**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Agenda**

January 28, 2021

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

There was a moment of silence for Rider Everlasting Dennis McClary.

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

**Area 6 VP**-Dave Corbin

**Guests:** A5 Commissioner Tracy Dalton; Bob Atchley; Ch 108 P Duane Keckley; A5 Alt VP Larry Brandt; A6 Alt VP Cris Molina; Ch 108 VP Steve Gast; A5 Alt VP John Smartt; PP James Adames.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – December 18th 2020

Motion to approve the December 18, 2020 minute as electronically transmitted by Mike Smith. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

Leonard has been in the hospital and should be released any day.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz
* December 26th Organized and attended a Birthday drive by of a 92-year young WWII Veteran Steve Manzanarez.
* December 30th Attended Final Honors for James Coleman Korea & WWII Veteran 98 years young. This is the father of Chris Colman of Chapter 48 Oxnard.
* January 4th Attended the planning meeting for 2021 State Rally.
* January 5th Attended Chapter 30’s meeting, continue to mentor them along with Dave Corbin.
* January 6th Attended the PPC call.
* January 11th Attended conference call for the California Legacy Run.
* December 24th & January 10th Continue to visit with a veteran diagnosed with stage 4 Pancreatic cancer by-weekly and take supplies to him.
* January 24th Attended the Legion Area 5 meeting in San Diego Post 731.
* January 27th Attended Chapter 149 monthly meeting.
1. **Vice President Report** – Fred Branson

\*Had a good riding day 1.5 weeks ago.

\*Today there is no power, internet or phone.

\*Do buddy checks.

\*February 3-4 is Four Chaplains Day. Will be doing a flag raising. Getting our name in the paper.

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

\*January 10 attended the Ch. 348 meeting.

\*January 14 attended the Uniform Committee meeting.

\*January 16 attended the Legion District 15 meeting.

\*January 28 attended the funeral for Terry Treadwell.
\*Received a Certificate of Appreciation from Ch 716 for attending their Toys for Tots breakfast.

\*Will do live TAPS at any Veteran’s service with a few days notice.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Working on tracking for all areas. Going out daily. Tomorrow I will be assisting the Area VPs by contacting the delinquent chapters.

\*Suspension notices will go out February 1 for non-payment of per capita dues and/or a roster that needs updating. If a chapter has notified me that member’s are having trouble getting the membership numbers to update, I will consider extending the deadline until February 28.

\*We still have chapters that are just taking yearly dues and not verifying that family dues are paid, are not having members fill out a new waiver, and license, registration and insurance are not being verified.

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

\*Not busy.

\*Doing escorts and birthday ride bys.

\*Having virtual meetings.
\*Working with the Chapters on their roster updates and their per capita.

\*Have had several members ill with Covid. Had Ch. 233 member J. J. Jackson’s services yesterday.

\*Do your buddy check.

\*Blown away about Dennis.

1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

\*Held the Area 2 President’s meeting via Zoom. Six of eight chapters attended.

\*Doing some activities and escorts. A few Chapters had Toys for Tots fundraisers. District 10 had 4,000 gifts donated.

\*District 28 helps with a food bank.

\*District 13 President, David Morgan, went to Rider Everlasting.

1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

\*December 19 -Hosted / attended Area 6 Presidents Meeting on Zoom

\*January 9 – Hosted Chapter 328 meeting on Zoom

\*January 11 – California Legacy Run conference call

\*January 16 – Attended 15th District Meeting at Post 779 – Terra Bella

\*January 16 – Hosted / attended Area 6 Presidents Meeting on Zoom

\*January 28 – Attended funeral services for Terry “Trapper” Treadwell, founding member and Past President of Chapter 3, Hanford in Hanford

\*Continuing weekly escorts of recruits leaving for military services from the Bakersfield Armed Forces Recruiting Center

Chapter Activities

\*Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions and Post closures, Chapter activities have been curtailed other than funeral escorts.

Sick /Memorial

\*Chapter Everlasting – Terry “Trapper” Treadwell, Chapter 3 – Hanford

\*Sick – Mike “Papa Mike” Cash, Chapter 684 – Ridgecrest recently underwent surgery related to his motorcycle accident in 2019.

1. Area 4 VP – Patrick Gadut/Rey Ruiz

\*Rey- Patrick is very busy. He is a Lieutenant with the LASD. Is teaching at college and working on his doctorate.

1. Area 5 VP – Gene Hobdy

\*Posts are starting to open up.
\*Individuals are riding, doing escorts and birthday drive bys.

\*David Redd, the Vice President of Chapter 421 has broken his back. Having surgery and is in good spirits.

 \*Will by working on possibly combining 3 chapters into a District.

 \*The Area 5 President’s meeting will be February 14 at 10 am by Zoom.

 \*Will be on the February 7 Convention Committee call in.

 \*Was at the Chapter 149 meeting.

1. Area 6 VP – Dave Corbin

\*It's been a pretty good month so far in Area 6 some of our post are starting to get out and do some short rides. I have asked them to post their rides early enough so that other post can make plans to go and support each other.

\*Now that the state is slowly opening up and more places to eat are coming back. I am hoping to get out and about in area 6 as they slowly reopen.

\*Dec. 19th- I did have my area 6 Presidents meeting by zoom and over all we had a pretty nice turn out and meeting. I again want to thank Ralph for letting me use his zoom account and also all the guest that made the call and for their input as well.

\*Dec. 20th- I did ride with chapter 348 and 311 as we showed support to our local community.

\*Dec. 23rd- I did support a PGR mission to BNC.

\*Dec. 30th- I supported a PGR mission to RNC.

\*Jan. 8th- I supported a PGR mission in Palmdale

\*Jan. 12th- I supported a PGR mission here in Lancaster

\*Jan. 13th- I supported a PGR mission to RNC.

\*Jan.16t- my chapter got out and took a nice ride up around the valley and mountains. I did miss the ride due to COVID contact from previous PGR mission. On the good side no symptoms for me and the bride.

\*Jan.22nd-I supported chapter 348 with an escort for a family member of the riders president Rick.

\*Cris- Mid December participated in a food and gift distribution to 800 people.

\*Attended the Chapter 348 meeting.

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

\*Been slow with the patch process. Emblem Sales had a delay.

\*Need payments from Chapters 421, 328 and 365. Rey stated that Chapter 328 had sent a check to Leonard.

 \*Debbie will check PayPal.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*Resolved some minor problems.

 \*Added Past President notices.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*Next meeting is February 8 at 5pm. Would like DEC on the call. This is a go/no go meeting.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton
		1. Finance Officer

\*Motion to have a Finance Officer for the Past President’s Club by Ken Sutton. 2nd by Dave Corbin.

\*There was much discussion back and forth on the need/no need for a Finance Officer. After this discussion, the motion was rescinded by Ken Sutton.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

President Ruiz and all Riders of California,

It’s been a challenging month. Some issues have flared up in relation to our country’s social and political issues. I firmly believe in the ideal that we all operate under the guidance of our Constitution and Bylaws as Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons and as Riders. They are clear about the image we put out there. They are critical to our organization in weathering the storm and in keeping us moving forward. Everyone should do what they do best for both your parent organization and with the American Legion Riders. People look to us and expect our respect and support of the four pillars. Many current and future citizens are impacted by our deeds and our noble ideal. We do a lot, and we need to stay the course in doing it even better. Now more than ever.

National Resolution 19 requires that we adapt our formal titles to meet the criteria that National has set for us. I am asking the ALR DEC at this meeting to make a decision on whether they prefer “Director” or “Chairman” be put into our bylaw recommendations. The term “President” will be maintained where applicable. Unless something drastically changes with this Resolution, we are bound by it. We have the option of changing it at convention or later just before the deadline. It would take about two months to complete the process whereas it would be much easier at convention.

I plan to release the recommended bylaws revision soon. There will be two copies. One will show all the changes that are being made while the other will be the clean copy we’ll be voting on at convention. Once this goes out, the committee will not make any other recommendations. Any delegate at the convention will have the right to request that a change be made either by resolution or motion on the floor of the convention. I strongly urge that in doing so, it be done by resolution so that we’ll have the supporting information for making the change. I am asking that anyone planning to submit any resolutions, submit them no later than 15 March so they can be reviewed with any necessary changes being made. They should also be submitted through the Chapter and Area and not done freely without good support. Late Resolutions will be accepted, but the prospect of them passing decreases the longer you wait. I plan to put together an email to be sent out to all the Areas and Chapters in Department by the middle of next week.

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

\*A Roll Call vote of the DEC was taken to decide on whether to use the title “Director” or “Chairman”.

Director 5 votes from Bob Perryman, Ignacio Alvarez, Ralph Wenzinger, Gene Hobdy and Dave Corbin vs Chairman 3 votes from Fred Branson, Mike Smith and Mick Sobczak.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

\*The VA is giving Covid vaccines to those 75 and over at this time. When the age requirement changes George will send out a notice.

* 1. Safety Committee – Mike Killion

\*No reports.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | 184 |  | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 16.7% |
| # of SAL | 65 |  | 1 | 4 | 13 | 0 | 0.0% |
| # of AUX | 35 |  | 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** | **242** |  | 2 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0.0% |
| **# of Chapters** | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 25.0% |
| # of Veterans | 157 |  | 2 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 6.7% |
| # of SAL | 38 |  | 2 | 13 | 13 | 1 | 7.7% |
| # of AUX | 47 |  | 2 | 26 | 7 | 1 | 14.3% |
| # of Active Duty  | 3 |  | 2 | 28 | 12 | 4 | 33.3% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **65** | **9** | **13.8%** |
| **Area 3** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | **401** |  | **Area** | **District**  | **# of AL Post** | **# of ALR Chapters** | **%** |
| **# of Chapters** | **21** |  | 3 | 11 | 14 | 4 | 28.6% |
| # of Veterans | 285 |  | 3 | 12 | 14 | 4 | 28.6% |
| # of SAL | 57 |  | 3 | 14 | 23 | 6 | 26.1% |
| # of AUX | 59 |  | 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 | 16 |  | 4 | 19 | 22 | 1 | 4.5% |
| # of SAL | 2 |  | 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** | **813** |  | 5 | 22 | 29 | 8 | 27.6% |
| **# of Chapters** | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | 27 | 6 | 22.2% |
| # of Veterans | 523 |  | 5 | 29 | 28 | 6 | 21.4% |
| # of SAL | 146 |  | 5 | 30 | 9 | 0 | 0.0% |
| # of AUX | 144 |  |  |  |  | **110** | **36** | **32.7%** |
| # of Active Duty  | 33 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **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** |  | **2,078** |  | **# ALR Chapters** |
| # of Active Duty  | 4 |  | # of Veterans |   | 1,379 |  | # AL Post in CA  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL |   |   | 364 |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX |   |   | 323 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty  | 59 |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*Next meeting is February 1 at 8pm.

* 1. Historian – Mick Sobczak

\*Working on the yearbook which will be 2 years long.

* 1. Jr. Past President – Mick Sobczak

\*Mick mentioned that if you have the blue VA card, not the white one, you can go in to the Naval Medical Center at Camp Pendleton and get a Covid vaccine shot without an appointment. This is good for the spouse also. Call first.

\*Cris mentioned that the West LA VA was giving Covid vaccine shots for all vets regardless of age.

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No report is a good report.

* 1. Ways and Means – Dennis OR Kathy McClary

\*Kathleen said that the quilt is being worked on.

\*Rey stated that if there was anything the DEC could do for her, to let him know.

1. **Old Business**
	1. Update of Rosters, Per Capita & Delegate Fees – Debbie Proffitt

\*See Secretary report.

* 1. Use of square/tablet for Rally, Convention and other significant events. Spoke with Crystal and she is working on this for us.
	2. Debit cards for ALR account from AL Department – Rey Ruiz, Cards were ordered and Crystal has them in hand. I had to write and agreement form for responsibilities and usage of the card. Apparently, the Legion didn’t have such a document. Additionally, I put together a Credit/Debit Card Monthly Report. The users, will track the usage of the card monthly and submit report and receipts to Accounts/HR Coordinator Crystal Rangel.
	3. Uniform Manual update – Mike Smith American Flag & POW/MIA placement & Support Team.

On Thursday, January 14, 2021, the Uniform Committee met, via Zoom, with five (5) members present and ex officio member State Vice President Fred Branson, to discuss the three (3) topics tasked by the Department Executive Committee. Source document used were American Legion Riders By-Law, American Legion Riders Uniform Manual and June 15, 2015 DEC call in minutes. The call-in minutes were referenced as this subject was discussed. However, no detail was able to be gleaned, nor was the recorder able to recall the entire content of this particular topic. No weight was given to this document.

The following are the topics discussed:

**WEARING OF AMERICAN FLAG**

DISCUSSION

Verbiage contained within the American Legion Riders (ALR) Uniform Manual versus verbiage within the ALR By-laws. Currently Article XV Section 4, Uniform of the ALR By-laws states, ***“The front of the vest or jacket should have a 50 state American flag patch high on the left-hand side. No other patch or pin will be worn higher than this patch. Such American flag shall not have any wording or other embellishment on or touching the flag except an appropriate gold or black border on or touching the flag, unless expressly approved of by the ALR DOC Executive Committee and Uniform Committee.”***

Verbiage contained within the ALR Uniform Manual Section II Vest/Jacket § 3 (a). American Flag Patch states, states in part, “The Front Designated Uniform Area of the vest or jacket should have a fifty--- star/state United States of America flag patch.”

References:

* The ALR By-Laws
* The ALR Uniform Manual
* Verbiage of ‘should’ versus ‘shall’

CONCLUSION

It is recommended to the DEC a change to the By-Laws be presented at the next ALR convention which would make the wear of the 50 State American flag a requirement. This can be accomplished in making a word change from ‘should’ to ‘shall’ within Article XV, Section 4. If this change is adopted by the membership, the ALR Uniform Manual Section II Vest/Jacket § 3 (a) verbiage would be changed from ‘should’ to ‘shall’.

**WEARING OF POW/MIA or KIA FLAG or PATCH**

DISCUSSION

Section II Vest/Jacket “§ 3 (b). Prisoner of War (POW) Missing in Action (MIA) Patch and/ or Killed in Action (KIA)Patch, of the ALR Uniform Manual currently states, ***“In the front designated uniform area, a Prisoner of War (POW) Missing in Action (MIA) patch and / or a Killed in Action (KIA) patch are recommended and may be placed high on the right hand side of the vest or jacket as worn by the individual. The top edge of the POW/MIA/KIA patch must be slightly lower than the top edge of United States of America flag patch (approximately ¼ inch). No patch or pin will be worn higher than this patch on the right side of the vest.”***

References:

ALR Uniform Manual

Post Officer’s Manual

CONCLUSION

It is recommended to the DEC a change to the By-Laws be presented at the next ALR convention which would make the wear of the POW/MIA or KIA patch, or pin, a requirement. It is not recommended placement be dictated and the current verbiage within the ALR Uniform Manual is sufficient. This recommendation was based upon the American Legion’s commitment to the accountability of our countries POW/MIA’s. For reference the verbiage used for this is included below.

***“A POW/MIA empty chair is placed at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of many American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor!”***

**SUPPORT PATCH/VEST**

DISCUSSION

By-laws and Uniform Manual were reviewed. No authority was noted that would allow for inclusion of a ‘support’ vest was to support this. Discussion was had by inclusion of uniform rules regarding wear of said vest is not supported and would be in violation of the ALR By-laws in relation to one class of member.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

***Section 1. There is one recognized "class" of involvement with the ALR as defined below. All members must be a member in good standing, of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, or The Sons of The American Legion.***

References”

ALR By-laws

ALR Uniform Manual

CONCLUSION

It is not recommended to the DEC to include ‘support’ vest rules at the state level, in the ALR Uniform Manual.

1. **New Business**
	1. Chapter 777 San Bernardino Area 5 revoke charter – Gene Hobdy

\*Chapter 777 and 2 other chapters may work together to become a District. More by the next DEC meeting.

* 1. 2021 Convention – with the committee meeting on the 7th of February, I have already received notice that the City of Hollister Council members do not suggest it taking place. I have already had Bob Perryman check Area 1 for possibilities, in the open areas there isn’t a post large enough to hold convention.
		1. So, what do we do?
			+ 1. Hold a virtual convention?
				2. Roll over another year?

**RESOLVED, by a majority vote of the Department Executive Committee AND a two thirds 2/3 vote of the Chapters, Article VIII section 1 of the Department of California bylaws will be changed to read the following:**

**Article VIII, Section 1. The legislative and appropriate body of the organization shall be a Department Convention which shall be held annually. The time and place of such convention shall be fixed by a vote of a preceding convention but may not grant any date beyond seven (7) years. In the event that a preceding convention has not fixed a time and place for the holding of the next**

**convention, it shall be fixed by the Department Executive Committee at least one hundred and**

**twenty (120) days prior to the date for which the convention shall be called.**

**In the event of a national disaster, pandemic, catastrophic event or order by the President of the United States as well as the Governor of the State of California, The Department Executive Committee may cancel a convention for up to one (1) year if sufficient emergency cause arises.**

* + 1. Being that it reads that the DEC can cancel a convention for one year, is that what we want to do OR do we want to canvas the chapters and get a 2/3 vote of the membership totals and chapters. HOWEVER, the members gave us the authority to do so and if we canvas the membership, when and if this comes up again, we may have set a precedence. Any thoughts?

\*There was much discussion about finding another venue in area 1. None can handle.

Area 2. None. Ralph will see about Area 3. As many of the buildings that might be large enough are County buildings, they are a no go. Bob stated that even if a venue was found, 2 months isn’t enough time to work out the logistics of hotels, etc. Rey stated that he would be good with trying to have a virtual convention. More discussion to come.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

Sick:

 Mike Cash-Ch 684-surgery on hand.

 Dave Reed-Ch 421-surgery on back.

 Leonard Phillips-ALRDOC Treasurer-in hospital.

Rider Everlasting:

 Dave Morgan-D13-President

 J. J. Jackson-Ch 233

 Dennis McClary-Ch 83-Ways and Means Chair/California Legacy Run Quilt

 Terry Treadwell-Ch 3

1. **Good of the Riders**

\*Ralph Wenzinger-Can host a Zoom meeting for up to 100 people.

 -Posted the Chapter 26 annual fundraiser run on April 3.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 25 February 2021 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** - Monique Clemons
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 9:12pm