**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

October 27, 2022

1. **Call to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Fred Branson
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

**Area 1 Vice-D** – Mark Rice

**Area 2 Vice-D** – Robert Lopez

**Area 3 Vice-D** – Paul LaPierre

**Area 4 Vice-D** – Brian Toal

**Area 5 Vice-D** – Robert Partlow

**Area 6 Vice-D** – Cris Molina

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Fred Branson

**Historian** – Mick Sobczak

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

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

**Parliamentarian-** Hy Libby-AB

**Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith

**Convention & Rally** – Geni Leffler-EX

**Past President’s/Director’s Club** – Dennis Kee-EX

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

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

**Commissioner**- Tracy Dalton

**Guests**: David Brambila D21 Commander; Bill Blackstone A5 Alt; Larry Leonardo D13 & PComm; Jeff Beck Ch 328; Marc Perkins Ch 521; Stephanie Huff A6 alt; Mike Brownell Ch 711; Tim Madura A1 Alt; Lou Carson Ch 785; Ken Sutton A3 Alt; PP Jim Banakus; Ed Caler Ch 82; Peter Torrecillas A2 Alt; Robert DeLuna Ch 69; Sophie Grant Ch 64; PP Steve Weber

David Brambila-District 21 Commander and Chairman Legion Ways and Means-

We are having a fund raiser to raise funds for veteran’s programs. All proceeds will go to the programs and nothing will be used for overhead. There is a marketing company that makes ornaments for the Whote House, etc. That is making 2 ornaments for the Legion. One is a hero ornament that says “Land of the Free Because of the Brave”. The second has a motorcycle on it and says “I ride for our Veterans”. [WWW.HEROORNAMENTS.COM/CALIFORNIA](http://WWW.HEROORNAMENTS.COM/CALIFORNIA)

Each ornament is $29. Any questions contact [david@district21ca.org](mailto:david@district21ca.org)

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – ALRDOC September 30, 2022 Minutes

Accepted as electronically transmitted

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 10/26/22

Beginning Balance $ 68,921.96

Deposits $ 3,037.00

Interest on account $ .58

Withdrawals $ 12,708.75

Ending Balance $ 59,250.79

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 finance report as given pending audit by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

Debbie mentioned there is also $21,241.20 in the PayPal account.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

* September 30 to October 2, 2022, West Coast Rally, hosted by Chapter 20.
* October 17, 2022 Legacy Run meeting, via Zoom
  + October 18, 2022, traveled with State Vice Director to Santa Cruz for installation of Chapter 64 officers. Chapter 64 had a dinner following the installation. Food was great!
* October 22, 2022 traveled to Chapter 428 Banning for Bike Rodeo.
* October 25, 2022 visited Chapter 555 Midway City Oktoberfest.
* October 25, 2022 PPC/DC meeting, via Zoom

\*It was a bit of a slow month for me. We will be moving into preparing for the National Commander’s Escort and the 2023 Convention.

\*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

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

October 1 – ALR West Coast Rally at Post 779 – Terra Bella

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

October 10- Armed Forces Recruit Escort – Bakersfield Recruiting Center

October 17 – California Legacy Run committee meeting

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month: October 29 – TAL 15th District meeting – Post 779 – Terra Bella October 29 - Bike Night at Earl’s V-Twin in Tehachapi. Veteran owned and operated by members of Chapter 221 – Tehachapi. November 5– Veterans Day Parade in Delano November 11 – Veterans Day Parade in Bakersfield

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

Had a great time at rally it was nice to see everyone. I also made it out to post 428 for chapter 428 motorcycle rodeo on the 22nd,

1. **Secretary’s Report** – Debbie Proffitt

At convention the delegates voted to donate $200 to the Excelsior High Desert young marines. I was finally able to make contact with their adjutant and the check is on its way.

All Convention vouchers have been paid.

All Rally vouchers have been paid. There is a hang up with Mark Rice’s check and will be taken care of.

The $2500 yearly donation to VA&R is being worked on.

The $2000 Rally seed money is being worked on.

Right now, bylaw voting is 60 yes and 7 no. Need more chapters to vote.

Member renewals deadline is December 31. For passengers and members in retired status 1. Pay family dues. 2. Fill out a liability waiver. 3. Pay chapter dues. For riders. Do 1 and 2 THEN 3. Show current driver’s M1 license 4. Show current bike registration 5. Show current bike insurance. 6. Pay chapter dues. The person in charge of taking membership will log the expiration dates for license, registration and insurance.

Online roster updates are coming up and will need to show an update date in December 22 or January 23. Per Capita id due by February 14.

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

Thanks to the assistance of Secretary Debbie Proffitt, All Chapters in Area completed their COO and POC reports.

I spent some time with Judge Advocate Donny Brannon helping with questions with some of the areas he was dealing with.

I attended the celebration for Chapter 95 for their One Year Anniversary. The Chapter was Chartered a year ago with 12 members and has since grown to 29 members. I addressed the group with information about the ALR and some of things it has accomplished.

I sent out an informational email to all the Area Chapters with some updates and a reminder to turn in their ballots for the Department Bylaws vote. I also reminded Chapters to send me any information on their upcoming events so I can pass it along.

As the Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Commission for the Legion Department, I have been unusually busy working with some issues coming out of the Department.

Last weekend I attended the California American Legion College as a facilitator teaching elections, resolutions, and constitution and bylaws.

No incidents were reported over the past month.

1. **Area 2 Vice D – Robert Lopez**

\*First, I would like to say thank you to all the riders who came out to the

installation of officers of our new chapter 64.   Michael Smith and Ralph Wenzinger were also in attendance and installed the officers.

\*Chapter 105

participated in 13 missions rode 1205 miles 3499 group miles

contributed 221 volunteer hours and will donate a check for $6,137.00

to the suicide prevention program at the Palo Alto VA

\*Chapter 69

participated in 3 Honor Missions attended chapter 64 installation of officers, they are getting ready for the Veterans Day poker run.

\*Rolling 9's

They attended the chapter 64 installation of officers in Santa Cruz Ca

the plan on participating in a Veterans Day Ride to the Soldiers Monument in Pleasant Hill Ca.

\*District 10

Attended the chapter 64 installation of officers no other information submitted.

\*District 28

Also attended the chapter 64 installation of officers and have been

very busy as always

10/1 - run to operation freedom paws

10/8 - R.E.D T-Shirt run to Big Sur

10/9 - issued food bank meals for the Cuellar

10/14-16 Velocity invitational Weather tech race way.

10/21-23   run to Solvang weekend ride

10/23 11th Annual Hero's open golf tournament hosted by the United Veterans Council.

I do not have total miles or volunteer hours as of yet.

\*District 13 -

Also attended the chapter 64 installation of officers.

Director Michael Picaso's daughter got married this past weekend so

they have no other report.

\*Chapter 82

no report.

\*Chapter 694

no report.

I have passed out all the quilt tickets.

Thank you for all you do Debbie.

1. **Area 3 Vice D – Paul LaPierre**

\*Chapter 100 conducted Escort & Flag Line for Army Veteran Scott Rather, Escorted Madera Liberty High School Cheer leaders, Escort & Flag Line for Veteran Allen "Doc" Short, Flag Line & Escort for Mervin L Souza, Coffee with cops, Post 567 (Mariposa) visit, Three Rivers Road Captain Recon, ALR Rally Porterville, Flag Line & Escort for Marine/Navy/Coast Guard Vet, Flag Line & Escort for Army Vet Larry Dean, Cyle T.

\*Chapter 221 supported Sharon Jacobs Memorial Service, Sikh Riders Charity Ride, Chapter 711 Poker Run.

\*Chapter 684 supported Veterans Breakfast, ALR 229 - Tri-State Poker Run, ALR West Coast Rally.

\*Chapter 785 supported Post 3 auxiliary potato bar, Flag Line, West Coast Rally.

\*Many chapters continue weekly meals and fundraisers.

1. **Area 4 Vice D – Brian Toal**

RECENT GOINGS ON:

**Chapter 184:**

October 16 – Chapter 184 visit to Chapter 299 to enjoy some 2GETHER time and camaraderie.

October 22 – Chapter 184 participated in the Silkies Slow Ride put on by All American Riders to raise awareness for veteran suicide.

Signed Post 61 (USS Iowa) paperwork for submittal and recommendation for chapter formation

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**

Rally was awesome. Had a great ride and time.

Have been on the Legacy Run meetings.

Will have paperwork for Fellowship Post Chapter 951 at March Field at the next meeting.

1. **Area 6 Vice D – Cris Molina**

Chapter 30 - They continue to partner with Chapters in Area 5 as well as within Area 6 to support events. They will be supporting the Post 30 Field of Freedom in front of the Pomona City Hall on Veterans Day. 50 flags will be set up for the day for passersby to see and to show support for Veterans. Short ceremony at 10am. They invite all to come celebrate their second anniversary on December 3rd. Bike show, music, food, and fun vendors. Registration 9-11am, judging at 11am. They are participating in the Pomona Christmas parade on December 10th and invite neighboring Chapters. They're hoping to be placed behind the Post Color Guard Team who will lead the parade. (TOGETHERNESS!)

Chapter 43 - 3 Riders in attendance at the 2022 Rally this year. Presented one of our Riders with the "Rider of the Year" award for always showing up and being willing to help when needed. Chapter breakfast/lunch ride after our meeting to a local diner. Supported Auxiliary Unit 43's Quartermania event. Participated in a Birthday celebration for one of our Post 43 heroes, 99-year-old Jimmy Weldon. He drove into the Post and the Riders escorted him around the parking lot. He was thrilled.

Chapter 180 - Honored First Responders on 9/11 by delivering over 250 goodie bags & wreaths to the Azusa PD, Irwindale PD, and 2 Fire Departments in Azusa. Delivered a donation check for the 2 fallen El Monte PD Officers. Donated 802 personal items, 9300 packages of wipes, and over 1200 food items to the USO in Ontario. The Post 180 family, including the Chapter 180 Riders were recognized at the Azusa Golden Days Parade for all of the community work that they do. They were asked to participate in their annual parade. They attended Chapter 555's Oktoberfest. (More TOGETHERNESS!!!)

Chapter 534 - Rode up to Salinas Post 31 on October 8th. They spend the night Saturday with Riders from Chapter 31 and then had breakfast with them and went for a beautiful ride. Next year they would like to open this ride to all Area 6 Riders. They're still working out details. They escorted a bicyclist doing the Ride2Recovery on October 20th. They escorted they from Pismo to their Post where Auxiliary had lunch waiting for them. After lunch they escorted the cyclists to Solvang and logged 65 miles for the event.

Chapter 741 - Attended a funeral for an ALR family member, ALR Friday night dinner on 10/7, Chapter meeting, voted on ALR Bylaws changes, donated to the Ventura Brain Injury Institute, American Lung Association, and a funeral reception. Raised $420, donated $1700. Spent 5 hours volunteering. Upcoming ALR dinner is on Friday, November 4th and the ALR Chapter meeting is on Tuesday, November 8th. Will be meeting with the Post about the monthly calendar. (Great job keeping busy!)

Area Vice - Rally was a fantastic time. Thank you to our hosts for making us feel so welcomed. Food was amazing and the camaraderie was even better! I logged over 500 miles that weekend! Supported Auxiliary Unit 817's Laughlin bus trip. It was a GREAT time and I wore my ALR hat for all 4 days - always representing! Area 6 meeting is coming up on November 5th at Chapter 534 in Orcutt. Meeting starts at 11am with lunch immediately following. Everyone is invited to attend. I've personally reached out to 3 Veterans in need over the last 48 hours. In hearing them speak or noting their demeanor, I knew something wasn't OK. It's so important to listen and look for those cues. Sometimes they just need someone to listen. All 3 have my contact information and have been asked to reach out at any time, day or night. A buddy check isn't just for one week during the year. We should always be alert to find potential issues and let our brothers and sisters know they matter and they are never alone.

1. **Officer Reports-**
   1. **Jr. Past President – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)**
   2. **Chaplain-Fred Branson**

Just got back from an overseas trip. Will have a report next month.

* 1. **Historian-Mick Sobczak**

Progress

Traveled with Mike Smith to the Chapter 428’s Bike Rodeo.

* 1. **Judge Advocate – Donny Brannon**

I think there has been some confusion for voting on the bylaws.  I have had many phone calls where chapters thought they were voting on the changes for the removal or replacement of President to Director and Vice. This is not negotiable and we not voting on that.  Even if we remain with the 2019 bylaws as instructed, those titles are still and will be in effect moving forward.  The few changes we have made came directly from the American Legion Department of California and have been made to the already approved 2021 bylaws.  When in doubt, ask.  Don’t assume anything when it comes to these bylaws.

That being said, the bylaws have been sent to the POC’s for each chapter.  Please get

with your membership and vote.

* 1. **Membership Officer – Rochelle Billet-Smith**

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

9/29/2022 thru 10/2/2022- ALRDOC State Rally

10/8/2022-10th Annual Sikh Ride, Chapter 26 received a $2000.00 check

10/11/2022- Chapter 26 E-Board meeting

10/12/2022-Chapter 26 Riders meeting

10/13/2022-Unit 26 Auxiliary meeting

10/14/2022-Post 26 Friday Night dinner-selling tickets

10/17/2022-California Legacy Run meeting

10/18/2022-Delano parade committee meeting

10/25/2022-Attend Delano parade committee meeting tonight

* 1. **Quartermaster – Mike Phillips**

Currently we have 2 new orders pending Invoice, 3 orders Invoiced and are pending payment, 3 orders wherein payment was received and are pending production and one order in the process of being fulfilled. Please 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 am working with patch to get the sweatshirts, red Friday shirts and berets back in the store for everyone to purchase.

* 1. **Safety Officer – Andrew Trapani**

The Safety Committee has scheduled a ZOOM Meeting for November 15, 2022. We will be focusing on completing our work on the ALR DOC Safety Handbook. All Area Vice-D’s should encourage those from their Area to attend.

We’re all getting older. It would be a good idea to have a patch with your blood type on it on your vest.

Yor VSO can get you a lanyard with dog tags that have a link to all your VA info on it.

* 1. **Service Officer – George Smith**

113,000 post 9/11 vets have applied for benefits.

There will be a huge meeting in the next few days.

* 1. **ALR Commissioner –Tracy ‘Milo’ Dalton**

No report is a good report.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. **California Legacy Run – Rochelle Billet-Smith**

Received a check for $2500 donation from Ch 534 Orcutt.

Brought circus peanuts for Director Smith.

* 1. **Convention and Rally – Geni Leffler**

Not much to report had rally, there was good and bad. Mixed reviews but I am sure there always are.

On to Convention which will be April 21, 22 & 23 2023 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Tulare.

* 1. **Past President’s/Director’s Club – Dennis Kee**

We had a meeting on 25th of October with no quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for 28 November at p.m.

We will continue to try to get support for the ALRDOC PPC/PDC.

* 1. **Ways and Means – Kathleen McClary**

Not a lot to report. All quilt tickets for the Chapters were given out at the Rally or were given to the Area Vice Directors to distribute. I am working on getting the emails out to District Commanders, and the POC’s regarding the quilt/tickets. As far as I know Geni has been working on some jewelry to sell for the Legacy Scholarship as well. I will be attending a couple of District Legion meetings to promote the quilt and sell tickets during the month of November, so wish me luck.

* 1. **Webmaster/Public Relations – Jim Oxley**

1. **Old Business-**
   1. Quartermaster contacting Mike ‘Patch’ Clement regarding ‘reloading’ the store.

Mike is working on it.

* 1. Training for Area Vice Directors.

Will be putting a list of needs together.

* 1. Chapter voting for changes to By-laws.

1. **New Business-**
   1. National Commander Escort. At this time the only information from TAL, DOC is stops are being worked on and the escort will be in Southern California counties.

Will be in Districts 21, 22 and 25. The Commander will be 2-3 days in each district at the same hotel. The escorting chapters will meet at the hotel in the morning. No rolling handoffs. Too dangerous to do. The itinerary will be put on the ALR website when finished. Area Vice Directors-get the info out to your chapters. All areas are invited to participate.

* 1. Vote on Charter for Chapter 61 Battleship Iowa as the 99th ALRDOC Chapter.

Motion to accept Chapter 61 as the 99th chapter by Paul LaPierre. 2nd by Brian Toal.

There was much discussion on bringing a new chapter in and then mentoring them.

Passed by vote of DEC. Notice of installation was asked for.

* 1. Vote on Charter for Chapter 755 West Covina as the 100th ALRDOC Chapter.

Motion to accept Chapter 755 West Covina as the 100th chapter by Cris Molina. 2nd by mark Rice.

It was brought to the meeting’s attention that chapter 755 is Covina not West Covina.

Cris Molina amended the motion to state chapter 755 Covina. 2nd by mark Rice. Passed by vote of DEC.

Original motion with amendment passed by vote of DEC. Notice of installation was asked for.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

Stan Tehee, Chapter 221, was hit by a deer while riding. Having issues with his knee.

Javier Hinostroza, Chapter 30, was hit on the freeway, totaled the bike, out of the hospital.

Patrick McDowell, Chapter 53, will be having liver surgery.

**Rider Everlasting:**

Tony ‘Turtle’ Azares, Chapter 149, transferred to Riders Everlasting on 10/4/2022.

Frank Paura, Chapter 69, transferred to Riders Everlasting 9/13/2022.

1. **Good of the Riders-**

Ralph-Get out and vote!!

Larry Leonardo-The NEC came back and passed a few resolutions. Go to the National website, then to Media, then to digital archives to find them. Some of the resolutions passed were the PACT act and Camp LeJeune. Watch out for the law firms out there that will take advantage of veterans on these. Congress is being asked to have oversight of the predatory law firms. There have been areas and conditions added for Agent Orange. Please apply for a rating. Keep pursuing your case whether you served overseas or stateside.

Mick-Robert DeLuna is Veteran of the Year in San Benito County and George Smith is Veteran of the Year for San Mateo County.

Cris-The Area 6 meeting will be Saturday, November 6 at Chapter 534 in Orcutt.

This Sunday Chapter 348 will be leading a 10th birthday escort for Lou Moore.

In the last day I’ve had conversations with 3 vets who were in distress. Buddy checks aren’t just for one week, they are for all year.

George-Post 105 has the Patriots of the year-Andrew and Wendy Trapani.

Andrew-Chapter 105 will be at the Menlo Park VA to present a check for $6471 to veteran suicide prevention.

Mark Rice-On the Legion side, thre are 290posts behind in doing their bylaws. The legion will have an incentive to have them done by May.

Ralph-Please let the DEC know when installation for Chapters 61 and 755 will be scheduled.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – November 17, 2022 @ 1900 hours, via Zoom.
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:41pm