**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

DEC MINUTES

December 19, 2024

1. **Call to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 1900 hours
2. **Invocation** – Jeff Carson
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Director Mike Smith
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – SAA Jeff Carson
5. **ALR Preamble** – Director Mike Smith
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger-EXCUSED

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – Jeff Carson

**Area 1 Vice-D** – Martin Glenn

**Area 2 Vice-D** – Pete Torrecillas

**Area 3 Vice-D/ Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips-EXCUSED

**Area 4 Vice-D** – Milan Morgan

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

**Area 6 Vice-D** – Stephanie Huff

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee-ABSENT

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Cristina Molina-EXCUSED

**Historian** – Louisa Carson

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

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

**Parliamentarian-** Mick Sobczak

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith-ABSENT

**Awards and Recognition** – Missy Griffiths-EXCUSED

**Convention & Rally** – Bob Atchley

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee-ABSENT

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary-ABSENT

**Webmaster/Public Relations** – Tom Lively

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

Ch 30 Bob Radcliff, Ch 82 Ed Caler, Ch 507 Rick Carrillo, Ch 77 Kathy Neubauer,

Ch 184 Justin Garcia, Ch 26 Sonny Keel, Ch 428 David Harrison

ALR Past President Mick Sobczak, 24th District Vice Commander Milan Morgan, 15th District Aux 1st Vice Rochelle Billet-Smith, District 2 Adjutant Martin Glenn, District 25 Adjutant Tom Lively, District 15 Aux Historian Louisa Carson, District 18 Aux President Stephanie Huff

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

Mike-Ratify proposed Ch 673.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – November 21, 2024 ALRDOC DEC Minutes

Accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 12/15/24

Beginning Bank Balance $ 35,016.19

Bank Deposits $ 0

Interest on bank account $ 0.29

Bank Withdraws $ 536.33

Ending Bank Balance $ 34,480.15

PayPal Balance $ 6,310.28

Ending Total Balance $ 40,790.43

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

November 25 – Legacy Run Committee Zoom meeting

December 5 – Porterville Christmas Parade

December 9 – Legacy Run Committee Zoom

December 14 – Chapter 18 Toy Drive

December 15 – Chapter 574 Toy Run

Comments

Don’t forget to remind your chapters of the upcoming deadlines. Give them assistance where needed.

Area meetings. Remind your chapters if they have resolutions they need to pass through their Chapters and Area meetings. Debbie will comment further.

February 2-7 are the dates I have been given for the National Commanders visit to California. The National Commander will be visiting the north this year. We are still standing by for information.

Be safe! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Stay safe on the road!

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

November 25 California Legacy Run Committee

December 1 Recruit send-off and escort Bakersfield Armed Forces Career Center

December 1 Birthday Ride-by Celebration for 100-year-old WW II Veteran

December 2 Special meeting ALR Chapter 26 Executive Committee

December 7 World War II Memorial Unveiling Ceremony Bakersfield

December 8 Bakersfield Toy Run \*\* (see Good of the Riders)

December 9 California Legacy Run Committee

December 11 ALR Chapter 26 meeting

December 13 Post 26 Christmas Dinner

December 14 Wreaths Across America Bakersfield National Cemetery

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

January 18 TAL District 15 meeting – Terra Bella

January 21 ALR Convention and Rally Committee

January 25 ALR Area 5 Directors meeting – San Diego

Events planned for the months to come:

February 1 TAL Area 3 meeting – Visalia

February 8 ALR Area 2 Directors meeting – Santa Clara

February 15 ALR Area 1 Directors meeting - Healdsburg

March 8 ALR Area 3 Directors meeting - Sutter Creek

March 15 TAL District 15 meeting – Visalia

March 22 22 A Day Run Chapter 18 – Visalia

March 29 Veterans Memorial Run Chapter 26 - Bakersfield

1. **Sgt. At Arms’ Report** – Jeff Carson

Since our last DEC meeting I have attended several events. I attended the coffee with a Vet

Wednesday’s morning at the Memorial Building. On November 27th I attended the Veterans

Memorial Board meeting. Also, on the 27th I attended the first meeting for the Veterans Stand down scheduled for March 29th, 2025. On December 2nd our chapter was in the Candy Cane Lane Christmas Parade. On December 5th we attended the Tulare Christmas Parade. Our chapter also held our first Toys for Tots toy drive on December 7th. December 13th I finally got my bike back. On December 14th we held our second Toys for Tots toy drive. On December 15th, we took the bike on a short 525-mile break in run to Chapter 574 Moreno Valley and participated in their First Responders toy drive. Then on December 17th, we delivered gifts to the Fresno VA Home for their Christmas for a Vet event.

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

DUE DATES-

Roster update is due January 31, 2025

Per Capita is due February 14, 2025. Please use the PayPal button at the bottom of your

online roster.

RESOLUTIONS-

1. Must be voted on at the chapter level.

2. Must be brought to an Area meeting and voted on there.

3. Must be sent to the state Secretary no later than 30 days prior to convention so the

resolutions committee will see if it is written in the proper form. They do not rule on content.

4. It is then sent to all chapters and put on the website so chapters can decide how they want

their delegates to vote on it/them.

STUFFED ANIMALS-

Please bring/send a stuffed animal to convention to be given to 1st responders to help with

children in extenuating circumstances.

CHALLENGE-

Chapter 105 has challenged each chapter that is able to meet or beat their 80 stuffed animals

that they are bringing to convention.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. **Area 1 Vice D –** Martin Glenn

The most recent news for Area 1 is the bid for charter of Prospective Chapter 673 to be

attached to Post 673 in Durham, CA which is a few miles north of Oroville. I’ve seen their start up kit, they had a post membership vote to authorize the chapter, and I believe the final draft has been turned in.

All Area 1 chapters are caught up with their required reports except for Clear Lake Chapter 437. They are one of my chapters. I rode down to their chapter near the end of last summer. From that trip, I was able to talk to a couple of members and get a couple of phone numbers. They had an event going on instead of their scheduled meeting, and nobody was interested in conducting any business. I think the only way for me to help them get their reports done is to set up a meeting and go down and help them do it.

Other than that, I don’t have anything to report for Area 1 this month. I have spent most of my energy recuperating and I have also been focusing energy working on other American Legion issues involving my post.

1. **Area 2 Vice D –** Pete Torrecillas

Participated in Hollister Lights on Parade

Participated in 3 Honor missions:

Miles Ridden = 177

Volunteer hours = 10

**What we have been doing**

Wreaths Across America

Share your holiday parade

**Upcoming events**

Scheduled next Area 2 Vice Director Meeting for February 8,2025. American Legion

Mission City Post 564

**Ch 64**

Hollister Poker Run, Hoops for troops, Area 2 meeting

**Ch 69**

7 funeral escorts and 2 community events.

**Ch 82**

12/2-Fundraiser for Blue Star Moms, Gold Star Moms and the Children’s fund.

12/10-Toys for Tots fundraiser.

**D 28**

Issue Food Bank meals for Chualar Community.

ALR D28 1st Annual Turkey Trot fundraiser for Monterey County Food Bank.

ALR Chapter 69 Veterans Day Poker Run.

Monterey County Veterans Day Preparation & Ceremony.

3 Honor Missions: Robert Harris USN, Manuel Pallib USMC, & Donald Harris USA.

Events within my Chapter in the coming weeks & month:

Issue Food Bank meals for Chualar Community, 2nd Thursday Every Month.

Monterey County Blue Star Moms CA 40 pack out

KSBW Share Your Holidays, benefits The Salvation Army

District 28 ALR Christmas Party

Wreaths Across America

**Ch 105**

Marine Corp SGT Major Ceremony Skylawn,

Veterans Day Ceremony, Flag Day Plaque Presentation Cypress Lawn. Rode 686

DOC Miles, contributed 99 Hours, participated in 9

Honor Details, rode 1118 group miles.

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

Escort (Thomas Casados) Comfort Animal Presentation

Events planned for the months to come: 2024 Pillar Point Harbor Lighted Boat

Festival, 2024

Wreaths Across America Escort, 2024 Wreath Laying. Continued Honor Details.

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Mike Phillips

During this month I participated in the Visalia and Tulare Christmas Parades, Coffee with a Vet Post 785, attended the Visalia Stand Down meeting, was the Grinch at the Chapter 18 Toys for Tots drive located at Box Drop furniture, attended the Post 18 Christmas Party.

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

Chapter – 18 Matthew HD Toy drive, Coffee with a Vet X4 at Post 785, Visalia and Tulare Christmas Parades, Bakersfield Toy Run, Jeff Coffman funeral, Chapter 574 Toy Run, Toys for Tots drive at Box Drop furniture X2, Toy donation to Valley Children’s Hospital, Visalia Stand Down meeting

Chapter – 20 Chapter 18 Toys for Tots drive, Chapter 574 Toy Run

Chapter – 26 New Recruit send off, Bakersfield Toy Run

Chapter – 88 Funeral Escort

No other Chapters report any activities during this reporting period.

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Milan Morgan

● Chapter 61 -

Nov 27th - Chapter 61 celebrated their 2nd anniversary of their Charter.

Dec 8th - Chapter 61 Director Mike Hjelmstad was recognized as the NFL’s Salute to

Service “Hero of the Game” at the Rams/Bills NFL game. Chapter 61 members

attended the game and went out on the field with him for the ceremony.

● Chapter 184- Nothing to report

● Chapter 804

On Dec 13th Chapter 804 passed out over 560 stockings to Brooklyn Elementary

School with Post 804 and Marine Corps League Det 1347

Sat, Dec 14th they participated in the “Miracle on 1st Street” event with LAPD handing

out over 2000 presents to kids.

Mon, Dec 16th they also participated with the Montebello Elks Lodge in helping out

with a Christmas program for special needs kids.

A couple of funeral escorts including one for Patrick’s mother from Post 180 in

Azusa.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AREA 4:

● Area 4 Meeting in Jan (TBD)

● Enjoy the Holidays!

1. **Area 5 Vice D** – Robert Partlow

12/1 Attended Chapter 716 Toys for Tots Breakfast

12/14 Participated in the Wreaths Across America at Miramar National Cemetery

Upcoming Area 5 Director Meeting

January 25 Hosted by Chapter 460

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everyone.

1. **Area 6 Vice D –** Stephanie Huff

I have been working with Arroyo Grande for an area meeting. They would like to pick a date in March. Hollywood has not gotten back to me regarding a date in January/February.

Azusa Chapter 180 rode in the Pomona Christmas Parade to support Chapter 30. Other chapters from area 5 also supported them. There were about 22 bikes in total.

Orcutt chapter 534 rode in the Santa Maria Parade of Lights as well as a Toys for Tots motorcycle fun run.

Hollywood Chapter 43 participated in their Christmas parade as well.

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

Don Kincade from Chapter 26 passed to Rider Everlasting.

* 1. **Historian –** Louisa Carson

Since our last DEC meeting I have attended several events. I attended the coffee with a Vet Wednesday’s morning at the Memorial Building. On November 27th I attended the Veterans. On December 2nd our chapter was in the Candy Cane Lane Christmas Parade. On December 5th we attended the Tulare Christmas Parade. Our chapter also held our first Toys for Tots toy drive on 7th. December 13th we finally got the bike back. On December 14th we held our second Toys for Tots toy drive. On December 15th, we took the bike on a short 525-mile break inrun to Chapter 574 Moreno Valley and participated in their First Responders toy drive. Then on December 17th, we delivered gifts to the Fresno VA Home for their Christmas for a Vet event.

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

No report except I love the Secretary, Director and Vice Director.

Merry Christmas!

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

11/25-CLR committee

12/1-Birthday ride for a 100-year-old WW2 veteran.

12/2-Special meeting with Ch 26 Executive committee.

12/7-WW2 Memorial unveiling ceremony in Bakersfield.

12/8-Bakersfield Toy Run

12/9-CLR committee

12/11-Ch 26 meeting

12/13-Post Christmas dinner-selling tickets

12/14-Wreaths Across America at Bakersfield National Cemetery. Placed a wreath

At the coast Guard Memorial.

* 1. **Parliamentarian –** Mick Sobczak

Progress!!

Resolutions go to the area to be reported on.

* 1. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

Currently we have 5 orders Invoiced, 0 order in Process, 0 order Payment Received pending processing, 0 orders in processing, 1 order shipped and 16 orders were completed during this month. Please pay for all orders submitted in a timely manner and your orders will get out to you as quickly as possible.

I understand many Chapters aren’t receiving their invoices when they place an order. 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 and if it still is not there email me at [alrdocquartermast@gmail.com](mailto:alrdocquartermast@gmail.com) and I will email you a copy of your invoice. PLEASE DO NOT PAY FOR YOUR ORDER IN THE DONATION AREA OF THE WEBSITE UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO BY MYSELF OR DEBBIE AS WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING YOU DID THIS. The quartermaster website when working properly tracks all payment made and make automatic changes indicating your payment on the tracking log.

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following: Marine Corp SGT Major Ceremony Skylawn, Veterans Day Ceremony, Flag Day Plaque Presentation Cypress Lawn. Rode 686 DOC Miles, contributed 99 Hours, participated in 9 Honor Details, rode 1118 group miles.

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month: Escort (Thomas Casados) Comfort Animal Presentation

Events planned for the months to come: 2024 Pillar Point Harbor Lighted Boat Festival, 2024 Wreaths Across America Escort, 2024 Wreath Laying. Continued Honor Details.

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

**A Christmas Wish**

This will be the last Christmas I’ll be your Service Officer, so, here’s my wish. I wish all our Veterans sign up with their local Veterans Service Office and Veterans Administration and tell all their Veterans friends and have them tell all their Veteran friends to do the same.

Here’s why, by signing up with your local Veterans Service Organization, you’ll be ‘in the system’ and able to file disability claims for any issues that have been attributed to your time in the service or that may come up in the future, i.e., cancers caused by exposure to carcinogens, burn pits, etc. It could also make your significant other eligible for Dependent and Indemnity Compensation in the future should you pass away due to your service-connected disability.

By registering with the Veterans Administration, you’ll have access to the Veterans Hospitals throughout the United States should you desire to use the system.

Another bonus is with your VA card you’ll have access to any base commissary (averaging 31% savings over your local market) plus the base PX where there is never sales tax! Another bonus, 10% off at your local Home Depot, Lowes and Denny’s, every day! There are many more establishments that offer discounts, google military discounts for Veterans to see a list.

So, please help me make my wish come true, tell every Veteran you know and have them tell every Veteran they know and them tell all the Veterans they know to sign up.

Wishing you and your families a safe and Happy Holiday!

Ride Safe, George

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

**Webmaster**

Fixed access for several individuals and actively responding to emails.

Maintaining Calendar and News.

Exploring opportunities for new website. If anyone has any contacts, please let me know.

**Public Relations Committee Chair**

Monitoring Area and Department Facebook pages.

No idea at this point for a website update.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. **Awards and Recognition** – Missy Griffiths

I have sent out an email to all of the committee members asking for support with their recommendations for any people they think deserve a MVR award for their area. As of right now, I have not heard any responses.

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

Registration should be open in 2 weeks. Working with 2 hotels for contracts.

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

No Meetings in December

2025 ALR/DOC Convention

Next report will be on February 18th.

2025 ALR/DOC West Coast Rally

11 months out report to DEC:

Tom Lively, Chapter 299 Chino

Next report will be on February 18th.

2026 ALR/DOC Convention

21 months out report to DEC:

Tio, Chapter 328 Norco

Next report will be on February 18th.

2026 ALR/DOC West Coast Rally

Next report will be on February 18th.

There will be a meeting of the C & R Committee on January 21, 2025 at 1900 hrs. to update the Convention & Rally Guidelines.

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

No report this month.

1. **Unfinished Business-**
   1. Update from Finance Officer feasibility of taking money from reserve to invest into

6-month CD.

No update.

1. **New Business-**
   1. Ratify proposed Ch 673-

Motion to ratify Chapter 673 as an ALRDOC chapter by Martin Glenn. 2nd by Jeff

Carson.

After much discussion about things put into the bylaws there was a motion to table the ratification until the January DEC meeting by Martin Glenn. 2nd by Stephanie Huff.

Martin, Donny and a few others will do a conference with the proposed chapter to iron

out the bylaws.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

Ch 77-Dan Neubauer-infection in knee.

Ch 684-Mike Cash-on palliative care.

Ch 716-Dwight Hendricks-having trouble with his hands.

Ch 30-Steven Huff-Having neck surgery mid-January.

Ch 30-Bob Radcliff-diagnosed with cancer.

Ch 43-Fred Hurtz-recovering from a bike accident.

Ch 92-Judy Sarti-family member with flesh eating disease.

Ch 108-Ken Sutton-ill.

**Rider Everlasting:**

Ch 26- Don Kinkade-original member-services January 6th.

1. **Good of the Riders-**

Martin-Ch 77-Brian Hopper reached out about an MS Course being held in Vacaville. All are welcome.

Pete-Only 16 currently registered for convention.

Andrew-Chapter challenge for stuffies at convention. Ch 105 is bringing 80.

Mike Smith-Get the registration link to your POCs. Happy New Year. Thanks for a successful year.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – January 23, 2025 @ 1900 hours via Zoom.
2. **Benediction** – Mick Sobczak
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:09pm