

The American Legion Riders Department of California



For God and Country
Minutes
Monday Feb 22, 2016

1. **Called to Order** - President James Adames opened in due form at 1901
2. **Invocation** – Past Dept Chaplain Steve Weber gave opening prayer
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** - President James Adames
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Sgt. At Arms Steve Storey
5. **ALR Preamble** - President James Adames
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Steve Weber – Excused were Chaplain Mary Estrada, Pancho Villa, Jake Jacobson, Chris Coleman, Sonny Stowers Absent – Doc Diaz
7. **Additions to the Agenda** - none
8. **Approval of Minutes** – Jan 11, 2016 – Motion by Mick Sobczak to accept, Steve Storey 2nd, passed

Financial Report – Don Christolear, begin \$45660.90 end \$55728.71, accept subject to audit, JD Bennett, Big Mike 2nd, passed several chapters (20) have not paid, Lawyer has had email and he still needs some more info, any more updates he will let us know. Don sent the following to us by email due to bad connection on call: Sorry guys!!!

Basically, I contacted the lawyer and he stated he hadn't received the information he requested a month ago, which I had sent. Something about office help.

I'll be resubmitting the information Tuesday along with a couple of other things he needs.

I'll keep you informed on any updates.

Chapters Still need to pay PC's:

Area 1 - 3

Area 2 - 3

Area 3 - 11

Area 5 - 0!

Area 6 - 31

Don Christolear

ALR DOC Finance Officer

805-503-8249

9. Vice President Report - Mick Sobczak – this past Sat switched chapters now at Ch 149.

10. Area Reports

- a. Area 1 VP – Mike Ross – met with several chapter and may 80-90 % in compliance with vest issues
- b. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez - Feb 6th held 4 Chaplains in Seaside, great turnout over 100 M/C, a bunch went to Sanger, Easter basket runs at least 2 runs planned, moving forward and only 60% paid for this so far, what are we going to do to keep these chapters?
- c. Area 3 VP – J. D. Bennett – 4 chaplains in Sanger, at St Marys Church, great event, great attendance, lots of ALR reps, Mar 19th ch 509 having presidents mtg, 509 is taking trip to Morro Bay to escort remain for ocean spreading, has made it to Escalon they are starting to get back in the swing of things, 684 in Ridgecrest is doing some great things, they should be a model of what we are doing, Christina Witt went down there the other day, she is doing better, they are picking up travelling wall and they are having a poker run to support wall and programs on May 7th, bike blessing coming up, traveling to Fort Irwin, they have been doing so much good, Ch 74 is turning in Charter, another Ch may be turning in Charter too, he will be contacting all chapters to find out what is going on.
- d. Area 4 – Vacant
- c. Area 5 VP – Paul Patricio – had A-5 presidents mtg at Ch 149 good discussion, ready for convention
- d. Area 6 VP – Don Marriott – not much going on in Area 6 but he has made it to all but 4 chapters, vests spot checking are 90% in compliance, not arguing about compliance but not knowledgeable about all the changes, getting there, flag etiquette and pow/mia issues with one chapter, some chapters are still trying to hang on but having trouble getting members to renew, competition with other groups taking members from us.

11. Committee Reports

- a. Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya – got 50 centers, 12 orders sent 42 sets, 30 on order again, took 2 months for some chapters to get orders, Ridgecrest has been calling and working through the time it takes to get orders, Emblem Sales has also been talking to him and they may get more in stock for supply. D-9 Wounded Warriors escort, got to thank allot of warriors at football game
- b. Uniform Committee – no report
- c. Convention and Rally – Terry Baughman –
 - 1. Ch 593 letters from post and chapter for 2016, Post 69 cdr, ch pres, mgr of Vets Mem Bldg, can seat 600 for next year, asked them to get letters ready and he would pass them out, some chapters are willing to host but don't have enough space to do so, we may need to decide how we want to proceed in the future, has met with Laurel Inn and they are waiting for approval from superiors for discounted rates at hotel for the rally. James it is expensive to put on convention, we will need to discuss this in more detail, Terry, we may need to start using

convention centers or something large like that for conventions, may need to sign contracts in order to make this continue in future years, Mick lets increase line item in budget.

- d. Judge Advocate Report – JAG - Dan Dale
 - 1. Call to Convention and Rules have been sent out, he has been talking to members about seating so delegates and their guests can sit together, Motion by Mick to have delegates only sit in delegate area Steve Storey 2nd, discussion, vote 11-yes 1-no 1- Abstain, passed
 - 2. delegates in Section 2 of bylaws paid up 30 days prior to convention, bylaws approved, we have never required all chapters to turn in bylaws but most chapters have section where they state dept bylaws are to comply with also, what are we going to do with the chapters that are not in compliance
 - 3.
- e. Service Officer – Chris Coleman - James says he wants to ask for line item in budget for books for service officers
- f. Webmaster – Jim Oxley – has been sick but getting better, he has contacted Doc Diaz to shut down old website, mailing list has been added 107 on mail list, in testing mode, should be ready by convention, Paul wants to know why we are waiting to shut down site, Doc Diaz owns website and has given it to us, Shut down site is consensus
- g. Safety Committee – Ken White - glad to be here, JD do you have CD's or material to put out for our chapters? He is getting some stuff together to share with the chapters.
- h. Jr. Past President – Poncho Villa – not present
- i. Historian – Jake Jacobsen – has some medical problems,
- j. Dept. Commissioner – Jim Banakus – notified all commissioners about mtg, 2 new mbrs that he knows nothing about yet, there will be a call-in during the state convention, they should be in attendance, needs 1630 mtg room Friday and Sunday mtg room at 0800, Dan Dale to make it happen.

12. Old Business

- a. None
- b.
- c.

13. New Business

- a. New Chapters they are starting one in Area 4 Ch 804 Los Angeles, Richard Ramirez is Area 4 Commissioner
- b. Convention - Call is clear that all finances need to be paid 30 days prior, bylaws also need to be in at that time, are we going to enforce the rules about payments, uniform compliance, etc., Steve Storey will be at door enforcing uniforms etc before they get into register, we have said in the past that we were not going to extend time to have delegates sit on floor if they have not paid and submitted paperwork, bylaws is not in stone that they need to be sent in, finances and chapter paperwork need to be sent in on time, bylaws section

needs to be addressed at convention, Area VP's need to get with their chapters and get them to send in everything by Mar 22nd, A6 Don bothered by stuff that we have let slide in the past and now we are going to start changing and not letting chapters show up to sit delegates if all stuff is not in, Dan we do not have probation in our bylaws to place anyone on probation for not complying. Some info has been sent in to wrong person. Terry B. states that Area VP's need to get involved, some are doing good and some need to engage their chapters.

- c. Chapter 852 – Mick Sobczak – Dec 11th sent letter to DEC about chapter falsifying documents to increase members to get extra delegates, he had informed them regarding these members to their officers, he has tried to go through the post to get this under control, post commander has declined to handle situation, read letter that was sent to Steve Weber regarding new member officer, adding delegates is not fair to other smaller chapters, Mick motion to suspend for 6 months for noncompliance, A-3 JD 2nd, Area 5 VP states this is the way to go, Steve Storey has any other Areas have similar situations, Nacho states that this is not necessary without giving them trial process, Don A-6- we have a chapter that overpaid fees and sent in paperwork and then corrected same, does not agree, Mick, when do we start enforcing rules, they had 3 mbrs on roster that did not pay since 2014, how are we to hold responsible parties accountable if we don't start now, Dept JA says this is legal, Don Marriott A-6 Mick has resigned from chapter we are getting rid of a chapter because of one vote, lets get with reality for one vote is this necessary, this is not right, JD we do have rules, bylaws are in place, where do we stop problems, are we going to clean out own house, Steve Storey, can we suspend officers only, we can not, chapter level is only way to fix, Paul A-5 can Dan explain what this entails, Dan JA we can vote to suspend at meeting tonight and notify chapter of such, what does being on suspension mean to chapter, suspension means they can not wear vests or participate in functions, Dan states this is a personal due to Mick and Chapter interests against each others, we may suspend chapter because their bylaws are stricter than our bylaws, Dan does not think we have enough info to proceed with suspension, they have made attempt to correct, Mick this is not personal he is holding them to their bylaws, Terry B. one thing to look at is what we designed and are trying to get to what is at the heart of our ALR are we going in the right direction, bylaws were put together after many years of us being started, we are getting away from intent of ALR, what are we all about, it's not what we started out to be, Steve W. states that Ch has been in touch with him to correct problems, Mick- legion side they meet every 6 months he would be willing to reduce to 3 months, Amended motion to 3 months for violations, JD 2nd, roll call, 9-Yea 3 No to suspend, letter to go out to them regarding suspension, Dan Dale and Steve Weber to construct letter. James states this is hard to accomplish and keep everything in place regarding our bylaws and voting is the proper way to get things done in a democratic way.
- d. Jim Banakus – one vote was against Doc Diaz not Steve Weber
- e. Don Christolear – payment stays same,

14. Sick / Memorial – keep in prayers, Jake Jacobson Ch 149, Christina Witt Ch 682 and Alma Adames Ch 48

15. Good of the Riders – President James Adames – nothing brought up

16. **Next Meeting Date** – Consensus Monday March 28, 2016 at 7 PM
17. **Benediction** - Past Dept Chaplain Steve Weber- remember Christina Witt, Jake Jacobson and Alma Adames, he gave a prayer of benediction
18. **Adjournment** – President James Adames closed meeting in due form at 21:47, phone line to remain open after for any questions