**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

March 24, 2022

1. **Called to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – George Smith
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Director Mike Smith
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Director Mike Smith
5. **ALR Preamble** – Director Mike Smith
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – Larry Brandt-EX

**Treasurer** - Leonard Phillips

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Fred Branson-EX

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

**Jr Past** – vacant

**Safety Officer** - Mike Killion

**Service Officer** - George Smith

**Webmaster/Public Relations** - Jim Oxley

**Quartermaster** - Mike Clement-AB

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

**Convention & Rally** – Mike Smith

**PPC** - Ken Sutton

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Historian** – John Smartt-AB

**Parliamentarian-**James Adames-EX

**Area 1 VD** – Pete DePalma **Area 2 VD** – Robert Lopez

**Area 3 VD** – Paul LaPierre -EX **Area 4 VD** – Joel Lopez

**Area 5 VD** – Edmund Arguello-AB **Area 6 VD** – Cris Molina

 **Guests:** Robert Partlow Ch 146; Paul Swanson Ch 460; Andrew Trapani Ch 105; Mike Picazo D 13;

Robert DeLuna Ch 69; Ed Caler Ch 82; Pete Torrecillas Ch 69; PP Steve Weber Ch 48; PP Mick Sobczak Chapter 53.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – February 24, 2022

Accepted with no corrections or additions.

1. **Financial Report** – Leonard Phillips

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total Debits | 19,870.75 |
| Total Deposits | 40,928.50 |
|  |  |
| Current Balance | 84,164.52 |
| State Bank Account | 65,285.31 |
| Union Bank Account | 12,112.21 |
| PayPal account (State) | 19,283.15 |
| Total in all accounts | 96,680.67 |
| Administrative purchases have been paid.Have paid the Quartermaster invoices.Motion to accept the financial report and budget update as electronically submitted pending audit by Leonard Phillips. 2nd by Cris Marie. Passed by vote of DEC. |  |

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith
* Not a big month for travel. Mostly meetings being conducted.
* 3/9 - Zoom Convention Meeting
* 3/11 - Zoom Ad-hoc Bylaws Committee Meeting
* 3/12 - Traveled to Turlock for Area 3 Meeting
* 3/13 - Traveled to Santa Maria for Spring D.E.C.
* 3/21 - Zoom Legacy Run Meeting
* 3/22 - Zoom Ad-hoc Bylaws Committee Meeting
* 3/23 - Zoom Convention Meeting
* Upcoming traveling to Santa Clara for Area 2 Meeting on 3/26
1. **Vice Director’s Report** – Ralph Wenzinger

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following: March 1 – Site check San Bernardino County Fairgrounds for ALRDOC Convention March 11/12 – TAL Spring DEC in Santa Maria March 14 – Attended Recruit Escort Ride, Bakersfield Armed Forces Recruiting Center March 21 – Attended California Legacy Run Committee meeting March 23 - Attended Convention Committee meeting

 Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

 Fundraiser breakfast at Chapter 26 - Bakersfield

Fundraiser breakfast at Chapter 88 – Turlock first Sunday of the month

 Fundraiser breakfast at Chapter 83 – Merced third Sunday of the month

Events planned for the months to come: Plan on attending Area 2 meeting in Santa Clara – March 26 In addition to the upcoming ALRDOC Convention, I will be participating in the California Legacy Run in June.

1. **Sgt. At Arms Report** – Larry Brandt

Attended the area 3 Vice Director’s meeting in Turlock. Introduced myself as the new SAA and what that position does. At present going over the Uniform Manual pointing out 2020 was the last time it was looked at and commented there will be no changes till after the bylaws have been completed.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

\*Went to Victorville with the crew to help nail down details for the convention.

\*I am missing a lot of reports for this meeting.

\*Delegate fees are due today. If not received, a notice of probation will go out to the chapter and the post commander tomorrow. Probation means a chapter can still operate but can’t seat delegates for convention.

\*Delegate reports are due Tuesday, March 29. Same as above.

\*Year end reports are due April 1. Same as above. On April 2 I will email each area Vice D with the YERs that I have received.

\*For delegate and DEC check in at convention, a delegate must have their beret, compliant vest, family card and rider card all with them at the same time or they will not be checked in. Each delegate and DEC member will be required to do the delegate dance. Delegates need to get their rider card from one of their chapter’s POCs. Family cards will need to be gotten from the post, unit or squadron. I do not have the ability to look up and print family cards.

\*Check in starts Friday at 1pm until the end of the DEC meeting. Saturday from 7-8:15am and Sunday from 7:30-8:15am.

\*Chair numbers have been printed and laminated. DEC table name plaques have been printed. Charters have been printed. Name badges need to be printed but I can’t do those until all delegate rosters have come in.

\*Any officer giving a report at the pre-convention meeting and at convention needs to email those reports to me no later than the Tuesday before convention. April 19. No wiggle room there.

\*Tomorrow I will email the area caucus reports to each Vice D. Please do not just put names down. If there end up being blank areas the Vice Ds can canvas the chapters for committee members after convention and send those names in. The caucus reports are to be given to me right after the caucus ends on Saturday. Take a picture of the pages before you turn them in. They will be scanned and emailed back to you to work on after convention.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. Area 1 Vice D – Pete DePalma

Events / Meetings Attended

No Events Attended

Chapter Activities

Chapter 383 rode to the Almond Festival in Esparto CA on Feb 26th, 2022

Chapter 383 joined the PGR on Sat. March 5th, 2022 for Ceremony for Marine CWO3 David Field

1. Area 2 Vice D – Robert Lopez

Having issues with Chapters getting stuff in.

Chapters have been on many missions.

Multiple chapters participated in Operation Surf.

1. Area 3 Vice D – Paul LaPierre/Ken Sutton

Held the Area 3 meeting at Post 88 in Turlock on March 12th. It was well represented and all riders safely returned.

Have only received 1 chapter’s annual report.

Working with Chapter 872 on some membership issues.

1. Area 4 Vice D – Joel Lopez

No report.

My chapter has been busy.

1. Area 5 Vice D – Edmund Arguello
2. Area 6 Vice D – Cris Molina

**RECENT GOINGS ON:**

Chapter 43:

Two Riders ready to join & have met requirements. Supported a couple of events at Post 43. Will be providing support to an upcoming event at the Post. Chapter will be participating in the Heroes Ride on Sunday, March 27th.

Chapter 30:

Attended the ALA National President’s Dinner to support her as Riders. Continue to do PGR escorts, Chapter breakfasts, and dinners. Next event on May 21st – Scavenger Hunt hosted by Chapters 262 and 299 from Area 5. Post 755 in Covina will be hosting Chapter 30’s stop. Flyer is forthcoming.

Chapter 48:

Poker Run coming up on May 14th out of the Oxnard Fraternal Order of Eagles. Proceeds will benefit the Legacy Scholarship Fund and other American Legion programs.

Chapter 348:

Had a couple of leadership changes but those remaining are rededicated to the cause and to the purpose of the Riders program.

Vice Director Molina:

Attended the dinner for American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel. Wore my vest and spoke with Kathy about the Riders. Have been in contact and provided all documentation to start a Chapter at Post 755. The escorts for the National Auxiliary President were not possible. I was working directly with Maureen Sacco from District 18 and the individual who was escorting Kathy around the state was not releasing information. There were several last-minute changes beyond mine and Maureen’s control and without information, we could not solidify anything.

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AREA 6:**

The Area 6 meeting will be in early April. It will likely shift to a Zoom meeting due to limited availability. I was out of commission for multiple weeks due to my mom being hospitalized so it set things back. Invite will go out to all to attend.

1. **Committee Reports** –
	1. Quartermaster – Mike Clement
	2. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

The website is doing well.

Posting requests have increased.

There was a glitch but it was fixed.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Ken Sutton

No report.

* 1. Judge Advocate – Donnie Brannon

Created a bylaws Ad Hoc committee and have met 2 times. Will not have the bylaws updated and confirmed by the Legion DEC in time for convention.

Am adjusting the Department Hearing manual to fit the ALR. Don’t know if the Department will approve.

Appointed 2 people to work on succession of officers SOP in case one becomes ill or injured and who would notify Department.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

Thanks, Jim, for the great job on the website platform. No email bounce back this month.

Hope all have gotten my email about benefits for our significant others.

* 1. Safety Officer – Mike Killion

The SAA let me know that a couple from chapter 460 was riding and was in a daytime hit and run with a car. There were injuries.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

**Events / Meetings attended**

1. California Legacy Run Meeting -March 7th, 2022
2. E-Board Meeting Chapter 26- March 8th, 2022
3. Chapter 26 Meeting-March 9th, 2022
4. Area 3 Meeting-March 12th, 2022
5. Legion “DEC” Meeting-March 13, 2022
6. Auxiliary District Meeting -March 19, 2022
7. California Legacy Run Meeting-March 22, 2022

**Membership:**

1. Few Chapters, roster have not been updated since 2021

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | 154 |  | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 16.7% |  |  |
| # of SAL | 65 |  | 1 | 4 | 13 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| # of AUX | 31 |  | 1 | 5 | 23 | 2 | 8.7% |  |  |
| # of Active Duty  | 2 |  | 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** | **202** |  | 2 | 8 | 10 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | **9** |  | 2 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 25.0% |  |  |
| # of Veterans | 129 |  | 2 | 10 | 15 | 1 | 6.7% |  |  |
| # of SAL | 36 |  | 2 | 13 | 13 | 1 | 7.7% |  |  |
| # of AUX | 37 |  | 2 | 26 | 7 | 1 | 14.3% |  |  |
| # of Active Duty  | 1 |  | 2 | 28 | 12 | 4 | 33.3% |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **65** | **9** | **13.8%** |  |  |
| **Area 3** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Riders** | **391** |  | **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 | 51 |  | 3 | 14 | 23 | 6 | 26.1% |  |  |
| # of AUX | 58 |  | 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** | **34** |  | 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 | 1 |  | 4 | 23 | 10 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| # of AUX | 3 |  |  |  |  | **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** | **###** |  | 5 | 22 | 29 | 8 | 27.6% |  |  |
| **# of Chapters** | **36** |  | 5 | 25 | 27 | 6 | 22.2% |  |  |
| # of Veterans | 503 |  | 5 | 29 | 28 | 6 | 21.4% |  |  |
| # of SAL | ### |  | 5 | 30 | 9 | 0 | 0.0% |  |  |
| # of AUX | 140 |  |  |  |  | **110** | **36** | **32.7%** |  |  |
| # of Active Duty  | 31 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **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** |  | **46,513** |  | **# ALR Chapters** | **96** |
| # of Active Duty  | 6 |  | # of Veterans |   | 1,298 |  | # AL Post in CA  | 460 |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of SAL |   |   | 44852 |  | % of Chapters to AL Posts  | 21% |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of AUX |   |   | 305 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | # of Active Duty  | 50 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith
1. Website still pending, hopefully live this weekend
	1. Historian – John Smartt
	2. Jr. Past President – vacant
	3. ALR Commissioner – Bob Perryman / Steve Weber

No report from Department.

* 1. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

Quilt Ticket Sales seem to be going well, as far as I know.

Three Chapters have sold all of their tickets: Chapter 299 Chino who sent their check to Leonard and ticket stubs to me, Chapter 88 Turlock who turned all money and ticket stubs in to me at the Area 3 meeting, and Chapter 716 who posted that they had sold all of their tickets, put out a challenge to all chapters, and will turn in money and ticket stubs at Convention.

I sent an email to Debbie with a letter to be forwarded to all Chapter POC’s regarding turn in of tickets, stubs, and money. If a Chapter is NOT going to Convention all unsold tickets, ticket stubs and money is to be sent to me NLT April 15, 2022. If they are going to Convention, then they need to bring unsold tickets, ticket stubs and money to me during the registration/check-in on April 22, 2022 so that I can check them in on my spreadsheet, tally all money, and deposit the ticket stubs in the raffle container for drawing on Sunday April 24, 2022.

We have the quilt, a hand tied fleece blanket, a $500 Cycle Gear gift card, and one other donated gift this year so we will be drawing 4 tickets on Sunday.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Mike Smith
* Convention and Rally met on 3/23/2022 via Zoom
* Site tour of convention site completed on 3/1/2022
* T-shirt design completed. Quartermaster will be producing and bringing with him to Convention
* Coin order completed and will be delivered no later than 4/22
* Chairs and sound completed and will be delivered 4/21
* Pre and post D.E.C. meetings will be at the Convention site

Past President Steve Weber- Did Department get invites to the convention? Yes, all did and are coming except the Auxiliary President who has another engagement.

Past President Mick Sobczak- Will be good to see all riders at the convention.

Ralph- Need all Chapters to get their Riders Everlasting names in to the Chaplain asap.

1. **Old Business**
	1. Committee meeting reminders. Chairs will need to meet prior to 2022 Convention, as needed.
	2. Convention shirt 2021- tabled
	3. A2 Meeting 3/26.
	4. Fallen Hero Cart Escort. Leaves SEA/TAC on 5/11. Usual route.
2. **New Business**

No new business.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

Ill/injured:

Mike-SAA Larry Brandt hurt his back for the 2nd time and is in a lot of pain. Will be going to the doctor.

Cris-Milan who went down at the escort for Rey is home. Has a hospital bed and a wheelchair. Came home with metal parts. Wants to ride again.

Cris-Carl who didn’t go down at the escort but stayed upright tore ligaments in his shoulder and will be having surgery.

Ralph-Paul Swanson is on the call and is continuing his treatments. Ralph wished him continued success on his recovery.

Kathleen-Dennis had a friend named Matt who rode. Matt was on his bike and was in an accident. He has a broken pelvis and other bones.

Rider Everlasting:

1. **Good of the Riders**

Pete DePalma- I am finding that even after Roster Updates much of the back end is incorrect and/or out of date. It also seems like some people are being left on Rosters to maintain charters and I intend to dig into it prior to Convention to find which Rosters are being affected. Many of the Chapters seem to be merely existing and not actually doing anything.

Ralph- going over the events that chapters have put in for mileage needs to be looked at. There are many entries that need to be deleted as they don’t meet the requirements such as lunch, breakfast and dinner rides. Pop up rides. Rides to dealerships. Rides to their own chapter meetings. None of these qualify as they aren’t supporting a veteran’s event. Asking that the Area Vice Directors go in and look at the ones from their area chapters and delete the ones that don’t qualify.

Mick- Are all areas holding area meetings before convention? There are a few people with resolutions that would like to present them at convention. They have already been approved at the chapter level. Mike will send an email out to the Vice Directors.

Cris- Areas 5 and 6 will be having a joint scavenger hunt. More info to come.

Debbie- Chapter 716 will be having a Blessing of the Bikes on May 14 from 11 to 4. Bikes will be blessed from noon to 2pm.

Mike- We need to get feedback from Hy Libby and Rick Phinney about the reflective patches. Then make a decision to make them optional for members.

Went to the spring Department DEC. Gave them numbers but also challenged them to support the Legacy Scholarship Fund. We should leave no veteran’s child behind.

Also was the echo when TAPS was played.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – 22 April 2022 1700 or 5:00 PM @ San Bernardino County Fairgrounds
2. **Benediction** – George Smith
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:08pm