**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

December 16, 2021

1. **Call to Order** – Legion Area 4 Vice Commander Nick Rosa @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Fred Branson
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Legion Area 4 Vice Commander Nick Rosa
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Legion Area 4 Vice Commander Nick Rosa
5. **ALR Preamble** – Legion Area 4 Vice Commander Nick Rosa
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**President** - vacant

**Vice President** – vacant

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – vacant

**Treasurer** - Leonard Phillips EX

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Fred Branson

**Judge Advocate** - vacant

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz EX

**Safety Officer** - Mike Killion EX

**Service Officer** - George Smith AB

**Webmaster/Public Relations** - Jim Oxley

**Quartermaster** - Mike Clement EX

**Membership/ Legacy Run** - Rochelle Billet-Smith

**Convention & Rally** – Mike Smith

**PPC** - Ken Sutton

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Historian** – John Smartt EX

**Parliamentarian-**James Adames

**Area 1 VP** – Pete DePalma EX **Area 2 VP** – Robert Lopez              

**Area 3 VP** - Ralph Wenzinger **Area 4 VP** – Joel Lopez

**Area 5 VP** – Edmund Arguello AB **Area 6 VP** – Cris Molina

**Guests:** Legion Area 4 Vice Commander Nick Rosa; A2 Vice D Mike Picazo; A6 Alt Vice D Stephanie Huff; A6 Vice D Penni Brown; Mark Rice Ch 383; JR Voss Ch 383; Bob Atchley Ch 20; Kathleen Neubauer Ch 77; Ed Caler Ch 82 Vice D; Bob Radcliff Ch 30.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – October 28, 2021 and November 18, 2021

Motion to accept the October 28, 2021 and November 18, 2021 minutes as electronically transmitted by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total Debits | 16,084.25 |
| Total Deposits | 26,706.04 |
|  |  |
| Current Balance | 75,986.13 |
| State Bank Account | 76,594.11 |
| Union Bank Account | 13,430.86 |
| PayPal account (State) | 6,313.03 |
| Total in all accounts | 96,338.00 |

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as read by Ralph Wenzinger pending audit. 2nd by Joel Lopez. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Director’s Report** –vacant
2. **Vice Director’s Report** – vacant
3. **Sgt. At Arms’ Report** –vacant
4. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Tracking for online roster updating is going out to the Area Vice Directors and Alt Vice Directors weekly.

Rosters need to show a December or January update.

\*Voting for ALR DEC positions was extended through midnight January 13, 2022.

\*Tabulations and presentation of votes will be on January 14, 2022.

\*The winners should expect a link to join the virtual Legion DEC on January 17, 2022 to be sworn in.

\*Background checks on nominees who accepted have begun.

\*All current chapter officers must have paid their Legion, SAL or Auxiliary dues by December 31 to be in good standing and stay an officer. All family dues are due December 31, 2021.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. Area 1 VP – Pete DePalma/Michael Picazo

Events / Meetings

Attended Joined Fair Oaks Chapter 383 Auburn Chapter 84 for the ride out to the Nevada County Toy Run. Chapter 83 was nice enough to put of Coffee & Donuts for us

Chapter Activities

Chapter 383 participated in Nevada County Town Run on Dec 11th

Chapter 521 participated in the Nevada County Toy Run on Dec 11th

Chapter 84 participated in the Nevada County Toy Run on Dec 11th

Chapter 119 participated in the Nevada County Toy Run on Dec 11th

1. Area 2 VP – Robert Lopez
2. Area 3 VP – Ralph Wenzinger

Events / Meetings Attended

November 22 – ALRDOC election planning committee meeting

November 29 – Special meeting of Department of California DEC regarding ALRDOC

December 4 – Assisted Auxiliary Unit 26 pack 100 bags of Christmas toys

December 5 – Weekly send-off / escort of recruits leaving for basic training Bakersfield

December 6 – California Legacy Run committee meeting

December 7 – Attended Pearl Harbor Day ceremony, Bakersfield

December 7 – Attended Chapter 100 – Lemoore monthly meeting

December 12 – Bakersfield Toy Run

Chapter Activities

Chapter 88 – Turlock continues to host a fundraiser breakfast the first Sunday of the month.

Chapter 83 – Merced continues to host a fundraiser breakfast the third Sunday of the month (dark for December – will return in January)

1. Area 4 VP – Joel Lopez

\*Attended Chapter 184 special meeting with Nick Rosa Area 4 American Legion Vice Commander. All chapter members receiving their patches.

\*Attended LAPD Christmas Car Show toy drive at The Los Angeles Police Academy.

\*Attended and participated in the tamale fest at the American Legion post 139 Alhambra along with Department Commander Autrey James and Area 4 Vice Commander Nick Rosa                     
\*Attended district meeting 19 held at American Legion Post 804 East Los Angeles.

\*Attended Los Angeles County council meeting Add post 804 East Los Angeles.

\*Participated Escorting from LAX to San Fernando Mission Cemetery The remains of F1C Fireman U.S. Navy Hiskett Denis H. Who died on the USS Oklahoma December 7, 1941. His remains were brought to his family after 79 years one day before its 80th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

\*Participated in the Christmas toy giveaway miracle on first Street at the Hollenbeck youth center in East Los Angeles.

\*Attended ALR Chapter 184 greet and meet breakfast in American Legion post 184 Redondo Beach.

\*Attended memorial ceremony in the city of Monterey Park California for Pearl Harbor attack victims and Nanjing massacre in China. We also provided a color guard at that ceremony.

\*December 7-14 Participated in Stuffing over 500 Christmas Stockings for our annual giveaway at Brooklyn Elementary school in East Los Angeles.

\*December 15 participated in the Christmas stocking giveaway at Brooklyn elementary school in East Los Angeles.

\*December 15 participated in the Escort along with ALR Chapter 43 of the American Legion National Commander from Camarillo to American Legion Post 43.

1. Area 5 VP – Edmund Arguello

Events/ Meetings Attended

NOV 27-Attended the District 25 Meeting at Post 112, Ontario

DEC 1- Vista Bike Night at Post 365, Vista (Smartt)

DEC 5 – Cooked Breakfast for Post 852, Temecula (Smartt)

DEC 11 – Attended the Christmas Wreath Sales Event at Post 852, Temecula (Smartt)

DEC 10– Attended Potluck Dinner at Post 149, Escondido (Smartt)

Area Chapter Activities

Since the 15th, chapters participating in the National Commander’s Escort for his visit to California

Wreaths across America will be on 19 DEC 2021 to RNC

-Chapter 229 donated 10 Wreaths

-Ch 229 Member, “Flash” donated another 10 Wreaths

1. Area 6 VP – Cris Molina

RECENT GOINGS ON: -

-Chapter 48 participated in the SoCal Burn Ride, the Area 6 Presidents Meeting and the IMS SoCal Outdoors Show. They volunteered over 22 hours and rode over 500 miles.

- Chapter 30 continues to support Patriot Guard escorts. They assisted Chapter 180 as well as their post family in cleaning up and placing flags at a cemetery in Barstow. They will be supporting a Chapter with escorting toys to a family in need on the 19th. I was unable to report on this last month but the Chapter 30 Meet & Greet was a success and well-attended. I won 3 of them.

- Chapter 211 – Attended the Area 6 Presidents (now Directors) meeting. They attended Salute to the Vets birthdays and drive-bys. Provided escorts for funerals. In December they attended the Annual Lompoc Christmas Parade and Toys for Tots runs.

- Chapter 311 led the way for the AV Mobile Vietnam wall escort and had a hand-off in Area 5. They did a great job as always. On November 14th they hosted the Area 6 Directors (Presidents) meeting and served up BBQ beef sandwiches. They participated in various PGR escorts. They participated in the Lancaster Christmas Parade on December 4th. On December 17th they are presenting their local Veterans Home with a $500 movie gift card. On December the 18th they are doing Wreaths Across America at the Lancaster Cemetery. On a personal note… former Alt Area 6 Vice Director, Dave Corbin, is relocating to Texas. I want to thank him for his incredible guidance and support during his time in both those positions. His presence will be VERY missed in Area 6.

- Chapter 534 participated in multiple Toys for Tots rides, two Christmas Parades (Lompoc & Solvang) and will be leading a car train through Orcutt celebrating Christmas. They look forward to doing more in 2022!

- Area 6 had their Presidents (now Directors) meeting on 11/14 hosted by Chapter 311 in Lancaster. Chapter 311 did a fantastic job pre-preparing a sign-in sheet and even an agenda! They are awesome! The food was great and the turnout is the highest I have seen for an Area Directors meeting. I am very proud of that! I also attended the Chapter 30 Meet & Greet, which I was unable to report on last month. The event was well-attended and very well put together. I won 3 of the gift baskets and was presented with a beautiful certificate from the Chapter. The Sunday after Thanksgiving, I participated in the Hollywood Christmas Parade as part of my Auxiliary Unit’s annual invite. I was allowed to wear my vest as I walked down Hollywood Blvd so hopefully, you’ll catch a glimpse of the vest when it airs.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AREA 6:

- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

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

All good.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

The website is working smoothly.

I have been working with Debbie on the nominee section of the Resources page.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Mike Smith

On December 8, 2021, the Convention and Rally Committee met via Zoom. Present at the meeting were Mike Smith, Convention and Rally Chair, Debbie Proffitt, ALR DOC Secretary, Calvin Chaney Chapter 229 President.

Discussed during this meeting was:

Hotels:

Holiday Inn Victorville (Host Hotel)

2 miles from SB Fairgrounds

Block of 40 Rooms reserved at $109 for Friday and Saturday nights

Hilton 2 Suites

Block of 10 rooms being negotiated at $129 for Friday and Saturday nights. Will need to call in with code, which is pending

3 miles from SB Fairgrounds

Hilton Garden Inn

Block of 10 rooms at $111 for Friday and Saturday nights

3 ½ miles from SB Fairgrounds

RV Parking at the SB Fairgrounds

20 full-hook up spots @ $30 per night

10 spots w/electricity. Water will be looked into

Convention Flyer – being worked on.

T-shirt Design – in progress. Manufacturer has copyright privileges from American Legion

Meals

Saturday night meal of Tri-tip and sides @ Adelanto Post. $10

Lunch for Saturday and Sunday provided by Jimmy John’s

Miscellaneous

Will have a 50/50

Opportunity drawings by AUXILARY/POST/SONS OF 229 AND AUXILARY 256. BASKETS ETC

Registration

Cost remained projected to be between 55 and 65. This is dependent upon costs of T-shirt, coins and meals

Venue

Cost remains at $2865.

Access to room will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Building will be open at 0700 for set-up, etc.

Breakout areas were discussed. The venue does not have individual rooms, but they are willing to work with us and get areas worked out. Calvin Chaney will be looking into the logistics of this.

A stage can be set-up.

PA system is being looked into

Dignitaries

Invitation of dignitaries was discussed. Invitation of T.A.L. Commander, Leading Candidate for T.A.L. Commander, Auxiliary and S.A.L. will be made by ALR DOC. Invitation of local dignitaries will be made by Chapter 229 Convention Committee

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

No report because there was no meeting.

* 1. Judge Advocate – vacant
  2. Service Officer – George Smith
  3. Safety Officer – Mike Killion
  4. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

Not much change.

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

Working on the routes.

* 1. Historian – John Smartt

Progress

* 1. Jr. Past President – Rey Ruiz
  2. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman
  3. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

Working on getting the Area 1 tickets to Area 1.

Ticket sales are going well.

Will be putting out an email blast to all Legion Post Commanders.

1. **Old Business**
   1. Updating Uniform Manual for gender correct designations. Title changes will have to be made also.
   2. Report from – ADHOC committee lead by Cris Molina our Area 6 VP. ALR Calendar

Fundraiser.

I have been in touch with Patch. Have been discussing the layout. Patch will get pictures from the northern part of the state and I will get pictures from the southern part of the state.

* 1. Written procedures for the process of revoking a chapter/district charter.
  2. Written procedures for the number of Alternate Area Vice Presidents/Directors an area is allotted.
  3. Convention shirt 2021-

1. **New Business**

James Adames-For those who are Past Presidents and Past Secretaries you can request a separate ballot from the Secretary to vote separately if you so choose. If you do so, inform your chapter.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

Ill/injured:

Sick - Phillip “Tiny” Stuart, Chapter 872 – Hughson and Past Commander of the SAL Detachment of California, cancer diagnosis

Sick – Earl Sieler – Chapter 221 – Tehachapi, long term illness

Post 716 Commander Vincent Collins has pneumonia.

Rider Everlasting:

1. **Good of the Riders**

Debbie Proffitt- Chapter 716 had their Toys for Tots breakfast and raised $3,000. Thanks to all who made it a success.

Ralph Wenzinger- Please consider looking at the following before riding or driving:

Caltrans Road Information page at roads.dot.ca.gov (input a highway number for conditions)

CHP communications centers page at cad.chp.ca.gov (for central valley look at Bakersfield, Fresno, Merced, and Stockton centers for current calls/collisions and hazard reports)

My nephew is in the Marine Corps and will be Commissioned this weekend in San Diego. We are very proud of him.

Edmund Arguello- The Four Pillars of the American Legion are- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. In accordance with our organizations founding, it should be the responsibility of every officer to be the stewards of the programs offered by the American Legion as well as “strive to become the source of Legion History and Knowledge”. (2016 Officer’s Guide, p. 4)

Pete DePalma- I wanted to bring an issue to the attention of the DEC regarding Rider Alex LÖser Even as Alex has been riding for a year, he has been in fear of the highway. On Veterans Day he chose to participate in the Ride to Jackson for the Veterans Day Parade Highway and it was his first time on the Highway. As I was sweep, I stayed in back with Alex in front of me. As we went out Hwy. 49, he never exceeded 30 miles per hour, It was extremely unsafe. Once we finally arrived, he shared that he was terrified. He then entered into words with those leading the ride demanding the entire group ride at his speed all the way back which we obviously could not do as it would threaten the well-being of other riders. I spent about an hour on messenger explaining the above to him and even made suggestions for how he could improve his skills. It ended with him insisting that ALR not being for him. I told him that it was his decision to make but the door was open. He has since unfriended myself and others and has now caused conflict at his post where he has now chosen to move his membership to Folsom from Rancho Cordova where I fear he will cause more conflict. He is currently Vice Director of Rancho Cordova Post 709 and is proceeding to do things that are not normal procedure for ALR such as telling the Commander of another post that he is holding his chapters ALR meeting at their post rather than his own. I have put a call into his Director, but have not received a return call as of yet. I am dealing with it by wanted to make sure that DEC was in the loop.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 27 January 2022 1900 or 7:00 PM
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – Nick Rosa @ 7:45pm