



Report Of The Ad Hoc Committee For The American Legion Riders March 1, 2006



Background

During the Convention of The American Legion Department of California held in Palm Springs, California, June 23-26, 2005, the Delegates of the Convention passed Resolution #019-05. This resolution provided for the establishment of an adhoc committee to "study the feasibility of establishing an American Legion Riders Committee, Commission or Separate Program to oversee, coordinate and promote the activities of The American Legion Riders within the Dept of CA."

The resolution further required that this committee meet and prepare a report and/or possible resolutions for presentation to The Department Executive Committee at the Spring, 2006, meeting of the D.E.C. This report is the result of the work of the committee. Recommendations are provided in lieu of resolutions.

Meeting Dates & Attendance

The Committee met on two occasions, each consisting of meetings over a Saturday and Sunday. The first meeting was held at Clovis Post #147 on November 12-13, 2005. The committee members in attendance were:

Glen Mayer, Area 1 (Alternate for Henry Cater)
Terry Baughman, Area 2
Mike Crowl, Area 3 (Alternate for Greg Dais)
Reggie "Jake" Jacobsen, Area 5
Jim Banakus, Area 6 Committee Chairman
Jack Climer, Department Judge Advocate, Technical Advisor
Steve Weber, Past Department Chaplain, Technical Advisor

The appointed Area 4 Representative, Greg Stroup, was unable to participate. The Area Vice Commander did not appoint a replacement.

The second meeting of the Committee was held at Oxnard Post #48 on February 25-26, 2006. The Committee members in attendance were:

Glen Mayer, Area 1 (Alternate for Henry Cater)
Terry Baughman, Area 2
Greg Dais, Area 3
Reggie "Jake" Jacobsen, Area 5
Jim Banakus, Area 6 Committee Chairman
Jack Climer, Department Judge Advocate, Technical Advisor
Steve Weber, Past Department Chaplain, Technical Advisor

The appointed Area 4 Representative, Greg Stroup, was unable to participate. The Area Vice Commander did not appoint a replacement.

Present at both meeting venues were a large number of California American Legion Riders to observe, ask questions and offer input. The discussions were lively, open-minded and, while it was initially clear that the Committee members had clearly different opinions and points of view, it was also crystal clear that all were dedicated to the process and passionate in their desire to accomplish the creation of an American Legion Riders Program in California that will be in the best interests of The American Legion.

Findings And Recommendations Of The Committee

The Committee is unanimous in its findings, related hereafter, regarding the issue of the formation of The American Legion Riders Organization in California.

1. The formation of the organization is feasible, desirable, and supported statewide.
2. The organizational structure of The American Legion Riders in California will be created in the manner of The Sons of The American Legion. The Organization will be known as The American Legion Riders Department of California and will be incorporated in California as a non-profit organization pursuant to the laws of the State of California.
3. Upon approval of the recommendations of the Committee by the Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of California, the Department Commander is requested to make appointments of the following interim officers positions to oversee the formation of the organization:

- One (1) Department President
- One (1) Department Vice President
- One (1) Department Secretary
- One (1) Department Treasurer
- One (1) Department Sergeant-At-Arms

These officers will act in their appointed capacities collectively as the interim Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Riders until a convention of the members may be convened. At this Convention new officers shall be elected by the membership in their own right including six (6) Vice Presidents, one for each Area. The Department Commander is also requested to provide such assistance to the Riders D.E.C. as may be requested and/or appropriate to assist them in their organizational tasks.

4. The American Legion Department of California will be requested to form the "American Legion Riders Commission" consisting of six Legionnaires, appointed by The Department Commander pursuant to Article XI of the Bylaws of The Department of California, one from each Area of The Department of California. The mission statement of this Commission shall be "To promote the program of The American Legion with The American Legion Riders of California." A Resolution to accomplish this task will be presented at the earliest possible Convention of The American Legion following the completion of the organizational activities of the Riders D.E.C.
5. The basic membership unit of The American Legion Riders in California shall be known as a "Chapter." Each Chapter of The American Legion Riders must be sponsored by a Post of The American Legion.
6. The organizational structure, from bottom to top, shall be Chapter, Area and Department.
7. Five (5) members of The American Legion Riders are required to form a Chapter. The required officers of a Chapter shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Sergeant-at-Arms. Other officers may be appointed as required or desired.
8. Membership in The American Legion Riders shall be determined as follows:
 - a. Members must be a member in good standing of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary or The Sons of The American Legion;
 - b. Members must own or operate a motorcycle of freeway legal size or be the legal spouse or registered domestic partner of an American Legion Riders member;

9. Operational funds to operate The American Legion Riders Department of California will be derived from dues assessed to each member with the appropriate per capita (to be determined) paid to the American Legion Riders Department of California and other fundraising activities as determined.
10. There will be no specific designation of a "State Chapter," however the Adelanto Chapter (currently known as the official "State Chapter") may be designated as "Founding" or "Charter" Chapter or other similar designation as determined by the Executive Committee of The American Legion Riders Department of California.
11. A suitable Constitution and By-Laws will be prepared, using the Constitution and By-Laws of The Sons of The American Legion as a "template," for approval at the first Convention of The American Legion Riders, Department of California and ratification by The American Legion Department of California.
12. All other tasks required to accomplish the establishment of the Organization will be undertaken and accomplished under the direction of the interim Department Executive Committee of The American Legion Riders Department of California.
13. The American Legion Department of California is respectfully requested to advance such financial assistance as may be reasonably necessary, not to exceed \$2,000.00, during the organizational process. The American Legion Riders Department of California will obligate itself to repayment of any such advances on a timeline acceptable to both organizations.

Summary

The Committee, through open and interactive meetings coupled with discussions throughout the existing American Legion Riders community in California, has adopted what they feel are reasonable guidelines and criteria to accomplish the formal creation of The American Legion Riders Department of California. The Riders in California are excited and motivated to become an outstanding organizational activity of The American Legion and to contribute to the goals and ideals of The American Legion in every way possible.

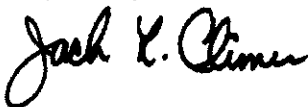
They are dedicated to the success of The American Legion Family and are committed to honoring all Veterans in America by word and deed. The Riders Organization will also be an outstanding recruiting tool.

The Riders in California are also grateful to the Legionnaires of California for their support in allowing for the formalization of the Organization and for its implementation within The American Legion Family.

Requested Action

The Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of California, in regular meeting assembled in Santa Maria, California, March 25-26, is requested to accept and review this report and to approve the recommendations and proposed actions put forth therein.

Respectfully submitted,



Department Judge Advocate
Committee Technical Advisor/Recorder