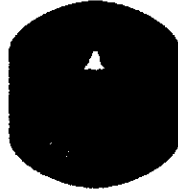


**The American Legion Riders
Department of California**



For God and Country
7th Annual American Legion Riders
Department of California Convention
April 12-14, 2013
Amador, California

Minutes

Saturday April 13, 2013

0900 hours

- Call to Order Advancement of the Colors
 - Music
 - Jack Magee
 - Bagpipes, Laura Moy
- Pledge of Allegiance – Sergeant-at-Arms Robert Stover
- Chaplain's Invocation – Jr. Past President Louis Diaz
- POW/MIA Missing Rider Ceremony
- Recitation of Preamble to the Constitution
- Roll Call of Officers
- Roll Call of Chapters
- Convene Convention
- Introduction of Guests and Dignitaries/Welcome
 - President Albert Villa introduced and thanked Active Duty Marines Jeremy Rainwater and Jeremy Findley for joining the Convention.
 - Director of the American Legion Membership Committee Janet Wilson – Without membership nothing will be done and our Veterans will not be served. The American Legion Riders is the one thing that will keep the Legion growing and working and we do need to get you active in the Posts. Everyone should carry around a Membership Application.
- Convention Announcements – Chaplain Mary Estrada's father-in-law has passed away and that is why she is not here today. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

- Riders Everlasting Observance Jr. Past President Luis Diaz presiding in the absence of Chaplain Mary Estrada – All of today's benedictions were written by Chaplain Mary Estrada. We memorialize those that we have lost in past year by placing streamers with their names on them to the State Flag. Those that passed away within the year 2012-2013 are:
 - District 9 – Ray Lein and Mitz Ideishi.
 - Chapter 555 – Don Dressler.
 - District 10 – John Micheli.
- President Albert Villa – I would just like to recognize our Past President Steve Weber. Steve was in a bad motorcycle accident and we are glad to see him here today.
- Recess for Group Photo/Ride
- 1200 hours Lunch**
- 1300 hours**
- Reconvene 1300hrs
- Area Reports
 - Area 1 – Edgar Brown – Area 1 is staying busy.
 - Area 2 – Mike Nettles – Area 2 will be having a picnic for the Livermore VA. Riders are busy doing PGR missions. We were in a parade for the Little League opening Ceremony.
 - Area 3 – Stephanie Early – Some of our Chapters are very busy. Chapter 26 has had 28 logins for their events on the website. Chapter 108 had 120 riders present at an event.
 - Area 5 – Kenneth Derr – We continue to be busy with Welcome Home and escort rides. We had our Area 5 Presidents meeting in Palm Springs. Area 5 is growing.
 - AREA 6 – Christopher Coleman – The Rally is coming up. Chapter 48 is having a Poker Run in May. Chapter 66 is having a Poker Run on April 27th to benefit the Veterans Stand Down.
- Webmaster Report – An explanation was given on how to use the website and navigate the different sites. Please login all activities for your Chapters. Area 2 had 91 activities logged in, Area 3 had 42, Area 5 had 352 and Area 6 had 162. The top event attended was a Community event. 194 logins were for Community Events and 159 were for funerals.
- Distinguished Guests – President Albert (Poncho) Villa
 - Jim Leyser – National Magazine Commissioner
 - Tony Guerrero - Sergeant-at-Arms American Legion Department of California
 - Al Lennox – National Executive Committeeman
 - Philip Stuart - Area 3 Vice Commander, Son's of the American Legion
 - Ken Kramlich – Commander of the American Legion Department of California

- Distinguished Guests Speakers
 - Commander Ken Kramlich urged everyone to attend the Legislative Day on May 1st. There will be many Bills concerning our Veterans and we need your help.
 - Area 3 Vice Commander Richard Kearns presented 14th District Commander John Bart with a plaque that read, "In appreciation for a job well done, Richard Kearns Vice Commander Area 3, 2012-2013."
 - National Executive Committeeman Al Lennox – I represent California at National and Washington. The American Legion is working diligently for veterans and the Department of Defense. We are lobbying and working tirelessly on many issues. Some of the more important issues are;
 - Protecting the defense budget
 - Sexual trauma
 - Tricare, we do not want Tricare reduced in any way shape or form
 - The Stolen Valor Act is being rewritten so it will now be Constitutional
 - The VA medical claims backlog is unacceptable
 - The disabled Veterans and widows tax
 - Homelessness among Veterans
 - The last is the Flag Protection Amendment. We were one vote shy in the Senate of passing that Amendment to the Constitution. Barbara Boxer voted against the amendment
- Recess to Area Caucus/Elections

1430 hours Reconvene

- Report of Area Elections
 - Area 1 – VP Edgar Brown, Alternate Bill Hawkins
 - Area 2 – VP Bill Roller, Alternate Ignacio Alvarez
 - Area 3 – VP Stephanie Early, Alternate Glen Lilly
 - Area 5 – VP Kenneth Derr, Alternate Jake Jacobsen, Alternate Mike Johnson, Alternate Lloyd MacBride
 - Area 6 – VP Christopher Coleman, Alternate Buck Barker, Alternate Dan Dale
- Committee Reports
 - Vice President – James Adames – Keep the communication open between chapters and use the website at www.alrdoc.com to post your events. Sometimes our activities overlap and the website is a good source to use when calendaring your events.
 - Finance – Don Christolear – After the 2012 Convention we had a balance of \$35, 052.66, a total income of \$28, 269.00 with expenditures of \$17,580.07. We now have a current balance of \$61, 398.99.
 - James Adames motioned to accept the Finance report pending audit, second by Robert King, motion carried.
 - Credentials – No report

- Rally and Convention – Chairman Terry Baughman – Chapter 108 has done a great job at this year's Convention. The Rally this year will be in Oxnard at Chapter 48 on Labor Day weekend. The 2014 Convention will be held in Dixon at Chapter 208 and the Rally will be held at Chapter 69 in Hollister.
- Public Relations – No report
- Constitution & By-laws – No report
- Membership – No report
- Community Service / Safety – Chairman Marc Mathes – Education is the Key to riding safely, go back and take a riding class to reinforce your skills. The Department of Defense has had their budget cut and they are not going to be offering riding safety courses on any of the bases. I would like every Area to pick a safety representative. At the next Convention we are going to do a one hour safety brief.
- Service Officer – Mike Schuster – No report
- Uniform / Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya – In 2012 we processed 120 orders, 518 were complete Patch sets, 23 additional bottom rockers and 38 additional top rockers. The State received \$12, 500.00 and District 9 received \$5,240.00. For the first quarter of this year we have processed 30 orders and 120 patch sets. The State has received \$3282.60 and District 9 received \$1,227.40. We offer a smaller sized patch that will fit the smaller vests.
- Introduction of Resolutions – Committee Chairwoman Anita Bart – This year we have 4 Resolutions submitted. Three have been sent to the following committees due to the nature of the Resolutions. If any of the Resolutions brought forward effect change in our By-laws or the way we run our organization they must go through the appropriate committees that represent those areas. Those areas are our By-laws Committee, our Uniform Committee and our Organization and Rules Committee. Those three resolutions will be brought before you tomorrow after the committees have made their recommendations.
 - There is one being brought forth that does not affect our By-laws and it is, Monty Roberts the legendary "Horse Whisperer."
 - Vote on Resolutions – Anita Bart moved that we accept the Resolution for the "Horse Whisperer, Tom Pierce second. Motion carried.
 - Vote on By-laws amendments – none
- Nomination of Candidates for Executive Office –
 - President
 - Albert "Poncho" Villa
 - Vice President
 - James Admes
 - Sergeant-at-Arms
 - Robert Stover
 - Larry Miller

- Recognition
 - Dave (Crittter) Ritter was a POW in North Korea and served on the USS Pueblo.
 - Milt Banderas from Chapter 119 was a POW in Korea
 - POW Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl captured in Afghanistan on June 30, 2009.
 - Josh Cornahan from Chapter 509 has just returned from Afghanistan. Josh is in the Army.
- Announcements – President Villa thanked the following people for their service during the Convention.
 - Flag Detail
 - Denver Strauss
 - Jeff Anderson
 - Jim Mote
 - Ed Medford
 - Singer
 - Jack Magee
 - Bag Pipes
 - Laura Moy
- President Villa closed the nominations for President, Vice President and Sergeant-at-Arms for today.
- Benediction – Jr. Past President Luis Diaz
- Retiring of the POW and MIA Flags by Vice President James Adames and Sergeant-at-Arms Robert Stover.
- Meeting Adjourned – 1600 hours
- Recess to Sunday Morning 0900 hours

Sunday April 14, 2013

0900

- Reconvene
- Presentation of the MIA POW
- Chaplain's Invocation – Jr. Past President Luis Diaz
- Announcements
 - There are plenty of sandwiches left over from yesterday's lunch and Post 108 has offered to give them to the Riders before they leave for home today.
 - Charles Allen Johnson is here today. Charles wrote "The Patriot Riders Song." The song is available for any non-profit to use free of charge with written permission from him, the website is www.patriotriderssong.com.
 - We have a total of 2,151 American Legion Riders, 70 Chapters and 5 Districts. There are 170 Delegates here for our 7th Annual Convention.
- Resolutions – Chairman Anita Bart
 - Resolution No. 005, Black Ball Cap
 - Committee Reports on Resolution No. 005, Black Ball Cap
 - Constitution and By-laws Chairman David Forney – The Constitution and By-laws Committee reviewed the Resolution and after much deliberation the results were 4 against and 1 for.
 - Uniform Committee Chairman Robert Stover – After significant discussion there was a unanimous choice to recommend that the Resolution be rejected.
 - Rules of Organization Scot Nettles – The black ball cap is considered a work hat and can be used at any other time, but not at an authorized official meeting.
 - Mike Nettles, District 10, Delegate to the Convention moved to adopt Resolution No. 005 and if approved the Resolution will change the By-laws. March Mathes, Chapter 3, Delegate to the Convention second the motion.
 - Discussion – There was a lot of discussion for and against Resolution No. 005 and a Voice Vote was taken.
 - Voice Vote on Resolution No. 005, "Black Ball Cap."
 - Let the record show that the Nay's have it. The motion for Resolution No. 005 "Black Ball Cap" has failed.
- New Charters
 - Chapter 595, Area 5, Perris CA
 - Chapter 456, Area 2, Fairfield CA
 - District 2, Area 2, Redding CA
 - Chapter 77, Area 1, Woodland CA
 - Chapter 66, Area 6, San Luis Obispo CA
 - Chapter 56, Area 6, Santa Maria CA

- Candidates address to delegates
 - President – Albert “Poncho” Villa
 - Vice President – James Adames
 - Sergeant-at-Arms – Robert Stover, Larry Miller
- Election of Officers
 - President – Albert “Poncho” Villa
 - Vice President – James Adames
 - Sergeant -at-Arms – Larry Miller
- Installation of new Officers
- New Officers take positions
- Remarks from new Officers
- 2014 Budget – Treasurer Don Christolear
 - Joe Love, Chapter 69, Delegate, moved to accept the budget as read.
 - Marc Mathes, Chapter 3, Delegate, second the motion
 - No discussion
 - Motion carried
- Announcements
- Benediction
- Adjournment

DEC 1st Meeting 1 hour after closing ceremony.