**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

January 23, 2020

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz at 7:01pm
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Monique Clemons
3. **Pause for MIA** - President Rey Ruiz
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Sgt. At Arms Mike Smith
5. **ALR Preamble** - President Rey Ruiz
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**President**-Rey Ruiz; **Vice President**-Fred Branson;  EX **Sergeant-At-Arms**-Mike Smith; **Treasurer**-Leonard Phillips; **Secretary**-Debbie Proffitt; **Chaplain**-Monique Clemons;

**Judge Advocate**-Ralph Wenzinger; **Historian/Jr Past**-Mick Sobczak*;* **Safety Officer**-Rob Carrier; **Service Officer**-George Smith; **Webmaster/Public Relations**-Jim Oxley; **Quartermaster**-Mike Clement;

**Membership/Legacy Run**-Rochelle Billet-Smith; **Convention & Rally**-Ken Sutton;  **Ways and Means-**Dennis McClary; **Area 1 VP**-Bob Perryman; **Area 2 VP**- Sean Ramsay;  **Area 3 VP**-Paul LaPierre; EX **Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez; **Area 5 VP**-Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Lino Torres

Guests:Steve Weber, Paul Patricio, John Smartt, James Adames, Karl Risingr, Mike Killion, Larry Brandt, Patrick Gadut Star post 301.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – December 19th Minutes

Motion to accept the December 19, 2020 minutes as electronically transmitted pending correction by John Smartt. 2nd by Mike Killion. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

\*Debit = $69,653.92; =$65,742.08, Pending deposits = approximately $7,200. Transferred money from PayPal into the bank account and will deposit checks tomorrow.

\*Spreadsheet for the budget shows that we are over for the year. Will find the discrepancy on the differentials.

\*Will be deleting the patch orders from July 2019 back. Many orders have not been paid.

\*Any questions? Email me.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

\*December 22 attended our chapter’s 2 adopted families gif deliveries.

\*January 5th attended the Chapter 48 meeting in Oxnard.

\*January 6th attended the face-to-face meeting of the Convention Committee at Post 43 in Hollywood with members of chapter 43. Minutes were sent out.

\*January 11th and 12th attended the DEC of the ALA in Long Beach.

\*January 28th attended the meeting of Star Post 309 and of the proposed ALR Chapter 309.

\*January 21st attended services for David “Fletch” Fletcher in Bakersfield. There were over 100 bikes and people.

1. **Vice President Report** – Fred Branson
2. **Sgt. At Arms Report** – Mike Smith

\*Happy New Year

\*Attended services for David “Fletch” Fletcher.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Restructured the tracking system for the chapter obligations to include Certification of Officers, Roster updates, Per Capita, Bylaws, End of Year Chapter report, Delegate Fees and Delegate report. All 7 obligations must be satisfied to seat delegates at convention. The restructure will make it easier for the Area VPs to see which chapters are delinquent in which obligations, for the Dept. Secretary and President.

\*Worked on restructuring timelines/deadlines that are vague in the ALRDOC bylaws.

\*Been fielding many phone calls and emails on ordering/paying for patches, updating of rosters, paying per capita, etc.

\*Will be working on the Delegate fee billing.

\*Keeping my chapter up to date.

1. **Area Reports** –
   1. Area 1 VP – Bob Perryman

\*Happy New Year.

\*Working on chapter compliance.

\*Proposed bylaw deadline may be tight due to reading them twice and voting on them.

\*Christmas with Santa and the Christmas Parade were great. David and Ann Baker of Chapter 521 put on a great Christmas with Santa.

\*Helped with the New Year’s Eve party that the Sons put on.

\*Did two Honor Guards last week.

\*Suicide Awareness Ride will be 122 miles if no rain. Will end at Stingray’s in Marina. Stingrays is bringing in a veteran band and BBQ master for the event. There will be a raffle. Stingrays has asked that this be done annually.

\*All Chapters in Area 1 have paid or committed to pay $122 each.

\*There will be ALR night at the River Cats ball park again. It will be Saturday of Memorial weekend.

\*Area 1 President’s meeting will be February 15th in Healdsburg.

\*There are complaints about the ALRDOC.ORG emails not working. Debbie will email replacement emails to the Area VPs.

* 1. Area 2 VP – Sean Ramsey

\*Chapters have been supporting regular events.

\*February 22nd will be Suicide Awareness run hosted by District 28.

* 1. Area 3 VP – Paul La Pierre
  2. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

\*Missed the last meeting because we were working on 520 Christmas baskets for Brooklyn Elementary School.

\*Bought 21 tickets for the quilt.

\*Thank you to Rey for helping with Chapter 309.

\*Debbie reminded Joel that the rosters for chapters 359 and 804 need to be updated.

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*There will be 2 rides for the suicide Awareness run. One starting in San Diego and one in Vista. Putting the word out and hoping to bring in outside riders.

\*The Chula Vista chapter had their last meeting. There will be 2 members left. They will be moving to Chapter 255 in National City.

\*Went to the services for David “Fletch” Fletcher.

\*The Area 5 President’s meeting will be February 15th at post 53 in Hemet. Debbie will be making a slide show presentation.

\*Working with Chapter 43. Trying to get Area 5 & 6 interactions for those chapters in area 6 that are close.

\*All but 6 chapters have paid their per capita.

\*Will be escorting the AV Wall on March 25th. Will be escorted through I10 TO El Centro.

* 1. Area 6 VP – Lino Torres

\*Guadalupe only has 2 members. One has cancer. Will get their charter on March 25th.

\*Cambria is out.

\*February 22 will be the Suicide Awareness Run. Will have raffle baskets donated by Harley Davidson, a local winery and others. A pig is being donated to BBQ.

\*The President of Chapter 311 is on one of the home town banners on Lancaster Blvd.

\*On January 20th we escorted Joshua Jenkins and then participated in a flag line on January 22nd.

\*Participated in the services for David “Fletch” Fletcher on January 22nd.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. Quartermaster – Mike (Patch) Clement

\*Shipped orders for 10 chapters. Chapters 100, 200, 852, 421, 872, 289, 742, 595, 132 and 83.

\*Chapter 241 will go into process.

\*Have a few orders we haven’t received the money for. Chapters 11, 28, 509 and District 13. These orders will be deleted.

\*There are a couple invoices from September and October. Chapters 711, 348 and 163. No payments.

\*Invoices from December for chapters 742, 262 and 416. No payments,

\*Reference the chapter and invoice number when making payments.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley
  2. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton/Karl Risinger

\*Have had great visits from Rey and Areas 5 & 6.

\*There is a full agenda for convention.

There will be a Friday morning ride for those that get there early. Registration will start at 3pm. Rooms will be designated for different events. Friday dinner. Saturday morning breakfast and registration. Saturday night Casino Night with Casino money and Pin Ups for Vets and raffles. Sunday breakfast hosted by the Post family. There will be a small ride Sunday morning early to the Griffith Park Observatory.

\*Have group rates at a couple hotels. Looking for more.

\*The Hilton is filled. Will try to block more rooms. Also looking at Burbank for room deals.

\*An RV park availability was asked about. Will look into it but none are close.

\*Will have t shirts, pins, coins, stickers, pins, etc. in the swag bags.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Ralph Wenzinger

\*Debbie asked if there is a timeline for a member whose bike was stolen to replace their bike. Ralph replied that at renewal if they don’t have a bike that they no longer qualify to be a member.

\*As Jr Past President of Chapter 26, I want to thank everyone for coming to Fletch’s funeral. He will be sorely missed. We quit counting bikes at 125.

\*The new bylaw template is on the website. Changes in the preamble and for retired status. Removal of the section that stated a Chapter president couldn’t be a Post Commander at the same time.

\*Robert Carrier asked about the chapter voting on the new bylaws. Ralph stated that the changes were made to conform to the Department bylaws. You only have to inform the membership of the changes and don’t have to vote on them. Only changes initiated by the chapter have to be read twice and then voted on.

\*Bob Perryman- When the Legion updates bylaws they are read twice and voted on. Ralph stated that he wasn’t familiar with that. The bylaw changes were voted on by the delegates, the legion at their convention and OK’d by the legion Judge Advocate. They don’t need two readings and a vote.

\*Bob- Article 8, section 5 states that to call a special meeting there needs to be 10 members to OK it. Many chapters don’t have 10 members. Ralph stated that in that case there should be three officers and 3 members to call a special meeting.

\*Bob-There should be room to challenge the additions to the bylaws. Ralph stated that the delegates voted on them. There is no choice but to make the changes.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Sent out an email on the Blue Water Navy claims.

\*Will be redistributing information on County Veteran Service Officers and American Legion VSO’s. It doesn’t matter which you see, just do it.

* 1. Safety Committee – Rob Carrier

\*Will be going to the Area 1 President’s meeting.

\*Area 1 will be having a safety training on April 4th.

\*The Area 3 Suicide Awareness ride will be from Sanger to Fresno.

\*The Area 3 President’s meeting will be February 29th at post 83 in Merced.

\*George Smith is doing a great job!

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*On behalf of Fletch’s family, thank you.

\*Report is on hold. Should be ready by Sunday.

* 1. Ways & Means – Dennis McClury

\*The quilt has been to 18 chapters/events. Have put in over 3,000 miles. Have sold 678 tickets. Currently at $9,224.13.

\*Last week District 13 donated $1,313.13. Petaluma bought 25 tickets.

\*Should be over $10,000 before convention.

\*Bob stated that they are doing the traveling on their own dime. Asked that there could be a pass the hat at events to help compensate them. Dennis stated he would rather the money be spent on raffle tickets.

And that they are having a blast traveling around the state.

\*George asked if there is something we can get to the chapters about the quilt. Dennis stated that the information is on the flyer and the flyer is on the website.

* 1. Historian – Mick Sobczak

\*Progress

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Rochelle stated that the quilt flyer is on Facebook and other sites.

\*Waiting on some information. Should have the Run website up in 2 weeks.

* 1. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

\*Progress

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Paul Patricio

\*No report at this time.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Past President’s Club ADHOC Committee Chair? Email sent 1/5/2020 received 22 responses so far.
      * A couple of great questions have been asked on this
        1. Are there rules on how one qualifies?
        2. Does a Past President qualify IF they served less than a full term?
        3. Does a Past President qualify IF they were removed by the Chapter?
        4. Is a Past President currently serving as President be eligible?

\*Questions to be answered in time.

* 1. Chapters in Jeopardy
* 118 Bishop (thought they shut down last year?) They did.
* 22 no activity since 2018. Dissolved last year.
* 371 Guadalupe (4)

\*Motion to pull the charter of Chapter 371 for lack of membership by Lino Torres. 2nd by Mick Sobczak. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 432 Cambria (1)

\*Motion to pull the charter from Chapter 432 for lack of membership by Lino Torres. 2nd by John Smartt. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Outreach work with big 6 VFW, Combat Vets, Am Vets, Vietnam Vets, ALR form ADHOC Committee Fred Branson
  2. Veteran Suicide Awareness California Run TBI Mick Sobczak

\*Have questions on whether there will be a run in Area 4. All other Areas are kicking ass.

* 1. At the August DEC meeting, Jim Oxley was to test a Quartermaster PayPal button on the web site? I haven’t’ seen it, did it happen?
  2. New Web Site? There was talk of exploring a new web site provider, couldn’t find anything in the minutes. July, I believe our contract is expired before we pay for another year. IF we want to go with a new vendor NOW is the time to do it. This gives us time to archive and transfer information.
  3. Request from Mick to release to membership the charge sheet, trial board decision & the DEC decision.

\*Because Mick Sobczak had recused himself from all to do with the trial, a new motion was needed to go forward.

\*Motion by Mike Smith to release the charge sheet, trial board decision and DEC decision to all ALR members. 2nd by Sean Ramsay.

\*Vote was taken on voting DEC members. Passed by DEC by a 4 to 3 vote.

* 1. Being that Mick recused himself from the matter, does he have voice & vote on item above? ‘(g)

\*Per the ALRDOC Judge Advocate, No.

* 1. Rey held a conference call with Autry James, Fred Branson and I to review what the 5 Rules really means and why.

\*Went over the 5 rules of subsidiary organizations.

\*Got some clear and concise ideas.

\*Put out a memo on his thoughts on the process.

\*Will have the DEC vote on the points of the process, then will send to Paul Patricio and the other Commissioners for their thoughts. Then, will go to Paul Brown. Open to suggestions from everyone.

\*Probed Tiny about how it’s working for them.

* 1. Update on 5 Rules – sent email out to DEC recapping the call and understanding.

\*See above.

1. **New Business**
   1. NEW Chapter 309 (#95)

\*Motion to accept Chapter 309 (Glendale) as the 95th chapter of the ALRDOC by Joel Lopez. 2nd by Mick Sobczak. Passed by vote of DEC.

\*Thank you from Patrick Gadut.

* 1. 2020 By-Laws Template
  2. Convention DEC meeting 1800 OR 1900?

\*Paul Patricio-The Commissioners meet before the DEC meeting. It would be hard to meet earlier.

\*It was decided that the DEC meeting will be at 6pm.

* 1. Email system-Mailchimp– Jim Oxley
  2. Chapter 241 Baldwin Park

\*Had a conversation with Sam. He replied by email.

\*Debbie stated that they had ordered and paid for new patches and that they were in process.

* 1. Deadlines into By-Laws Debbie

\*Debbie explained that there are chapter requirements in the ALRDOC bylaws that are vague. She went in and added deadlines that were already being used, added deadlines that would spread out the 7 chapter obligations so most wouldn’t be due at the same time making it easier on the chapters, the Area VPs and the Secretary and Treasurer. There was also wording that needed to be replaced to be current with chapter rosters being online. This way the list of obligations and deadlines could be put out for the year right after convention.

\*Paul Patricio thought they were good but stated all would need to be changed through resolutions at convention vs being administrative changes.

\*Mick stated he would help write the resolutions.

* 1. Valentine’s Cards - *Cards can be sent to*

*Glenda Schultz*

*C/O Maj. Bill White*

*138 West Elverta Road*

*Elverta, CA. 95626.*

*ALL Cards should be delivered before February 7th to Glenda.*

* 1. Family Help $100.00 Challenge

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| Dept Vice President | DeeAnn Graham | (15) | [grahamda65@yahoo.com](mailto:grahamda65@yahoo.com) |
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\*The Auxiliary convention will be in the same city but at a different venue from the Legion and Sons this coming year. They will need help paying for their part of the convention. There is a challenge for each chapter to donate $100 to help. Contact DeeAnn Graham at the email address above.

\*Bob Perryman stated that the Legion doe help the Auxiliary.

* 1. 2021 Legacy Quilt-Dennis McClary

\*Dennis stated that it would cost approximately $4,100 to produce the 2021 quilt. Would like to have it done by the 2020 Rally. It will have 5 military patches, POW/MIA, PTSD, etc.

\*Dennis was told that a line item in the 2021 budget for the quilt will have to be voted on at convention and if passed money for the quilt could be released at that time.

1. **Sick / Memorial**
   1. David (Fletch) Fletcher Chapter 26 Riders Everlasting
2. **Good of the Riders**
   1. Mick-The Legion College is coming up. It will be March 27-29, 2020 in Fairfield, CA. This year the College will have funding to provide each student with lodging and .40 cents per mile round trip.

\*Gene-How many are in the class. Mick stated that the limit is 30 but that it has only had as many as 26 in the past.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 27 February 2020 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 9:09pm