**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

August 27, 2020

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz @ 7pm
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;  **Sergeant-At-Arms**-Mike Smith; **Treasurer**-Leonard Phillips; **Secretary**-Debbie Proffitt; **Chaplain**-Monique Clemons;

**Judge Advocate**-Mark Rice; **Historian/Jr Past**-Mick Sobczak*;* **Safety Officer**-Mike Killian; EX **Service Officer**-George Smith; **Webmaster/Public Relations**-Jim Oxley; **Quartermaster**-Mike Clement; EX

**Membership/Legacy Run**-Rochelle Billet-Smith; **Convention & Rally/PPC**-Ken Sutton;  **Ways and Means-**Dennis & Kathleen McClary; **Area 1 VP**-Bob Perryman; **Area 2 VP**-Ignacio Alvarez;  **Area 3 VP**-Ralph Wenzinger; **Area 4 VP**-Joel Lopez; **Area 5 VP**-Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Lino Torres

Guests:

A5 Comm. Tracy Dalton; A6 Alt VP Dave Corbin; A5 Alt VP Larry Brandt; A6 Alt VP Cris Molina;

A4 Alt VP Patrick Gadut; A5 Alt VP Dee Pittenger; A5 Alt VP John Smartt

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – July 23rd. 2020

Motion to accept the July 23, 2020 minutes as electronically transmitted by Mike Smith. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

\*Debits = $84,377.26; Deposits = $89,192.12; Current balance = $78,250.28.

\*Updated the amounts on the budget sheet. Doesn’t show the 4 payments for patches. Sent $1,000 to Doc Bart.

\*Spent $83,175.51; brought in $93,370.83; Surplus = $10,195.29

\*Motion to accept the finance report as read pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Debbie Proffitt. Passed by vote of DEC.

\*The PayPal account will transition to the state on September 1. Will be tested before going live. Bank account will move over November 1. Please use PayPal whenever you can.

\*Will do the 990 tax forms.

\*Asked about the VA&R and Legacy Run monies. Debbie will total the Legacy Run monies minus expenses and give Leonard a total. This will be mailed to National as the Pony Express was cancelled as the National Commander will not be in Indianapolis the beginning of October. VA&R will be mailed to National.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* Throughout July & August assisting my post cooking Lunches, Dinners in order to abide by ABC’s rules in order to open the post. Currently on a limited schedule 4-5 days a week.
* August 7th PGR Mission for Thomas Peckham.
* August 10th Assisting a Veteran moving out of State.
* August 15th & 16th attended the AL DEC call.
* August 20th attended the Convention Committee meeting
* August 22th Attended PGR Mission for SPC Enrique Roman-Martinez
* August 24th Attended PGR Mission for LCPL Marco Barranco

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

\*Getting hammered with fires all around from Santa Cruz up.

\*Still on lockdown. No meetings at the posts.

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

\*The post in Porterville is not open. The County is using it for Covid testing.

\*Went to Sturgis with 3 other members of my chapter. Was great to meet riders from other states. Have tested negative for Covid since returning.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Working on more archiving. Making sure the list of officers and committees for each year is correct. Have reached out to each President and asked that they look at the list for their year(s) and make any changes needed. Had a great conversation with Terry Baughman and received more info from Steve Weber.

\*Reminder that the November meeting will be November 19th and the December meeting will be December 17th.

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

\*Fires all around us. Very smokey and causing problems.

\*Have received no support requests yet from members or the community for water, etc.

\*Most chapters are doing local rides.

\*Area 1 will have a celebration of life for Ch 119 member Mike Ross on September 26th.

\*Ch 119 will do a flag line for WW2 veteran Robert O’Hara on October 10th.

\*My post is doing outside dining service.

\*I restarted a car club that meets for coffee every 2nd and 4th Saturday at the post.

\*Have been having the riders meeting at my house the 1st Thursday of the month. No meetings going on at the post.

* 1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

\*Lots of fires and still the Covid lockdown.

\*Not had a chance to meet with all the President’s in my area yet.

\*Ride safe and be healthy.

* 1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

\*I hope everyone is healthy and safe.

\*No fires in the valley but heavy smoke from the others. Many chapters have curtailed activities and many posts are not open.

\*Chapter’s in Area 3 have been providing funeral escorts.

\*Chs, 26 and 3 did a joint drive by send off for a young man entering the service.

\*Did a drive by birthday parade for a 93-year-old Korean war veteran.

\*Ch 711 lost a charter member and an active post member in Jerry Lefebvre. His service was yesterday.

\*Ch 711 member Mike Shannon is recuperating from a single bike accident. The report has been sent in to the Safety Officer.

* 1. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez/ Alt. Patrick Gadut

\*Have been doing funeral escorts.

\*Did well at our July 4th fireworks booth. The money usually supports stockings for the kids at Brooklyn Elementary and the Miracle on 1st St. Not sure if those events will be put in this year.

\*The post has been closed. We will be having a meeting the 2nd week in September.

\*Patrick-Post 309 had a 40-year member pass. He retired from the LAPD in 1979. On September 9th will be his funeral in San Dimas and escort to RNC. Information will be on the Ch 309 Facebook page and on the Star Post 309 website.

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*Area 5 lost Post 262 Commander and Ch 262 member Dan Jones from health issues.

\*Trying to get out to visit chapters. Many posts are doing outside dining.

\*Have been doing officer installations.

\*Some chapters are meeting in a member’s home.

\*Area 5 President’s meeting will be October 11th at post 132 n Orange. Only 2 representatives from each chapter can be in attendance. There will be social distancing and masks required. Debbie will be doing another training session.

\*Chs. 742 and 328 did a birthday drive-by yesterday.

\*I have been tested 3 times for Covid and all are negative.

\*Chapters are trying to plan for upcoming events and getting them on the calendar. Will cancel them if necessary.

* 1. Area 6 VP – Lino Torres/Alt VP Dave Corbin/Alt VP Cris Molina

\*Have been holding meetings in the outside pavilion at the post.

\*Have done 2 swap meets and was able to donate $200 to the post.

\*Still working on Pacific Palisades post 283.

\*Dave-July 30 did a birthday drive by.

\*August 6 did a PGR mission.

\*August 20 joined other veterans for a meeting with the local Congressman to address veteran issues.

\*August 21 did a PGR mission.

\*August 22 had our 2nd hotdog burn.

\*August 25th did a PGR mission.

\*Cris-Dis an escort for a Marine killed in the Amtrak training accident.

\*Doing another escort tomorrow.

\*Holding chapter meetings by hybrid. Some are meeting at the post and others are joining by Zoom. Working well.

\*Have had a shoulder injury so haven’t been riding lately. Hope to ride tomorrow.

\*September 13th will be the 12th annual Sarah’s Ride originating from VFW post 6885 in Canyon Country. Registration at 8am. KSU at 10am.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. Quartermaster – Mike Clement

\*Rey-Mike had recent successful surgery. He is recovering but in pain.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*Everything is good on the website.

\*Being contacted to reschedule events on the calendar.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*Had a Convention Committee meeting on August 20th. The Committee recommends cancelling convention.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

\*Just had our 4th meeting and there were more people present. Hopefully attendance continues to grow. Discussed doing Zoom for the next meeting on September 16th at 7pm.

\*Discussed Robert’s Rules and training.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

\* It has been a month now since my appointment as Department Judge Advocate. At this time, I am mostly working on familiarizing myself with the ALR/DOC Bylaws in preparing myself to do my assigned job. Having reviewed them, I did notice some areas that we may need to look at making some improvements. I want to take some time to make sure I understand better the culture of the Department and help to improve things.

The follow areas of the current Department bylaws we may want to look at (this may be adjusted later as needed):

* Make the bylaws gender neutral.
* Various typo corrections (that do not change the purpose or intent of the bylaws).
* Remove old references concerning changes.
* Areas identified by the Department Secretary for the proper submission of reports and other information.
* Standing committees for convention need to be reviewed for purpose and function as does the resolution process in general (Article VIII, Section 8).
* Article, Section 1 should specify who has voice and vote (This is due to potential legal complications)
* The process of doing amendments needs to be better defined.

My basic work ethic is oriented in customer service. I will be available to any and all Chapters/Districts to help them with any issues with their bylaws or answer any questions. If we do make some changes to the ALR/DOC bylaws at the convention this coming spring, there will be a set of sample bylaws available within a week the convention closes, should I be asked to continue in this position. Also, at some point next spring, I’d like to do an online training workshop in writing bylaws if you’d like me to.

At the moment I am not aware of any serious issues within the Department needing attention.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Continuing to gather information that will help the riders. Please send it out to all your members.

\*Up here we partner with the local US Volunteers unit. Contact them. We do between 10-20 missions per month with the firing detail.

* 1. Safety Committee – Mike (Monkey) Killion

\*Have received reports from 2 accidents. Mike Shannon from Ch 711 and Tracy Dalton.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*I’ve noticed a few discrepancies in the report I sent. I will fix them and resend the report.

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*The next meeting will be on September 21st to work on the 2021 Legacy Run.

* 1. Historian – Mick Sobczak
  2. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak
  3. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No reports from any areas.

* 1. Ways and Means – Dennis OR Kathy McClary

\*Drawing for the quilt will be September 1st. Currently at $11,644.

1. **Old Business**
   1. COOs Better late than never, the Department is 100% in Compliance and NO CHAPTERS face suspension.
   2. Doc Bart – Go Fund Me page update $3,765.00 as of 08/25/2020. However hopefully chapters and individuals are donating directly to Doc Bart. Chapter 328 donated and mailed $500.00 on 08/01/2020.
2. **New Business**
   1. Convention Committee Recommendation, the committee met on Thursday 08/20/2020 and recommended to cancel the 2020 ALR Convention.
   2. DEC vote to accept or deny recommendation.

\*Motion to accept the recommendation of the Convention Committee to cancel the 2020 ALRDOC convention by Bob Perryman. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. A roll call vote was taken. Seven voted yes with one abstention.

\*PLEASE CALL AND CANCEL YOUR RESERVATIONS.

* 1. 2020 Delegate Fees – What do we do? Roll over for 2021 OR Refund every Chapter?

\*Debbie stated that it would be easier all around to keep the Delegate Fee money. When the bill goes out next year any adjustment of a refund or money owed for each chapter would take place then. Leonard agreed.

\*Motion to roll the 2020 Delegate Fees over to the 2021 convention with changes made as necessary by Bob Perry man. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC.

Rey-Will send out a letter stating that convention has been cancelled, all officers will be staying in place and the Delegate Fees will roll over to the 2021 convention.

* 1. National Resolution combining Resolution 35 & 32

\*Rey sent an email to the Western Regional Advisor but he didn’t have answers for Rey’s questions. Rey then sent emails to the National Advisor who didn’t have answers and quit answering the emails. Rey emailed the Western Regional Advisor again and he stopped answering emails. There is a new National Executive Committeeman, Mark Foxworthy, for California. Rey will contact him in a few weeks to speak to him about the situation. In the past he has been supportive of the riders.

\*There was much discussion about why California doesn’t wear a 3-piece patch. That the COC won’t allow it here. That we were to join the top and bottom flares to the central patch to make it look like one patch. That the safety of our riders comes before all.

\*Rey will put together a history of the riders in California, even though National already has this information, and talk to the California NECman about it. Mark Foxworthy can make a difference at National.

* 1. Pony Express Indy

\*The Pony Express to Indy to present the Legacy Run funds to the National Commander has been cancelled. The National Commander will not be in Indianapolis at that time. The funds will be mailed to National.

* 1. PPC – Line item in the budget

\*The Past President’s Club has asked for a line item in the budget to hold their money from dues, etc. and to be able to take expenses out when needed.

\*Motion to add a PPC line item to the budget by Debbie Proffitt. 2nd by Gene Hobdy.

\*During discussion it was made clear the Past Commander’s Club for the Legion doesn’t have dues and doesn’t do fundraising. They are a quiet part of the Legion that has a purpose to mentor upcoming Commanders. That they take care of their own monies, etc. Rey stated that the PPC will take a look at it again at their September meeting.

\*Debbie rescinded the motion.

* 1. Ch 43 Hollywood will be sending the $3,000 for convention back to the Treasurer.
  2. 2021 Rally-Chapters in areas 4/5&6 will have until November 9th to send in a presentation to their Area VP on why they should be the Chapter to hold Rally in 2021. The Area VP will have until November 14th to send the presentation to the DEC. The DEC will vote on November 19th on which chapter will be awarded rally for 2021.
  3. Donation to VA&R-Rochelle stated that Harriett Clendenin, Past Auxiliary Department President/Secretary, passed away in July. Motion to donate $200 to VA&R in her memory by Rochelle Billet-Smith. 2nd by Debbie Proffitt. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Sick / Memorial**
   1. Dan Jones Chapter 262 Rider Everlasting
   2. Jerry LeFebvre Chapter 711 Rider Everlasting
   3. Mike Shannon Chapter 711 recuperating from accident

The following is the list of Riders Everlasting starting from the last convention in 2019. If you have a chapter member who has passed and is not on this list please send their name and chapter number to the ALRDOC Chaplain and ALRDOC President.

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| Riders Everlasting 2019-2020 | | |
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| Year | Chapter # | Riders Name |
| 2019 | District 28 | Al Keller |
| 2019 | 111 | Bill Merian |
| 2019 | 365 | Bob Murray |
| 2019 | 716 | Gerald Kirby |
| 2019 | 229 | Jim Shrader |
| 2019 | 509 | John Hopper |
| 2019 | 263 | Robert Shannon |
| 2019 | 50 | Rod Pergin |
| 2019 | 852 | Sheryl Johnson |
| 2019 | 416 | Steve Miller |
| 2019 | 595 | Tim McCord |
| 2019 | 852 | Vicky Legat |
| 2020 | 262 | Dan Jones |
| 2020 | 328 | Daniel R. Lively |
| 2020 | 26 | David Fletcher |
| 2020 | 48 | Edgar Romo |
| 2020 | District 13 | Earl Newman |
| 2020 | 155 | Gloria Wilkes |
| 2020 | 146 | James Zigler |
| 2020 | 132 | John Bloecher |
| 2020 | 83 | Kathy Grossi |
| 2020 | 119 | Mike Ross |
| 2020 | 742 | Ron Iverson |
| 2020 | 383 | Terry Sligar |

1. **Good of the Riders**

\*Mick asked if the Legion ALR Commissioners had voted on the ALR resolution to cancel convention. Bob stated that a vote couldn’t take place until the DEC voted. He will now run the resolution passed the Commissioners but doesn’t see it being a problem.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 24 September 2020 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:49pm