**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

March 26, 2020

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Fred Branson
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;  **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; **Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez; **Area 5 VP**-Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Lino Torres

Guests:

Larry Brandt-A5 Alt VP; Mike Killion-A5 Alt VP; Mike Johnson-Pres Ch 28; Chris Molina-A6 Alt VP; Luis Diaz-PP; David Corbin-A6 Alt VP; Tracy Dalton-Commissioner Chair.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – February 27th Minutes

Motion to accept the February 27, 2020 minutes as electronically transmitted by Mike Smith. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

\*Delegate fees still due = Area 1-Ch 163; Area 2-Ch 69, Ch 105, Ch 202, Dist 9, Dist 10;

Area 3-Ch 476, Ch 872; Area 4-Ch 359; Area 5-All paid; Area 6-Ch 741.

\*Checking Account-$78,748.25 in debits; $86,897.12 in deposits; $81,584.29 current balance.

\*The budget is on track.

\*Received 783.81 for the Legacy Run.

\*Leonard is doing well and is working on the budget for 2020/2021. Hope to have a finance committee meeting next week.

\*Line items that need to be added to the 20/21 budget are for the Legacy Run. Incidentals, fuel, merchandise and quilt.

\*Motion to accept the finance report as given pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Mick Sobczak. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* Saturday February 29th attended the Area 3 President’s meeting in Merced Post 83.
* Saturday March 7th attended Chapter 262 Fontana Bike Night.
* Thursday March 12th attended the conference call for the 2020 convention.
* Friday March 13th attended and addressed the DEC Finance Commission on the ALR’s compliance with the 5 Rules of Subsidiary Corporations.
* Saturday March 14th attended and addressed the session of the Spring DEC of the American Legion Department of California.
* Sunday March 15th attended the session of the Spring DEC of the American Legion Department of California.
* Participated in California Legacy Committee calls March 9th & 16th.
* Participated in the weekly conference call for the 2020 convention.
* Most posts are closed. Some are still serving food to go.

1. **Vice President Report** – Fred Branson

\*On a 2nd stage lockdown here.

\*There are 2 cases here.

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

\*Attended the Area 3 President’s meeting on February 29th. Great meeting and building.

\*Attended the Ch 262 bike night on March 7th.

\*Please mute yourself when not talking.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Working on keeping up with the tracking updates.

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

\*The post is closed.

\*For the posts open for take out meals, contact ABC for liability.

\*Ch 521 canceled their poker run, the Memorial Day Parade and all meetings.

\*All posts here are closed.

\*Be safe.

* 1. Area 2 VP – Sean Ramsey

\*On a complete lockdown.

\*All events canceled for the foreseeable future.

\*Please take this seriously.

\*My father passed away last Monday. It’s a difficult time for our family. Thanks to our Legion family for their support.

\*Thanks to Hy Libby for stepping up.

\*Rey-Condolences to the family.

\*Patch-Had planned a comedy show to support the Livermore VA. Have a budget of $3,400. Have received $1,413. Will hold the funds until the future event.

\*George- Ch 105 has $400 to support Livermore.

* 1. Area 3 VP – Paul La Pierre

\*Mike Cash had an accident on the way home from RFTW last year. He was able to get on his bike and ride around the block for the first time since then.

\*Chapters 26, 684 and 20 have postponed their poker runs until later.

\*Had the Area 3 President’s meeting on February 29th. Not good participation. Ch 20 won good prizes.

* 1. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*All activities are shut down.

\*Chapter 132’s President is not well.

\*Donated $5,003 for Suicide Awareness.

\*All chapters in Area 5 have paid delegate fees.

\*Will be working with the chapters to get End of Year Reports in.

\*Attended the Ch 262 bike night and the Chapter 519 Chili Cookoff.

\*Attended the Legion DEC Finance meeting.

\*Attended the Area 3 President’s meeting.

\*The virus is going fast through veterans.

* 1. Area 6 VP – Lino Torres

\*Area 6 will have a President’s meeting call in on March 29th.

\*Celebrated St. Patrick’s Day.

\*Ch 507 had a St. Patrick’s dinner.

\*Chapter 348 canceled their event.

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

\*Good month for orders.

\*Shipped 14 orders in March.

\*Have 7 orders in the queue.

\*34 chapters were invoiced.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*Have been working on the email problem.

\*Contacted the company about the servers.

\*Working on the email bounce back problem. Most seen as spam.

\*Made a list of what we have on the website and what our other needs are and sent to DEC. You can use this list to try and find a better website company for us.

\*We could possibly do a rollback to our old server and go with a company that does bulk mail, such as MailChimp. Though it costs more.

\*Have looked at other servers but they start at $179 per month.

\*Dennis stated he forwarded to his IT guy but can’t get to it until June.

\*Mick asked that he talk to Ed at Chapter 111 and see if the website being used for the Legacy Run would be able to handle this.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*Following the weekly meetings. Next week should determine go or no go.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Ralph Wenzinger

\*Has been isolated at home. Post closed until May.

\*Still short of chapters turning in updated bylaws.

\*Thanks to the Area VPs for working on it.

\*Attended the Area 3 President’s meeting, Answered questions. Had a birthday for Rochelle with cake and the happy birthday song.

\*In March I became a grandpa to a granddaughter.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Hoping everyone is getting the emails.

\*This is a very serious virus. Please take it seriously.

* 1. Safety Committee – Rob Carrier

\*The Area 1 and Chapter 69 safety classes have been canceled.

* 1. Membership Officer/Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*We currently have 2,391 members.

\*Have been working on the Legacy Run. 14 have registered so far. 10 riders, 1 passenger and 1 cage.

\*I am a health care nurse. Stay at least 6 feet away and wash your hands. Check in with the [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) website.

* 1. Ways & Means – Dennis McClury

\*Attended the Area 3 President’s meeting, the Chapter 108 meeting and the Legion DEC meeting in Oceanside.

\*Am on 3-5 conferences a day with the DoD. Bases are closed to nonessential people. Under ordered isolation.

* 1. Historian – Mick Sobczak

\*Working on the History book.

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*See Membership report.

* 1. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

\*Welcome PP Doc Luis to the call.

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No problems.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Past President’s Club ADHOC Committee Chair?

\*Sent out emails for a Chairman. No one wants to Chair. Will resend emails.

* 1. Outreach work with big 6 VFW, Combat Vets, Am Vets, Vietnam Vets, ALR form ADHOC Committee Fred Branson
  2. Update on 5 Rules – sent a few emails for input, received a couple of emails and calls for clarification.

\*Rey addressed the Legion Finance Commission in Oceanside. Conversations with Paul Brown had gone nowhere. Talked to them to get them to understand there needs to be accountability. Got an extension to have this done until December 31, 2020.

\*Will have another finance call with Paul next Tuesday at 2pm.

\*There was much discussion.

\*Was asked how other Departments are handling this with their ALR. Other Departments received a notice from National to get it done. We have been having conversations with Department so Department didn’t get that notice.

1. **New Business**
   1. Review Letter to membership for potential postponement of convention.
      * Potential dates- If postponed then hopefully have it before the Legion Fall DEC so resolutions can be voted on.
      * Officers- If convention is canceled current officers would stay in their positions until the 2021 convention. This extra year would not could in the term limits as they won’t have been voted on.

\*Motion by Mick Sobczak that DEC authorize the President to send out to the convention letter on April 3, 2020 if there is a postponement. 2nd by Bob Perryman. Passed by unanimous roll call vote of DEC.

* 1. Budgetary items for 2021?

\*Line items for legacy Run. Merchandise, incidentals, quilt and fuel.

* 1. Retirement Status Letter

\*Was attached to the agenda. Asked to change Chapter/District to Chapter or District.

\*Motion to accept the Retirement Status letter pending correction by Debbie Proffitt. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Patch Discipline Letter

\*Was attached to the agenda. Asked to change Chapter/District to Chapter or District.

\*Motion to accept the Retirement Status letter pending correction by Debbie Proffitt. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

\*The letters will be corrected and put in the resources section of the website.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

\*Wayne Sires-Chapter 311-Has Leukemia and is at the City of Hope in room 8621.

\*Chapter 521-Members who are a couple have a 49-year-old nephew who passed from the virus.

1. **Good of the Riders**

\*Debbie-Was talking to Mark Rice about chapter forms. He stated the Legion votes on bylaws whether they come from DEC or from the Post. Was told that the past ALR JA stated that they only needed to be read twice and voted on if the change originates with the chapter. Mark stated he would check with the Legion. Mark called back to state he had a phone call with Autry James about other business and brought up the bylaw voting. He was told that once the bylaws are voted on by the Legion DEC the changes automatically go into the Post bylaws. It’s required. The Posts have no choice but to do the changes. No voting is necessary. He stated that the same works with the ALR. Once the resolutions are voted on at the ALR convention and then the Legion votes on them the Chapters have to make the changes to their bylaws and distributed to all members. There is no choice. They do not have to vote on them.

\*Cris Molina- Post has a phone tree and they have been checking on older members and seeing if they need any needs.

\*Debbie-Stated that she was sending out buddy checks on the chapter by text.

\*Mick-Post members called all members over the age of 70, which is over 400 members. Have one that will be 103. Put his address on Facebook to send a card.

\*Cris-The weekend is coming up. You could use Zoom to have a virtual birthday party, dinner party, etc.

\*Questions were asked about chapters having nominations and elections while they can’t have in person meetings. Those questions will be addressed in the postponement letter.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 23 April 2020 1900 or 7:00 PM regular meeting **OR** 1 May 2020 1800 or 6:00 PM at convention.
2. **Benediction** – Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 9:12pm