**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

October 22, 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; EX **Secretary**-Debbie Proffitt; **Chaplain**-Monique Clemons;

**Judge Advocate**-Mark Rice; **Historian/Jr Past**-Mick Sobczak*;* **Safety Officer**-Mike Killian; AB **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; **Area 1 VP**-Bob Perryman; **Area 2 VP**-Ignacio Alvarez;  **Area 3 VP**-Ralph Wenzinger; **Area 4 VP**-Patrick Gadut; AB **Area 5 VP-**Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Dave Corbin

**Guests:** PP Luis Diaz; PP Albert Villa; PP James Adames; PP Steve Weber; A5 Alt VP Larry Brandt; Steve Gast Ch 108

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – September 24th, 2020

Motion to accept the September 24, 2020 minutes as electronically transmitted by Mick Sobczak. 2nd by Ignacio Alvarez. Passe by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips/Rey Ruiz

Reserve $30,249.24;

Account $75,698.71

Total Debits $106,625.26

Total Deposits $106,977.95

Current Balance $73,788.11

Actual Bank Balance (statement 08/24/2020) $93,946.50

PayPal account (riders) $5,494.49

PayPal account (State) $48.25

Total Balance $79,330.85

2020 California Legacy Run $17,569.29 of which $11,466.83 was from the CLR quilt.

Motion to accept the Finance report as given pending audit by Gene Hobdy. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* October 11th Attended Area 5 President’s Meeting. Issued Area 5 Charters and ALR Cup Awards. Presented Charters to new chapters in Area 4 & 5.
  + I have sent Area 1 & 2 awards and Charters to Fred Branson to sign and distribute.
  + Once I receive Area 3, 4 & 6 awards I will contact those chapters and make arrangements to present them in a meeting or President’s meeting.
* October 19th Attended conference call for the California Legacy Run.
* October 21st Attended Department By-Laws ADHOC Committee meeting.
* October 21st Attended PPC conference call (partially).
* Had a few phone calls and communications with members, Mark Rick, Mark Foxworthy & others via text, phone, email & Facebook over Resolution 19.

IF anyone is having live meetings/events please let me know. IF at all possible, I will attend.

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

\*Northern California is still in Tier 1 for many. No live meetings yet. Pushing for remote meetings. Chapters are trying to do business as usual.

\*Please encourage your members to go vote. It doesn’t matter who they vote for, get out and vote.

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

\*Uploaded the revised Uniform Manual with information on the Past President’s Club patch/pin positioning to the website.

\*Attended the Area 5 President’s meeting. Good meeting.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Working on the Legacy Run Committee.

\*Working on the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee.

\*Please email reports in a day ahead of the meeting.

\*POC duties list have been emailed to all Area VPs. Please distribute to the chapters. Working on having a POC Certification due August 31 each year so that the chapter President and Vice President know who they are.

\*Received a thank you card from Anita and Doc Bart thanking the DEC for the support and prayers.

\* December 6 Chapter 716 will have their 10th Annual Toys 4 Tots breakfast from 9 to 1. $10

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

\*Most chapters and posts are still closed. Meetings are being done by Zoom, in person, etc.

\*There are some local rides going on.

\*Chapter 28 is active. Chapter 620 will be participating in Veterans Day at the local Harley Davidson.

\*The Veterans Day parade has been canceled but am trying to put a ride together.

* 1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

\*Thank you to Area 3 VP Ralph Wenzinger for facilitating our Area 3 President meeting by Zoom.

\*Chapters are still active and doing many escorts.

\*Doing drive-bys for veteran birthdays.

\*There will be rides in the north and south on Veterans Day.

\*Have been invited to the commissioning of a USS Navy ship in April.

* 1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

\*Chapters are doing their best to meet. Some in person, by Zoom and other means.

\*There are no major activities scheduled yet. Still doing escorts and drive-bys along with sporadic social rides.

\*Attended the CLR quilt presentation at chapter 476.

\*Attended the CLR quilt check presentation at chapter 328 in Norco. Chapter 684 also presented a check for $1,500 at Norco for the Legacy Run.

\*Attended the Area 5 President’s meeting at chapter 132 in Orange. Thanks, Gene, for a great meeting.

\*Sat in on the Area 2 President’s meeting by Zoom.

\*If any chapter needs to use my Zoom please let me know.

\*Have started visiting chapters.

\*On November 1 Chapter 711 will have a memorial ride for john Anderson.

\*On November 7 will be attending the District 14 American Legion meeting in Fresno.

\*On November 14 we will be having the Area 3 President’s meeting at chapter 3 in Hanford. The meeting will be in person and by Zoom.

* 1. Area 4 VP – Patrick Gadut

e. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*On November 8 Area 5 will have a safety training course at chapter 328 in Norco. Breakfast will be available.

\*The American Legion will have their Area 5 meeting on November 13. All funds from the dinner on Friday night will go to the ALR.

\*Chapters 574 and 460 have added new members. Chapter 460 had an excellent turn out for their poker run.

\*Waiting for the end of year membership report to compare this year with last year as far as membership retention and growth.

\*Have one proposal for the State Rally and one pending.

\*All Area VPs, please send any event info to me so I can get it out and we can work together to support each other.

1. Area 6 VP – Dave Corbin

\*Attended the chapter 348 meeting.  
\*On October 12 did a PGR escort of Samuel Birmingham from LAX to Lancaster.

\*On October 18 cooked hot dogs and gave the money to the post.

\*On October 28, chapter 221 will be doing a birthday ride.

\*No Vietnam Wall to escort this year. On November 1 there will be flags at the Healing Field of Honor. Lino Torres’ name will be on one of the flags.

\*On November 11 there will be a presentation at the Healing Fields of honor.

\*Welcome to the new chapter 790 in West Covina.

\*On November 4 there will be a meeting at Post 30 in Pomona to start a new chapter there.

**15. Committee Reports** -

* 1. Quartermaster – Mike “Patch” Clement
  2. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*On October 1 PayPal accounts went over to the Legion to administer.

\*The website is doing fine.

\*Have been receiving requests to post activities.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*There will be a call-in meeting on October 27 at 6pm.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

\*Was able to help in the training of an officer today.

e. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

\*President Ruiz and all Riders of California,

\*The process is now underway for reviewing and updating the Department bylaws. So far, the areas of focus have been with typo errors, process of up updating bylaws, resolution submission, making the bylaws match what we’re actually doing, and clarification of some of Articles and Sections. A meeting was held on Wednesday, 21 October with committee members and yourself in attendance. We got a good start on this and a clear picture of what we must do. It should take about 3-5 meetings to complete the process. I hope to have the change suggestions to the DEC by December and all the chapters and districts by the end of January. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions. However, any final decisions on change recommendations will come from the committee.

I did some research concerning Resolution 19, which the NEC recently passed. Here is what I found:

ALR Patches: I spoke with the National Chairman Mark Clark. He is very familiar with our patch set-up and has looked at our Uniform Handbook. He really likes what we’ve done and doesn’t see any issues with how we’re wearing them. According to Mark, we will not need to make any changes to our vests behind Resolution 19. Our “flares” are separated enough to meet the criteria of not compromising the copy right of the ALR symbol. I asked about putting the state on the patch and The American Legion to is allowing that to happen.

Concerning titles: Mark told me the history behind the title changes. Currently there are 42 out of 54 Legion departments that have some form of state oversight be t either by committee, commission, or being established as a department. There are six states that use president and one that uses commander. The current National Commander and two past commanders (when they were in office) were pushing for standardization of the ALR program, including titles. This means that all but seven states use either director of chairman. This was the path the NEC opted to follow. The original resolution had harsher verbiage and wanted immediate compliance. The National Chairman for the ALR Council, Mark Clark, with the National Judge Advocate the Legion, got them to amend it so that we would have up to a year to comply.

Here are our options:

Do not comply. If we fail to comply, the National JA could contact our Department Commander which would probably create problems that none of us need.

Comply, leaving us the option to change over to either Director or Chairman. I checked with several other states and director is used a lot more often than chairman. If we do comply, we have two ways of making the change:

* Make the switch to the department bylaws at the state convention. Chapters will probably be updating their bylaws either way, and this would make things easier. Elect the officers for 2021-2022 on all levels with the new titles. All current Presidents will keep their title as will all past presidents.
* Wait until the mandatory date to comply. Since this is not a change in the constitution and bylaws for The American Legion, we would need to make a change at that time which would include the department and all chapters and districts. There is a way to change bylaws between conventions, but it would involve a process that must be followed.
* We could specify in our bylaws that the change would become automatic at a specified date. For the sake of simplicity and continuity, I very highly recommend against doing this.

The next option would be to write a resolution, submitting it through the proper process of going through chapter-area-department. It would need to be well written and create a strong justification for not changing our titles over to the new system. Mark Foxworthy, our Department NEC representative, told me he would do whatever he could to help. I would not expect any other support from the AL-DOC for various reasons. There would be two high hurdles in getting this successfully done. The first would be getting it past the Internal Affairs Commission at National. They would more than likely recommend against it given the history of the situation and broad support for the new titles. The other would be getting it approved by either the NEC or on the national convention floor. With very few departments not currently using either director of chairman, support for passage would most probably not be there.

The final option would be appealing this to the National Judge Advocate. This would need an even stronger case than writing a resolution and nearly impossible to accomplish. Even though we are chartered by the Department of California, we are still a program of the American Legion.

\*Ignacio-Thanks for putting this together. Just to confirm, patches are ok and won’t be changing? The answer is yes. Titles will be changing? Titles don’t make us who we are. Yes, to either Director or Chairman. Those who are Past Presidents or are current Presidents will be able to keep the title of Past President when they step down. All new officers will be either Director or Chairman once decided.

\*Mick-Has been appointed to the National American Legion Riders Advisory Board and is over California, Arizona, Utah and Nevada. There are several clauses in the new resolution that have started a firestorm. One of which is the no exposed weapons clause. There are 17 open carry states. There are 4 department who want to sue National over this. The Sons are able to use the title of Commander but it was refused for the Riders. This is out of order as the Sons mand the Riders are both programs of the Legion. All 55 Departments voted yes to Resolution 19.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Keeping on top of everything coming out of the VA and getting it out to our vets.

\*All of our VPs should be checking the online posted activities. Our post has done 7 missions in the last month.

* 1. Safety Committee – Mike “Monkey” Killion
  2. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Attended the Area 5 President’s meeting.

\*Membership numbers are going up with more Auxiliary members.

\*Each member’s membership number needs to be entered into the online roster.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area 2** | | | |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **252** |  | 2 | 8 | | 10 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | | 8 | | | 2 | | | | 25.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 160 |  | 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** | | | **431** |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **21** |  | 3 | 11 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 305 |  | 3 | 12 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 60 |  | 3 | 14 | | 23 | | | 6 | | | | 26.1% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 66 |  | 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** | | | **840** |  | 5 | 22 | | 29 | | | 8 | | | | 27.6% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | | 27 | | | 6 | | | | 22.2% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 537 |  | 5 | 29 | | 28 | | | 6 | | | | 21.4% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 155 |  | 5 | 30 | | 9 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 148 |  |  |  |  | **110** | | | **36** | | | | **32.7%** | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 39 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **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** | | |  | **2,145** | |  | **# ALR Chapters** | | | | | **96** | |
| # of Active Duty | | | 8 |  | # of Veterans | | |  | 1,424 | |  | # AL Post in CA | | | | | 460 | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL | |  |  | 379 | |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts | | | | | 21% | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX | |  |  | 338 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty | | | | 69 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Attended the presentation of the quilt check at Chapter 328. Great job to Dennis and Kathleen.

\*The 2021 California Legacy Run dates are June 11-13. More information to come.

* 1. Historian – Mick Sobczak

\*Attended the Area 5 President’s meeting. Good to see other officers and VPs present. Posted pics of the event.

\*There will be 2 albums presented to Rey at the 2021 ALR convention for his first year and the continuation year. These will be displayed at the National Legion convention in Phoenix.

\*If you want to argue Resolution 19 then come to the convention as a delegate.

* 1. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

\*Progress

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No report.

* 1. Ways and Means – Dennis OR Kathy McClary

\*The quilt was presented September 25th and the check was presented September 27th to President Ruiz at chapter 328. Chapter 684 also donated a check for $1,500.

\*The Commander of our post will be escorted to deliver longevity pins to 3 of our members for 50, 60 and 75 years.

\*Rob is doing safety training Saturday in Merced at 9am at Not Your Mama’s Church.

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.
   2. Check presented to NC for Legacy Fund for $17,596.29 from the Department of California + a couple checks from Post 43 members. Thank you Jeric Wilhelmsen for pony expressing and presenting.
   3. Update on Uniform Manual – Mike Smith

\*See Sergeant At Arms report.

1. **New Business**
   1. The elephant in the room Resolution 19

\*See Judge Advocate report.

* 1. ALR History

\*Rey has consolidated it and sent it out to DEC. There is space for all Past President’s to put in their history. Most didn’t receive it so Rey will resend.

* 1. Bank Account November 1st?

\*Mick-Hasn’t received the stipend he put in for last year. Rey will check with Leonard.

* 1. NC Visit – The NC and his aid will arrive:
     1. **Sunday December 13th** at SFO NO events scheduled escort to hotel Napa/Solano area.
     2. **Monday December 14th** Day 1. Area 1 – Yountville Veteran’s Home/Travis AFB, Post 165 Social Dinner. Napa/Solano Hotel two nights.
     3. **Tuesday December 15th** Day 2. Area 2 – Alameda CG/SFO Veteran’s Memorial/ Social Dinner return to Napa/Solano Hotel OR move onto the South Bay?
     4. **Wednesday December 16th** Day 3 – Area 2 Palo Alto VA/Santa Clara Social Dinner San Jose/Santa Clara Hotel one night.
     5. **Thursday December 17th** Day 4 - Area 2 Monterey Defense Language Institute/Early Social Dinner Monterey area hotel OR onto SLO hotel one night?
     6. **Friday December 18th** Day 5 Area 6 Vandenberg AFB/Social Dinner Lompoc or Santa Maria area hotel one night.
     7. **Saturday December 19th** Day 6 – Area 6 Camarillo/Woodland Hills activities local area hotel one night.
     8. **Sunday December 20th** NC due to depart LAX No other event scheduled. Escort to Air Port and disburse.
     9. Area 1, 2 & 6 VP’s this schedule may change slightly, however we will be in your area on these days/dates. PLEASE communicate NOW to solicit participation from local chapters and those that are in route. There is plenty of time to organize and commit. IF anyone wants to join me on the entire route you are all welcome, otherwise we will meet along the route.
     10. Area VP’s stay in communication with Department Sgt. At Arms Mike Smith on route suggestions from location-to-location as well as chapters within the vicinity and who could lead the group in the local areas.

\*Rey-Should have a final itinerary in the next few weeks.

* 1. 2021 Quilt, appropriation of funds $760.00 for quilt materials.

\*Rey asked for a mockup picture of the 2021 quilt.

\*Motion to allocate $760.00 for the 2021 California Legacy Run quilt by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Mick Sobczak. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

\*Rider Everlasting-Chapter 28- James Scagliola was a Vietnam Vet and a charter member who passed away 2 weeks ago.

1. **Good of the Riders**

No reports

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 19 November 2020 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:25pm