**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

****



*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

June 23, 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** – Mick Sobczak
5. **ALR Preamble** – Director Mike Smith
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – Marc Lawrie-EX

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Fred Branson-EX

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith

**Webmaster/Public Relations** - Jim Oxley

**Quartermaster** – Debbie Proffitt (**Interim**)

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

**Convention & Rally** – Geni Leffler

**PPC** – Dennis Kee

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Historian** – Mick Sobczak

**Parliamentarian-** Hy Libby-AB

**Area 1 VD** – Mark Rice **Area 2 VD** – Robert Lopez-EX

**Area 3 VD** – Paul LaPierre-EX **Area 4 VD** – Brian Toal-EX

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

**Guests:** Cal, Ryder, Area 2 Alt Vice D Peter Torrecillas, Area 5 Alt Vice D Robert Partlow,

Area 3 Alt Vice D Mike Phillips, Ch 229 Calvin Chaney

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

Vote on Mike Phillips as Quartermaster.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – ALRDOC May 26, 2022 Minutes

Minutes from May 26, 2022 were accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

I’m having trouble getting into the system. Will be working with Crystal and Leonard to get this done.

Motion to accept the financial report as given by Mark Rice. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

Since our last meeting I have:

 5/31 – Legacy Run Meeting (Zoom)

 6/4 – Attended Chapter 119 Placerville Poker Run. Great ride. Nicely done by the Chapter. Well

attended. Managed to win all the prizes I put in for.

 6/9 – 6/12 – Attended the CA Legacy Run. Logged in 1547 miles. On 6/9 rode from Porterville

with members from my chapter to Fort Bragg for the kickoff. If you haven’t rode in north, you

really should make the time. The roads are great and the scenery is even better. During the run

managed to make it home to attend my daughter’s dance recital and rejoin the run in Turlock.

This month we have the American Legion, Department of California Convention, June 24 – 26, 2022, in

Visalia, CA. I will be addressing the American Legion Convention, the Auxiliary Convention and the Sons of American Legion Convention.

During our last D.E.C. meeting, I asked you all to get the word out to the chapters in your respective

areas with regard to compliance with the current uniform manual. As our activities have started to ramp

up, I have been receiving information with regard to Riders whose vests are not in compliance. In one

instance, one of the Rider’s is a chapter officer. As officers, part of our responsibilities is to make sure

we are following our own rules/by-laws etc. We have come a long way since the highly contentious

2015 Clovis Convention. I do not want to see the Riders program regress. This is a reminder for you all to reach out to your chapters. I hope you all will be able to comment on this during your report.

The subject of the Support Team has come up a few times to me. Several chapters wanted to recognize

those of our American Legion Family members who do not meet the requirements to be an American

Legion Rider, but volunteer and help their ALR chapter. In response to this the Uniform Committee was

tasked with working out some guidelines. These guidelines were brought to the D.E.C. and approved for

dissemination.

Vice Director’s, on a monthly basis you should be checking your area’s mileage report to ensure all

events and mileage are within the rules governing the Mileage Cup.

I will be emailing the Support Team guidelines and the Mileage Cup rules at the end of this meeting.

We need to be doing our part to show The American Legion, Department of California we can govern

ourselves. Keep up the communication with your areas and each other, it works. Let’s all work hard to

keep the CA American Legion Riders alive and well!

Please remember, if you have submitted your report electronically to Debbie, keep your report to

succinct and to the point for the sake of time. Please do highlight anything in your area you would like to

share with the DEC.

I will end my report on a positive note. This year’s California Legacy Run was a great success! We are on route to have made a record amount to donate this year! My hat’s off to those on the Southern Route. Ifyou were on I t, you braved the roads of Central California and extreme heat. The Northern Route may

have had it even tougher. For those who were on the Northern Route, their bodies endured extreme

temperature changes and beautiful views of our northern coast. If you get the chance to ride any of

those roads, I highly recommend it.

Stay safe and I will see you on the road!

1. **Vice Director’s Report** – Ralph Wenzinger

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

May 30 – Memorial Day ceremony at Union Cemetery, Bakersfield

May 31 – CLR Committee meeting

June 3 – Installed Officers of new Chapter 785, Visalia

June 4 – CLR bag packing at Post 26, Bakersfield

June 6 – CLR Committee meeting

June 9 – CLR kick off dinner / registration at Post 26, Bakersfield

June 10 thru 12 – CLR Southern Route

June 21 – ALR Ways and Means Committee meeting

1. **Sgt. At Arms Report** – Marc Lawrie

Events attended

 May 29th Chapter 460 breakfast (184 miles)

 June 4th Chapter 180 meet and greet (85 miles)

 June 9th -12th California legacy run southern route (1,250 miles)

Comments

All of the events that I attended had a great turn out and appeared to be successful.

The legacy run was a little hot but a lot of fun and I look forward to being able to do it next year.

In between event I was also able to make it out to some other post/chapters in area 5 to include

416, 149, 299, 574, 200, 289, and 79.

I did see some uniform violations to include patches on the back, people still wearing a present

patch and patches in the personal area that have profanity.

Upcoming month

I am going to try to make it to the legion convention this weekend. After that I’ll be out of the

state for work from July 9th till the 16th. If I am back in time, I plan on attending the 1st Year

Anniversary Bike Show Event (I like to call it a super soft birthday party) for 299,180, and 428

hosted by 299 on July 16th.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

Chapters are starting to get COO and POC reports in.

Had a great time on the Legacy Run.

Am working with Stan on the bank account.

There were 4 invoices from Brentwood Embroidery for Convention and the Legacy Run that haven’t been paid. I sent the invoices to Crystal to get paid. She is at the Legion Convention so it will get done when she gets back. I have notified Patch.

Cal, Ryder, gunny and I will be going on a Route 66 road trip adventure.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. Area 1 Vice D – Mark Rice

During the past month I visited the following Chapters within Area 1:

 Chapter 119: Attended their Poker run with Director Mike Smith. Addressed the Chapter about

support and communication.

 Chapter 96: Spoke with several members at the onset of the Legacy Run (Northern Route).

 Chapter 28: They served lunch on the first day of the Legacy Run (Northern Route). Visited with the Chapter members.

 Chapter 521: Visited them on the Day of their Poker run.

 I have an appointment to visit Chapter 111 at their meeting on July 5th.

I attended all three days of the Legacy Run out of the North, presenting three checks to Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger. I also served on the Legacy Run Committee participating with planning.

I sent out two informational emails since the last DEC which included a report on the success of the run.

Here are some problems which I’m working on to address:

 Chapter 233: Has not filed their Delegate Roster or Chapter Year End Report yet. I spoke with the Chapter Director, and he assure me he would get it done. It sti hasn’t been accomplished. Sent a F/U email with no response.

 Chapter 437: Has not paid Delegate Fees and has not filed their Delegate Roster or Chapter Year End Report yet. I spoke with one of the Post officers who is taking care of it. He’s aware of the consequences of this not getting done. They recently did a Poker Run so they are active.

 Chapter 709: Has only 5 members (with one living outside the area) and has not been having

meetings or doing events. There is a safety problem within the Chapter that may need addressing. I spoke with the Chapter Director and am not sure of where it will be going.

Communication within the Area seems to be helping I’m seeing Chapters support each other with their activities. I do not have any Chapter Reports this month due to being extremely busy preparing for the Legion Department Convention (I’m handling Bylaws and Resolutions). Next month there will be a Chapter Report.

1. Area 2 Vice D – Robert Lopez/Pete Torrecillas

Robert received some chapter reports.

Ch 69 participated in Run For The Wall and also on to the Middle East Conflict Wall.

1. Area 3 Vice D – Paul LaPierre/Mike Phillips

Paul sent in the report.

Resolved an issue at Chapter 100 regarding turning in a patch when a member leaves the Chapter.

Reemphasized there is no legal basis for demanding an ALR patch.

Attended Legacy Run in spirit.

Delivered Post 684 Legacy run donation of $1,000, and Chapter 684’s $500 donation.

Many Chapters and Posts in Area 3 supported the Legacy Run.

Chapter 100 members supported Post 1 in Reno NV.

Chapter 100 conducted Flag Line &amp; Escort For Army Veteran Edward Ralph

Chapter 221 conducted 6 events, details will be added to the activities

Chapter 100 supported Visalia Rescue Mission Benefit.

Chapter 785 installed new officers, attended by Chapter 20 and ALR VD.

Many Chapters supported Memorial Day events.

Chapter 100 supported Tree Dedication at Fresno VA Donated by Blue Star.

Chapter 684 supported Ridgecrest Military Banner program admin and repair/replacement of bad

banners.

Chapter 684 had 2 members ride RFTW totaling 7,032 miles. Buck Guest and wife went all the way,

Papa Mike rode the first day.

Chapter 785 will be leading the 5K July 4 th run in Visalia and will have a booth set up for recruitment.

Chapter 20 is preparing for upcoming Rally and Convention.

Many chapters continue weekly meals and fundraisers.

1. Area 4 Vice D – Brian Toal

RECENT GOINGS ON:

May 27-30: Chapter 184 supported LA Fleet week with Area 4 and District 19 at USS Iowa

6/19: Chapter 184 Father’s Day ride to local Father’s Day Event

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AREA 4:

Will be making visits to other Area 4 Chapters/Posts to make contact since communication via email is not looking to be effective.

July 9 – Blind veterans ride with other chapters (Together)

1. Area 5 Vice D – Edmund Arguello

Events/ Meetings Attended

-May 21- Attended the start of Scavenger hunt at Chapter 112, Ontario &amp; Chapter 289,

Riverside, and Chapter 299, Chino (Blackie)

- Attended End of Scavenger Hunt at Ch 299, Chino (Guido)

-May 25- Attended Chapter 79, Riverside meeting (Blackie)

-June 1- Attended Chapter 299, Chino General Meeting (Blackie)

-June 3- Attended Chapter 289, Riverside Biker Burger Night (Blackie)

-June 4 – Post 229, Adelanto American Legion Officer Installation (Guido)

- Conducted Chapter 289 Riverside Meeting (Blackie)

- Attended Chapter 574, Moreno Valley Meeting and Bike Show (Blackie)

- American Legion District 22 Meeting (Partlow)

-June 10 &amp; 11 - Attending California Legacy Run, Southern Route, Bakersfield to Turlock

(Guido)

-June 11/12 - American Legion Area 5 Meeting (Partlow)

-June 15 – Chapter 835, Rancho Cucamonga Officer Installation (Guido)

-June 17 - Chapter 365, Vista Officer Installation (Guido)

-June 18 - Chapter 460, San Diego Poker Run (Partlow)

-June 19 – Chapter 229, Adelanto Father’s Day Run to Julian (Guido)

-June 29 - Chapter 460, San Diego Breakfast (Partlow)

Total Mileage 1201

Area Chapter Activities

- Attending American Legion Department Convention in Visalia, CA 23-26 JUN 2022

-Attending American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin 26 AUG-01 SEP

2022

-Attending the Escort of Van Smith, 25th District Commander to RNC, 28 JUN 2022

1. Area 6 Vice D – Cris Molina

RECENT GOINGS ON:

Chapter 30:

Chapter members attended the Chapter 180 meet &amp; greet event with the Post commander. Chapter 30’s own Stephanie Huff, our Area 6 Alternate Vice Director, presented Chapter 180 with their hater with the support of ALR DOC Sgt At Arms, Marc Lawrie. Talk about TOGETHERNESS.

Chapter 180 (prepared by Cris Molina): Lead the way for the Precious Medals Escort. Chas Bourbon was the Road Captain, and Area 6 Vice Director, Cris Molina, was the tail-gunner. There was an incident on the final leg where one of the trailers had a flat tire. Everyone stopped safely and waited for the tire to be fixed. Good ride for special cause.

Chapter 211:

Hosted a Memorial Day service, participated in the annual Elks Parade, and attended a funeral escort.

Chapter 534:

Their Post did a Bikes and Burger night on June 17th. Before that 5 of them rode about 1,200 miles up to Street Vibrations in Reno.  All of them made it there and back safely!

Currently they are getting ready for their Fallen Warrior & #39’s Poker-run on July 23, 2022.

Chapter 43:

Cris Molina and Mike Hejlemstad attended the Precious Medals escort. Met up with Chapter 180 and rode to the meeting point. Chas Bourbon from 180 did a great job as Road Captain. We helped deliver several WWII medals and a burial flag to the family of Coy William Goins, a highly-decorated WWII Veteran. These medals and flag were found in a thrift store in North Carolina. Precious Medals searched for the immediate family and found them here in Southern California. It was appropriate that we delivered those medals on June 6, D-Day, as Coy stormed the beach at Normandy and participated in several other conflicts.

Vice Director Molina:

Precious Medals escort discussed in the Chapter 43 report. Over Memorial Weekend I was in San Diego attending a fundraiser for the Wingman Foundation. On Sunday morning, I attended the Chapter 460 breakfast at their Post. I saw our State Sgt At Arms, Marc Lawrie from Chapter 328, and a couple of Riders from Chapter 299 in Chino. I also had the distinct honor of seeing Alternate Area 5 Vice Milo from Post 416 in Encinitas. Breakfast was delicious, I felt very, very welcomed, and had a great time. MORE TOGETHERNESS.

On that note… I attempted to share the Precious Medals ride information on the Area 5 page but my post was never published. I have had a few unpublished posts, and one post removed (not controversial at all). I am going to call on our Area 5 Vice Director to please check on who the page administrators are and let’s make this work. Area 5 missed out on a TREMENDOUS opportunity with the Precious Medals escort because the information did not get out to their Chapters. This is not picking on Area 5 because there are plenty of Chapters doing GREAT things and working with Chapters in Area 6. But some things from the past need to be

cleaned up so we can move forward TOGETHER.

Last but not least, want to give a shoutout to Brian Toal, Area 4 Vice, who’s out there getting involved and being seen. His Chapter is doing good things and we should support them in any way we can!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AREA 6 & FOR GENERAL INTEREST:

Chapter 30 will be presenting a certificate of appreciation to Corky’s Kitchen &amp; Bakery in Pomona on June 25th for their support during the Scavenger Hunt event. They are participating in City of La Verne 4th of July parade as well as City of Ontario 4th of July parade (invited by Chapter 112). Installation on July 6th with the Post 30 Pomona legion family.

On July 16th, Chapters 299, 180, and 428 are co-hosting a 1-year anniversary party at American Legion Post 299 in Chino. THIS IS WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT… 3 Chapters from 2 different areas coming TOGETHER to support one another. Event is from 2pm to 11pm. It’s a Saturday. Please support.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. Quartermaster – Debbie Proffitt (**Interim**)

Working with Stan and Patch to get the orders out.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley

I reach ed out to the Legion /doc web team to move the website to their server. This will take a few months.

The ALRDEC will still be the owners, not the American Legion. We would keep possession even though it would be on their server.

We would have to email them to help with the website.

All else is going good.

* 1. Past President’s Club – Dennis Kee

Had a meeting but no quorum.

Will do a survey together to see when would be the best day and time from the members for meetings.

Would like to give a months’ notice for upcoming meetings.

Will be starting to do things with chapter 309.

* 1. Judge Advocate – Donny Brannon

Was on the Legacy Run.

Have received a few bylaws from chapters to look at but am holding off until the state bylaws are done.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith

Progress.

New information coming out periodically.

* 1. Safety Officer – Andrew Trapani

ALR DOC SAFETY HANDBOOK PROPPOSED CHANGES

1. Page 2 Bullet Point (H) Should be in CAPS and BOLD

2. Page 3 Paragraph 1A Line 3 Should be he/she

3. Page 6 3(A) Delete (“But is not Necessary)

4. Page 10 1(C) Delete current language. Replace with the following Language. There are many different types of turns that you will encounter one example is a Decreasing Radius Turn. When the radius decreases rapidly. Slow down more, stay outside until you can see the end of the turn and use a late apex. Another example is linked curves. Adjust to exit of the first curve to set up the aim point for the next curve.

5. Railroad Tracks and Steel Plates: Railroad Tracks. Always approach at a minimum of 45 degrees. Stay in your lane and make no abrupt movements. Steel Plates, ride straight across with no abrupt change in speed or direction.

6. Section V Be Prepared

1} Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Riding Gear:

Riding Gear includes DOT approved helmet, long pants, long sleeve shirt, eye protection, full fingered gloves

A) Helmet: California State Law requires that you (and your Passenger) wear a DOT approved

helmet while riding.

B) Earplugs: Earplugs reduce noise and wind. Improves concentration and comfort

C) Eye Protection: Should be impact and penetration resistant (sunglasses do not offer this kind of protection.

D) Gloves: Gloves will protect your hands from the elements, vibration, and abrasion in case of an accident.

E) Boots: Boots should have low heels that offer control. Also, rubber soles offer better grip. They

should also cover your ankles.

F) Jackets: Protect you from the elements such as wind, weather, and debris. They also reduce

injury and abrasion

G) Inflatable Vests: Generally, are tethered to the bike and deploy if you are thrown off the bike in

an accident.

7. Page 13 First sentence 12th word change to riders

8. Page 16 Bullet point 2 changes to Emergency Braking

9. Page 18 Paragraph 1 First word changes to rider

Page 19 Update committee members

Page 24 NEW Page list CHP Guidelines

Insert CMSP Pages as needed. See attached for guidance

Page 24 renumber after adding Lane Splitting pages.

Towing: If you are towing a trailer with your motorcycle, you are then subject to all conditions listed in the California Vehicle Code.

What’s Next?? Statistics show that the more formal training you have the fatality rick decreases.

When is the last time you took an intermediate or advanced riding class?

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

Membership numbers are going up.

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

May 23rd -California Legacy Run (CLR) Committee meeting

May 30th- Union Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony, Hillcrest Memorial Park and Mortuary Memorial Day Celebration

May 31st - California Legacy Run (CLR) Committee meeting

June 4th - California Legacy Run (CLR) Committee, Packing of Bags

June 6th -California Legacy Run (CLR) Committee meeting

June 8th- Chapter 26 Meeting

June 9th-12th -California Legacy Run

June 16th- Unit 26 Auxiliary meeting

June 23rd-26th-Auxiliary Convention "Visalia"

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

See above.

Debbie-

California Legacy run donations by year…

2018 $4,630

2019 $23,706

2020 $17,569.28

2021 $28,000

I am glad to announce that currently the California Legacy Scholarship Run total is currently $53,227.

Since the inception of the scholarship there have been 433 scholarships awarded for a total of $4,056,793

2021 data…

32 scholarships for a total of $357,229

Mick stated that we need to contact sports teams in California.

The Gary Sinise Foundation was also brought up.

* 1. Historian – Mick Sobczak

I will be bird dogging our Director in Visalia to do pics at the Legion convention. Would like to get officer pics in front of a flag to put up on the website.

* 1. Jr. Past President – Rey Ruiz (In Memorium)
  2. ALR Commissioner –Tracy ‘Milo’ Dalton
  3. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

The 2021-22 Quilt Raffle brought in approximately $15,000, which was way short

of what I would have liked, but with “glitches” it couldn’t be helped.

For 2022/2023 I would propose doing another quilt raffle, only this time the quilt

would have no expenses other than the actual quilting and the tickets. I figured

out that I have enough material left from the first two quilts to make both the

front and back of the quilt. I tried to have a Ways and Means meeting on 6/21/22

to discuss the quilt and the logistics for ticket sales, but the only person to show

on the Zoom meeting was ALRDOC Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger. The two of us

discussed the quilt and a letter to be sent out to all District Commanders (Legion

and Sons), and District ALA Presidents throughout the state requesting their help

in raising money for the Legacy Scholarship in the upcoming year.

I still need members for the committee from a couple of the Areas, and would like

to see about getting two members from Area 1, one member from Area 4, two

additional members from Area 5, and one additional member from Area 6 so that

we have more coverage of Chapters in each area.

It would cost about $175 to get the material quilted.

I have “2gether” stickers for $5 each in any color. Money to go to the Legacy run.

* 1. Convention and Rally – Geni Leffler

I have met with Chapter 20 twice now. They are coming along very well. I was able to tour the facilities earlier this month, it looks like it will be a great place to hold rally. The save the date flyer was sent out (at least to you). I will be setting up a meeting with them beginning of July to try and get loose ends tied up.

We also, met in regards to convention they have it reserved for April 21-23 at the Tulare Veterans Memorial Building which was recently reopened after a remodel. More than enough room to hold convention.

1. **Old Business**

None

1. **New Business**
   1. Ratification of Mike Phillips as Quartermaster.

Motion to ratify Mike Phillips as the new ALROC Quartermaster by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. There is a post on suspension.

Post 229 is on suspension. There will be an offline conversation for appropriate action if any is necessary.

1. **Sick / Memorial**

Ill/injured:

Ch 421- Dale Parker went down. No update yet.

Rider Everlasting:

Ch 53- Roger Cordom passed. He was an original member. Services have already been rendered.

Van Smith- area 5 25th district Commander. His services will be June 28th at 10 am at RNC.

1. **Good of the Riders**

Pearls of Wisdom from Past Presidents-

Mick- The body building show is complete. I entered 6 classes.

Results…

Masters 50+ bodybuilding- 1st place

True Novice Heavyweight bodybuilding- 1st place

Veterans’ Heavyweight bodybuilding- 1st place

True Novice Bodybuilding- overall winner

Masters 50+ classic Physique- 1st place

True Novice classic Physique- 2nd place

Veterans’ Classic Physique- 3rd place



Guido- Situational Awareness: Keep your head on a swivel, there are more cars than bikes on the road, few drivers look for us. We are invisible, not invincible.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – July 28, 2022 @ 1900 hours, via Zoom
2. **Benediction** – Mick Sobczak
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:32pm