |
| Area 2 - District 9 |
| Area 2 - District 10 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 11 |
| Area 2 - District 13 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 16 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 20 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 23 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 26 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 28 |
| Area 2 - District 28 |
| Area 2 - Chapter 31 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 43 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 48 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 50 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 53 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 66 |
| Area 2 - Chapter 69 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 77 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 79 |
| Area 2 - Chapter 82 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 83 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 84 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 88 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 96 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 100 |
| Area 2 - Chapter 105 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 108 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 111 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 118 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 119 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 130 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 132 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 133 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 136 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 146 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 149 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 155 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 163 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 176 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 200 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 201 |
| Area 2 - Chapter 202 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 211 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 221 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 229 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 233 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 241 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 255 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 262 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 263 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 281 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 289 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 311 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 328 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 348 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 354 |
| Area 4 - Chapter 359 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 364 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 365 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 371 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 383 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 416 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 432 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 434 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 460 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 468 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 476 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 484 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 497 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 507 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 509 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 519 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 521 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 534 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 555 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 574 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 584 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 587 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 595 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 682 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 684 |
| Area 2 - Chapter 694 |
| Area 1 - Chapter 709 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 711 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 716 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 739 |
| Area 6 - Chapter 741 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 777 |
| Area 4 - Chapter 804 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 835 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 848 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 852 |
| Area 5 - Chapter 853 |
| Area 3 - Chapter 872 |

• Convene Convention

Thank you to chapter 69

• Welcome / Introduction / Remarks of Guests and Dignitaries

* District 22 Julie Leonardi-
  + spoke about American Legion baseball and the need for support.
* Ed Grimsley- Candidate for Dept. Commander 2029/2020 “Lead, Motivate & Inspire”
  + We are one family. We might have worn different uniforms but we are all family. I guarantee that if I don’t have the answer, I’ll point you in the right direction. Gave his tie to Ken Sutton.
* District 4 Commander John Leach-
  + spoke about the Camp fire and the victims. Will be picking up the donations today. 4,000 veterans impacted. Have received almost $400,000.
* TAL Commander Larry Leonardo-
  + The riders are the number one asset of the American Legion. The things you do are profound but they’re not always put out there. Riders are doers. The National Commander was very vocal about how appreciative he was of the escort. Please keep up what you do. Please continue the legacy and blow your horn about what you do.

• Convention Announcements

* Jr Past President- James Adames
  + Introduced past presidents-This organization wouldn’t be here without some people in this room. Ad Hoc committee members. We owe them applause. Wayne Cloucky has passed away. Terry Baughman and Jim Banakus-the 1st president. James saw the vest Jim had on and asked him about it. We are Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons first. I’d also like to thank Steve Weber. We have grown in leaps and bounds from where we started. We represent the Legion every time we put on our vests.
* Debbie Proffitt-Department Secretary
  + introduced past Secretaries Steve Weber and Monique Clemons. Please thank them when you see them. They have a wealth of knowledge and worked tirelessly to keep the ALRDOC on track.
* Charters to New Chapters
  + Chapters 16 Stockton, 28 Petaluma, 105 Redwood City, 163 Alturis, 176 San Fernando, 289 Riverside, 359 Norwalk, 468 Julian, 709 Rancho Cordova and 872 Hughson. Replacement charters were also given to chapters 84 and 716.
* Certificate of Appreciation to Post 69 for making the ALR convention a success.
* Riders Safety Awards
  + Area 1-Ch 111 = 4,619 miles; Area 5-716 = 18,375 miles; Area 6-Ch 311 = 18,914 miles; Area 3- 684 19,564 = miles; Area 2- D 28 = 22,306 miles
  + ALR cup- District 28
  + ALRDOC MILES = 40,303 miles
* Mick recognized Shelly
  + - Award to Area with most new Chapters = Area 1- Fred Branson, Rory Airheart and Pete DePalma = 4 new chapters this year
* Awards to Chapter with most new members = Area 4 Ch 359 = 5 new members; Ch 26 = 5 new members; Area 2 D 13 = 5 new members; Ch 96 = 6 new members; Area 6 Ch 43 =12 new members; Ch 53 14 new members.
* New road name presented to Ralph Wenzinger “P, B & J”.
* Mick spoke about the California Inaugural Scholarship Run in June.
* Mick spoke about doing a suicide awareness runs. We have 6 areas. It would be cool for all areas on the same day to do a suicide awareness run leaving at 9:22 in the morning. Say tuned.
* Checks for VA&R were accepted. $3,321 from Ch 108; $1,000 from Ch 716; $1,000 from Ch 20; $100 from Amvet riders Ch 55; $3,156 from the Salute to Veterans Run in Area 5; $200 from Ch 119 and $2600 from Ch 119 through Helmets to Heroes (at convention); $500 from D-28; $500 from D-13 (will send check); $200 from Ch 3; $100 from Ch 509; $ from Ch 82, $100 from D-9;
* Donations: Ch 79 $505 to Boys State, $250 to Suicide Awareness and $250 to Custom Canines; Ch 111 raised $30,000 to establish a yearly scholarship at Santa Rosa college; Ch 509 $2000 to the Camp fire; Ch 50 $3,237 and gas cards for camp fire; Ch 82 $1,000 for camp fire; Ch 20 optimal hospice foundation kids camp $7,000 this year; Ch 119 $1,000 to Camp fire and 2 trips with supplies for the Camp Fire, $300 to Legacy fund, $100 to Semper Fi fund; Ch 852 $5,000 to Murrieta veterans memorial, $5,000 to ?, $2,400 to community vets in need, $500 to fire dept. Christmas fund, $1,000 to Legion of the Silver Rose, $12,500 to Sgt Clinton Ruiz Foundation and $750 to Aux for vets in rehab; D-10 $1,000 to Pets 4 Vets and $1,500 to Fisher House Palo Alto; Ch 108 and others $10,300 for Camp fire; Ch 521 $4,200 to Camp fire and 2 large trucks and trailers of supplies; Ch 364 $2,350 in gift cards for the Coast Guard during the govt. shutdown; D-13 $1500 to National Legacy Scholarship Fund and approximately $1,000 Camp fire; Ch 211 $200 to ?, sponsored Toys for Tots and supported the local baseball team; D-13 donated 2 trucks of toys for kids at Christmas; Ch 133 $3,400 for Honoring Our Fallen and $2,200 for a veteran memorial park in Pecos, Texas.
* Larry Leonardo- In November he and the Dept. Adjutant went to Paradise. The town is in total devastation. They were going through an area, only thing standing is a water heater and chimney, and toys burned. Vets Memorial hall had smoke but no fire damage. Red tagged because of trees. At that time $49k was raised from Legion members. National inly collected $22k. The generosity of the American Legion family is unbelievable. I appreciate everyone who donated no matter what the donation. It got national attention. Thank you. Keep it up.
* California riders 20-year birthday- Two 20-year riders Roy Van Westbroek and Terry Baughman.
* Mick awarded the attendance challenge winners who will get $25 toward rider dues paid for 2020.

Area 1-Ch 587 Leslie Airheart; Area 3-Ch 108 Don Fairman; Area 5-Ch 716 Ellengrace Ignacio.

Mick will do this again this coming year.

• Riders Everlasting Observance (11 a.m.)

James Robles Ch 26; Mike Baughman D 28; Eric Frisby Ch 53; Avelina Cole Ch 83;

Terry Belson Ch 136; Tom Slaughter Ch 149; Brian Prater Ch 233; Ron Wilkenson Ch 255;

Donny Guthro Ch 328; Jim Blake Ch 328; Ron Goodwin Ch 364; Ben Nichols Ch 507;

Marlene Flores Ch 555; Jason Meredith Ch 587; James Shaper Ch 595;

David Deason Ch 595; Gerald Reed Ch 711; Ted Hawthorne Ch 711.

A remembrance streamer was placed on the flag, prayer was said and Taps was played.

• Recess for Group Photo

**1200**

Lunch (1 hour)

**1300**

• Reconvened

Thank you to those who ate with their covers on. We raised over $360 for the Legacy Scholarship fund.

• Area Reports

**Area 1**-Fred Branson

-It’s been a fast 2 years.

-Scholarship Run starts in Area 1. Get up to Healdsburg to do the run.

-Final year for Rolling Thunder.

-521 had their 9th annual poker run.

-Natl Vets Awareness ride 5/14 out of Auburn.

-Fallen Hero Cart is coming up. Fred will be riding.

-3 new chapters this year.

-Area 4 District Commander was visiting. Every district in Area 1 has a chapter except District 4.

**Area 2**- Warren Halstead-EX

**Area 3**- Paul LaPierre

-Have 17 chapters.

-Raised $35,145 and donated more.

-Participated in 563 events.

-Donated 11,419 volunteer hours.

-Rode 10,3679 Croc free miles.

-Some charities supported- National Legacy Run, Boys and Girls State, Camp fire, Helmets for Heroes, California Remembering Our Fallen, Wreaths Across America, Toys for Tots, breakfast for vets, Pin Ups for vets, Honoring Our Fallen, Vets Suicide Awareness project, Firefighter’s Memorial, etc.

-Some special events-National Legacy Run, National Commander escort, Run For The Wall, Vietnam memorial wall, Veterans day parades, 999 foundation, Gary Sinise foundation, motorcycle safety training, State Rally, Tour of Honor

**Area 4**- Joel Lopez

-Have 2 chapters. Working on 2 more. 61 at USS Iowa and 127 Glendale.

-Escorted National Commander.

-Started a firework stand to earn seed money.

-Want to pass out small scholarships at Roosevelt High school, Glendale High school and East Los Angeles Community College.

-Brooklyn Elementary School-Gave out 640 stockings to the school.

-Many PGR escorts.

-Attended Rally in Purndale.

**Area 5**- Gene Hobdy

-Proud to be Area VP.

-2 new chapters, 289 Riverside and 468 Julian.

-Highlights-Supported Girls and Boys State, Boys and Girls Club, Wreaths Across America, escorted the National Commander and the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

-Area 5 does a lot of stuff but not great at getting paperwork in.

-126,442 miles ridden; $87,157 raised; 10,744 hours volunteered; 658 events supported.

-$22,000+ raised in one day at the Clinton Ruiz Golf Tournament out of Ch 583 Temecula.

-May 11 will escort the Fallen Heroes Cart.

-Salute to Vets event, $3,156 for VA&R.

-Passport run doing well. Proceeds to Custom Canines.

**Area 6**- Ronnie Womble-EX Mick read the report

-Supported areas 2, 3, 4 and 5 events.

-Escorted the National Commander.

-Participated in lots of PGR and poker runs.

-Donated to many charities.

-Have one new chapter- 176. Adding 3 more chapters 817 Panorama City, 283 Santa Monica and 309.

-Supported Run For The Wall and the Legacy Scholarship Run.

-Cristina Molina, Chapter 43, was on the Legion float in New Years Day parade in Pasadena.

-10 fewer riders since last convention.

-309 riders in area.

-Trying to start a passport run like area 5.

• Recess to Area Caucus/Elections

**1430 – Reconvened**

• Report of Area Elections

Area 1- VP Bob Perryman; Alt VPs-Rory Airheart, Bob Gault and Larry Goekler.

Area 2-Sean Ramsay; Alt VPs-Hy Libby and Ignacio Alvarez

Area 3-Paul LaPierre; Alt VPs-Matt Dolezal, Ralph Wenzinger and JD Bennett.

Area 4-Joel Lopez; Alt VPs-None

Area 5-Gene Hobdy; Alt VPs-Larry Brandt, Ron Huff, Mike Killion and John Smartt.

Area 6-Lino Torres; Alt VPs-Dave Corbin, Cristina Molina and Nancy Weatherman.

• Committee Reports

President-Mick Sobczak

-Been a great 3 years and a heck of a ride.

-3 years ago, we started with 72 chapters and 1700 members and now were over 2100 members and have 97 chapters.

-We’ve achieved a lot and gained national recognition. Bob Sussan is on the phone every couple of weeks discussing what we’re doing in California. He’s a member of our Facebook page. It blows them away at the national level to see what we’ve achieved in the 20 years that we’ve been in Calif and the 12 years as a program.

-I remember in convention in Amador about 150 people in attendance.

-You have no idea how much I care about this program.

-This past DEC in March I talked about one issue that really bugs me, resolutions 15-004. Part of it has an association clause that states we cannot associate with outlaw MCs. We do not do that. The one chapter that decided to do it isn’t a chapter anymore. We have posts that cater to outlaw MCs. They allow them to wear their cuts into the post bldg. The posts should hold themselves to the same standard as they hold us. Allowing them to wear their cuts in the post is intimidating to our riders. We are losing 2 chapters because the posts allow the other MCs in the posts. The riders don’t want to be associated with them. I don’t blame them; I blame the posts. They care more about the dollar than their program. I will go to the mat. I have nothing to lose and all to gain.

Vice President-Rey Ruiz

-Hopefully, I’ll go down in the record books for one thing, The shortest-term vice president last year with 36 hours.

-My biggest thing is membership and participation in your post. If you don’t participate your unit, post and squadron will die. I’m a big believer that you need to get as many members to show you for every event.

-There was a member who was saying that it’s hard to get 100% of their membership to participate. I replied that if your membership was only the 9 people who do everything in the chapter and the post then you’d have 100% participation if you get. But, that’s not our goal. The goal is to participate 110%.

-I have a way for you to participate. If every rider signed up for the Legacy Scholarship run, at $35 per person, we would raise over $70,000. Register as a donation, you don’t have to ride the ride.

-Went to a lot of district and chapter meetings. I like meeting prospective new members.

-Willing to help everyone and bring aboard new chapters.

Secretary-Debbie Proffitt

-It took a little arm twisting this year to get everybody’s reports and bylaws and fees in this year.

-Fair warning, the next deadline will be June 30th to have your Officer Certification in. Don’t look online for a form to fill in. It’s not there. A POC will have to update the online roster with officers. Then go down to the bottom of the roster and click the Officer Report button. Print the report, it will be already filled in. Add the election and installation dates. Get it signed by the president and the secretary. Scan it and email it to the DOC secretary and your Area VP. If you need help let me know.

-July 1st renewals for the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons are due. Your chapter cannot accept rider dues from members until they have proof, they have paid their family dues. A 2020 membership card or receipt of payment. There are 7 steps to a member’s renewal, including a new renewal waiver and proof of license, registration and insurance. I will put the steps and form in the resource section on the website.

-Next year the requirements for seating delegates will have a 5th part. An end of year report. The bylaws state that it is to be turned in. So, Bylaws, per capita paid, delegate fees paid, delegate report and end of year report turned in. There are forms to keep track monthly and the information from them rolls right into the end of year report. The instructions for the report and the pages to keep track along with the end of year form will be put on the website under resources.

-For the outgoing officers, you should be sitting down with the incoming officers, turning over information and documents and letting the incoming officers know what is expected of them. Most o the time this isn’t done and I get phone calls and emails stating that the person is new to a position and needs guidance. This should be done by the outgoing officer of a position. I don’t mind walking a person through the process, but, ideally, it should be done by the outgoing officer.

Credentials-Debbie Proffitt

-Thank you to all who are helping with check in. I couldn’t do it without you.

Resolutions

Rally and Convention-Mick gave the report

-Mama Dee isn’t here right now. If you all remember, when they left here 2 years ago, her husband Bob was killed after getting home and she couldn’t come this year.

-Rally is in Escondido the 3rd weekend in September this year.

-Convention next year is in Hollywood. We have talked with the post and they are still a go to have convention in their new theater in theater seats. Thanks to Hollywood for hosting us.

-Later on, we will be voting on the 2021 convention in Areas 1, 2 or 3. You need to show your post supports you. There is now a support process to go by. We have everything to support you. You get a $3000 check to help with expenses. Any left-over money gets returned to the DEC with receipts of what was spent. A date for next year will be confirmed. There are hotels next door to the post.

Public Relations-Jim Oxley

-Hopefully, everyone has been using the website. Been pretty stable this past year.

-Been updating to make things easier for our secretary.

-You should be able to find what you need on the website. If it’s not there let me know and we’ll put it on there.

-The new forms this year are generated from the rosters. Hopefully, that made it easy for you.

-Keep us informed of events, we’ll post them for you.

-Let’s keep going forward.

Constitution & By Laws

Membership-Gary Teicher

-Area 1- 289 riders, 14 chapters, 191 veterans, 66 Sal and 32 Aux with 5 active duty.

-Area 2- 254 riders, 10 chapters, 169 veterans, 33 Sal and 52 Aux with 6 active duty.

-Area 3- 429 riders, 20 chapters, 304 veterans, 61 Sal and 64 Aux with 23 active duty.

-Area 4- 18 riders, 2 chapters, 14 veterans, 3 Sal and 1 Aux with no active duty.

-Area 5- 831 riders, 35 chapters, 593 veterans, 144 Sal and 148 Aux with 36 active duty.

-Area 6- 309 riders, 16 chapters, 219 veterans, 51 Sal and 39 Aux with 13 active duty.

Safety-Rob Carrier

-My name is Rob Carrier, Ch 83, Merced.

-Thank you to the Safety Committee members who worked with me.

-11,949 activities, 353k miles. 11 chapters rode over 10k miles.

-Did add a few things to the new safety book. Took the CHP guidelines as an attachment.

-Put guidelines together for trikes in the Safety Handbook.

-Accidents- officially only received 1 accident report. We use them for guidance.

-Motorcycle skills training. Made it to at least 1 area president’s mtg. I provide the training free of charge. I am a former trainer. Last one I did was in Fresno, chapter 509.

-Even as a motorcycle instructor I like learning new things, Hollister has a person who is a CHP who does competition riding.

-Merced has a training every year. Ch 20 rode 2 hours to come.

-Will come to your area for a training.

-Couldn’t do the training without his coaches John and Will.

-Working with Oceanside for a training on June 1 at the Elks lodge.

-We started with 29 chapters out of 91 reporting mileage. We now have that up to 53.

-Get on the website and put in your activities.

Service Officer-George Smith

-George asked about veterans never having been to a Veterans Service Officer. Told them to go. Most veterans have had an injury in the service. Most have hearing loss, tinnitus, etc.

-They’re trying to frustrate you so you don’t go back. Don’t let that happen.

-I try to put out a monthly email and put an article in the Newsletter. It’s important to share the info in your organization. Please share.

-When you see a Veteran Service Officer and they ask, “How you doin today?” and you answer, “Oh, I’m fine”, well, that’s what they’ll put down. Tell them exactly how you are feeling, doing, etc. You have to tell them everything. If you don’t tell the VSO that you were directed to go to see anyone you won’t get a higher rating. You have to tell them how you feel and exactly what’s going on with you.

Scholarship Run-Mike Cash- Rochelle Billet-Smith gave the report

-Run starts registration on June 25. The run is June 26-28. Pre reg is $35 to May 25 then after is $50. You can join on the morning of any of the 3 days.

-As of now there are only 20 riders registered. There are 2100 rider brothers and sisters. -You can make a donation if you can’t ride. You can also come in a cage.

Judge Advocate-Ralph Wenzinger

-Introduced himself from Chapter 26, Bakersfield.

-Mike Brownell was appointed the Judge Advocate after the last convention. Recently he developed a health problem and had to step down. I’ve been the Judge Advocate for a month now and am still finding my way.

-We have deadlines for certain paperwork and things that need to be done. It’s in the bylaws for bylaws, per capita, fees and reports and so on. If you do not comply, there are penalties for it.

-Last night at the pre-convention DEC meeting, the DEC had to suspend 4 chapters for noncompliance. They chose not to follow the rules laid out in the bylaws. So, I’m the guy to tell you about the 4 chapters, Chapter 118 Bishop, Chapter 432 Camarillo, Ch 497 Bloomington and Chapter 682 East Bakersfield, all now on suspension.

-They have 1 year to get whatever they need to get back in compliance done. In that one-year time, they aren’t able to have any ALR activities, no meetings unless with their Area VP to try to get back on track. No wearing an ALR vest. Won’t be doing anything because someone dropped the ball or refused to do what needed to be done.

-Don’t put the DEC in the position of having to suspend your chapter. If at the end of 1 year they are not in compliance, then revocation of their charter starts.

-The Area VPs hopefully will be working with the chapters if the chapters so choose.

-I look forward to working with you all.

-If you can’t remember my name, remember PB&J.

Jr Past President-James Adames

-You should hear the comments back here before we get to the mic.

-As Jr Past you really don’t have anything to do, except introduce dignitaries.

-Were starting our 13th year. That is an accomplishment from where we started as a program.

-By the end of this convention I will have served 9 years in the DEC. Longest serving right now.

-I’ve seen this org go thru many, many struggles. Joined after Steve, Jim, Terry and Doc Diaz had to go meet with COC because of how the patches looked.

-It’s been my honor and pleasure, even thru good times and bad, to be in this organization and the American Legion. I thank you.

-We’ve had to live thru some tough times and be the bearer of awful news. Been the bearer of name calling, of many negative things. I wear it as a badge of honor because of where it started. The guy behind me has led the charge to get back to where we need to be.

-I thank you for the support you’ve given me and continue to support this program. We’ve done a hell of a job. Case in point, we came up with this crazy idea we ride from California to Dallas, Texas. Though myself, Mick and Ronnie Womble were on the bikes, we had a support team in Monique Clemons. Mick was able to present a $19,000+ check for VA&R. We were just the guys riding. But that shows what you guys are made of. You give from the heart.

-Everything we do should be from the heart. You’re part of this program. You wear a patch that should mean something. You care. And that’s why I love this program and we do what we do to support where the need is. Though I’m leaving at the end of this convention, it’s been my honor and pleasure to serve with, and alongside of, you.

• Old Business

• New Business

Vote on 2021 Convention location and date (2020 at Post 43, Hollywood)

Hollister Chapter 69 was the only chapter from Areas 1,2 and 3 who asked to host the ALRDOC convention in 2021. *Convention 2021 will return to Hollister, CA.*

• Introduction of Resolutions

Vote on Resolutions

**Resolution 19-001**-

**Retirement status for members with a deceased spouse-**

**Whereas**, Retired status allows for physical impairments to qualify; and

**Whereas**, All members of The American Legion Riders who are in good standing may apply for retired status providing they meet the qualifications; and

**Whereas**, Members who lose a spouse to death are not currently qualified for retired status; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that Article III (Membership eligibility) be amended to read, Section 7, Active members in good standing who become physically incapable of operating a motorcycle*, or who lose a spouse due to death*, may be granted retired status by a vote of the Chapter. The status Retired, applies only to the ownership and operation of a motorcycle requirement and does not create another class of membership. All other provisions of these Bylaws will apply to members granted this status. The Chapter will communicate to the American Legion Riders Department Secretary in writing, the granting of Retired Status, the member’s information, and the reason for granting retired status.

There was minimal discussion.

Resolution 19-001 was **PASSED** by vote of delegates.

**Resolution 19-002**-

**Creation of an American Legion Riders Past Presidents Club**-

**Whereas**, the American Legion has a Past Commanders Club; and

**Whereas**, the purpose of this club is to mentor future leaders; and

**Whereas**, The American legion Riders have numerous past presidents with vast amounts of knowledge and history; and

**Whereas**, Future leaders of the American Legion Riders can benefit from mentorship; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, At a regularly convened convention held in Hollister, California, May 3-5, 2019 that the American Legion Riders create a Past Presidents Club; and be it further

**Resolved**, Membership in the Past Presidents Club is open to past Chapter and Department Presidents; and be it further

**Resolved**, Elections be held at the close of convention for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Sergeant At Arms; and be it finally

**Resolved**, That bylaws be created and submitted prior to the ALR DEC at the 2019 West Coast Rally to be held during September 2019.

There was much discussion on clarifying the intent of the Club.

Resolution 19-002 was **PASSED** by vote of delegates.

**Resolution 19-003-**

**Resolution to Improve Equitability in the Election of Area Vice Presidents**-

**Whereas** the position of Area Vice President (AVP) is vital to the development of the leadership of the American Legion Riders Department of California (ALR DoC); and

**Whereas** providing the opportunity to hold the office of AVP to the widest selection of interested and qualified members increases the diversity of thought leadership, thus strengthening the organization; and

**Whereas** successful, equitable succession planning of the ALR DoC requires a fully prepared pool of candidates from all Chapters and Districts be provided an opportunity to ascend to positions on the ALR DoC Department Executive Committee (DEC); and

**Whereas** the current method f electing AVPs in the Areas Caucuses favors those Chapters or Districts with the most delegates in attendance; now, therefore be it

**Resolved** by the American legion Riders, Department of California in Convention assembled in Hollister, California, May 3, 4 and 5, 2019, that beginning with the election of Area Vice Presidents in the Area Caucuses of the Convention 2020, Chapters and Districts of each Area will be allowed one (1) vote each to be rendered at the completion of brief Chapter and District caucuses to be held during the Area Caucuses.

There was much debate and discussion on the resolution.

Resolution 19-003 was **NOT PASSED** by vote of delegates.

**Resolution 19-004-**

**Term Limit Increase For Area and Department Officers**-

**Whereas**, continuity in an organization is good for its membership; and

**Whereas**, Membership should have the right to decide its elected officers; and

**Whereas**, All members of the American Legion Riders who are in good standing may be nominated for a Chapter, Area or Department officer position; and

**Whereas**, The American Legion Riders Department of California, currently limits the term of Area and Department officers to three (3) one-year terms; and

**Whereas**, extending term limits allows for continued growth of an organization; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, By the American Legion Riders in Convention assembled in Hollister, California, May 3, 4 and 5, 2019, that Section 14, Article VIII(Administration) of the Bylaws be amended to read, “No elected officer of the Department Executive Committee shall be elected to the same office for more than five (5) successive terms.”

There was a long time taken in the discussion and debate of this resolution.

Resolution 19-004 was **NOT PASSED** by vote of delegates.

**Resolution 19-005-**

**Process for Resolution Submittals to Convention**-

**Whereas**, Our parent organization, the American Legion, requires resolutions to be submitted through a Post or District; and

**Whereas**, The resolution must be voted on through the District; and

**Whereas**, The resolution is then presented to the membership at convention; and

**Whereas**, This allows the resolution to be discussed before being presented at convention; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, At a regularly convened convention of the American Legion Riders held in Hollister, California, May 3 - 5, 2019, that beginning with the fiscal year 200, resolutions shall be presented at the chapter level for a vote of approval, then be presented to the Area at an Area President’s meeting for a vote of approval of the Area chapters before being submitted to the membership at convention; and, be it finally

Resolved, That resolutions passed at Area meeting shall be given to the Department Secretary for posting on the American legion Riders website for review by the department membership.

There was much discussion on whether the voting by chapters and Areas would be on content or form. It was clarified that it was form.

Resolution 19-005 was **PASSED** by vote of delegates.

Vote on by-laws amendments

none

• Nomination of Candidates for Executive Office

President-Rey Ruiz-accepted

Vice President-Gene Hobdy-accepted

Sgt. at Arms-Mike Smith-accepted

• Announcements

-Ken Sutton-Chapter 108-Thanks to Paul LaPierre for changing the paper service banners to reusable banners.

-Shadow-District 9-District 9 will be having a ride for remembrance.

-Chapter 69-Dinner is ready now-

-Chapter 69-Have some shirts, coins and pins that weren’t claimed and will be available.

David Saenz- Chapter 328 has a raffle for a Kimber rifle- $10 per ticket.

Cristina Molina, 43, thanks to mick for your mentor-ship.

-John-Chapter 28-1st experience with the legion rider convention. I wanted to comment on the professionalism. Thank you.

-Placerville- July 13 poker run thru the Sierras. Usually a real good one. Flyers will be posted.

Fran-if everyone of us gave one dollar to go toward the scholarship fund, then today we could raise between $300 and $400 dollars.

Ch 20-Steve Soto-every year we have a ride for awareness.

• Benediction

• Recess to Sunday Morning 0900

**Sunday May 5, 2019**

**0900**

• Reconvened @ 9am

• Chaplains Invocation

• Announcements

-It was stated that there was a conflict of interest with Bob Perryman being Area 1 and being voted in yesterday as the Area 1 Vice President. Bob stated he hadn’t been installed yet and that after installation he would relinquish the Area 1 Commissioner position. The Department Commander, Larry Leonardo, will accept the resignation.

-Steve played the echo of the to Taps on a trumpet, and played Advance the Colors on the bugle. “Mike invited me to be a part of this. I was looking for folks to ride with in the Bay Area. In the mean while I have been riding with Mike. It was a privilege to be here to play for you. Thank you.”

-For those of you who got charters yesterday, Mick and the Department Commander forgot to sign them.

-Area VPs will have an area most valuable rider patch for their Area.

-Patches for the youngest (Ch 111) and oldest (Ch 263) riders and the farthest rider (Ch 364 x 2) were given out.

* Uniform/Quartermaster

-We do a lot of things. We provide all back patches. Please if you don’t now how to order a patch from the website, please get with your Area VPs for help. Only POCs can order. New members should be presented with their patch at the time of being voted in.

If for some reason it’s taking too long, usually a 2 week turn around after payment is received, then get a hold of us.

-Completed 160 orders, 187 veterans, 86 Squadron and 42 Auxiliary patches.

-Rey Ruiz-Mick was presented with a shadowbox related to his 3 years of service to the ALRDoC. He’s the only continuous 3-year President.

* Finance Report

-We had 2 addresses this year

-Everything has been deposited. If you sent payments for patches, etc., I will be checking on those when I get back.

-We’ve had a productive year. After covering all bills, we are in the black. In 2010 we had an annual budget of $4,000. Last year we had a budget of $26,220. With the increase in per capita we’ve been able to collect $53,313. Still have money coming in from Quartermaster for patches and the Legacy run. Spent $13,938.70. Have a debt of $12,281 of which I expect $7,000 to $8,000 to be finally committed. Any remainder will automatically go into next year’s funds.

-Income-Per Capita $20,560; Delegate fees $18,010; New Chapter fees $450; Quartermaster $5,502; donations $9,097 and Legacy Run $4,359; for a total of $53,313.

-Move to accept the financial report as read pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Ken Sutton. Passed by vote of delegates.

* Vote on FY2020 Budget

-A few changes. Proposed budget. Uber call in $135; President’s funds $2000; Vice President’s funds $1,500; Judge Advocate $250; Secretary $500; Treasurer $350; Jr Past President $250; Chaplain $300; Area Vice Presidents $500 each; Membership $250; Safety $250; Service Officer $250; Quartermaster $20; Convention & Rally Chair $250; Convention seed $2,000; Rally seed $1,000; Office supplies $1,000; Rally per diem $6,000; website $380; awards $250; insurance $1,000; emergency relief fund $2,500; donations for VA&R $2,500; donations for Legacy run $2,500; donations will be adjusted based on income we get throughout the year. Extra donations will be added. New budget $29,190.00; $30,000 reserve.

Motion to accept the budget as read for the years 2019/2020 by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Wayne Eggleston Chapter 79.

Discussion-

-Paul LaPierre-$250 for safety officer is too low. I move to increase the safety officer to $500 and amend the budget.

-D28 Calvert-30k in reserve. Do we have a report of the exact usage of that and if it has its own line item and where is it kept?

Leonard-The money is kept within the bank account. It has its own line item. It’s for management so if we have something that’s huge that we have to deal with then it will come from reserve, and also the reserve is for whatever this body chooses to use it for.

-2nd by Dave Chapter 146 to amend the increase in the Safety officer line item. I would also like to move to amend the line item to change the seed money for convention to $3,000. 2nd by Mark Chapter 69.

-Motion for amendment to increase Safety officer by $250 to $500 passed by delegates.

-Motion to increase line item for convention from $2,000 to $3,000 passed by delegates.

-New totals are $30,440; Reserve of 30,000.

-Motion to approve the new amended budget totals by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Steve Weber. Passed by vote of delegates.

Mick- On September 29th a rig ran over a Prius and through it into the back of my bike. I herniated 5 new disks above and below the current fusion. Tomorrow I will have surgery.

* 2nd Nomination of Candidates for Executive Office

President-Rey Ruiz

Vice President-Gene Hobdy declined his acceptance. Monique Clemons-D 10-accepted; George Smith-declined; Fred Branson-Ch 96-accepted; Ronald Huff-declined.

Sgt. at Arms-Mike Smith

Very short 15 second recess was taken- 2nd nominations for Vice President were conducted with no new candidates.

• Candidates address to delegates took place by each.

• Election of Officers-

2019/2020 ALRDOC officers-

President-Rey Ruiz

Vice President-Fred Branson

Sgt. at Arms-Mike Smith

• Installation of new Officers by James Adames.

• New Officers took positions.

• Remarks from new officers were given by each.

• Good of the Riders-

-Legion Ways and Means Dept. of Calif.- Call to action. There are 850+ coins at the Dept. sitting there. We also have 1,000 coins that have post numbers on them, though all the posts didn’t donate to this which goes to the VA&R program. The Veteran Service Officers have an annual $850,000 budget. We only came up with $340,000 last year. We will need to raise the dues. The in-house programs are not working. Please promote the coins for us.

-David Saenz-Ch 328-We have a check for VA&R $328. Drawing this morning for the Kimber 1911. I will call the winner.

-Ch 33- There is a bill before congress Bill 504 to allow the Legion to determine its own criteria for membership. Currently before the Senate and the House. Will help our membership and ability to reach more service persons.

-Debbie- Please turn in your badge holders before you leave into the red and blue boxes.

-Ch 69-Robert DeLuna-There are left over enchiladas and menudo for donation.

-Ch 31-Hy Libby-The Epic Ride for Remembrance will be ridden from July 8 to Aug 13. This year riding 13k miles across 21 states including the 4 corners run across the country to support in ground burials at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. Asking for $20 donation for a commemorative coin to support the ride.

-David Hamilton-Ch 146-Area 5 at Chapter 146 will be having a motorcycle safety course June 1. Will be having a raffle and selling tickets for a 1911 shotgun for June 15.

-Leonard Phillips-Ch 852-California Senate Bill 364 property taxation bill- Would eliminate the property tax for those who have suffered multiple amputations and for those spouses whose family member has died in battle.

-Ch 69-Need help to stack chairs.

-D 28-Ridingest group in Area 2- We will be having our 20th annual summer poker run July 27. It will start at post 593 in Prunedale. We invite you all to come up.

-Steve Soto-Ch 20-we have started to adopt a highway. Throwing that challenge out to all chapters. 72 bags the first time. Average 10 bags each time since. Sept 11-15 Tulare county fair. Had a booth there last year, had members from all the family participate. Will be inviting other chapters to come join us. May 24 is Poppy Day for Porterville; we will be collecting money that day.

-Larry Leonardo-Department Commander- Thanks and congratulations to all of the officers. What you have done in the past is phenomenal. I signed new charters today. Keep it up, continue the legacy. But that doesn’t mean status quo. Would love to see 100 chapters by our convention. I wish you the best this year you’ve done me proud. Continue the legacy and make the next department commander proud.

-Ch 229-May 25 is the San Bernardino County Fair. We have a table for the American Legion family. Ends June 2. Closed on Tuesdays. We sponsor the alcohol. Will have September 14 end of summer poker run in the high desert. Congrats to all the new officers.

-Ch 521-Cindy-Rio Linda to put on a Memorial Day parade above Sacramento. VFW did it for 50 years. Stopped 2 years ago. Now the American Legion with the Lions support is putting it on. Anyone who would like to ride or support on May 27 are welcome.

-Rob Carrier-Ch 83-Currently a mentor at the Veterans Court. Spend 18 months with them. Contact once a month with a all once a week. Reach out to your county so to see if there is a Veteran’s court for you to help with. Looking for mentors.

-Ch 53-Ron-our family is a great family and our nation is a great nation. We are troubled with the way our women are being treated and abused in service in the military. Troubled about the numbers of women not in the legion. Non-sanctioned poker run will be put on. The person putting it on is a member of our post and started the “Veterans Sisters” organization, she is a victim.

` -Ch 111-Missing in America project- 7 thousand veterans sitting on a shelf unclaimed. Check into this your area. We found a Potter’s field that had 17 veterans. California law says veterans can’t be buried in a Potter’s field. We got organized and made them their own cemetery, with names on brass plates and gave them their final farewell.

• Benediction

• Adjournment- @ 11:26am

• DEC Meeting ½ hour after closing ceremony