**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

September 24, 2020

1. **Called to Order** - President Rey Ruiz @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Vice President 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

A Moment of silence for Lino Torres was taken after Roll Call.

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

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

**Membership/Legacy Run**-Rochelle Billet-Smith; **Convention & Rally/PPC**-Ken Sutton;  **Ways and Means-**Dennis & Kathleen McClary; **AB 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-Rider Everlasting**

**Guests:** Past President Albert Villa; Past President Jim Banakus; A4 Alt VP Patrick Gadut; A5 Alt VP Dee Pittenger; A5 Commissioner Tracy Dalton; A6 Alt VP Dave Corbin; Ch 43 President Bill Churchville

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – August 27th. 2020

Motion to accept the August 27, 2020 minutes as electronically transmitted by Ignacio Alvarez.

2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

Total Debits-----------------------------------------------$86,456.87

Total Deposits--------------------------------------------$93,766.12

Current Balance-----------------------------------------$80,744.67

Actual Bank Balance (statement 08/24/2020) $80,744.67

The PayPal account will switch over to Department on October 1, 2020 The bank account will switch over to Department on November 1, 2020

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as given pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Debbie Proffitt. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* September 2nd Attended PGR Mission for LCPL Marco Barranco PT. 3
* September 3rd Attended PGR Mission for Robert Emmet Luedeke WWII Veteran
* September 9th Funeral Escort for Walter Allsop U.S. Army/LASD
* September 10th Attended PGR Mission for Jancarlo Mendiola USMC
* September 11th attended PGR Mission for Jose Isac Urquiza
* September 13th attended Sarah’s Ride
* September 15th attended Funeral Escort for Dan Jones Chapter/Post 262
* September 16th attended the Area 1 Virtual President’s meeting
* Sending out info for the upcoming Pony Express

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

\*Fires are dying down.

\*Might be going from the red to the purple phase.

\*Working with area Presidents to find a way to get their chapter meeting. Can set up to do a virtual meeting.

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

\*On 9/13 participated in Sarah’s Ride. It was well attended.

\*On 9/18 was able to donate $700 to fire victims who were veterans.

\*Will attend the Area 5 President’s meeting on October 11.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Will be working on the donation amount for the 2020 Legacy fund.

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

\*Still on lockdown, Skies are clearing. Some areas are opening up.

\*Chapters are doing local rides.

\*Had our President’s meeting last week by Uber conference. It was a good meeting. Only 1 chapter didn’t attend. Sent out a survey afterward and the results were positive. We will be having a President’s meeting every 2 months until convention.

\*Saturday will be the memorial ride for Mike Ross @ Ch 119. KSU @ 9am.

\*Doing really well with Cars and Coffee at the post. Other car and bike clubs are participating. Have 3 new Legion members from the last get together.

\*Thanks to Jim Banakus for being on the call tonight. Always good to have past experience with us.

* 1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

\*Our Area is in the purple level with Covid.

\*I have been working 6 days a week.

\*Will be contacting Fred Branson to get chapters set up to have virtual meetings.

* 1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

\*The last few days we’ve had some blue skies after all the heavy smoke.

\*On 9/2 the membership served at the Kern County Veterans Memorial celebrating the end of WW@. There were 6 WW2 veterans in attendance.

\*On 9/11 Rochelle, myself and the Chapter 26 President attended the service at the World Trade Center Memorial in Bakersfield.

\*On 9/11 in the evening there was a memorial ride to the Kern County Veterans Memorial in Bakersfield.

\*Paul LaPierre did the installation for Chapter 684 and was able to install his wife April as Chapter President.

\*Every Sunday there is an escort ride to the county line to escort those leaving for MEPS.

\*Tomorrow the California Legacy Fund Quilt will be delivered to the winner of the raffle at post 476 in California City.

\*Ralph has his own Zoom account and will make it available to chapters who would like to meet virtually. Contact him if you are interested.

* 1. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

\*359 and 804 haven’t been open.

\*Attended Dan Jones funeral at 262.

\*Escorted Post 309 member, Walter Alsep, to his daughter’s house.

\*I’ll be resigning today. Thank you to James Adames, Patch, Mick Rey, Gene Monique and Debbie for all your help while I was Area 4 VP.

Rey-Thank you for stepping up when we needed you to.

c. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*Area 5 is starting to open up in places.

\*Attended Dan Jones’ funeral at post 262.

\*The Area 5 President’s meeting will be October 11, 2020 at post 132 in Orange at 10:30am. Debbie will be doing a limited workshop.

\*Trying to get out to visit the chapters. Chapter 421 has a President that is moving and the Secretary is stepping down. Trying to help them out.

\*Was able to visit Ch 460 last night.

\*Shout out to Temecula for putting on a 100-mile ride for the National Commander’s 100-mile challenge. I am challenging other chapters to do this.

\*Posts can’t afford to close so please support the lunches and dinners that the Auxiliary, Sons and Legion are doing at your post.

\*Will be buying a 55-inch tv to raffle off. If chapters will donate $45 toward the cost and they can then sell tickets and keep the money for themselves.

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

\*Lino Torres passed into Rider Everlasting at 5am on 9/14/2020. His service will be after Covid. He will be buried at Bakersfield National Cemetery.

\*On 9/9 participated in a Ch 311 ride.

\*On 9/13 participated in Sarah’s Ride.

\*On 9/17 donated 4 laptops to the Pete knight Veteran’s Home.

\*On 9/20 participated in a PGR ride and on 9/29 will do another PGR ride.

\*Was able to contact the Silver Paws Ranch and am working with them to get the $3,000 raised to them to help the veterans pay for their service dogs, bedding, food, toys, etc.

Cris-Chapter 43 participated in Sarah’s Ride.

\*Will miss Lino tremendously and looking forward to working with Dave.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. Quartermaster – Patch
   2. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*Working on the PayPal buttons with Leonard for the Department PayPal account.

\*Have put a PayPal new chapter button on the bottom of the chapter page. It will be live on October 1.

\*Someone needs to explain to Department about the information that comes in with the PayPal payments.

\*The website has been running smoothly.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*Have tried multiple times to get a hold of the President at Hollister about convention.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

\*We had our first Zoom meeting and it went well.

\*Per the Uniform Manual and PPC patches or pins will be put into the personal area of the vest.

\*Looking into getting a bank account.

\*Look into having an area on the ALRDOC website.

\*The next meeting will be October 21, 2020 at 7pm with Zoom.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

\*I audited all the Chapter and District bylaws. All portions that were in separate files were combined into single files and organized by their Areas. At this time, I have no plans to solicit any changes be made to them since they all have been formally accepted by Department.

\*Having audited the Department bylaws and pursuant to our discussion I am requested that you appoint an ad hoc committee to review them for changes at our next convention. I am asking that myself, Debbie Profit, and Terry Baughman be appointed to the committee. I might add Steve Weber to that list.

\*I will be setting a suspense date of 15 January 2021 to have our recommendation done. Since there are no set methods identified in the bylaws for submitting amendments or changes, I believe that if we send copies of the suggested changes out to all the Chapters and Districts to review, we will not need any resolutions to make the changes permanent. We can simply do a reading on the floor at the convention (reading only the changes) and vote on them as a block. Members will have the opportunity to make a motion for changes to be made to them before taking a final vote. This mirrors the method used by TAL DOC.

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

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Sending out emails when I find information.

\*Always looking for benefit updates for our vets.

\*Please share the emails with the post.

* 1. Safety Committee – Mike (Monkey) Killion

\*No accident reports this month.

\*Looking to do a safety course in Area 5 in November.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area 1** | | | |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **294** |  | 1 | 1 | | 14 | | | 1 | | | | 7.1% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **13** |  | 1 | 2 | | 10 | | | 1 | | | | 10.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 195 |  | 1 | 3 | | 6 | | | 1 | | | | 16.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 63 |  | 1 | 4 | | 13 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 36 |  | 1 | 5 | | 23 | | | 2 | | | | 8.7% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 9 |  | 1 | 6 | | 16 | | | 4 | | | | 25.0% | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 7 | | 10 | | | 4 | | | | 40.0% | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **92** | | | **13** | | | | **14.1%** | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Area 2** | | | |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **251** |  | 2 | 8 | | 10 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | | 8 | | | 2 | | | | 25.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 159 |  | 2 | 10 | | 15 | | | 1 | | | | 6.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 42 |  | 2 | 13 | | 13 | | | 1 | | | | 7.7% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 50 |  | 2 | 26 | | 7 | | | 1 | | | | 14.3% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 2 |  | 2 | 28 | | 12 | | | 4 | | | | 33.3% | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **65** | | | **9** | | | | **13.8%** | |  |  |
| **Area 3** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **429** |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **21** |  | 3 | 11 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 304 |  | 3 | 12 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 60 |  | 3 | 14 | | 23 | | | 6 | | | | 26.1% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 65 |  | 3 | 15 | | 17 | | | 5 | | | | 29.4% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 10 |  | 3 | 27 | | 9 | | | 3 | | | | 33.3% | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **77** | | | **21** | | | | **27.3%** | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Area 4** | | | |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **22** |  | 4 | 17 | | 12 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | 3 |  | 4 | 18 | | 22 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 14 |  | 4 | 19 | | 22 | | | 1 | | | | 4.5% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 3 |  | 4 | 23 | | 10 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 2 |  |  |  |  | **66** | | | **2** | | | | **3.0%** | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **Area 5** | | | |  | 5 | 21 | | 17 | | | 11 | | | | 64.7% | |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **842** |  | 5 | 22 | | 29 | | | 8 | | | | 27.6% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | | 27 | | | 6 | | | | 22.2% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 539 |  | 5 | 29 | | 28 | | | 6 | | | | 21.4% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 154 |  | 5 | 30 | | 9 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 149 |  |  |  |  | **110** | | | **36** | | | | **32.7%** | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 38 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **Area 6** | | | |  | 6 | 16 | | 19 | | | 11 | | | | 57.9% | |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **306** |  | 6 | 20 | | 18 | | | 3 | | | | 16.7% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **14** |  | 6 | 24 | | 13 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 214 |  |  |  |  | **50** | | | **14** | | | | **28.0%** | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 56 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 36 |  | **Total Riders** | | |  | **2,144** | |  | **# ALR Chapters** | | | | | **96** | |
| # of Active Duty | | | 8 |  | # of Veterans | | |  | 1,425 | |  | # AL Post in CA | | | | | 460 | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL | |  |  | 378 | |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts | | | | | 21% | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX | |  |  | 338 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty | | | | 67 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*John Jerrell from chapter 476 is the winner of the California legacy Run quilt.

\*The McClary’s have done an awesome job with the quilt.

\*Had our first meeting for the 2021 CLR. The next meeting is Monday, October 12 at 7pm via Uber conference and all are welcome to participate.

* 1. Historian – Currently Mick Sobczak

\*Progress

* 1. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

\*Won’t be able to make the ride to Indy.

\*I am the commander of Post 149. I went to the city and county to get the post back open. We are open Thursday through Monday for meals.

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No report is a good report.

* 1. Ways and Means – Dennis or Kathy McClary

\*Rey-The check will be presented at chapter 328 on Sunday at 10am.

1. **Old Business**
   1. REMINDER; 2021 Rally – Areas 4, 5 & 6 VP’s canvas your chapters for interest. Request a formal presentation be submitted to you by November 9th. Email presentation to this body by November 14th for a vote on November 19th.

* 1. Question was asked if the ALR Commissioners had voted on the ALR resolution to cancel convention. On September 2nd I was notified via email by the ALR Commissioner Bob Perryman that by unanimous decision the commissioners voted to approve the resolution.
  2. PPC Officer Patch placement and or recommendations – Mike Smith

*The Uniform Committee was directed to look into the wearing/location of an officer patch within the Past President’s Club.*

*On Tuesday, September 15, the Uniform Committee met via Zoom, with four (4) members present and the DEC Vice President as a guest.*

*The Uniform Manual was used as source material during this discussion. After discussion amongst the committee members, the following was determined unanimously and recommended to the DEC:*

*1.     Having an officer position from other than a Chapter, District or the DEC, as described in Sections 3(c) and 3(d) is not appropriate, as this section is specific to the American Legion Riders. It was determined this section is reserved exclusively for a Chapter, District of DEC officer position.*

*2.     If an officer of the Past President’s club elects to put a patch on their vest/jacket, which denotes them as an officer of said club, this patch should be placed in the ‘Personal Area’ only as described in Sections 3(c) and 3(d). During this discussion, although not specific to the placement of a patch, the Uniform Committee would recommend a pin rather than a patch. This is a recommendation only which was through discussion with the committee members.*

*3.     Lastly the uniform committee recommends to the DEC the following with regard to a verbiage change to Sections 3(c) and 3(d). This change reflects the addition of the Past President’s Club to the last sentences in each of these sections. IF approved, the amended verbiage for the final paragraph of these sections shall read:*

1. *"The only officer patch authorized to be worn in this area is to be specific to the American Legion Riders. Examples of this are; President, Vice President, Treasurer and Sergeant-at-Arms. Post Officer patches, Past President's Club and Area Commissioner, are allowed, but only in the Personal Area of the vest/jacket."*

\*Motion to accept the change in verbiage in the Uniform Manual by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **New Business**
   1. Ratification of Dave Corbin as the Area 6 VP

\*Motion to accept the ratification of Dave Corbin as the Area 6 Vice President by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Resignation of Joel Lopez Area 4 VP

\*Motion to accept the resignation of Joel Lopez as Area 4 Vice President by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Ratification of Patrick Gadut as the Area 4 VP

\*Motion to accept the ratification of Patrick Gadut as Area 4 Vice President by Debbie Proffitt. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Ch 790 West Covina

Motion to accept Ch 790, West Covina, as the newest ALRDOC chapter by Dave Corbin. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passed by vote of DEC.

\*Rey has been helping Ch 790, is currently out of town, and will send the check off sheet when he returns home.

* 1. Bylaw Review Ad Hoc committee-

Rey appointed an Ah Hoc committee at the request of ALRDOC Judge Advocate Mark Rice. Appointed to the committee are Mark Rice, Debbie Proffitt, Terry Baughman and any others as needed.

* 1. Ratification of George Smith as Area 2 Alternate VP-

Motion to accept George Smith as the Area 2 Alternate VP by Ignacio Alvarez. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Sick / Memorial**
   1. Lino Torres Area 6 VP, Chapter 311-Rider Everlasting
   2. John Anderson Chapter 711 Secretary-Rider Everlasting
2. **Good of the Riders**

Debbie- A few of the Ch 716 riders attended the first part of 3 parts for the return of Marine Lance Corporal Marco Barranco. The escort from LAX to Montebello was well televised. A former coworker of 2 of our riders saw the escort on tv. He then found out his coworkers were part of it. He was so moved by what the Riders mission is that he donated $1,000 to the chapter. Mr. Hiller was invited to come to the next meeting. At the meeting he was thanked and gifted with a chapter challenge coin. He got to see where part of the donated money was going. Also invited to the meeting was a representative from Honoring Our Fallen. Honoring Our Fallen takes care of the families of our fallen servicepersons not only during the homecoming, escort and burial, they also keep working with the families afterward. A $500 check was donated to Honoring Our Fallen from the chapter. The other $500 from Mr. Hillyer’s donation will benefit a veteran or enlisted family at Christmas.

Leonard- Thanked chapter 43 for providing 2 videographers for the chapter’s 100 miles for Hope ride so that the chapter can publish what they are doing.

Mick-Received a call that the National Commander, Bill Oxford, will be in California again this year. Plans are for the 2nd week in December but are not definite yet. The Commander may start in San Francisco and end in Los Angeles for a total of 5-7 days. Mark Curran and the Department are heading it up. Mick will let the DEC know when plans are finished and hopefully the ALRDOC will be able to escort.

Mike Smith stated that he would be at the Area 5 President’s meeting and invited Patrick Gadut and Mark Corbin to come to see what a President’s meeting looks like.

Debbie will be presenting 2 short training sessions on Friday morning prior to the convention in Hollister.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 22 October 2020 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** – Vice President Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:26pm