**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

March 25, 2021

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

**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; **Jr Past**-James Adames; **Safety Officer**-Mike Killian; **Service Officer**-George Smith; EX **Webmaster/Public Relations**-Jim Oxley; **Quartermaster**-Mike Clement;

**Membership/Legacy Run**-Rochelle Billet-Smith; **Convention & Rally/PPC**-Ken Sutton;  **Ways and Means-**Kathleen McClary; **Historian-**Vacant

**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:** PP Jim Banakus; PP Steve Weber; Area 5 Alt VP Larry Brandt; Area 6 Alt VP Cris Molina.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – February 25, 2021

Motion to accept the February 25, 2021 minutes as electronically transmitted by James Adames. 2nd by Gene Hobdy. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

Total Debits $163,831.62

Total Deposits $125,087.78

Current Balance $34,691.58

Actual Bank Balance (statement 11/19/2020) $33,431.58

State Bank Account $50,000.00

PayPal account (State) $16,906.40

Total Balance $101,597.98

Motion to accept the Finance report as given pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Fred Branson. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Presidents Report** – Rey Ruiz

* February 27 – 4 Chaplin’s Ceremony District 29 Garden Grove
* March 3 – Pony Express ALR Cup
* March 7 – Attended District 21 Meeting
* March 9 – PGR Mission for Deputy & Marine Daniel Cortes
* March 11 – Attended Area 1 President’s Meeting
* March 12 – PGR Mission for Armando Vazquez
* March 13 – Attended the AL Spring DEC
* March 14 – Attended Chapter 262 Fontana General Meeting
* March 15 – Attended the California Legacy Call
* March 16 – Attended Flag Line for Dennis McClary at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery
* March 17 – PGR Mission for Ruben Sanchez
* March 17 – Attended Chapter 211 Zoom Meeting
* March 18 – Attended Rally planning meeting
* March 20 & 21 – Attended the AL Area 5 Meeting

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

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

\*The weather cleared up so I washed my bike.

\*Since there is better weather, look for opportunities to hold flag raisings. Send information to the media about what you’re doing and invite the city dignitaries to be there.

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

\*2/4-Attended the Area 5 President’s meeting via Zoom.

\*2/16-had a Uniform Committee meeting.

\*3/13-Attended the Chapter 53 meeting and Bike Show.

\*3/16-Attended the service for Dennis McClary and played TAPS.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

Progress

Thanks to the Committee Chairs and Area VPs sending me their reports.

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

\*The area is starting to open up in the red tier.

\*Chapter 28 has been active.

\*Chapter 130 is selling hats to support Helmets for Heroes.

\*Vietnam Veterans Day-Anthony from Chapter 119 put together a ride to Sacramento to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial there. Bob did all the electrical for the Memorial when it was built.

\*Went to Post 437 in Clear Lake. Will have all their paperwork for a new chapter by the next meeting. They are very unique and will be an active chapter.

1. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez

\*Held an Area 2 President’s meeting in March thanks to Ralph.

\*Posts in Area 2 are beginning to open up.

\*Rides are picking up.

\*Chapter 105 has done 13 PGR missions.

\*April 17, the USS Oakland will be commissioned at the terminal.

\*In person meetings are starting to happen.

\*Will be in Sanger April 10 for Doc Bart’s service.

1. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

Events / Meetings Attended-

March 2 – Chapter 26 Dinner ride / surprise birthday celebration for Rochelle

March 11 – Area 1 Presidents Meeting

March 15 – California Legacy Run Committee

March 20 – District 15 meeting

March 20 – Area 2 Presidents Meeting

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

continue to be curtailed to mostly funeral escorts. Hopefully as counties in the

San Joaquin Valley move to the red tier, chapter activity will start up.

Other

I am putting together an Area Ride to Sanger on April 10 for Doc Bart’s memorial /

celebration of life at Department of California Headquarters.

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

\*Attended the Chapter 328 meeting and presented the Mileage cup.

\*Attended the Area 5 Legion meeting.

\*Attended the Chapter 53 meeting and Bike Show.

\*Area 5 chapters are opening up for meetings and activities.

\*Attended the Area 6 Chapter 30 meeting in Pomona. They will be partnering with Area 5 Chapter 262 for a Poker Run.

\*Attended the Chapter 421 meeting.

\*Attended a meeting at Post 60 in Brawley. Should have their paperwork by the April meeting.

\*Will be working on combing 3 Chapters into a District.

\*Working with chapters to get Delegate Reports and Year End Reports in.

\*Will start emailing the Area 5 report to Debbie.

1. Area 6 VP – Dave Corbin

\*March 4th...supported a PGR escort in Palmdale.

\*March 10th…I went to the post 311 post meeting the first one since November.

\*March 11th…the 311 riders had our first in person meeting since the end of last year. The area 5 VP attended our meeting.

\*March 17th…I attended the Chapter 211 zoom meeting and presented them with the certificate for most miles ridden in 2019-2020 with no accidents.

\*March 20th...I rode with 311 and met up with chapter 43 for a birthday ride by for a Korean War hero and purple heart

recipient in Inglewood.

\*March 25th...I rode in a birthday ride by for one of our local Vietnam era veterans that turned the big 90 today. He was also a Navy and an Army veteran.

\*I had lunch with Lino's bride and she has set the date for his service. She will be having his service on Monday April 19th at 1400. The service will be at 1400 that afternoon at Bakersfield National Cemetery. She wants to have the people attending meet at our post 311 they will be having coffee and breakfast served by our post for a small fee... After the service there will be a celebration of life back at our post where the 311 riders will serve his favorite beer and a Taco catering service for all who can make it after the service. This will be FREE to all that can make it paid for by the 311 riders. I will post all the final plans when I get them complete.

\*Chapter 311 lost our past Chaplin Wayne Sirex two weeks ago due to cancer he fought for two years and sadly lost his battle.

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

\*Need to order more center patches from Emblem Sales.

\*Fred-Will there be any more sweatshirts. Mike explained that he would need to get an ok from Emblem Sales, Debbie asked why permission was needed when the same shirts were being made. Mike explained that they had previously been granted permission for 100 shirts. Will need permission for more quantity.

\*If there is any interest in any kind of clothing, do a mock up and let Mike know.

\*Mike stated that there is interest in more RED Friday shirts.

\*James Adames asked about moral patches that are put on by Velcro. Patch asked him to send pics of what he wanted.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

\*The website is going good.

\*PayPal notifications are hit and miss.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Ken Sutton

\*Nothing new for convention.

\*Will be virtual July 16-18, 2021. DEC officers and invited Committee Chairs will be in Sanger. All others will be attending by whatever virtual platform will be used.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

\*Getting more participation.

\*Doing more training of officers where needed.

\*Would like someone to be a representative to the DEC. Rey will check with a few people.

* 1. Judge Advocate Report – Mark Rice

President Ruiz and Riders of California,

This past month sees the current challenges continuing. On 22 March, a leadership conference was held between TAL-DOC and the ALR-DOC key leadership in addressing some of the issues that have surfaced concerning the situation at Chapter 149 and the Riders in general. The Post is proceeding at dealing with the issue and the ALR is in support. Specific details are not available, but I want to reassure that all concerns are being addressed. The most important thing is that a culture of mutual respect and support is being fostered at this time between the parent organization and its subsidiary.

Since last month, I received confirmation that the ALR will be able to conduct the virtual convention as scheduled July 16-18, 2021. The Department has chosen a platform and as soon as I can, I will help us start working with company with seeing what we can do and what it will cost. The Convention Committee needs to start putting together a schedule and list of specific needs at this time so we can get a quote.

I know that they proposed ALR Department Bylaws revision has been distributed. Due to requirements of The American Legion National Bylaws, there will need to be one more change implemented to the revision which is required. The change will be implemented and voted on at the convention with advance notice being given prior to the convention.

One of the goals for the TAL-DOC is to develop and implement an Administrative Hearing/Trial Manual which will be used by The American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders in California universally. Again, this is because of the National Bylaws. The required changes will require a change in all the Chapter Bylaws following the convention. Again, and updated sample and Chapter bylaws training will be available fooling the convention to help make this as easy as possible for everyone to update their bylaws.

There are no other issues pending that I am aware of at this time.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith
  2. Safety Committee – Mike Killion

\*Area 5 safety course is June 19 from 9am-2pm ant Chapter 328 in Norco.

* 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 | | | 182 |  | 1 | 3 | | 6 | | | 1 | | | | 16.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 65 |  | 1 | 4 | | 13 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 37 |  | 1 | 5 | | 23 | | | 2 | | | | 8.7% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 6 |  | 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** | | | **229** |  | 2 | 8 | | 10 | | | 0 | | | | 0.0% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | | 8 | | | 2 | | | | 25.0% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 147 |  | 2 | 10 | | 15 | | | 1 | | | | 6.7% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 38 |  | 2 | 13 | | 13 | | | 1 | | | | 7.7% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 44 |  | 2 | 26 | | 7 | | | 1 | | | | 14.3% | |  |  |
| # of Active Duty | | | 3 |  | 2 | 28 | | 12 | | | 4 | | | | 33.3% | |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **65** | | | **9** | | | | **13.8%** | |  |  |
| **Area 3** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | | | **400** |  | **Area** | **District** | | **# of AL Post** | | | **# of ALR Chapters** | | | | **%** | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **21** |  | 3 | 11 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 282 |  | 3 | 12 | | 14 | | | 4 | | | | 28.6% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 58 |  | 3 | 14 | | 23 | | | 6 | | | | 26.1% | |  |  |
| # of AUX | | | 60 |  | 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** | | | **799** |  | 5 | 22 | | 29 | | | 8 | | | | 27.6% | |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | | | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | | 27 | | | 6 | | | | 22.2% | |  |  |
| # of Veterans | | | 512 |  | 5 | 29 | | 28 | | | 6 | | | | 21.4% | |  |  |
| # of SAL | | | 143 |  | 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** | | |  | **2,050** | |  | **# ALR Chapters** | | | | | **96** | |
| # of Active Duty | | | 6 |  | # of Veterans | | |  | 1,353 | |  | # AL Post in CA | | | | | 460 | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL | |  |  | 362 | |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts | | | | | 21% | |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX | |  |  | 323 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty | | | | 58 | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

\*The go/no go decision date is at the April 5 meeting.

\*Since the chapter 26 run has been postponed, if you want a reimbursement contact me.

\*Attended the District 15 Legion meeting.

\*Attended the Area 2 President’s meeting via Zoom.

\*Have been on Sunday rides to escort new recruits.

* 1. Historian – Vacant
  2. Jr. Past President Acting – James Adames

Progress.

* 1. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman

\*No reports from chapters or posts. Anticipating one in the future.

* 1. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

\*The CLR quilt is at the quilter. Once back, will put the binding on it.

\*May need to contact Emblem Sales to extend the time to sell tickets.

1. **Old Business-**
   1. Debit Card Update – Debbie and/or Leonard

\*Debbie stated that Crystal had called and asked for the closest Wells Fargo branch. Crystal stated that once the new bank account was open, she would call with the date and time to go in and sign paperwork. Have heard nothing so far.

\*Leonard stated the same. He also said that state would have to update the PayPal account.

* 1. Support Team Patch update – Mike Smith

Recommendations…

The American Legion Riders (ALR) Department of California (DOC) Uniform Committee met on 02/16/2021, and discussed the following recommendation for wear of a Support Patch for CA DOC ALR chapters.

1. A Support Team member is an American Legion family member (i.e.- T.A.L., S.A.L. or Auxiliary) who does not meet membership requirements to be an American Legion Rider, but who has volunteered and helped their ALR chapter to further the American Legion and ALR.
2. The designation of a Support Team member is awarded by the chapter members with majority approval.
3. The award can be a patch set or shadow box.
4. The designation of Support Team member does not create another class of American Legion Rider; subsequently a Support Team member is not an ALR member, has no voice, no vote and cannot be added to a chapter’s roster as a member.
5. If a Support Team member elects to purchase and wear a vest/jacket it is recommended:
6. The American Legion patch and Support Team member patch be worn on the back of the vest/jacket.
7. When applying patches/pins to the front of the vest/jacket, the ALR DOC Uniform Manual should be consulted for appropriateness. To ensure no confusion of membership status is conveyed, no patch that may designate the wearer to be a member of the ALR should be worn on the front of the vest.
8. Below is the representation of the back of the Support Team member vest/jacket.



**CHAPTER XXX**

**SUPPORT TEAM**



\*Debbie asked why there were no size recommendation for the patch. 3” x 10” and/or 6” x 10” needs to be added.

* 1. Delegate Report & End of Year Report update – Debbie Proffitt

Delegate reports are all in. End of Year reports are due April 1.

Certification of Officers is due July 31.

* 1. Pony Express for ALR Cup is complete and home for the next year.

At Chapter 328 in Norco.

* 1. Reflective Flares – I asked Patch if we could compare pricing for the reflective material for flares vs. reflective stitching – Patch

\*Did research on reflective material vs reflective thread. Looked at reflective gray material. After a few times being worn, the material will usually start to crack and then start to peel off. This wouldn’t be acceptable as a rider would have to constantly buy new flares. Reflective thread is made of a glass type product with the reflectiveness bonded to it. This would be durable.

\*Rey has a prototype vest with the reflective thread. He will put the patch set out in the elements for a few weeks to see about how it holds up and report back. A set will be made for the Epic Run riders as they will be gone for 3 to 4 months and then we will see how the thread lasts long term.

\*Bob reiterated that the patch set would be voluntary.

* 1. Resources Tab on website – Thank you Jim

1. **New Business-**
   1. Resignation of Area 5 Alternate VP Ron Huff

Motion to accept the resignation of Area 5 Alternate VP Ron Huff by Larry Brandt. 2nd by Dave Corbin. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Acceptance of the return of the Chapter 777 charter.

Motion to accept the return of the Chapter 777 charter and close Chapter 777 by Larry Brandt. 2nd by Dave Corbin. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Sick / Memorial**-
   1. Ed Baddeley- Chapter 848 San Jacinto- is in the hospital.
   2. Ryan Sparks- Chapter 31- rider everlasting from a motorcycle accident.
   3. Mick Sobczak- is ill from sepsis from a dental procedure. He is home recuperating.
   4. Wayne Sirex- Chapter311- rider everlasting from cancer.
   5. Mike Cash- Chapter 684- has sepsis in his right hand.
   6. Robert Lassotovitch- Chapter 20- is ill
   7. Wendell Wammack- Chapter 26- is ill
2. **Good of the Riders-**

\*March 29-National Vietnam Veterans Day.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 22 April 2021 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** – VP Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – President Rey Ruiz @ 8:43pm