**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC MINUTES**

September 30, 2022

West Coast Rally 2022

Post 779 Terra Bella, CA

1. **Call to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Eddie Orozco, Ch 20 Chaplain
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Director Mike Smith
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – SAA Marc Lawrie
5. **ALR Preamble** – Director Mike Smith
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – Marc Lawrie

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Fred Branson -EX

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani -EX

**Service Officer** - George Smith -AB

**Webmaster/Public Relations** - Jim Oxley -EX

**Quartermaster/A3 Alt Vice D**– Mike Phillips

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

**Convention & Rally** – Geni Leffler

**PPC** – Dennis Kee -AB

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Historian/DEC PP** – Mick Sobczak

**Parliamentarian-** Hy Libby - EX

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

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

**Area 5 VD** – Robert Partlow **Area 6 VD** – Cris Molina

**Guests: A4 Alt Vice D Joel Lopez; Past DEC SAA Larry Brandt; various other guests from the Rally.**

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –
   1. New business- Vote to accept the Ch 66 San Louis Obispo charter. Chapter surrendered everything to the post in July 2022.
   2. New business- Direct Mike Phillips to begin stocking the Quartermaster store with items and work with Brentwood Embroidery.
   3. New business- DEC Rally reimbursement.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – ALRDOC August 25, 2022 Minutes

Accepted

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 08/31/22

Beginning Balance $ 128,242.18

Deposits $ 3,112.00

Interest on account $ 1.06

Withdrawals $ 62,433.28

Ending Balance $ 68,921.96

Finance Officer Notes:

Excited to note that I am on the ALR banking account effective 9/28/22. This should mean that I will be able to better access and control the accounting. There are some more to do to get the entire system under control, but that was the biggest hurdle.

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report pending audit by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Donny Brannon. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

Since our last meeting I have:

 9/5 – Chapter 20 Rally Meeting

 Chapter 785 Visalia Poker Run

 9/12 - Sounded Taps for Marine Captain Neal Joel Schneider

 9/14 – Chapter 20 Rally Meeting

 9/19 – Legacy Run Meeting (Zoom)

 9/20 – ALR Safety Committee Meeting

 9/23 – Met with Department Commander Romano at American Legion HQ in Sanger.

 9/24 – Area 3 Meeting

 9/24 – Chapter 184 Redondo Beach Pig Roast/1 Year Anniversary

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

Stay safe and I will see you on the road!

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

I had Covid the first 2 weeks of September. I was asymptomatic. Thanks for all the prayers and well wishes.

Thanks for the birthday wishes and the cake at the Area 3 meeting.

Happy belated birthday to the Air Force.

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

August 27 – RED Friday fundraiser “Medina Family Poker Run” (Bakersfield)

September 16 – POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at Portrait of a Warrior Gallery

September 16 – POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at Greenlawn Cemetery

September 17 - Chapters 3 and 26 Portrait of a Warrior Gallery tour / 9-11 WTC Memorial

September 19 – California Legacy Run Committee meeting

September 19 – Recruit Escort from Bakersfield Armed Forces Center

September 20 – Celebrated my 69th trip around the Sun

September 24 – Area 3 meeting hosted by Chapter 221 – Tehachapi

September 30 to October 2 – West Coast Rally hosted by Chapter 20 – Porterville at Post 779

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

October 2 – Kern County Officer Down 999 Ride (Bakersfield)

October 8 – Chapter 711 Kern River Valley - annual fundraiser

October 8 - Sikh Riders of America annual fundraiser (benefits ALR Chapter 26 Bakersfield)

October 8 – TAL Area 3 meeting – Post 88 – Turlock

October 29 – TAL 15th District meeting – Post 779 – Terra Bella

Events planned for the months to come:

October 18 – Installation of Officers, Chapter 64 – Santa Cruz

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

I made it out to the area 3 directors meeting in Tehachapi post 221. It was good to see everyone in area 3.

After the meeting I rode down to Redondo beach with director Mike smith for chapter 184 1st anniversary event.

I’m looking forward to this weekend at rally to get to get together see everyone and have fun time.

1. **Secretary Report** – Debbie Proffitt

All areas are now clear for Officer Certification and POC reports.

October 29 is the next deadline for chapters to vote on the bylaw changes.

I revised the list for Past Presidents/Directors Club and sent it to Dennis Kee.

Please make sure all past presidents and past directors are listed on the chapter roster.

I will be checking all rosters for updated membership numbers. If a number needs to be updated, I will put “needs updating” in the membership number area. This must be updated to clear the roster in December and January.

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

Chapters have been starting to be active with runs, rides, etc.

1. Area 2 Vice D – Robert Lopez

CHAPTER 105

13 honor missions

207 miles

192 volunteer hours.

District 13

Participated in POW/MIA Ceremonies at Post 564 as well as held a Fire watch for Soldiers of past wars throughout the night, this was attended by the Mayor of Santa Clara County.

Chapter / Rolling 9's

Participated in 9/11 ceremonies and parade

Chapter 69

4 honor details

Participated in District 28 POW/MIA Poker run

District 28

Sent you their report I could not find it on my email.

They volunteered at Leguna Seca race way

Also, American Legion Riders rode around the track on Sunday with flags vests ect.

Also participate in 9/11 ceremonies.

Not sure of hours or miles.

District 10

Participated in 9/11 ceremonies.

Chapter 82

No report

Chapter 694

No report.

Chapter 31

No report, Hy Libby is on the open road riding

I am sure he will touch base with me later.

1. Area 3 Vice D – Paul LaPierre

Held Area 3 Director’s meeting at Post 221 Tehachapi

Several Chapters plan to support the SIKH Riders of America fundraiser in Bakersfield Oct 8th @0800

Chapter 711 plans to support Veterans Day Poker Run Nov 12th @1100

Chapter 20 is preparing for upcoming Rally and Convention.

Chapter 100 supported Flag Line and Escort of Army Veteran Joe Cota

Chapter 100 supported Flag Line & TAPS for Army Veteran Dewey Edwards

Chapter 100 supported Flag Line & TAPS for 9/11 Ceremony at West Hills C

Chapter 100 participated in Pony Express for the Remains of YN1 Jerry Bayless

Chapter 100 supported a Flag line for Kings County Supervisors mtg Briefing

Chapter 684 provided ROF escort, setup and take down

Chapter 684 participated in the parade of 1,000 flags 9/10 @0900

Chapter 684 participated in serving breakfast to local veterans

Chapter 785 conducted their poker run on 9/10 @0900

Many chapters continue weekly meals and fundraisers.

1. Area 4 Vice D – Brian Toal

RECENT GOINGS ON:

Chapter 184:

September 24 – Chapter 184 Anniversary Pig Roast and Bike Blessing

Signed Post 61 (USS Iowa) paperwork for submittal and recommendation for chapter formation (Ruling that this chapter will wait until new state bylaws are in place)

No input from other Area 4 Chapters

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. Some Email communication but very minimal.

Area 4 calendar added to DoC website

1. Area 5 Vice D – Robert Partlow

Events/ Meetings Attended

-August 25-Attended DEC meeting via zoom (Robert)

-August 27- Attended Chapter 468 Bison Burger BBQ (Robert, Milo)

-August 27- Attended Chapter 574 Chili Verde Dinner (Robert)

-August 28-Attended Chapter 132 Breakfast (Robert)

- September 4- Volunteered at Chapter 416 Monthly Breakfast (Robert,Milo)

- September 4- Chapter 416 Meeting (Robert,Milo)

- September 10- Attended American Legion District 22 Meeting (Robert)

- September 11- Attended American Legion Area 5 Meeting (Robert, Milo)

- September 17- Attended Chapter 460 Pig Roast (Robert)

- September 24- Attended Chapter 255 Poker Run (Robert, Milo)

Total Mileage 550

Area Chapter Activities

-October 8-Chapter 716 Fall Hoedown

- October 15 Chapter 574, 595 and 848 Night of Destruction

- October 15 Chapter 421 Chile Verde Cook Off

- October 22 Chapter 555 Oktoberfest

1. Area 6 Vice D – Cris Molina

Chapter Reports:  
  
Chapter 30 - Regularly support PGR missions. Supported Post 180's Oktoberfest and Post 112's farewell to their current building.  
UPCOMING:  
This Saturday they'll be supporting Auxiliary District 18's 100th birthday party. On Saturday, December 3rd, they're hosting a bike show. (Flyer posted on ALR pages.)  
  
43 - Patched in a new member. Good lunch ride to the Santa Clarita Loop after the September meeting. Supported a 99-year-old Veteran Birthday ride by and Chapter 184's Pig Roast and Bike Blessing.  
  
Chapter 534 - Their Riders did a meeting last Saturday and went over the Bylaws for the ALR. They delivered certificates thanking their Poker-Run stops: Johnny's in Lompoc, the Maverick Saloon in Santa Ynez, and the Depot in Los Alamos. They will schedule another Saturday and deliver to their prize sponsors.

UPCOMING:  
8 October they will be making their 5th Annual Monterey/Big Sur ride. They will be visiting both Salinas Post and the Prunedale Post as they enjoy riding down the California Highway 1 coast road. This is an overnight trip. They leave Saturday and return on Sunday.  
15 October they have the Veterans Stand-down that is hosted by the city of Santa Maria at the Fairpark. Their distinguished detail will be to greet the Veteran's as the come through the gates of the Fairpark to participate in all the Veteran services that will be available to them.  
20 October they will support by escorting Ride2Recovery cyclist that are injured Vets and active-duty military riding their bicycles to raise funds for Vets and First Responders affected with PTSD.  
  
Chapter 136 - Working on having more gatherings and rides. Hosting HOGFEST and Poker Run on October 1, 2022.  
  
Chapter 741:  
Had their ALR dinner on September 2nd. Donated funds to Many Meals, Boys & Girls Club, and Baggies of Love. They raised $588 and donated $600. They volunteered 8 hours.  
Upcoming: Their ALR dinner is on October 7th and Chapter meeting is on the 11th.  
  
Area 6 Vice - Working on new Chapter 755. Happy to have supported Chapter 184 in Area 4. Losing Chapter 66 due to various circumstances (loss of members, health of some key members, and the pandemic). Working to provide support to a couple of Chapters who are struggling right now. Happy to see lots of unity throughout the state.

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

Currently we have one order Invoiced, one order New Order, one order that was shipped on Sept. 21st and three orders that have been invoiced and are awaiting payment. Please continue to pay for all orders submitted in a timely manner and your orders will get out to you as quickly as possible. If you have any questions regarding your orders feel free to give an email or a call. Leave a message and I will return your call as I don’t generally answer numbers I don’t know. 559-759-7705. I now have access to the ALR Quartermaster email feel free to email me.

* 1. Public Relations/Website – Jim Oxley
  2. Past President’s Club – Dennis Kee

Had a meeting in September but not enough people for a quorum. Will try again in October.

* 1. Judge Advocate – Donny Brannon

No report. Director Smith has been doing my job.

* 1. Service Officer – George Smith
  2. Safety Officer – Andrew Trapani

The Safety Committee scheduled a ZOOM Meeting for September 20th, 2022. Unfortunately, there was an insufficient number of members to hold a meeting. A meeting will be scheduled for October.

* 1. Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

September 10th -District 15 Auxiliary meeting

September 11th -911 Memorial Ceremony at Fire Station 15

September 11th -Armed Forces, Escort of New Recruits

September 13th -ALR E-Board meeting

September 14th -ALR Chapter 26 meeting

September 15th -Auxiliary Unit 26 meeting

September 17th - Tour of Portrait of a Warrior Gallery & Lunch with Chapter 3

September 19 -California Legacy Run Committee meeting

September 24th -Area 3 Directors meeting, "sold 5 CLR Shirts"

September 30th -ALR State Rally

We have 2007 riders. Membership is picking up.

* 1. California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith

Working on the route.

Have the hotel in Tehachapi secured.

The Coast guard has been helping in the aftermath of the hurricane in Florida.

* 1. Historian – Mick Sobczak

Progress

* 1. Jr. Past President – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)
  2. ALR Commissioner –Tracy ‘Milo’ Dalton

No report

* 1. Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary

The quilt raffle is going well so far. The quilt is done, Rochelle picked up the tickets this morning, and I have everything ready for Rally. We are planning to start selling and passing out tickets this weekend. All chapters in attendance will be issued the tickets for their chapter’s membership strength. Any chapter not in attendance will need to arrange pick-up/delivery of tickets with me.

Geni Lefler has made/is making bracelets, earrings and vest clip/zipper pulls to sell for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. These will go on sale tonight, and through the weekend, as well as anywhere else we can get them to.

I still do not have any committee members from Areas 1 or 5, and need one more from Area 6. Area Vice Directors please help get these members for the committee as it will make things run smoother if I have contacts in ALL areas so the responsibility doesn’t fall only on Area Vice Directors.

Area 2 members *listed* are Luis Torres & Leticia Torres (but I have not received any communication back from them regarding participation).

Area 3 members listed are Frank Pightling & Louisa Carson.

Area 4 member listed is Jeff “Mongo” Ferguson.

Area 6 member listed is Stephanie Huff (need one more please)

Area 1 needs 2 members

Area 5 needs 3 members (north, central, south)

* 1. Convention and Rally – Geni Leffler

Yay, Rally is in progress. Ch 20 has done a great job.

1. **Old Business**
   1. By-laws went out to all POC’s to take to their chapters for voting. There have been some issues with emails being sent out from the website. Debbie is working on this. The original deadline was October 22, 2022. The deadline has been extended one week. The new deadline is October 29, 2022.
2. **New Business**
   * + 1. Two proposed chapters have submitted paperwork for formation. They will be voted on after the bylaws have been voted on by the Legion DEC.
       2. We will be putting together training for the Area Vice Directors.
       3. Motion to accept the Chapter 66 charter by Cris Molina. 2nd by Mark Rice. Passed by vote of DEC.
       4. Mike directed Quartermaster Philips to contact Brentwood Embroidery to get the Quartermaster store restocked with white and black berets, RED Friday t shirts and black and gold zip hoodies.
3. **Sick / Memorial**

Ill/injured:

Ed Doitteau is now living in Florida. Family is ok from the hurricane but no power.

Steven Nance- broke a finger in an accident.

Mike Booth-Ch 53- cancer surgery.

Shelly Sobczak-Ch 53- surgery complications.

Rider Everlasting:

Ch 132 charter members William “Mr. Bill” Schuster (9/12/2022) & Frances “Angel” Schuster (9/22/2022) Passed away this month. They were original Members of our Chapter and we will be escorting them to their final resting place at Riverside National Cemetery.

1. **Good of the Riders**

-Rally ride 1 will be going up to the giant Sequoias.

-Rally ride 2 will be a flatland ride.

-Once back there will be cornhole tournaments.

-Ralph-Hwy 65 is a long dangerous highway. There are police waiting in areas. Watch your speed especially around the passing areas.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – October 27, 2022 @ 1900 hours, via Zoom.
2. **Benediction** – Eddie Orozco, Ch 20 Chaplain
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 7:35pm