

The American Legion Riders Department of California



For God and Country

DEC Minutes
August 23, 2016

Called to Order - President Mick Sobczak 1900 Hrs

Invocation – Chaplain Gerald Stockert

Pause for MIA - President Mick Sobczak

Pledge of Allegiance - Sgt. At Arms Steve Storey

ALR Preamble - President Mick Sobczak

Roll Call - Secretary Monique Clemons

Additions to the Agenda

Approval of Minutes – July 2016 DEC Minutes

Minutes received via Email. The only correction we have is to the new Chapters number which should be 354.

Steve Story motioned to accept the minutes as corrected.

Randy Brenneman seconded

Motion Passed

Financial Report – Anthony Serio

Current Balance is \$43337.52 The tax issue has been resolved and we now show in good standing with the state of California. If Area VP's send in a request for reimbursement please include your phone number.

Steve Story motioned to accept finance report pending Audit.

Motion Seconded

Motion passed

Mick- I will accept a Motion to Suspend the Rules – swear in new Area 1 VP due to Bob Perryman being appointed Area 1 Commissioner.

Bob Perryman made motion to suspend the Rules

Gerald Stockert seconded

Motion Passed

David George was sworn in by President Mick Sobczak

Presidents Report – Mick Sobczak

The riders our coming along well with the image we have with the rest of the State. We have shown what we can accomplish. Some still don't like that we ride motorcycles but in general we are beginning to be accepted.

Vice President Report - Brad Ring

End of July we helped with the Stand Down in our Area. Sat in with Post 484 as they voted to start a Riders chapter. Chapter will be assisting with the Ride for the Flags.

Area Reports

a. Area 1 VP – Bob Perryman for David George

David will do a great job as Area 1 VP and I will help him get up to speed before the next meeting. The Area as several poker runs coming up including one in grass Valley which is a beautiful area to ride in. All the local post have helped with donations to support the fire victims from our recent fire. The State Commander and Auxiliary President both attended and actually worked with unloading the trucks. We also have a Stand Down coming up. We have a couple of new Chapters that are working on starting up. Steve Bound met with Post 96 Commander and they should soon have their paperwork done for a new Chapter

Mick stated that the official Charters will be given at Convention for the new Chapters.

b. Area 2 VP – Pete Calvert

We have collected \$2000 in Wayne's name. Some Chapters have gained members

c. Area 3 VP – Randy Brenneman

It has been very hot so everyone is staying local. Only 9 out of 16 chapters were able to show for the presidents meeting. The visit a vet program is still moving forward. A memorial ride for 6 unclaimed veterans

d. Area 4 – Vacant

c. Area 5 VP – Monique Clemons for Rey Ruiz

Area 5 has had activity within the various areas/chapters.

We continue to work on our Area 5 Barstow Veteran's Home event coming up November 19th. Gathering the necessary items for the Veterans as well as collecting for the Keepsake Books.

Chapter 149 (Escondido) had a Social Night this past Saturday
Chapter 262 (Fontana) will be having a Bike Night this Saturday

Upcoming events:

9-11-16 Ride to the Flags

9-17-16 Two big events are going on

* Area 5 will meet with Area 3 for the Remembering Our Fallen Exhibit. Area 5 Riders will deliver the exhibit to the Midway in San Diego.

* Chapter 149 (Escondido) will have the Jake Jacobson Memorial Poker Run.

9-24-16 Again Two events are going on

* Chapter 255 (Nation City) will be having their 6th Annual Poker Run.

* Chapter 555 (Midway City) will be having their 10th Annual Poker Run.

d. Area 6 VP – Don Marriott

No Report

1. Committee Reports

- a. **Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya**
Had 9 new orders this month and the new chapter has already ordered their patches. Everything is going well.
- b. **Uniform Committee –**
No Report
- c. **Convention and Rally – Dee Pittinger**
Hy Libby has everything under control for the Rally and he can address the Rally directly. Hollister Chapter is working on the convention and we should have a full report by next meeting. Mick will get the word out to get Bids for 2017 Rally.
- d. **Judge Advocate Report – John Bart**
No Report
- e. **Service Officer – George Smith**
No Report
- f. **Safety Committee – Ken White**
Sent out the Draft copy of the safety manual for feedback and would like to receive the feedback by mid-October so we can finalize it to present at convention. Also working on getting a Trophy for the Safety award.
- g. **Webmaster – Jim Oxley**
Updates to the web page are going well. We have added a button to share events on Facebook. We also have an events tab to add things to your calendar.
- h. **Membership Committee –**
No Report
- i. **Historian – Jeff Gallagher**
No Report
- j. **Jr. Past President – James Adames**
No Report
- k. **Dept. Commissioner – Vince Cole**
No Report just a question regarding how the roster information gets updated on the Webpage. Jim Oxley explained the point of contacts can update it directly or they can email him with the changes.

2. Old Business

2017 California Legacy Run to National Convention (Reno, NV) will be continued till next meeting

3. New Business

- a. New Chapters – non this month but we should have multiple next month
- b. Pomona Valley Harley Raffle if we do not sell enough tickets to cover the bike it becomes a 50/50 Raffle. They will also sell tickets at all of their events and in their store.
James Adames motioned to move forward with the Raffle
Steve Story Seconded motion
Motion Passed
- c. Eagle Statue for Walk of Honor – Randy Brenneman
Sent out an email with pictures of the walk of honor. This is a fairly new memorial and it is multiple bronze statues and it is open to all veterans to be remembered. The VA is a federal entity so they cannot ask for a donation so they just show the need. They are in need of about \$15K for another statue. We would like to open this up to chapters to come up with fundraisers to raise this money and then all ride together to present the donation. They will put a plaque on it saying it was provided by the ALR. Anthony explained that due to the rigid budget we do not have the room to make donations for worthy causes such as this. We do not have a line item to

be able to donate. Randy explained he wasn't asking the state for the money but for each chapter to do fundraisers for this. November 1th is the next dedication but we can donate at any time. Mick asked the Area VP's to see what support they are able to get and we will discuss at the next meeting.

4. **Sick / Memorial** – Chaplain Gerald Stockert

No Report

Mick mention James Adames is facing surgery and Ray Ficek was taken to the hospital with pain in his arm.

5. **Good of the Riders**

James Adames reminded everyone that September 17 is the Sarah's Cancer ride in Oxnard. The information is already on the Website

John Moffitt is the Western Region Chair. We received an email that included a letter from the National JA with recommendations based on resolutions. National stated that they will not get involved with patches/uniforms and leave it up to the departments. Regarding the COC, The ALR cannot become members of the COC. We cannot go to the club houses and things like that but we can welcome them at our events. Trade Marks, on the legion website we have a form that we have to fill out, requesting to use the emblems. Supporter, Honorary or volunteer status is not valid we only have active or retired. Another section stated just with different wording, our election process. But it does state that post commanders can remove an officer so we are waiting for word from Doc Bart regarding this part. Every Chapter must report to the post no less than 1 time a month. The post Finance officer is supposed to be listed on all SONS and ALR Chapters. Hy Libby asked if this letter can be shared with membership. Bob Perryman expressed concerns for the wording that a post commander can remove ALR officers at will. This leaves it open for Post Commanders who do not like the riders and see them as a threat they can use this to hurt a chapter. Mick stated he will try to get clarification and possibly the State JA to address this next month. Steve Story asked if this is from actual resolution or just someone's opinion. Mick stated he has researched this and cannot find any reference to this so that is why he is requesting clarification. Anthony mentioned we have no ability to fight for changes because we still have not gotten in to compliance with what we were already told to do. James stated that this was just from an advisory committee and we should not worry about this yet. We do already 1-4 and for the number 5 we go one step further with our Trial Manual. Mick stated he does not expect a chapter president to track down every member to check their vest but to address issues as they see them. Regarding bootleg patches it's not the members fault but the person who sold them that patch and represented it as an ALR patch.

6. **Next Meeting Date** – Consensus September 27, 2016 1900 Hrs

7. **Benediction** - Chaplain Gerald Stockert

8. **Adjournment** – President Mick Sobczak Meeting Adjourned @ 2045 Hrs