

**The American Legion Riders
Department of California**



For God and Country

DEC Minutes

January 24, 2019

1. **Called 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 Mike Smith
5. **ALR Preamble** - President Mick Sobczak
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

President-Mick Sobczak;
Sergeant-At-Arms-Mike Smith;
Secretary-Debbie Proffitt;
Judge Advocate-Mike Brownell;
Parliamentarian-Hy Libby;
Service Officer-George Smith;
Quartermaster-Patrick Tafoya;
JR Past President/Tech Advisor-James Adames;
Convention & Rally-Dee Pittenger;
Legacy Run- Mike Cash;
Area 1 Asst VP-Rory Airheart;
Area 2 VP/ A2 Commissioner-Warren Halstead;
Area 3 VP-Paul LaPierre;
Area 3 Asst VP- Ralph Wenzinger;
Area 5 VP-Gene Hobdy;
Area 5 Asst VP-Larry Brandt;
Area 5 Asst VP- David Saenz;
Area 6 Asst VP-Milo Barclay;
Area 6 Asst VP- Tim Schueller;
Area 3 Commissioner-Ivan Frey;
Area 5 Commissioner-Paul Patricio;

Vice President-Rey Ruiz;
Treasurer-Leonard Phillips;
Chaplain-Roy Van Westbroek;
Historian-Vacant;
Safety Officer-Rob Carrier;
Webmaster/Public Relations-Jim Oxley;
Alt Quartermaster- Mike Clement;
Membership-Gary Teicher;
Awards/Certs-Rochelle Billet-Smith;
Area 1 VP-Fred Branson;
Area 1 Asst VP-Pete DePalma;
Area 2 Asst VP- Ernie Henry;
Area 3 Asst VP-Ken Sutton;
Area 4 VP-Joel Lopez;
Area 5 Asst VP-Ron Huff; EX
Area 5 Asst VP-Ray Ficek;
Area 6 VP-Ronnie Womble; EX
Area 6 Asst VP- Blake Shiver;
Area 1 Commissioner-Bob Perryman;
Area 4 Commissioner-Karl Wilvert;
Area 6 Commissioner-Steve Weber

GUESTS: Post 28- Jack Schipper-2nd Vice; Post 28- Bob Hockenburger-Adj; Post 28- Mike Johnson;
Chapter 28- Shelly Bokken; Chapter 28- Brian Bokken.

7. Additions to the Agenda –

None

8. Approval of Minutes – December 2018

*Motion by Warren Halstead to accept the December 20, 2018 minutes as electronically transmitted. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips

*Balance \$48, 205.47. Deposits of \$16, 671.44 from per capita and fees to total \$64,876.91.

*There have been 3 check requests...\$2,000 to Ken Sutton for convention costs. Travel request from Rey Ruiz. Request from Robert Carrier.

*Taxes are good. When you register with California as a charity there is a new form that has to be submitted every 2 years. \$20 every 2 years.

*Motion by Milo Barclay to accept the Financial report as given pending audit. 2nd by Rey Ruiz. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Mick asked about Leonard's surgery status. Leonard stated he is still waiting.

*Leonard was requested to add a line item to the budget for the California Legacy Run.

*Leonard was asked about the 5 PayPal payments that were made prior to December 18 by chapters. Leonard stated that they are in limbo but will continue to try to find out what's happening with them.

10. Presidents Report – Mick Sobczak

*National Commander's visit- Thanks to all who escorted. There were 2 hitches when Mick was told of a time change late at night which changed the start time for the next day. Chapters missed out on the escort. Next year the meet times will be 1 hour earlier to take into account any changes.

*Had windshield decals made for motorcycles, cages and helmets. Ones in the south are already spoken for. Ordering 100 more for the north part of the state. Will have them at the Legacy Run. \$15 each. Proceeds of \$1,200 per 100 sold will go to the Legacy fund.

8California American Legion College- March 22-24 at Post 335. Slots are open. Mick is now the Training and Development Commissioner for the California Legion.

*1% clubs- Resolution 15-004 states we are not to have anything to do with them. Why are Legion Posts not held to the same standards? Was told Posts are autonomous. But it's costing membership. Chapter 497 is losing membership because of the Vagos at the post.

*District and Area Legion meetings- Area VPs are now to attend all in their area. The March Legion DEC meeting is in Santa Maria.

11. Vice President Report – Rey Ruiz

*Area/district meetings-Rey has a complete listing. Can send out.

*Went to several district meetings. Talked about the Riders and how they are important to the district/posts and chapters. Under 50% of posts have chapters. Explained what Riders can do to help.

*Is in the middle of reviewing the calendar to be able to make chapter meeting visits.

*Was at the chapter meeting at post 359 with Joel to help give them ideas.

*Helping organize 176.

12. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

- *Will be updating per capita reports.
- *Sent out a request for bylaws from chapters with a deadline of February 1.
- *Is getting information to begin archiving the Riders information. Will be starting with the Ad Hoc committee and working forward.
- *The Delegate form is up and will be the only form accepted. Email only. No mailed or old forms accepted.

13. **Sgt. At Arms Report** – Mike Smith

- *Area VPs- remind your chapters that their uniforms must be in compliance. Saw a chapter where the Sergeant at Arms was out of compliance on the National Commander Escort.

14. **Area Reports**

a. **Area 1 VP** – Fred Branson

- *Area President's meeting will be scheduled for early April. Will get it on the calendar.
- *Brought in 1 new chapter.
- *Chapter 111 helping where they can.
- *Will be attending the District 1 meeting.
- *Working on new chapters.
- *February 4th in Willits will be the 4 Chaplains service promoted by St. John's Catholic church.

b. **Area 2 VP** – Warren Halstead

- *No report, no President meeting date yet.

c. **Area 3 VP** – Paul LaPierre

- *Area President's meeting will be February 23 at Post 3 in Hanford.
- *Per Capita not paid...682. 118 is nonexistent.

d. **Area 4 VP** – Joel Lopez

- *Been trying to get a chapter started at the USS Iowa. Spoke to Kiki at 411.
- *Mick-Will give David Harmon contact info. Kiki has been talking for 2 years. We'll crash a post 411 meeting if we have to.
- *Rey- Knows of 4 members that will join there.

c. **Area 5 VP** – Gene Hobdy

- *President's meeting will be at post 434 Chula Vista at 10:30am.
- *Spoke at the District 25 meeting in Brawley.
- *Missed the District 21 meeting.
- *District 29 meeting is February 10.
- *Will be at the 10th Anniversary dinner in Brawley.
- *Chapter 155, Colton, replaced the flag at the elementary school.

*On March 16 at Post 289 there will be a meet and greet, games, raffles, DJ, vendors, etc.

*Rider Everlasting- Rod Goodman and Marlene Flores.

*Chapter 364, Santee, donated to help the Coast Guard during the government shutdown.

*The Safety Training will be rescheduled.

e. **Area 6 VP** – Asst. VP- Milo Barclay

*Supporting the PGR at the cemetery.

*No accidents.

*Will be having a BBQ and blood drive at the post.

*Waiting for a President's meeting date.

*George- The American Legion has helped every Coast Guard member who needs a grant.

15. **Committee Reports**

a. **Quartermaster** – Patrick Tafoya

*Emblem Sales has been closed. We've been able to get all our orders out. There have been no complains. The vendor has been keeping up.

*Will be getting new berets. Instead of spending \$50 for a beret with Emblem Sales we will have them for \$25 with the patch. We will have sizes 7 1/4, 7 1/2 and 7 3/4.

*Will get quotes for long sleeve and short sleeve shirts for the Legacy Run.

b. **Public Relations/Website** – Jim Oxley

*Been busy. Getting the Legacy Run page up with help from Ed Doitteau.

*The chapter pages have been rearranged with new buttons. Have added PayPal buttons to each chapter.

*Working on the e signature for the delegate form.

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

d. **Judge Advocate Report** – Mike Brownell

*Missing bylaws for 37 chapters.

*In reviewing the bylaws there are many that need major updating.

*For new chapters it is strongly recommended that the Bylaw template be used. It's why it's there.

e. **Service Officer** – George Smith

*No report. Will update the status of the American Legion helping with the Coast Guard needs.

f. **Safety Committee** – Rob Carrier

*Area 5 safety training was canceled due to a conflict with the venue.

*There will be safety training in Fresno in March and in Merced in May. Hopefully Area 5 in April.

*Attended the District 12 meeting as the DEC Safety officer. Discussed how the riders can help bring in new members and help with fundraising at the post level.

g. **Membership Officer** – Gary Teicher

*2,077 members. Progress. Sent report.

h. **Historian** – vacant

i. **California Legacy Run** – Rochelle Billet-Smith

*Working on identifying Ride Coordinators, Ride Captains, Area coordinators, etc. Need to fill these positions asap.

*Working on the designs for merchandising.

j. **Jr. Past President/Tech Advisor** – James Adames

*Progress

k. **ALR Commissioner** – Bob Perryman

16. Old Business

*Reminder of the membership meetings challenge- Go to a rider meeting- 1 entry. Go to a family meeting without a rider vest- 1 entry. Do American Legion Basic Training- 1 entry. There will be one winner from each area and the winners will have their family dues paid for 2020.

17. New Business

a. Chapter 28 (Petaluma)

*Motion made by Fred Branson to accept chapter 28 as the 94th chapter. 2nd by Warren Halstead. There was discussion about the bylaws missing sections. Since the bylaws were modeled after accepted bylaws from another chapter, they will be accepted but asked to be updated. Rey-Going forward all new chapters need to use the bylaw template in the start up packet. If not, they will be rejected. Mike-The template is important in giving a great foundation. Leonard will check on the \$50 startup fee. Motion was passed by vote of DEC.

*Monday Mike will send out the revised bylaw recommendations.

b. Removal of Department Historian

*Motion to remove Fran Del Santo as ALRDOC Historian. 2nd by Warren Halstead. Passed by vote of DEC.

c. Surrender of Charters due to membership issues

*Motion by Paul LaPierre to revoke the charter of chapter 355, Kerman, for nonpayment of per capita and delegate fees from 2018 and 2019. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Chapters 118 Bishop, 682 Bakersfield and 22 Lodi have until the end of February to make the 5-person minimum. If they don't, they will be suspended at the March meeting and then revoked at the meeting before convention. Per Gene, Bloomington, Ch 497, has already turned in their money, etc. Mick said to have them hold on.

d. 1st reading of administrative bylaws changes

*Some DEC members haven't read through the proposed changes.

*George- Adding positions to the DEC.

*The bylaws will be read at the February meeting and voted on at the March meeting.

e. Ratify Safety Manual changes

*Motion made by Robert Carrier to approve the changes to the Safety Manual. 2nd by Rey Ruiz. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Will be up on the website in one week.

f. Assistant VPs and white/black berets-

*Mick- While on the National Commander's escort it was brought to the ALRDOC's attention that there were a lot of white berets being worn. It was told that Assistant VPs do not qualify to wear the white beret unless they are doing business for the Area Vice President under their direction only. These include visiting chapter meetings, Area President meetings, Convention and Rally. If the Area Vice President is in attendance, then no Assistant may wear a white beret. Only elected members and Department level appointees.

*Motion by Mike Smith that only Department level officers are to wear the white beret. 2nd by Rey Ruiz. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Motion by Fred Branson that Area Assistant Vice Presidents are allowed to wear the white beret when on business directed from the Area Vice President at chapter meetings and sanctioned events if the Vice President is not present. 2nd by Rey Ruiz. Passed by vote of DEC.

*Breakfasts, lunches, dinners, poker runs, etc. are not sanctioned events.

18. Sick / Memorial

*Area 3- Bill Willis from chapter 684.

-Joe Pavone- had his leg amputated. Only had 2 visits from his chapter.

*Area 4- none. Will be on vacation next month.

*Area 5- Rod Goodman from chapter 364.

-Marlene Flores from chapter 555.

-Shoulder surgery- Rob Booker from chapter 739.

-Heart attack/dialysis-David Gonzalez from chapter 739. Now on retired status.

19. Good of the Riders

*Resolutions going to convention. Asked that the resolutions go to committee 2 months out so that they can come to the chapters 1 month out. Mick will talk with Mike and Rey.

*Leonard- Saturday will be an air rifle shooting fundraiser in SoCal.

*Debbie- A chapter had asked about the form to nominate a rider of the quarter. Will do the Rider of the Year at convention. Form will be out in April.

*James- Have been getting emails about political postings on American legion and Rider pages. This is not allowed. This is only allowed on personal pages if there are no pictures added of the person wearing American Legion or Rider regalia.

20. **Next Meeting Date** – 28 February 2019 at 7 PM.

21. **Benediction** - Chaplain Roy Van Westbroek

22. **Adjournment** – President Mick Sobczak @ 9:05pm