

# **The American Legion Riders**

## **Department of California**



*For God and Country*

### **DEC Minutes**

May 25, 2017

1. **Called to Order** - President Mick Sobczak 7:02pm
2. **Invocation** – Ken White
3. **Pause for MIA** - President Mick Sobczak
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Sgt. At Arms Caleb Homer
5. **ALR Preamble** - President Mick Sobczak
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

#### **Present:**

President-Mick Sobczak; Vice President-Randy Brenneman; Sergeant-At-Arms-Caleb Homer; Secretary-Debbie Proffitt; Area 1 VP-Fred Branson; Area 2 VP-Warren Halstead; Area 3 VP-Ralph Racacho; Area 4 VP-Joel Lopez; Area 5 VP-Rey Ruiz; Area 6 VP-John Archuleta; JR Past President-James Adames; Safety Officer-Ken White; Service Officer-George Smith; Webmaster-Jim Oxley; Quartermaster-Patrick Tafoya; Membership-Gary Teicher; Uniform-vacant; Convention & Rally-Dee Pittenger; ALR Commissioner-Vince Cole

#### **Absent:**

Treasurer-Leonard Phillips; Judge Advocate-John Bart; Parliamentarian-Hy Libby; Historian-Denise Schroers; Chaplain-Anthony Serio

#### **Guests:**

Gene Hobdy, Area 5 Asst. VP

7. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

8. **Approval of Minutes** – Convention 2017 and April 23, 2017 POST DEC

Motion by Ken White to approve POST DEC minutes, 2nd by Warren Halstead, passed by vote of DEC.

9. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips-absent

Per Mick, no full turnover yet. Mick will take Leonard to Union Bank to get him on the signature card.

10. **Presidents Report** – Mick Sobczak

**Turnover-** not completed with the Treasurer and Secretary. Former Area VPs should have handed over the Area binder to the new Area VPs. Not received: Area 3, will need to work with the former Area 3 Asst. VP; Area 1, have been talking to David George, but no turnover yet; Area 6 received the info from Don, will put together a new binder.

**Western Romp-** some members coming up on Thursday. Many indicated they were going.

**Legacy Run-** meet in Fallon, NV, ride that day into Reno with the ride.

**National Convention-** starts the day after the Legacy Run in Reno.

**California American Legion Convention-** June 22 – 26 in Riverside. Mick will be presenting plaques to the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons along with a report of the ALRDOC. Business gets done. It's not as fun as the ALRDOC convention.

**Due out Rosters-** find your tab at the bottom, update and return to Mick, Randy and Debbie. Mick will resend them tomorrow.

**Committees-** Any committee can use the UBERconference to have a meeting. Area VP's can use it to communicate with their Asst. VP's and have a President conference, though 2 physical meetings are required by by-laws. Check when your Area is having an Area mtg. Schedule the ALR meeting the day before(Saturday) then give a report at the Area meeting on Sunday.

11. **Vice President Report** - Randy Brenneman

**By-Laws committee** will be meeting to update the approved changes from convention.

**DEC Agenda-** when Mick sends out the Agenda the Financial Report and previous Minutes will be attached. Read through them so you'll know what you're voting on.

**Contact info-** will be updating online forms

**Committees-** there are vacancies, check to see if your Area has a vacancy and get the info to the chapters so someone can step up.

12. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

Certification of Officers template is on the website. As of right now it's not interactive. Print, fill in legibly, sign and scan into the computer. Email to Debbie and Area VP. It is due June 30<sup>th</sup>.

13. **Sgt. At Arms Report** – Caleb Homer

All is golden ☺

## **14. Area Reports**

### **a. Area 1 VP- Fred Branson**

Starting to make chapter visits. Trying to learn while doing. Mick said that Fred could contact him or Randy if needed for help. Fred said he was contacting David George as needed.

### **b. Area 2 VP- Warren Halstead**

Talked about the Livermore run on May 6 and that it was well received. Some members did the Fallen Heroes Cart escort. A few members on Run For the Wall. Some had been doing PGR and fallen veteran escorts.

### **c. Area 3 VP- Ralph Racacho**

Checking with chapters to update rosters. Have downloaded membership cards and sent to some chapters. A potential new chapter has turned in their paperwork. Ch 221 Tehachapi. Would like members to step up to be mentors for this chapter. Chapters escorted the Fallen Heroes Cart. Currently working with Assistant Area VPs to split up the duties. Making file folders for each chapter.

### **d. Area 4 VP– Joel Lopez**

Learning to navigate the responsibilities. Kiki will be Area 4 Commander and will be working on getting more chapters for Area 4. Attended Robert Pittenger's funeral. Went to Pomona Valley Harley-Davidson for the bike raffle. Participated in the Brea Parade.

### **c. Area 5 VP- Rey Ruiz**

Has sent emails to some chapters that are struggling to step up and host a President's meeting. Chapters who have hosted have done well. Dates for the upcoming President's meetings will be out soon. From 110 – 125 bikes escorted the Fallen Hero Cart from Victorville to Ontario. Great turnout of over 200 bikes for Too Tall's funeral and escort. Chapter 460 will have their poker run on June 10. Keith Elliott of chapter 716 won the bike raffle at PVHD. Since 2000 tickets weren't sold the proceeds were split 60% for VA&R and 40% to Keith. Numbers will be finalized but looks like the total was \$13,145. \$7887 for VA&R and \$5,258 for Keith.

### **d. Area 6 VP- John Archuleta**

A lot of time being spent on efforts for the Western Romp. Participated in the Lake Isabella escort. Visited Ridgecrest for their poker run. Escorted the Fallen Hero Cart. Lots of things are in the works but the Romp is taking a lot of time. Participated in an escort for the Father in Law of a member of chapter 534 Orcutt.

## **15. Committee Reports**

### **a. Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya**

All is well. Will be able to attend regular meetings now that my 1<sup>st</sup> semester of school is done. Had great shirt sales at convention. We made approximately \$600. Sold 15 berets at convention with some left. Shirts and ball caps will be able to be ordered online from the Quartermaster soon. Working on a price and realistic shipping prices.

### **b. Convention and Rally – Dee Pittinger**

Thank you for coming to my home and sharing my grief. Thank you to the chapters who sent Too Tall on his last Thunder Ride to his resting place. Had a meeting with Ken Derr. They met with Dana, director of business development for Oceanside. She will help with getting the Junior Seau recreation center with the lowest price and may be able to get it free since we are a non-profit organization. There are 2 RV parks within a mile. There should be a hospitality room at the host hotel. Erica Stone from SOS will be at convention with her shuttles. Hoping to t the pricing down to 0. Dana and Rocky Chavez will help to try to get grants and waivers for fees.

Parking...the Sheriff and Mayor have been contacted and knows there will be a lot of bikes in town that weekend. The Sheriff/Mayor will be one of the major speakers. Seed money for the convention and Rally needs to go out early. Mick stated that of the \$2,000 given there has to be a receipt for each expense. If all money isn't used then the left over comes back to state. Same goes for money given for Rally.

**Gene Hobdy-** All money made at the Rally will go to veteran charities, . Rally is September 22nd through the 24<sup>th</sup> in Indio. SOS will be there with their shuttles. Trying to have 3 shuttles assigned to 3 routes of 5 hotels each. Maybe 2 pickup times and 2 return times. Please have your members pre-register because that will help with the number of shirts to order. Itineraries were sent to Dee, Mick and Rey. **Friday**-registration from noon til 8pm. Spaghetti dinner from 5-8pm. DJ and karaoke from 7-11pm. DEC meeting will be from 6-7pm. Mick will teach a class on Friday or Saturday if needed. **Saturday**-registration. Breakfast buffet from 7-11am. 7am 18 hole golf will be available for \$60. Gun range available from 11-noon. 7 lanes. Pay for the ammo only. Guns will be furnished. Will put together a shooting competition if it's wanted. At 8am there will be a ride to Julian and a visit to the Legion if they're open. At 8:30am there will be a ride to Idyllwild and then to the Legion there if they're open. A simple lunch will be available at the post. There will be a map available to El Paseo, Palm Springs, Tram, other locations and the surrounding casinos. Dinner will be cook your own steak from 5-7pm. Music starts at 7pm with the Flashback Boys who play many types of music. There will be a 50/50, raffles and vendors. **Sunday**- Rider breakfast will be from 8-11am. Golf will be available at 7am. There are no hookups for RVs parked at the Legion. There are hookups 4 miles away at the Eagles. Gun range and golf has to be reserved 10 days ahead. The 2018 ALRDOC convention will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in April. Mick suggested that the C&R committee members be kept involved. Dee asked the Area 5 VP if Area 5 could help out with a \$50 donation each chapter. Area 5 state convention rally mtg, Wednesday, June 21 at the Rancho San Luis mobile home park, 200 N. El Camino. Come give opinions, donations, etc.

**c. Judge Advocate Report – John Bart**

none

**d. Service Officer – George Smith**

Sent in a request to Doc Bart to review our CalStar Air Med Care. Waiting for approval.

**e. Safety Committee – Ken White**

The safety manual is available on the website under the resources tab. Chapter 83 had rider training for several weekends. Legacy run...must register and fill out the waiver. It will be on Facebook or on the website.

**f. Webmaster – Jim Oxley**

Lots of people are wanting to be POCs and are asking about the membership cards. Working on the Certification of Officers form to import info from the rosters so it can be downloaded and mailed or emailed. Working on same for the Delegate forms.

**g. Membership Officer – Gary Teicher**

I sent a report out to the DEC. Next month there will be more specs.

**h. Historian – Denise Schroer**

none

**i. Jr. Past President – James Adames**

“Progress Mr. President, progress”

**j. Dept. Commissioner – Vince Cole**

No report at this time

**16. Old Business**

none

**17. New Business**

**A. New Chapters – ALR 476 (California City)**

Ralph Racacho, Area 3 VP...476 completed all paperwork. James Pavlicek made corrections. Ralph mad a motion to accept Ch. 476 California City as a new chapter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Warren Halstead, passed by vote of DEC.

**18. Sick / Memorial – Mick Sobczak**

Rider Everlasting...Robert “Too Tall” Pittenger from chapter 848; rider from chapter 69 who is still hospitalized from their wreck.

**19. Good of the Riders**

a. Committee SOP's- each committee needs to come up with these

b. Officer SOP's- same

c. Membership Card dissenters allowed to address the DEC.

Mick invited 4 membership card dissenters who had been vocal on social media, etc. to join the meeting to discuss their views. None joined. Paul Patricio sent an email to the DEC on Monday, May 22 stating his points of view.

**Mick...**Paul has no right to table anything.

Mick contacted National and was told there has never been a vote on membership cards. It's an administrative issue.

It's in the Convention Call and Convention rules.

“Complaining without solutions is whining.” Teddy Roosevelt.

Delegates will be required to have the new card for convention. If a delegate only has a family card then an ALR card will be printed for them to use at convention.

One President said he wasn't giving his chapter their cards.

Comments were that that was taking the decision from the individual members. Another was that that seemed like dereliction of duty.

If you don't want to carry the card that's ok. Operating rules of convention will state the use of ALR membership cards.

Mick wrote a resolution for National American Legion Rider leadership. The ALR Advisory committee morphed into the ALR Commission. Some Departments refuse to make the ALR a department program. The chapters in those states do their own thing. We've become an example for 54 other departments because we have membership cards, working by-laws, etc.

**James Adames**...California was the 1<sup>st</sup> ALR program of the Legion recognized by a state. We have the template to run a successful program. We worked hard to get where we are today. You have my support.

**Caleb Homer**...What constitutes an official event for the membership cards. Was told that right now it's only at convention. Wording was used so that if in the future there are other official events they are covered.

**John Archuleta**...Had to leave convention early because of wife's health issues. Does he need to be sworn in? Mick gave him the secret squirrel handshake and John was sworn in as Area 6 VP and will be given the secret squirrel patch. lol

20. **Next Meeting Date** – June 22, 2017 at 7 pm.

21. **Benediction** - Ken White

**Adjournment** – President Mick Sobczak 8:37pm