**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

****



*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

December 17, 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;

**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; AB  **Area 3 VP**-Ralph Wenzinger; **Area 4 VP**-Patrick Gadut; AB **Area 5 VP-**Gene Hobdy;

**Area 6 VP**-Dave Corbin

**Guests:** PP Abert Villa; PP Jim Banakus; A5 Comm Tracy Dalton; A6 Alt VP Cris Molina; Post 30 Commander Roberto Arnold; Ch 30 President Bob Radcliff; Ch 30 Sect. Stephanie Huff.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

Ralph- Per Capita dues due date change.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – November 19th 2020

Motion to accept the November 19, 2020 minutes as electronically transmitted by Fred Branson. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Rey Ruiz

Total Debits $157,835.03

Total Deposits $116,412.78

Current Balance $32,013.17

Actual Bank Balance (statement 11/19/2020) $23,838.34

State Bank Account $50,000.00

PayPal account (State) $1,650.13

Total Bal $83,663.30

Motion to accept the Finance Report as given by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

President’s Report December 17, 2020 I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, or as best as was possible.

* November 22nd attended Proposed Chapter 30 meeting with 12 other members from 328. Officers were elected and installation was conducted.
* November 28th Rode out to for show our support an infirmed rider who is home now, recovering from a diabetic coma. He is up and around and working to full recovery.
* November 30th Attended conference call for the California Legacy Run.
* December 6th attended Chapter 716 Los Alamitos Toys 4 Tots Breakfast.
* December 10th visited with a veteran diagnosed with stage 4 Pancreatic cancer.
* December 13th/14th cooked and worked Post/Chapter 328 Norco Toy drive for free breakfast.
* December 14th delivered all toys donated to the local Fire Department to be distributed within the community.

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

\*We’ve been coming into winter with temperatures below freezing.  
\*Will be pushing to get the rosters updated.

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

\*On 11/22 attended the Pomona Ch 30 elections.

\*On 12/5 & 12/6 was in Area 5. 12/5 at Ch 149 Toy Run; at Ch 555 Toy Run; at Ch 328 Christmas party. On 12/6 at Ch 716 Toys 4 Tots breakfast.

\*Spent time with my sister and signed her boyfriend uo to the American Legion.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Online rosters must show an update in December of January and the member’s 9-digit permanent number must be input to be cleared. Only exception is if a member is new to the Legion, aux or sons. Put in “new” in the number space. Need any help, send an email.

\*Per Capita bills are ready to go. Will update on the 1st before sending out. Due January 31, 2021.

\*Chapter 716 had our Toys for Tots breakfast and with proceeds and donations were able to send $700 to Toys for Tots and $700 to our adopted military family. Thanks to all who were able to come including President Rey Ruiz, SAA Mike Smith and A5 Alt VP Larry Brandt.

\*Area VPs- Please email your reports to me.

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

\*Merry Christmas. We are still locked down and have been closed since March. Several Chapters have been on toy runs.

\*Have been donating to local charities including hospitals, food banks, senior care facilities, etc. Many veterans up here that you don’t see but the food bank sees them.

\*Don’t know how many will be participating in Wreaths Across America since it is different this year.

\*The virus is not a joke. Have had at least 4 people in the area with it. Al Castillo from Ch 77 was in the hospital 6 days with it. Is now home recuperating. Steve Hernandez from Ch 233 was in the hospital and is now home. Still having a hard time.

* 1. Area 2 VP – George Smith

\*Many chapters are involved in the community and with vets.

\*Five people went to welcome a veteran to the area. Had one person from each branch and a patriot.

\*WAA- escorting the trucks to the cemeteries with police escorts. Walmart donated 9 thousand wreaths. It will be very different this year with minimal people at the cemeteries.

* 1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

\*Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, stay safe.

\*Many posts and chapters are shut down. We have been hit hard with the virus and the local hospitals are out of beds.

\*On 11/30 attended the California Legacy Run meeting.

\*On 12/12 Ch 26 and others attended the Bakersfield Toy Run. A 3-day drive by event this year.

\*Every weekend we have been escorting those leaving for Basic Training. Last weekend Santa and Mrs. Claus came to send them off.

\*On 12/19 I will be facilitating the Zoom Area 6 President’s meeting. If you’d like to use Zoom for a meeting, let me know.

\*Waa will be a virtual event at Bakersfield Natl. Cemetery this year.

\*George-Has a Zoom account if anyone needs to use it.

* 1. Area 4 VP – Patrick Gadut
  2. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*Covid has hit hard and many posts are closed.

\*Attended the District 29 Zoom meeting.

\*Ch 574 had a successful Toy Run with many stops.

\*Kudos to the Toy Runs that Chapters 149, 555 and 716 held.

\*Hospitals are full. I will be staying home as much as I can.

\*After Covid- Will be setting up a concert series weekend at Borrego Springs and Chapters 421, 262 and 574 will have rotating open mic nights.

\*The following chapters are needing help. Ch 79’s President and Treasurer are stepping down. Ch 835’s President moved out of state.

\*Will need the link to the Area 6 Zoom meeting.

\*WAA-RNC and Miramar participation is very limited.

\*Ch 289 donated 14 dinners to vets and 10 trees to vets.

* 1. Area 6 VP – Dave Corbin

\*On 12/19 we will be having a Zoom only Area 6 President’s meeting.

\*Cris-In November distributed over 800 meals to families.

\*Participated in a drive by birthday celebration for 102-year-old Irvin LeConte.

\*Post 43 held a holiday drive through event and collected toys for Toys for Tots. Cris was Santa.

\*This coming weekend will be in San Fernando as Santa collecting toys. Stay safe.

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

\*It’s been a slow month for orders. Three orders are in process for chapters 108, 574 and 790. Three orders have been invoiced for chapters 100, 354 and 852. Will be trying to get all in process orders out before Christmas.

\*The Rolling 9’s suddenly lost an active chapter member, Shawn “Grumpy” Rehm. Passed in his sleep. Will be doing a drive by memorial for the family. No services scheduled at this time. He left behind 3 children.

\*Still having in person meetings with distancing and masks.

\*Rey and Debbie asked that Mike look into the cost for having at least the top rocker material be reflective for more safety. He replied that the 3M material can be expensive.

It was mentioned that the HOG chapters have reflective patches. Mike will contact a local chapter to look into it. The Uniform Committee will look into it also.

\*Debbie- With chapters not holding in person meetings, now is a great time to go back to weekly buddy checks.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*Took care of one issue with PayPal.

\*Website is running smooth. Not many requests for postings.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton
* At this time the only dates available for convention are April 23, 24, & 25.
* Most other dates for chapter 69 are booked up for 2021.
* However, they have put in request for any date available in July just in case.
* The local hotels will work with us as needed.
* All vendors can take care of shirts, challenge coins, etc. with a 30-day notice.
* The next meeting in on Monday February 8th at 6 pm.
* This is the Go or no-go date for convention.
* If possible, we would like to get all of our DEC elected officers on this call.
  1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton
* We did not have a meeting this month.
* However, our next Zoom meeting date will be on January 6th at 6pm.
  1. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

President Ruiz and all Riders of California,

Last month I introduced the proposed Department Bylaw changes recommendations being made by the ad hoc committee. I asked for any feedback the DEC membership, including any additional change recommendations being made be emailed to me for committee review or presentation. At this time, I have no additional changes to report. We can discuss any other recommendations at the DEC meeting.

So far, I have seen two copies of two potential resolutions in response to National Resolution 19 addressing the title changes. Both are predicated on the following information:

*The Charter of the American Legion National Constitution and By-laws states under United*

*States Code Title 36, Chapter 217, Section 21704 Powers, subsection (5), “The corporation may- provide guidance and leadership to organizations and local chapters established under paragraph (4), but may not control or otherwise influence the specific activities and conduct of such organizations and local chapters.”*

This law states that National may not “control or influence the conduct” of the chapters. However: *The charter stipulates a corporation’s business purpose, profit or nonprofit status and designation, with name and address, of the company's registered agent. A registered agent is a person who can sign or accept legal documents on behalf of the business.****Other charter information includes data on the company’s assets, board composition, and ownership structure***. (Reference: Investropedia, Laws and Regulations of a Charter). To me, this means that National cannot tell us what specifically what to do, but it can tell us what our structure is. This is because The American Legion Riders is a program of, and is chartered by, The American Legion. In short, they have the right to tell how we will be structured. It is because of this; I believe that neither of these resolutions will be adopted by National. The authors of these resolutions have the right to submit them and still may do so.

I believe we need to decide soon what the next course of action will be so that we can prepare the proposed bylaw changes for convention approval. I think it would be prudent to look at our two options for either using Director or Chairman in our bylaws. Any current or past presidents will retain their titles until the leadership is elected on all levels of the American Legion Riders, DOC starting in the spring of 2022. We can easily make accommodations in our bylaws for the scheduled changes.

At this time, I know of no other pending issues requiring my attention within the Department.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*Hope all are getting the emails about laws being passed.

\*I want to make sure when you meet a veteran to ask if they have registered with their VSO. Many put in a claim, are denied and don’t pursue it anymore.

* 1. Safety Committee – Mike Killon
  2. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Some rosters haven’t been touched since March. Some have only 1 POC listed. There should be a minimum of 2.

\*We need to work on retention. Some members are leaving because they can’t physically ride anymore. They don’t have to leave. They can opt to be voted into retired status.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | | | 191 |  | 1 | 3 | | 6 | | | 1 | | | | 16.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 64 |  | 1 | 4 | | 13 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 36 |  | 1 | 5 | | 23 | | | 2 | | | | 8.7% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 10 |  | 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** | | | **252** |  | 2 | 8 | | 10 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | | 8 | | | 2 | | | | 25.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 161 |  | 2 | 10 | | 15 | | | 1 | | | | 6.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 41 |  | 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** | | | **410** |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **21** |  | 3 | 11 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 293 |  | 3 | 12 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 56 |  | 3 | 14 | | 23 | | | 6 | | | | 26.1% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 61 |  | 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** | | | **848** |  | 5 | 22 | | 29 | | | 8 | | | | 27.6% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | | 27 | | | 6 | | | | 22.2% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 546 |  | 5 | 29 | | 28 | | | 6 | | | | 21.4% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 152 |  | 5 | 30 | | 9 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 150 |  |  |  |  | **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** | | |  | **2,132** | |  | **# ALR Chapters** | | | | | **96** | |
| # of Active Duty | | | 9 |  | # of Veterans | | |  | 1,419 | |  | # AL Post in CA | | | | | 460 | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL | |  |  | 372 | |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts | | | | | 21% | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX | |  |  | 335 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty | | | | 69 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*January 11 at 7pm is the next call-in meeting.

* 1. Historian – Currently Mick Sobczak

\*Went to Post 30 to take pics of the Chapter 30 meeting. Working on the year book.  
\*Progress.

* 1. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

\*Progress

\*Post 149 is still open 7 days a week with limited hours. Must wear a mask coming and going.

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No report. No problems.

* 1. Ways and Means – Dennis or Kathleen McClary

\*Embroidery is done on the quilt. Assembly is taking place. It should be done mid-January. We will be about $150 over budget.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Bank Account update – initial check in the amount of $50,000.00 has been received by Department.
   2. Use of square/tablet for Rally, Convention and other significant events.

\*Rey sent an email to Crystal inquiring about the use of a Square and a tablet for use at Convention, /rally, CLR, etc. She stated there should be no problem using them.

* 1. Uniform Manual update – Mike Smith American Flag & POW/MIA placement

\*Sent an email to the committee. Only received one reply. Will reschedule.

* 1. Bylaws Update – Mark Rice

\*Will be happy to take ideas for any bylaw changes.

\*An inquiry came in about changing the date that member chapter dues are due, about changing the date for when a non-paid member would be taken off the roster and about changing the date chapter per capita is due.

Currently, bylaws state that per capita is due by chapters on or before January 31. Though, it also states that members have until February 1 to pay their chapter dues. As of February 2, they are put on suspension, and can’t be taken off the roster until July 1 for non-payment. This means that chapters pay per capita for a member no matter what for that year.

The change would be…Member chapter dues would be due no later than December 31. Non-paying members would be put on suspension January 1, a letter and email would be sent to the member stating they would have until January 31 to pay. If a member pays by January 31, they would not have to voted back in. A member who doesn’t pay by January 31 would be taken off the roster February 1. The Chapter would then have until February 14 to pay Per Capita.

\*I will update the bylaws with this change and send out to DEC in the next few days. If there are any other suggestions, send them to me. I would like to get the bylaw changes out to the chapters sometime in January.

\*After the bylaws are voted in at convention, there will be a new bylaw template ready within 2 weeks.

\*I will also make a video training session on how to make changes to bylaws and also have it available on paper on the website.

1. **New Business**
   1. Voting on Proposed Chapter 30 Pomona Area 6

Motion to accept Chapter 30, Pomona, as the ALRDOC’s 96th chapter by Dave Corbin. 2nd by Mike Smith. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Support Team patches – what is the proper patch for Support Team members.

\*Rey asked Mick what the proper patch was since this came in under his Presidency. Mike stated that it is a 6x10 inch patch that has “Chapter ??” on the top line and “Support Team” on the 2nd line. A 9-inch member family patch goes above it. Debbie stated that their Support Team member wears a Legion patch above hers because Auxiliary doesn’t have a 9-inch patch. Mick stated that it could be written into the Uniform Manual that all wear the Legion patch. Mike Smith stated they would work on it.

* 1. Do chapters that were voted upon before convention last year have to pay per capita and delegate fees this year?

Debbie had inquired about Per Capita billing for chapters that were new between convention 2019 and the supposed May 2020 convention date. Since there was no convention, do they get billed?

\*There was much discussion. The bylaws state that Per Capita is paid on an annual basis.

\*Motion was made to bill for Per Capita by Bob Perryman. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC with 2 members voting No.

* 1. Re-Designation Resolution – Mark Rice

\*See Judge Advocate Report.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

\*Rider Everlasting- Shawn “Grumpy” Rehm from District 9.

\*Mark Rice asked for prayers for his 99-year-old father who is in a care facility with dementia.

\*Ch 233-Al Castillo-recovering from Covid.

\*Ch 77-Steve Hernandez-recovering from Covid.

\*Debbie asked Mick about Marten Borg. Mick said he had 8 orbital fractures but is doing better.

\*Ch 26 President, Wendell Wammack has serious back problems.

\*Ch 328-Chris Person was in a diabetic coma for a month and a half but is recovering.

1. **Good of the Riders**

\*Rey-Patty McDowell was on the list for liver transplant. Through a controlled diet she was able to be taken off the list.

Bob P.-Donate to your local food bank.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 28 January 2021 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** – Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:44pm