

# The American Legion Riders Department of California



*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**  
August 24, 2017

1. **Called to Order** - President Mick Sobczak @ 7:00pm
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;  
**Service Officer**-George Smith;  
**Quartermaster**-Patrick Tafoya;  
**Area 1 VP**-Fred Branson;  
**Area 3 Asst VP**-Robert Stover;  
**Area 5 Asst VP**-Gene Hobdy;  
**Area 6 Asst VP**-Milo Barclay;  
**HVOP**-Erik Lundgreen

**Vice President**-Randy Brenneman;  
**Treasurer**-Leonard Phillips;  
**Safety Officer**-Ken White;  
**Webmaster/Area 6 Asst VP**-Jim Oxley;  
**JR Past President**-James Adames;  
**Area 2 VP**-Warren Halstead;  
**Area 5 VP**-Rey Ruiz;  
**Area 5 Asst VP**-Ray Ficek;  
**Area 2 Commissioner**-Terry Baughman;

## **EXCUSED:**

**Judge Advocate**-John Bart; **Membership**-Gary Teicher; **Area 1 Asst VP**-Cory Perryman;  
**Convention & Rally**-Dee Pittenger;

## **ABSENT:**

**Chaplain**-Anthony Serio; **Historian**-Denise Schroers; **Parliamentarian**-Hy Libby;  
**Area 1 Asst VP**-Rich Bergin; **Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez; **Area 5 Asst VP**-Ron Huff;  
**Area 6 VP**-John Archuleta; **Area 6 Asst VP**- Jim Ross;  
**Area 1 Commissioner**-Bob Perryman; **Area 3 and Legion Commissioner**- Vince Cole  
**Area 5 Commissioner**-Paul Patricio; **Area 6 Commissioner**-Steve Weber

## **GUESTS:**

None

**7. Additions to the Agenda**

\*Add Robert Stover as Area 3 VP

**8. Approval of Minutes –**

\*Motion by Warren Halstead to accept July 27, 2017 minutes as electronically transmitted. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy Brenneman. Passed by vote of DEC.

**9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips on the road-**

\*Right now balance is about \$45,000.00. Will send the report to Debbie to get the information out.

\*Mick stated that there is a line item for the Quartermaster in the budget passed at this year's convention. Quartermaster will turn over money to Leonard. Funds can be used to fund the line item then any excess will go to the general fund.

\*Get any money requests to me asap as he will not be at next month's meeting..

\*Randy- How is the transition going? Don't have the books yet from Mick. Accounts are in Anthony's name. Will take Anthony off and put Debbie on as an alternate on the accounts.

\*Will need to verify the PayPal accounts. Need to close the current accounts and open new ones.

\*Rey- Is the seed money out for Rally and Convention? No. Mick will meet with Anthony tomorrow and get the seed money checks done.

\*Will put an email out about the Rally one day per diem and mileage.

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

\*Just got back from the Legacy Ride to present a \$2,500 check from Orcutt to the National Commander.

\*Attended the Legion National Convention. There are 32 Departments supporting a National American Legion Riders Department. Had talked to Doc Bart. The National Riders Committee doesn't want it. Resolution should pass in October. John Moffett's position would be gone. Mick could be next on the National Riders Committee.

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

\*Legacy Run- Riders from 7 chapters. 2 stayed for convention. Over 300 bikes to escort. Talked to people from all Departments and the Department of France. Had good fun and fellowship.

\*Reminder that per by laws each Area is to hold at least 2 President's meetings between conventions. Area 5 already had one. Looking for invites to the upcoming Area meetings.

\*Online Rosters- have been updated various dates. Emails to Area VPs and Chapter POCs to check the rosters monthly. Rosters are due December 31, 2017 and will be locked January 31, 2018. Area VPs can look at the online rosters from their Area and see when they were updated.

\*Per Capita is now \$10. Remind the chapters to budget for this.

\*Rides, events, etc. are happening. Make sure to get your flyers to Jim Oxley to get put on the website.

\*The September DEC meeting will be at the State Rally in Indio on September 22.

\*Rey asked if the Assistant VPs could have the same visibility as VPs on the rosters. Yes.

## 12. Secretary Report – Debbie Proffitt

\*COO update- Areas 1, 2, 4 & 6 are at 100%. Area 3 is 18/19 and missing Chapter 23. Area 5 is 28/31 and missing Chapters 201 and 281(just had a mtg. and the new President called me to get info on what to do) with Chapter 853 dark until September. Statewide at 95% as of 8/14.

\*Mick informed the Area VPs to inform the delinquent chapters that COOs had to be in or they would be suspended at the DEC meeting in Indio on September 22.

\*Rosters- Will the Chapter be able to update online and then I just print out? We should be able to see when updated and by whom and not have to have signatures. Yes

\*I will need the treasurer to notify me weekly in November and daily in December about per capita payments. I will need the Judge advocate to notify me weekly in November and daily in December about by laws. I think getting the info to me and only me putting it all together in a graphic like I did with the COOs will be easier to track and that way the Area VPs aren't getting info and questions coming at them from 3 different directions.

\*Riders Everlasting flag with corresponding year patches. Debbie will send out pictures to the DEC from the Department of Missouri with an explanation of what California's Rider Everlasting flag would look like.

\*Gave info that some chapters were voting at the end of the calendar year instead of in the Spring. A list of those chapters will go to Mick and Randy.

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

\*Making progress on the updated Uniform Manual.

\*Getting support and input from senior riders.

\*Debbie will put out an August 31 Uniform Committee Conference call for 6pm.

\*Will present proposed updates at the Rally.

\*Question was asked from Warren about a religious patch instead of a religious pin. No patches are supposed to be allowed above the flag. It was suggested that a pin above the patch might be uncomfortable to the rider. Caleb will research.

\*Only the pin part would come up for membership vote. All else is a change in graphics and wording for better clarification.

\*All can listen in on the meeting but only the committee members would have a voice and vote.

**Suspension of meeting-** Motion by Randy Brenneman to suspend the meeting rules so that Robert Stover could take the oath of office for Area 3 VP. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fred Branson. Passed by vote of DEC.

\*Oath of office was given to Robert Stover as new Area 3 VP.

**Return to meeting-** Motion by Milo Barclay to return to and continue the regular meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy Brenneman. Passed by vote of DEC.

## 14. Area Reports

### a. Area 1 VP-Fred Branson

\*Yountville picnic was a big success. Over 20 bikes. Amazing opportunity.

\*Have one rider committed to the Rally. Emails were sent out to get other riders. Would like to get together with Area 2 to ride down together if possible.

\*2 events on September 9<sup>th</sup>- Chapter 383 is having a poker run and Chapter 111 8<sup>th</sup> annual Fallen Warrior Memorial ride.

\*Calling for a President's meeting October 14<sup>th</sup>. Looking for a chapter more central than Fort Bragg to host a President's meeting. Might be at Fort Bragg.

\*Sending reminders to check the rosters and update them.

\*Mick stated Humboldt County is interested in a chapter.

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

\*Have been doing lots of escorts.

\*September 4 begins the Epic Ride.

\*Need to get with 2 chapters about rosters.

\*Mick will get with Hy about the legs of the ride. Departments of Maine and New York will support. Also supporting are Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri and New Mexico.

#### **c. Area 3 VP-Robert Stover**

\*Haven't received all the information yet from Ralph.

\*Chapter 23 is the only chapter with no COO. Will make calls to get it done.

\*Randy- Remind Ralph to send you all the information.

\*Consider appointing at least one Assistant Area VP.

\*Bakersfield chapter 221, did the Squadron members stay or change Squadrons?

There was no notice from the Post to the Squadron of a suspension so as of now they are good. Call Ralph and get the latest information.

\*Was told he now has full access to the Area rosters.

#### **d. Area 4 VP-Joel Lopez**

NONE- ABSENT

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

\*Had the first President's meeting in July. Good turnout.

\*Potential chapters in San Diego, Apple Valley, La Mesa, Big Bear and Alpine.

Sent messages to the old Barstow members but no replies.

\*3 chapters need to send COOs.

\*Area 5 now has a passport. Get it stamped from all 31 chapters to be entered for grand prize. Ordered 225 and all have sold out. Riders are getting out and riding to the different chapters to get their stamps. Very excited.

#### **f. Area 6 VP-John Archuleta ab; Asst. VP Milo Barclay**

\*Have been assisting John with the Hollywood and Pasadena posts to get a chapter going.

\*Lots of riding with chapter 311 and escorts.

\*Addressed a member about patches on a vest out of compliance and they complied.

\*Bakersfield National Cemetery-Freedom Riders are there. They are like the Patriot Guard. Some members don't like them. If a member is wearing a Freedom Riders and ALR patch and are soliciting donations from the families of the deceased veteran for their services we can take action to stop them.

### **15. Committee Reports**

#### **A, Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya**

\*All going fine. Sent Debbie's shirts out today. Working on different shirts. Need assistance with packaging, labeling and mailing from the chapter.

\*Need to hear from the Rally people. Ordered 125 2018 rockers for the Rally patches. Have many patches from previous years. Will work with Gene on it.

\*Am back in school. Lots of homework. Won't be at the Rally.

\*Received a big order from Placerville.

\*Everything's paid up.

#### **b. Convention and Rally – Dee Pittinger ex; Gene Hobdy**

\*Rally- 6pm DEC meeting in Indio.

\*Seed money will be mailed out tomorrow.

\*Golf cutoff date is September 5.

\*Gun range use- need to know now.

\*2 rides planned for Saturday and a dart tournament.

\*Band will start one hour before dinner is done.

\*The new Air Conditioning is in.

\*SOS is working on the routes. If you're at an offsite house, etc. let them know.

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

NONE- ABSENT

#### **d. Service Officer – George Smith**

\*On November 11 veterans can start ordering online from the Post Exchange. Can't order booze, cigarettes or uniforms. All should be at a discount. Will send a link.

#### **e. Safety Committee – Ken White**

\*Remember to log in your activities.

\*107,000 miles statewide so far. Somewhat slow compared to last year.

#### **f. Webmaster – Jim Oxley**

\*Will send George information.

\*Ken-How to recalculate mileage when a chapter has an accident. Will have to notate the accident date and count mileage after that date.

\*Won't be able to be at the Rally.

\*Received a lot of requests to post on the website. Some of these requests were duplicates from multiple people. From here on only POCs can request a posting.

#### **g. Membership Officer – Gary Teicher-ex**

\*Gary's Aunt passed away

\*85 chapters, 35 chapters not updated, 2254 riders

#### **h. Historian – Denise Schroer-ab**

NONE

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

\*Can be at Hollywood Post. Will approach Santa Monica. Will help out.

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

NONE

**K. HVOP- Erik Lindgreen**

- \*George and Sean have been working hard.
- \*Great progress, lots of contacts. Reaching the point where handshakes and commitments are needed.
- \*Needs to be taken from the Executive level to the Areas then to the chapters.
- \*Moving forward, moving fast, making contacts.
- \*Stated he doesn't feel the committee has the support of the DEC. Was told that State is behind them.
- \*Each Area is to commit an Area Asst. VP and it hasn't been done yet. The Asst. needs to be the coordinator. Need VP's and Asst. VP's to get involved.
- \*Information is coming in fast, much faster than expected. We're not ready for it. Thought it would take longer to set up.
- \*Need to find systems that are already in place and supplement them. Tailor our response to existing needs.

**16. Old Business**

NONE

**17. New Business**

- \*Motion made by Randy Brenneman to vacate the office of Historian pending replacement. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Milo Barclay. Passed by vote of DEC.
- \*Fred- membership cards- was told they should be years as a rider not years in the chapter. Print cards at 80% then laminate and cut down to credit card size.
- \*Robert Stover-Aren't we requiring emails and phone numbers for the online rosters? Yes, when available. Jim will be looking at them.

**18. Sick / Memorial – Chaplain Anthony Serio-ab**

- \*Bakersfield chapter 682 lost their Vice President.
- \*El Cajon chapter 303 lost Smokestack.

**19. Good of the Riders**

- \*Ray-ALR Cup rules- Ken will do a mass mailing, on the website and Facebook.
- \*Caleb- had member ask for information on the 2018 Western Romp at post 7 in Bellingham, Washington on May 31 – June 3. Host hotels will be the Bellingham Airport Hotel and Holiday Inn and Suites have preferred pricing of \$99 per night. BellinghamLegion.com Website of Legion Riders post 7.

**20. Next Meeting Date – September 22, 2017 at 6 pm at the Rally in Indio.**

**21. Benediction - Ken White**

**22. Adjournment – President Mick Sobczak @ 9:11pm**