

The American Legion Riders Department of California



For God and Country

DEC Minutes

July 27, 2017

1. **Call to Order** - President Mick Sobczak @ 7:01pm
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; **Sergeant-At-Arms**-Caleb Homer; **Secretary**-Debbie Proffitt;
Chaplain-Anthony Serio; **Judge Advocate**-John Bart; **Safety Officer**-Ken White;
Service Officer-George Smith; **Webmaster/Area 6 Asst VP**-Jim Oxley;
Quartermaster-Patrick Tafoya; **JR Past President**-James Adames;
Membership-Gary Teicher; **Area 1 VP**-Fred Branson; **Area 2 VP**-Warren Halstead;
Area 3 VP-Ralph Racacho; **Area 3 Asst VP**-Robert Stover; **Area 5 VP**-Rey Ruiz;
Area 5 Asst VP-Ray Ficek; **Area 6 VP**-John Archuleta;

EXCUSED:

Vice President-Randy Brenneman-EX; **Convention & Rally**-Dee Pittenger-EX

ABSENT:

Treasurer-Leonard Phillips-AB X 2; **Parliamentarian**-Hy Libby-AB;
Historian-Denise Schroers-AB X 3; **Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez-AB;
Area 1 Asst VP-Cory Perryman; **Area 1 Asst VP**-Rich Bergin; **Area 5 Asst VP**-Ron Huff;
Area 5 Asst VP-Gene Hobdy; **Area 6 Asst VP**-Milo Barclay; **Area 6 Asst VP**- Jim Ross

GUESTS:

CH 507 Past President-Eric Lindgreen- Chairman of the HVOP

7. **Additions to the Agenda**

NONE

8. **Approval of Minutes** –

Motion by Warren Halstead to accept and approve the June 22, 2017 DEC minutes as electronically transmitted. 2nd by Rey Ruiz. Passed by vote of DEC.

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

NONE

10. **President's Report** – Mick Sobczak-

*Squadron 26 was suspended by post 26 which is in Area 6. The Sons in the chapter were told they can join another squadron at a different post to stay a rider.

*Mick will be representing at the commissioning of the new destroyer USS Rafael Peralta.

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

NONE- Mick said that Randy's Mother In Law had had a severe stroke.

12. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

*Gave a Certification of Officers update for each of the 6 Areas.

*Was told Ch 130, Grass Valley, would be emailing their COO.

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

*Sent the proposed changes for the Uniform Manual to Mick. Changes are based on the Resolution for 2015. Added were graphics and wording to make the manual clearer about where to where patches are put and what type are OK. He also updated the current graphics where needed. Will possibly present the result to the DEC at the Rally in Indio.

*Per the Flag Code you are able to put a religious pin can be positioned above the US flag patch. Would need a by-law change to put into effect.

14. **Area Reports**

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

*Sunday the Riders will be at Yountville. Mick will not be there as he will be at the USS Peralta commissioning. Randy is supposed to take his place but probably won't be there because of his MIL's medical condition. It was indicated that since Fred was the Area 1 VP that he would represent. The Riders were told at the last minute. The chapter was complaining about the late notice. They will not be part of setup. Will be at the parking lot at 9:30am. Fred was asked if any from Area 2 were showing up. He sent word to the chapters but no feedback yet. Ch 82 will have Riders there. 7-9 Riders are needed to help serve food. Should have enough there.

*There will be a Stand Down in October in Arcata.

*He is keeping track of COO's from ch 130 and ch 521.

*Santa Rosa would like to see about starting a chapter.

b. Area 2 VP-Warren Halstead

- *Still trying to get District 10's COO info.
- *They have been doing escorts, etc.
- *The VA DOD is having a medical clinic open house.
- *District 28 did a fundraiser and donated \$1,500 to Freedom Paws.

b. Area 3 VP-Ralph Racacho

- *Working on the COO's
- *Ch 26- problems- some members don't like other members wearing the Freedom Riders patch even though it was ok'd by Doc Bart. Those members filed a complaint with the Post Judge Advocate. Sal's suspended at that post can join another Squadron as a Sal and remain a rider. Such as Squadron 682 or at Hanford.
- *Ch 476- problems- there is an ALR member who is also a member of the Legacy Vets who is causing problems. Report was written and charges filed with the Post.
- * 1 Posts is interested in possibly starting a chapter near Patterson and Modesto is interested in restarting their chapter.

c. Area 4 VP-Joel Lopez-AB

NONE

c. Area 5 VP-Rey Ruiz

- *President's meeting went well. Had 21/31 chapters present along with Ch 804 from Area 4.
- *New chapters- 256-Apple Valley-interested in forming a chapter. Had thought that only vets could be riders. Were informed that Sal and Aux could also join if qualified; 584-Big Bear- looks promising; 282- La Mesa- has potential; 731-San Diego- expressed interest initially but haven't been returning emails.
- *COO's- Ray is working on Chula Vista. Laguna Niguel hasn't had a quorum so trying to work out a weekday to meet and do elections. Will have to visit Ch's 497 and 853 meetings.
- *Rider Everlasting-Wayne Campbell-Ch 200- passed from an accident.
- *Introduced the Area 5 Passport book at the President's meeting. \$20 per book. Half the money raised will go to a charity, this year being Legion of the silver Rose. The other half will be divided into decreasing increments and raffled at convention. Each Chapter was given a chapter stamp and ink pad to be kept in their Post bar. When you visit the Post you ask to get your Passport stamped. Anyone getting all 31 stamps by April 1, 2018 will be entered in the drawing for the initial large amount. All partial books will then be added to the drawing for the rest of the amounts.
- *Ch 460 was given recognition for their participation with Final Honors.
- *Question was raised about Ch 354's check for the bike raffle. It hasn't cleared the bank. Has it been deposited? Rey has emailed Leonard about this but no response from Leonard. Anthony has now joined the call in and will look. Rey said on June 13th he mailed checks for \$8,510 to Mick. Mick gave them to Leonard to deposit. Anthony looked thru the deposits and didn't find the check. Will continue to be looked into.
- *Indio, 2017 Rally, and Oceanside, 2018 Convention, are asking for their seed money. Patrick said Quartermaster has plenty of the Rally patches, just order the year rocker. They need to email Patrick to make arrangements.

d. Area 6 VP-John Archuleta

- *Rider everlasting- Dave Duarte from Ch 534 passed.
- *The COO for Ch 741 is in Debbie's email and complete.
- *Working with Post 49 to start a chapter. Post 43, North Hollywood has talked to Ron Womble. Mick said he and Joel have been in contact and will go to their next Post meeting in September.
- *Ch 371- Guadalupe-the President resigned. John will go to their meeting.
- *John is planning on going to the Rally and wants to know if anyone can share a room.

15. Committee Reports

a. Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya

- *Red Friday shirts were very successful. Holding 2 orders, 1 for Debbie and another.
- *Keeping inventory stocked and the bills paid.
- *Mick stated that people from National must be on the website email list as 1 from National requested a 2xl Red Friday shirt. Questions were asked about long sleeved Red shirts and if a pocket could be put on them. Ladies v neck shirts would be good also. Mick also requested pricing on a Red zip hoodies with black writing on the back similar to the black ones that were sold at convention. Patrick will look into it. Said if anyone has more ideas to let him know.

b. Convention and Rally – Dee Pittinger-EX Rey Ruiz read Dee's report

*I have no changes reported to me for State Rally at this time. I would like to ask all Area VP's to remind their chapters for early registrations and also mention that golf reservations are to be notified to Indio chapter 10 days prior to rally. If you have a question this evening it can be answered by Gene Hobdy host of State Rally, Indio chapter.

* For 2018 State Convention, no updates for now. Oceanside Chapter and others will have meeting after State Rally in September. Any and all updates after tonight, will be given at next ALRDOC meeting.

c. Judge Advocate Report – John Bart

NONE

d. Service Officer – George Smith

- *Hope all are getting the emails I've been sending.
- *Asked all the Area VP's to get the chapter members to sign up on the state email.
- *Sent a blast today about motorcycle safety.
- *On September 10th San Mateo will have a Stand Down- Area 2 has been asked to help with security. Email George is interested in helping.

e. Safety Committee – Ken White

- *Chapters seem to be behind in reporting mileage on the website. Encourage your chapters to report.
- *Randy's message about ride timing and spacing was spot on.
- *Will be adding a section to the Safety Manual about riding single and in small groups.

f. Webmaster – Jim Oxley

*Can add all chapter info to chapters so that the COO will print out with all but signatures.

*Mick asked about putting the state email address into an email that was sent to his Gmail address and vice versa. Jim stated it could be typed in. He would email out the info on how to do it.

*Warren asked that the rosters be alpha by last name, not first. Jim will change it.

g. Membership Officer – Gary Teicher

*Riders = 2,119 up 61 from last month. Veterans up 33, Sal up 11, Aux up 7 and Active Duty up 4.

h. Historian – Denise Schroer-AB

NONE

i. Jr. Past President – James Adames

*Ken White covered the rules for mileage. 1 person roundtrip.

*Went to an event and caught a vest out of compliance. Talked to the chapter President and was assured that it would be taken care of. Make the on the spot correction with the member or chapter officer. It's sad that 2 years later we're still addressing vest issues. Debbie mentioned that they had seen a vest out of compliance at the Legion convention. They had taken pictures and sent them to the Area VP, Mick and Randy. Mick stated that it was taken care of.

*We're still a program of the Legion because we did what we had to do. Address the chapter President and or Area VP for vest issues.

j. Dept. Commissioner – Vince Cole-AB

NONE

16. Old Business

a. None

17. New Business

a. New Chapters –talked about in Area reports

b. HVOP- Homeless Veterans Outreach Program-

*Eric Lindgreen will be the Chairperson. George Smith will be an advisor. Had the 1st meeting. The problem is huge. Problem is homeless vets and no access by transportation or electronics to getting help. Would like to include all the Area VP's and their Assistants as lead to spread the information and word through the state. The vets have no addresses to mail information to. Try to get permission from posts to use their addresses as mailing addresses for the vets. Will try to get all state VSO's to help process the claims to sit in on the HVOC conference calls.

*There needs to be hygiene kits made up to give out to the homeless vets with info inside. These vets need to be visited many times. Mick has contacted companies to donate what goes into the kits. Every POC from each chapter to get the kits for dispersal.

*Every County has a Stand Down- but only lasts 3 days a year.

*Eric did research and was surprised to find the large amount of women vets and their children who are homeless. We have a huge task ahead.

*Next meeting is the 1st Tuesday of August?

*Mick-National has asked Mick to write an article for the Legion magazine. The HVOP could become a National program. We are working with other organizations to get this done.

*In San Mateo County there are 20 Veterans Organizations. Trying to coordinate with all VSO's to work together.

*George is assembling the blueprint. It won't be easy or fast.

Have support from Mick and the California Legion. National is watching and interested.

*Mick- By-laws give the President the right to make an ADHOC committee. Area VP's and Assistants

18. Sick / Memorial – Chaplain Anthony Serio

*Hasn't received any emails so doesn't know if the email is working. Jim will fix.

*Debbie related that Jim Larson from Ch 555 had had a massive heart attack.

*Wayne Campbell had passed from an accident. Mick stated that he and his wife were raising their 6 grandkids and his wife would be losing Wayne's VA money and his retirement. If members want to help out they can send a check to her at the post.

19. Good of the Riders

*James- his VA disability is now 90%. Went to the DMV and the DMV has changed the rules. Must have a VSO to get the info from the VA then you can go to the DMV.

*Mick- Due Out Trackers- have only received 5 back with info filled in. Need all the others ASAP.

*Chain of command- Area VP's- have the Chapter President call you before they call Randy or Mick.

*John Archuleta- Kudos to Area 5 for their great communication.

20. Next Meeting Date – August 24, 2017 at 7 pm.

21. Benediction - Chaplain Anthony Serio

Adjournment – President Mick Sobczak @ 8:55pm