

**The American Legion Riders  
Department of California**



*For God and Country*

10th Annual American Legion Riders  
Department of California Convention  
April 23-24, 2016, San Luis Obispo, California

Minutes

**Saturday April 23, 2016**

**0900 hours**

- Call to Order Advancement of the Colors
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Chaplain invocation
- POW/MIA Missing Rider Ceremony
- Recitation of Preamble to the Constitution
- Roll Call of Officers
- Roll Call of Chapters Quorum declared by Secretary Steve Weber
- Convene Convention in due form
- Welcome / by Pres James Adames

Introduction by Past Pres Poncho Villa, Vietnam Vets recognized, Deana Cantrell, SLO chief Police, Ion Parkson, Sheriff, Bart Topham Cdr P-66, Janice Somers D-16 Cdr, Art Carlos SAL Area 6 Vice Cdr, Wendy O'brien ALA Dept. VP, John Moffitt AZ Nat'l Western States ALR rep, Bill Sloan Nat'l ALR Internal Affairs, Larry VanKuran Cdr Ca Legion, Gary Leach NEC and Candidate for Dept Cdr, D-16 Pres. Tracy Varnell, D-16 Cdr Janice Somers

/

Remarks of Guests and Dignitaries- Chief of Police, have fun, glad to be here and thanks for what we do, applause, ship and sails, the wind makes it work, we are the like wind, and Sheriff, everywhere he goes he sees the ALR, great job, proud to be here, grew up in military family, military and law enforcement both protect life and our way of life, support of both is great, have a great time here.

Western Area ALR John Moffitt, greetings from National, we have started in Mexico too, fastest growing program of the legion, Nat'l cdr supports us, Western Romp in Oregon, first weekend in June, looking for possible location in CA, we can contact him to be put on his contact list, have a great convention.

National Internal Affairs and ALR Bill Sloan, largest group of riders he's seen in one room, 16 years been involved with Riders at National, he is a rider too, Nat'l Cdr greetings from him, has been talking with Jim Banakus for about 13 years with the Legacy Scholarship fund, ALR has raised around \$1 million for fund, let people know what we are doing, Reno convention next year, we are very visible with the American Legion, the legion is still growing even though the WWII and Korean veterans are passing, the ALR has helped with the membership, worked with William Shatner for the run last year, was work he did with the local riders in every state including California, last 5 years his job is with the ALR National advisory, ALR is now a full time committee in National organization, Thank You

SAL Art Carlos rep CA, 6<sup>th</sup> Area VC for Robert Kelly, detachment CDR, had death in family, thanks for our help with getting members into the SAL, gave thanks

ALA VP Wendy O'Brien, greeting from Susie Tozier Dept. President who is at Jr Conference, ALA appreciates what we are doing, Ch 521 Rio Linda is her chapter

D-16 ALA President Tracy Varnell, honor and privilege to be here, special project "Dreams for Veterans", she has a "go fund me" account setup, looking for support with veterans and monetary if possible

D-16 Cdr Janice Somers, welcome to SLO and D-16, be safe

Post Cdr 66 Bart Topham, welcome to SLO and Post 66, honor to have us here, thank you

Candidate for Dept Cdr Gary Leach, good morning, thank you for being here and supporting the ALR and the Legion, priority next year will be membership, National will have a Nat'l rep at the post convention DEC, we are doing good things for the veterans and communities we need to let people know about it, social media can help us do what we need to and get the word out.

Dept Cdr Larry VanKuran – greeting from Dept, great participation here at convention, feels very comfortable here and salute to us

Applause for all dignitaries and chance for them to leave if they need to.

- Convention Announcements

Pres Adames, we try hard to keep everything in the open for everyone to see, the website is new and we can enter activities current and can go back up to a year and enter events that we have done, gave gifts of beer mugs to his board members

VP Mick Sobczak gave gift to Pres Adames, \$150 gift card to Harley and a very nice looking Shadow box with patch for James

Recess for 5 minutes

- Riders Everlasting Observance Mary Estrada, Chaplain, prayer given
- 11 names read and added to banner on a ribbon, Robert Conteras, vet, Daryl Farmer Vet, Anthony Fairchild SAL, Ken Hamilton, Vet, Dwayne Hart Vet, Lonie Vigil, Vet, Bruce Barton Vet, Charles Flood Vet, Les Sturgis Vet, Carl McBride Vet, Wayne Cloukey Vet, prayer for our departed. Ribbon put on banner, TAPS played

Pres Adames gave mug to Dan Dale for help, Dan gave announcement for lunch tickets, BBQ crew is set up for the dinner

Charters to New Chapters – Ch 684, Ridgecrest, Area 3 VP gave them thanks for a job well done, Ch 838 Irvine, Ch 739 Indio, Ch 303

- Recess for Group Photo/Ride

## **1200 hours Lunch**

### **1300 hours**

- Reconvene

Good Job on Lunch

Vice Pres Mick Sobczak report, thanks for support this year, has been all over state doing escorts, William Shatner ride, approx 24,000 miles, October Legion College attended, been to Legion mtgs to let them know what we do, May 10<sup>th</sup> leaving Oxnard for 1500 miles in 24 hours, Iron Butt Ride, asking chapters to get 10 cents a mile for 1500 miles, asked all POW's to stand, much applause, thank you

- Area Reports

Area 1 Mike Ross, thanks for being here, delegates for fulfilling all their responsibilities, supporting other chapters with their runs, doing fire arms safety classes, donations going to Service officers, Voices for Vets, crab feeds, put up flags on the holidays, veterans cart will be escorted,

Area 2 Ignacio Alvarez, thanks for joining us and 66 for hosting, this year has been difficult, seeing all here makes us see that we will be OK, involved with Operation Surf, Livermore VA BBQ is coming up in 2 weeks, we do this every year, Memorial Day run, Stand Down is same time and they will be involved in both, challenge us to keep helping younger vets and help keep us alive. Thanks for a great 2 years.

Area 3 JD Bennett, ride in the rain was uneventful, been pretty busy, hosted rally Ch 3, Ch 23, convention, Ch 26 ride has been very successful for scholarships, Ch 682 has been very busy, Ch 509 went to ship in San Diego, flag project in Fresno to line Blackstone Ave, Ch 83 poker runs, welcome homes, honor flights, Fallen Heroes Cart will be in Area 3 and they will be escorted through Area 3 too, asked for help as it is a worthwhile program, it is a great tribute for our fallen heroes that come back from overseas, thank all chapters in Area 3 for all their support. My Area 3 chapters have been great.

Area 5 Paul Patricio, multitude of events, mostly veterans and veterans causes, total of 30 chapters in Area, approx. \$200,000.00 raised in last year, wreathes across America, Barstow Vets Home Baskets, lots of escorts, Arizona Legion of Silver Roads, has to do with Agent Orange, PGR, support of fallen vets with no families, Thank You,

Area 6 Don Marriott, David Higgins from post everlasting ch 136 was missed, has had some problems with chapter or posts having or supporting outlaw M/C's, great job with the chapter president helping, Mighty Oaks fundraiser, Western Romp had 2 chapters represented, rain in AZ during western romp, had to pull off the road because he couldn't see, allot to see if you want to take a little ride while you are.

Past Pres Poncho Villa, it is great to see everyone again, the riders have come a long way, Area VP's you are the first contact with legion members and our new chapters, let them know what the protocol of the ALR is, we have bylaws and steps to follow if you want to change things, educate our members, Ride with Pride not attitude, this is love, god bless, take care. Applause.

- Recess to Area Caucus/Elections

### **1430 hours Reconvene**

- Report of Area Elections

Area 1- Bob Perryman Ch 521

AVP – Steven Bowne Ch 111

Area 2 – Peter Calvert D-28

AVP – Warren Halstead D-28

Area 3 – Randy Breneman Ch-682

AVP- Ed Chacon Ch 11

Area 5 – Rey Ruis Ch 328

AVP – Ray Ficek Ch 434

AVP – Mark Clemons Ch 555  
AVP – Ron Hyff Ch 716  
Area 6 – Don Marriott Ch 66  
AVP – Ron Womble Ch 48  
AVP – Larry Miller Ch 311  
AVP – Dave Kennedy CH 66

- Committee Reports
  - Credentials
  - Vice President

Resolutions – 3 were rejected and sent back to writers, Quartermaster sent back and a RFP to be sent out, Retired riders resolution see attached. Retired members would still be allowed in chapter. JA explained how resolutions are to be handled now, we are a program of the legion, Nat'l JA Onderdonk sent letter to Doc about how we are a program and bylaws are sent to Legion to be approved and at that time they would be sent back to us if they do not like it. Robert King Ch 23 1<sup>st</sup> to approve, Jim Banakus Ch 534 2<sup>nd</sup>, David George Ch 84, does this mean that someone could be a member for a very short time, it is up to the chapter if they want put someone in retired status. Motion passed. Clarification spouse can be retired too.

Rally and Convention – Terry Baughman – Ch 66 has done a great job getting ready for this convention, Next Convention at Hollister Ch 69. Rally was set at D-28, Post 593, D-28 has withdrawn their bid for Rally for this year so a new location must be found.

Public Relations – no report

Constitution & By Laws – no report

Membership – JD Bennett, has been working membership and gave people direction to get into the legion and the ALR, it is everyone's job. Bob Perryman, what is membership number now 1888.

Community Service / Safety - no report

Uniform / Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya, thank you all D-9, for their help, past year process, 98 sets, 31 this year for a total of 129 sets, small patches for female or small vests are available. Emblem Sales has been trying to keep up with our orders, and we try to get everyone the orders in a timely manner. Been busy with orders.

- Introduction of Resolutions
  - Vote on Resolutions
  - Vote on by-laws amendments - NONE

- Nomination of Candidates for Executive Office
  - President – Joe Love Ch 69 nominates Chris Coleman, he accepted
  - Hy Libby, Ch 31 nominates Mick Sobzcak, he accepted

VP – Ron Womble Ch 48 nominates Brad Ring, he Accepted  
Dave Ritter Ch 3, nominates Robert Stover, he accepted  
Joe Love Ch 69 stated we do not need to ask if they accept, ruling from JA, it is legal

Sgt. at Arms – Jason Kearns Ch 460 nominates, Steve Storey, he accepted

Nominations closed till tomorrow

JA asked about revitalization for posts membership, our involvement is extremely important, our work nationwide is holding the veterans together and recognized Nationwide and Statewide, it helps, the

members they get will get help from their membership in the American Legion. We stand for God and Country, help out when you know they are doing a revitalization, younger members are looking for organizations that help them with their life. The 4 pillars are the backbone of the organization.

- Announcements – dinner will be served at 1730 Dave Kennedy Ch 66, drawing tonight at 1900, appreciates everyones help and participation in helping this be a great event. Robert King asked that PGR stay viable and that we keep going on the missions with the PGR, Smokey Stover, 100% of the delegates are in compliance today, Pres Adames, if you see trash please pick it up and thanks for help. JA explained how the voting will go tomorrow. Rider Everlasting names added that were not recognized, prayer for those, Bob Neeks Ch 50 Vet, Paul Page Ch 50 Vet, David Higgins Ch 136 Vet, prayer and taps played.
- Benediction by Mary Estrada
- Recess to Sunday Morning 0900 hours
  - Group Ride/ Group Photo

### **Sunday April 24,2016**

#### **0900**

- Reconvene
- Chaplains' Invocation

Introduction of Guests – Poncho Villa introduced D-16 Janice Somers, John Moffitt National Western Div, Dept Service Officer Scott McKee

Service Officer Scott McKee – thanks on behalf of our veterans, we have raised allot of money for VA&R, gave us applause, thanks for all the escorts we do, Vietnam Vets asked to stand if able, applause, thanks on behalf of Desert Storm for the welcome homes and treatment we have given our vets, Claims and benefits are earned, service officers work for us, National and State elections ask - what are they going to do for our veterans, there are groups trying to privatize the VA, it won't happen if the American Legion can stop it, Legion is fighting for our VA health care system, God Bless

Pres Adames thanked all war eras including current active duty. Gave active duty member, Squince a patch for riding to convention. (one of a kind)

- Announcements – Mick Sobczak - 1500 mile run, asking for donations recognized 2 members that made donations already. Gave checks to Don Christolear. Anthony Bernal Ch 509, \$509 to Legacy Run. Check to Don Christolear. Warren Halstad D-28 \$150 donation, Fercho Family \$150.00 to VA&R, many more followed. Total \$1621

Steve Weber - Name Badge Holders, please put them in the boxes on your way out

Bob Perryman Ch 521, asked that we pass a hat, no problem.

Finance Report – Start 62148.77 end \$57499.94= -46.83 Chris Coleman Ch 48, 1<sup>st</sup> to accept report to subject to audit, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vince Cole Ch 83, passed. Proposed budget, 153 riders less this year than last year, quartermaster sales are also down, \$16050.00 to work with, Budget attached, Don moved to approve, Robert King 2<sup>nd</sup>, discussion on tax liability, we have been working on this to get our tax exempt status, according to tax lawyer we may not need to pay any taxes if we are approved by IRS, Budget passed. \$8,567.98 in donation fund, Robert Stover, remaining donate to Legion VA&R, Brad Ring 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed

2<sup>nd</sup> Nominations – President- none, Vice President – none, Sgt @ Arms- Jim Banakus Ch 534 nominates, John Coyle Ch 534, he accepted

- Candidates address to delegates  
Steve Storey, Sgt @ Arms candidate addressed  
John Coyle, Sgt @ Arms candidate addressed

Collected Bob Perryman collected \$2104.00 - \$3734.00 total raised today

#### Resume Candidates

Brad Ring, VP candidate addressed

Robert Stover, VP candidate addressed

Mick Sobczak, Pres candidate addressed

Chris Coleman, Pres candidate addressed

Short Break - 5 minutes to caucus

- Election of Officers by roll call of chapters and officers. Tally sheet on file.

#### Announcement of new officers

President – Mick Sobczak

VP – Brad Ring

Sgt. at Arms – Steve Storey

- Installation of new Officers by Jr. Past President Albert “Poncho” Villa

- New Officers take positions

- Remarks from new officers

Area 1 VP Bob Perryman Ch 521, remarks

Area 2 VP Pete Calvert D28. Remarks

Area 3 Randy Brenneman, remarks

Area 5 Ray Ruiz, remarks

Area 6 Don Marriott, remarks

Sgt @ Arms Steve Storey, remarks

VP Brad Ring, remarks

President Mick Sobczak, remarks – appreciate confidence, thank to John Moffitt for being here all weekend, Thanks to wife Shelley

- Announcements - DEC 30 minutes, Post and Ch 66 thank you for the weekend

- Benediction

- Adjournment in due form at 1147

- DEC Meeting 1/2 hour after closing ceremony in dining and meeting room at post.