

The American Legion Riders Department of California



For God and Country

DEC Minutes

February 22, 2018

1. **Call to Order** - President Mick Sobczak @ 7PM
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Roy Van Westbroek
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 **YELLOW HIGHLIGHT = PRESENT AT MTG.**

President-Mick Sobczak;
Sergeant-At-Arms-Caleb Homer;
Secretary-Debbie Proffitt;
Judge Advocate-John Bart;
Parliamentarian-Hy Libby;
Service Officer-George Smith;
Quartermaster-Patrick Tafoya;
Membership-Gary Teicher;
Convention & Rally-Dee Pittenger;
Area 1 Asst VP-Rich Bergin;
Area 2 VP-Warren Halstead;
Area 3 VP-Paul LaPierre;
Area 4 VP-Joel Lopez;
Area 5 Asst VP-Ron Huff;
Area 5 Asst VP-Ray Ficek;
Area 6 Asst VP-Milo Barclay;
Area 1 Commissioner-Bob Perryman;
Area 3/Legion Commissioner- Vince Cole;
Area 6 Commissioner-Steve Weber

Vice President-Randy Brenneman;
Treasurer-Leonard Phillips;
Chaplain-Roy Van Westbroek
Historian-;
Safety Officer-Ken White;
Webmaster/Area 6 Asst VP-Jim Oxley;
JR Past President-James Adames;
Public Relations- Ron Carmichael;
Area 1 VP-Fred Branson;
Area 1 Asst VP-Cory Perryman;
Area 2 Asst VP-Ernie Henry;
Area 3 Asst VP-Ken Sutton;
Area 5 VP-Rey Ruiz;
Area 5 Asst VP-Gene Hobdy;
Area 6 VP-John Archuleta;
Area 6 Asst VP- Jim Ross;
Area 2 Commissioner-Terry Baughman;
Area 5 Commissioner-Paul Patricio;

GUESTS:

*J. D. Bennett- District 14 Commander

7. Additions to the Agenda –

NONE

8. Approval of Minutes –

*Motion to accept the January 25, 2018 minutes as electronically transmitted by Warren Halstead. 2nd by Rey Ruiz. Passed by vote of DEC with Randy Brenneman abstaining.

9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips

*Sent the report out in an email.

*Have about \$27,000 in debits, \$46,000 in deposits. Total balance at the moment is \$62,401.30. There are pending deposits and pending PayPal.

*Have updated the budget with payouts for the Area 3 VP, the convention seed money and the Uber conference bill.

*Need to show income for January. It's not balancing so need to find the mistake.

*Have collected almost \$23,000 in fees for delegates and per capita.

*Waiting to hear from District 10 and ch 117 from Area 2. Ch 117 only paid ½ the per capita.

*Warren- I understood that ch 117 was supposed to have sent a check. I will call again.

*Issue about ch 355. What is their status. They only have 4 members.

*Mick-They can't be suspended for lack of members until the April DEC. Need to find members from another chapter or adding their wives. There are 3 chapters within 25 miles of Kerman.

*Paul- The chapter hasn't been very active. Possibility of getting the members to another chapter.

*Doing good on delegate fees. Only 18 chapters to go. Reminder that the fees are due 30 days prior to convention.

*Motion to accept financial report as posted pending audit. 2nd by Warren Halstead.

*Discussion- George- who gets the report? Leonard sends it to Mick, Randy, Debbie and the Area VPs. Mick requested that it goes to all DEC. Leonard will need a list of DEC. Debbie will send it to him.

*Motion passed by vote of DEC with Randy Brenneman abstaining.

*There are now new debit cards for the accounts. The 2nd past treasurer still has an outstanding card that we are paying the Uber conference from. We need to contact Uber to change the information. Mick stated that they have a customer service number.

*Trying to send payments through bill pay. That way they are out within 2 days. When sending in your receipts please include your mailing address and phone number.

*Question for Rey. Came across a check from April 2017 for \$1,747 that is supposed to be for the Legacy Scholarship Fund from Legion Post 521. Bank won't cash it after 6 months. Need guidance on what to do.

*Mick-That is Area 1 and Bob Perryman. Put it in an email to to me and cc Area 1 VP, Randy, Caleb and Debbie.

10. Presidents Report – Mick Sobczak

*Has received 4 articles for the next quarterly newsletter. Need more. They need to be in by March 12. Newsletter will be sent out March 28.

*Convention Call and Operating Rules has been received from Doc Bart. Will post on Facebook and distribute by March 1.

*There has been a suspension of a Post. This also affects the Squadron and Riders of that Post though it was no fault of theirs. It was a few people at the Post. Attend your Post family

meetings so this doesn't happen in the future. If you see something you think isn't right, speak up. You can be a Rider officer and a Legion officer at the same time.

*There are some Riders who don't belong to the Post their Chapter is at. This only affects 2%.

*George- Is there something we can do? Any recourse. As the Riders are a program, no. There are 6 delegates that won't be seated if not cleared up by March 10.

*Can they transfer to another Post? Yes.

*The Riders as a body can vote at convention to let them seat their delegates.

11. Vice President Report - Randy Brenneman

*Not much to report.

*Debbie and Leonard have spent a lot of time keeping track of everything and keeping everyone updated.

*Area VPs- You will have a caucus at convention and you won't have much time to elect the Area VP and fill in the members for each of the committees. Talk to your chapters now about being on a committee.

*Outgoing VPs- should have a binder divided for each chapter. Should have the info for each chapter and any communication you've had with that chapter. This binder will be passed down yearly to the new Area VP.

*You will be providing an Area report at convention. Find out what your chapters have been doing for a complete overview.

12. Secretary Report – Debbie Proffitt

*Delegates- If the VP gets a delegate list please forward it to Debbie so she can keep track.

*The Credentials committee had a call in and it was very productive. All delegates will go through the SAA and/or Asst. SAAs before getting to the registration table. Each delegate must have their Rider ID card, beret and vest or they won't get their credentials. If they forgot part of it in their room, they'll have to go get it first. Delegates will sign for their ID. The check in table will be divided into the following areas with at least one person at that area for check in...Area 1/Area 2/ Areas 3&4/ Area 5 and Area 6. If there are any disputes or questions they will need to see Debbie. Check in on Friday will be from 3-7pm at the Holiday Inn. Check in Saturday morning will be at the Jr. Seau center from 7:15-8:40am.

*Mick got 2 bins of paperwork to Debbie. She found 52 new badge holders in them. Will count the ones left from last year to see if any more need to be ordered when she gets home.

*Is there a delegate template to print out the ID cards? Mick will check and have an answer tomorrow.

*Rider everlasting flag- Is someone going to write a resolution? Mick will meet with Debbie and write the body and then he will fine-tune it.

13. Sgt. At Arms Report – Caleb Homer

*Sent emails asking chapters to submit SAA Asst. recommendations for convention. Caleb has been receiving individual names and they're hard to track. Chapters need to get them to the Area VP and the Area VP needs to get them to Caleb by March 31.

*Hopes the email was clear. Asst. SAAs will be very busy during convention.

*Has something to propose during new business.

*J. D. Bennet- District 14 Commander and driver for the National Commander escort. Wants to commend Caleb for an amazing job. Was very impressed and the National Commander was even more impressed. Caleb did an absolutely phenomenal job.

14. Area Reports

a. Area 1 VP **Fred Branson**

NONE

b. Area 2 VP **Warren Halstead**

*Chapters doing normal rides.

*Chapters getting ready for convention.

*There were 7 people from Area 2 who were at the 4 Chaplain's ceremony and were the only 7 people there. He was informed that Area 3 was having a President's meeting that day.

c. Area 3 VP **Paul LaPierre**

*Ch 684 is having a poker run April 7.

*Ch 26 is having a poker run fundraiser on April 28.

*Ch 23, Sanger- waiting on delegate list.

*Ch 682- Sent Trinidad an email. Edmond is the Ch VP but is proposed to be the President of Ch 229. Trinidad not responding. Will talk off line with Mick.

*Ch 476- Looking for info on support members.

*California doesn't have support members or supporters. We have a patch that is 6x10 that has the ch number on top and "support team" below. It is to be worn on the lower back of the vest with the appropriate family patch above it. All support team members must be members of the Legion, Sals or Auxiliary. Doc Bart approved the patch 3 years ago. Mick will send the info to Paul.

*Rey- Requested the info also.

d. Area 4 VP **Joel Lopez**

NONE

c. Area 5 VP **Rey Ruiz**

*All chapters are active

*President's meeting this weekend. Looking forward to seeing everyone there and also riders from other areas.

*Thanks to Paul for hosting a great Area 3 President's meeting.

d. Area 6 VP **John Archuletta**

*Still fighting a cold.

*Was at the Area 3 president's meeting.

*Been doing PGR missions.

*The Area 6 President's meeting will be March 10 in Santa Barbara at the Sierra Grill.

*There is a PGR mission coming Saturday for Past Commander of 211 and Past President Buck Barker

15. Committee Reports- allow to give report then ask questions.

a. Quartermaster – **Patrick Tafoya**

- *Was asked to send out vendor applications. Sent them to all. They list the basic qualifications from the last 8 years.
- *Form is good to ID potential vendors.
- *Berets have gone up \$1 from last year. Ground shipping from Emblem Sales is \$8.95 each. 3 day select is \$23.95
- *At convention in 2014 the members voted to raise the price of the back patch from \$65 to \$85 due to the raised prices from Emblem Sales. The vendor doesn't set the price for the complete patch set.
- *White berets take a month to get once ordered. Emblem Sales doesn't carry them in stock. There is a small beret patch that can be bought and put on a beret.
- *There is a good inventory of black berets.
- *Request has been put in to use the rider logo for Department shirts for convention and red Friday shirts. Permission comes from Emblem Sales.
- *Pat is in school 4 nights a week. You can call Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday.
- *There are 87 chapters, so the vendor has to be able to make 87 top flares.
- *Haven't heard anything back yet from anyone.
- *Rey- The vendor application is due when? And to who?
- *Send the application to Patrick, then distribute.
- *Rey- Mick, do we need a committee?
- *Submit the applications to everyone before the March DEC meeting.

b. Public Relations – **Ron Carmichael**

- *Promotional video is being done by Chapter 43. The contact there is Jeric Wilhelmsen who is the Secretary.
- *They will be interviewing riders from northern and southern California. Ron is the liaison for northern California.

c. Convention and Rally – **Dee Pittinger**

- *Received an email update from Ken Derr.
- *Food has been ordered.
- *Chairs and tables will be delivered on April 20.
- *There will be a POW table and a Battle Cross.
- *Ken went to and spoke at the Oceanside city council meeting on February 16. The city will be covering the costs for the Insurance and permits.
- *Leonard- will be bringing 50 chairs to help out. Dee stated that Ken said the email asking for help with chairs and tables wasn't supposed to go to the chapters. Chairs and tables are taken care of.

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

NONE

e. Service Officer – **George Smith**

- *Progress

f. Safety Committee – **Ken White**

*Progress

g. Webmaster – **Jim Oxley**

*VPs and DOC can get into rosters.

*There was a situation with the Facebook sign in. Had to change the buttons for the Facebook login.

*The website is expanding. We are sending more emails. Currently can send only 500 per month. Will talk more at new business.

h. Membership Officer – **Gary Teicher**

NONE

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

NONE

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

*No report

16. Old Business

NONE

17. New Business

A)

*Rey- paperwork has been sent and payment received for Chapter 229.

*Motion to add Chapter 229, Adelanto, as the 33rd chapter in Area 5 by Rey Ruiz. 2nd by Randy Brenneman. Passed by vote of DEC.

B)

*Motion to purchase a POW/MIA kit from Emblem Sales for \$60 for the ALRDOC Sergeant At Arms to maintain. 2nd by Rey Ruiz. Discussion to clarify that this would be kept with the SAA just as the flags and holders are. Some posts don't have a POW/MIA table or don't have a complete one. This would be used to supplement or set up. They would only be used during convention or rally. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Mick- Give Leonard the item number so he can order.

C)

*Jim Oxley- There is a need to email more than the 500 that the current internet server limits per month. We can go through that many in 2 days.

*Can upgrade to be able to send out 20,000 per month but will add \$10 more per month to the website cost.

*Motion to increase the website cost by \$10 per month for the upgrade.

*Mick- Pull \$30 from the administrative line item to cover the cost until convention when the cost of the service in the budget can be increased from \$260 to \$380.

*Motion to use \$30 from the admin line item to fund the upgrade for 3 months by Jim Oxley. 2nd by Warren Halstead. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Randy- Is there money to cover the increase? Yes.

18. Sick / Memorial – Roy Van Westbroek

*Mick- Area 1 has lost 2 riders from the same chapter.

*Mick will send Roy the list.

19. Good of the Riders-

*Area VPs- contact your chapters and have them get any riders everlasting info to Roy. Will need 1st name, road name, last name and chapter.

*Mick has the vendor for the streamers.

*Caleb- Due to personal circumstances I will not be running for Sergeant At Arms this coming year. I will be moving to Florida to be with family and will be part of the Department of Florida. Wanted to let the DEC and DOC know that you are amazing.

*Mick- Caleb set the bar for Sergeant At Arms.

*Warren- 90% of the e board at District 28 were riders. We need to see it happen at more posts.

*Rey- When are the Rider Everlasting names due?

*Mick- It takes 10 days to make them so April 2.

*Rey-will be meeting with Post 133 in Huntington Beach the first Wednesday next month. Paperwork should be ready to vote them in at the March meeting.

*Some Post members participated in Chapter 716's Quartermania.

*Ken White- Mileage for the ALR Cup closes March 30. Need the cup 1st day at convention to be able to add to the label.

*George- Do we have the capability to renew riders online?

*No, it's not a national level program. There was much discussion about the pros and cons of setting this up. More cons than pros.

*Caleb- Mick will take care of it when he brings all departments to National.

*Leonard- We all make mistakes. Chapters don't need to call and chew him out- have respect for those trying to get the job done.

20. Next Meeting Date – 22 March 2018 at 7 pm.

21. Benediction - Chaplain Roy Van Westbroek

22. Adjournment – President Mick Sobczak @ 8:38 PM