

**The American Legion Riders
Department of California**



For God and Country
Minutes
October 5, 2013

1. **Called to Order** – Vice President James Adames
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Mary Estrada
3. **Roll Call** by Secretary Rita Christolear – President Albert Villa (absent), Vice President James Adames, Secretary Rita Christolear, Jr. Past President Luis Diaz, Treasurer Don Christolear, Sergeant-at-arms Larry Miller, Chaplain Mary Estrada, Judge Advocate John Bart, Service Officer Mike Schuster (absent), Quartermaster Patrick Tafoya, Area 1 VP Edgar Brown, Area 2 VP Bill Roller, Area 3 VP Stephanie Early (absent), Area 5 VP Kenneth Derr, Area 6 VP Christopher Coleman, Commissioner Jim Banakus
4. **Special Guest** – Janet Wilson, Vice Commander Area 2 – More information and interaction between the Legion and the Riders was discussed.
5. **Additions to the Agenda** – Charter Request
 - a. Chapter 241, District 18, Area 6, Baldwin Park, CA – Motion was made by Area 6 VP Christopher Coleman to accept Chapter 241 into the American Legion Riders, second by Area 5 VP Kenneth Derr, motion carried
6. **Approval of Minutes** – August 3, 2013 – Jr. Past President Luis Diaz made a motion to accept the reading of the minute with the exception of the spelling of Commissioner Jim Banakus' name, second by Area 6 VP Christopher Coleman, motion carried.
7. **Financial Report** – Don Christolear – Cash at beginning of period \$49,191.90, Cash at end of period \$51,444.73. Jr. Past President Luis Diaz made a motion to accept the Financial Report, second by Area 1 VP Edgar Brown, subject to audit, motion carried. Jr. Past President Luis Diaz made a motion to take \$2,000.00 from the Budget line item Convention Facility fund and put it into a Donation Fund, second by Area 5 VP Kenneth Derr, motion carried. Treasurer Don Christolear will set up a Conference Call with the Finance Committee to approve the line item change.

8. Committee Reports

- a. Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya – Received \$11,390.00, Cost \$5,929.00, Profit \$5,041.00.
- b. Convention and Rally – Terry Baughman – The Convention will be held at Chapter 208, Dixon CA. on April 11, 12 & 13. The 2014 Rally will be held at Chapter 69 in Hollister, CA.
- c. Judge Advocate Report – JAG John Bart – Nothing at this time.
- d. Service Officer – Mike Shuster – Absent
- e. Safety Committee – Marc Mathes – Absent
- f. Jr. Past President – Luis Diaz – A new template for an Emergency Medical Card is on the website for everyone to use, there is also a link to the Veteran Field Guide. Remember to Login when using the alrdoc.com website.
- g. Historian – Jake Jacobsen – The history of the American Legion Riders on the alrdoc.com website is up to 9 pages now. Home Depot Foundation has available funds for Posts, go to homedepotfoundation.org for information.

9. Area Reports

- a. Area 1 – Edgar Brown – Chapter 84 had 4 events in the last 3 months, 119 had 8, District 2 had 9, Chapter 208 had 17, 383 had an MIA event.
- b. Area 2 – Bill Roller – We went to Old Sacramento and I got some of our bikes on a Calendar shoot. It is called Operation Warriors Foundation, <http://operationwarriorsfoundation.org/beauties-for-veterans-2014-calendars.html> You can purchase a calendar or sell them to help with their fundraising.
- c. Area 3 – Stephanie Early – Judge Advocate John Bart gave the report for Area 3 – The Fresno Veterans Home has finally been funded and will open on October 18, 2013.
- d. Area 4 – Vacant
- c. Area 5 – Kenneth Derr – Area 5 continues to be very busy. Chapter 149 has a Poker Run on October 12, 2013. I have another Chapter looking to join the ALR.
- d. Area 6 – Christopher Coleman – The 2013 Rally was a huge success and I would personally like to thank everyone that attended and helped make it possible. We had about 170-200 bikes and 32 Chapters were represented.

10. Old Business

a. Discussion for the suspension of Chapter 383, District 6, Area 1, Fairfield, CA Judge Advocate John Bart – Chapter 383 is to present us with a letter stating their reasons for wearing “Post” on their Top Rocker. The discussion will be tabled until the next DEC meeting under Old Business.

Commissioner & Past President Jim Banakus - I just want to bring up a point and I am sure most people are aware of it. When this whole thing was founded we had an Ad Hoc Committee, this was until we wrote our By-laws and Constitution. Jack Climer was the Judge Advocate who sat in on the Ad Hoc Committee as an advisor. One of the things that he did bring forth in that meeting was that he was searching for what word we would use as a Top Rocker. One of the things that were brought up was that the “Post” is a recognition name for the American Legion and/or the VFW and it is not to be used by the American Legion Riders. That was put into concrete. At the time we agreed to that and came up with the word “Chapter”, and it has been that way ever since. Then we formed the By-laws and what have ya and that word was put in our By-laws. I know at one point Doc Diaz had a Top Rocker with his Post number on the back of it and that goes into the “Grandfathered” rules when we had the first Convention in Fresno. Those that had “District” or “Post” or whatever they had on there were Grandfathered in. As they fell by the wayside everybody else then had to have the word, “Chapter”. I think it’s a mute point; they had to arbitrarily go out and make this Top Rocker with “Post” on it. And to use that, even though the new members are conforming, I think is an insult to our organization to have the ones that don’t want to change because they are not Grandfathered in and have nothing that says that they are.

11. New Business

a. Charter Requests

- a. Chapter 434, District 22, Area 5 Chula Vista, CA – Area 5 VP Kenneth Derr mad a motion to accept Chapter 434 into the American Legion Riders of CA, second by Area 6 VP Christopher Coleman, motion carried.

12. **Sick / Memorial** – Chaplain Mary Estrada – Thank you for the \$500.00 donation to the “Secure the Promises” project. Area VP’s, please contact your Chapters and inform them of the “Post Everlasting” that is now on the alrdoc.com website.

13. **Good of the Order** – Vice President James Adames – I would like to thank everyone that came to George Ornales’ funeral, we had a good representation. The 5th Annual Sarah Adames Memorial Cancer Ride collected \$3,500.00, thank you for your support.

14. **Benediction** – Chaplain Mary Estrada

15. **Adjournment** – Vice President James Adames – Meeting adjourned at 10:31