**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

**DEC Minutes**

November 17, 2022

1. **Called 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 EXCUSED

**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 EXCUSED

**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 EXCUSED

**Parliamentarian-** Hy Libby ABSENT

**Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips EXCUSED

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith

**Convention & Rally** – Geni Leffler ABSENT

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Webmaster/Public Relations** - Jim Oxley

**Guests: (TALDOC, ALR, etc)**

A3 Alt Ken Sutton, A1 Alt Tim Madura, A5 Alt Wm. Blackstone, A6 Alt Stephanie Huff,

PP Jim Banukus, A2 Alt Pete Torrecillas, Ch 875 Louisa Carson, Ch 875 Jeff Carson, D9 Luis Torres, Ch 460 paul Swanson, Ch 20 Mike Daugherty, ALR Commissioner Tracy Dalton, Ch 82 Ed Caler, Ch 872 Kevin Aqueche, Bob Radcliff.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – ALRDOC October 27, 2022 Minutes

Accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 11/15/22

Beginning Bank Balance $ 59,250.79

Bank Deposits $ 0.00

Interest on bank account $ .53

Bank Withdraws $ 4,717.85

Ending Bank Balance $ 54,533.47

PayPal Balance $ 22,502.51

Ending Total Balance $ 77,037.98

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report as given pending audit by Paul LaPierre. 2nd by Robert Lopez. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

Since our last meeting I have:

 October 29, 2022, attended American Legion 15 th District Meeting at Post 779 Terra Bella

 November 3, 2022, conducted site check with Chapter 20 for the 2023 ALR Convention

 November 4, 2022, attended Our Hero’s Dreams Golf Tournament Kickoff

 November 5, 2022, participated in Delano’s inaugural Veteran’s Day Parade. Chapter’s 20, 26 and 785 were in attendance.

 November 11, 2022, participated in Porterville’s Veteran’s Day Parade, 104 th year.

 November 12, 2022, attended Chapter 20 Veteran’s Day Dance.

 November 15, 2022, attended ALRDOC Safety Zoom meeting

Short month between meetings.

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 EXCUSED

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

November 11 – Veterans Day Parade in Bakersfield

Click or tap here to enter text.

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

December 11 – Bakersfield Toy Run

Happy Thanksgiving to all!!

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

**Events attended**

I attended chapter meetings for chapters 299,328, and 574.

I also attended chapter 328s motorcycle rodeo and, chapter 299s Veterans Day stake dinner

**Comments**

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

**Upcoming month**

I will be attending the area 5 directors meeting on November 20th hosted by chapter 132. There

are a few more upcoming events that I would like to attend if my schedule permits

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

-Per capita is not due until Feb 14. Please do not send it in now.

-Online rosters need to show an update date of December or January. If your roster doesn’t need any changes, go to your profile and click on the yellow pencil to the right. Once your profile comes up scroll to the bottom and click the blue update member button. This will update the date without making changes.

-Delegates are not to be added before February. Chapters should be voting on convention delegates in January or February.

-POCs need to disseminate information to all chapter members as soon as it is received as I don’t have the ability to email all membership anymore.

-Attended the chapters 428, 555, 328 events.

-Ch 716 Toys for Tots breakfast is December 4 from 9-1.

-Ch 716 will be hosting the Area 5 mtg January 28 at 10am.

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

I participated in a Veteran’s Day Parade in Jackson with Chapters 108 and 383. Spent some time with some of the Riders talking about how things are going.

Chapters 383, 521, 95, 108, 119, and 620 have been actively riding over the past month. I’m planning to have an in-person Area meeting in early March of 2023, hopefully in Oroville. Date not yet set. It’s centrally located and easy to get to for most Area 1 Riders.

There hasn’t been much else going on.

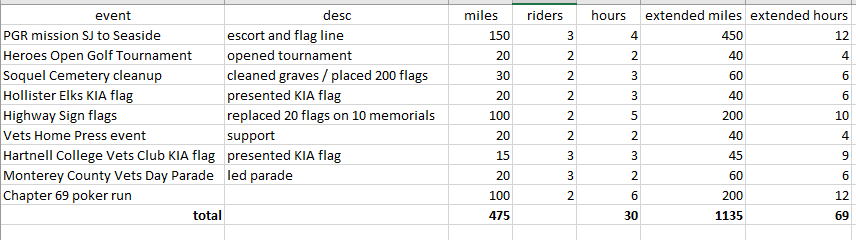
1. **Area 2 Vice D –** Robert Lopez

**Rolling 9’s** – Attended installation of officers in Santa Cruz, Ca for our new chapter 64. They also received their annual legacy run scholarship quilt tickets. Michael Smith and Ralph Wenzinger purchased 2 from every chapter in area 2. They are also currently working on the release of liability forms for all riders.

**District 10** – No report.

**District 28** –

**Chapter 31** -



**Chapter 64** - Had 4 members at two events this month. Three bikes and one member rider on back as their bike was down. 11/11/22 Participated in Watsonville and Salinas Veterans Day Parades. Miles for each rider were 30 to Watsonville, Watsonville to Salinas 20, Salinas back to Soquel 34 Miles = 84 Miles. Total miles for all riders were 84x3 = 252 miles each.

**District 13** – Raised the flags at Oak Hill Cemetery on 11/11/22. Participated in the city of San Jose’s Veterans Parade and joined in on the Santa Clara mission city’s post BBQ. The area 2 VD on 11/12/22 attended the chapter 69 poker run. Rider Everlasting John Santistevan.

**Chapter 82** – No report.

**Chapter 694** – No report.

**Chapter 105** -

I would like to thank all of area 2 American Legion riders and their chapters for the awesome show of support for the installation of officers in Santa Cruz, Ca for new chapter 64. Also, I would like to extend my gratitude to our ALR DOC Director Michael Smith and Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger for coming up north to install the officer of our new chapter 64. As area 2 Vice Director I Robert Lopez am so proud of all the American Legion riders in area 2. Together we can do great things for God and country!

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Paul LaPierre

**Chapter 100** conducted Flag Line & Military Honors for Navy Veteran Bill, Fresno Veterans Parade, Lemoore Veterans Parade with Chapter 3 and Combat, Coffee with Cops (Hanford), Escort, Flag Line and Taps for Navy Veteran Jesus, Taps & Flag Line for Army Veteran Gary Hamner, Veterans motorcycle run (Combat Vets), Military honors for Navy Veteran Joe David Bega, Escort & Flag Line for MCPO Leroy “Roy” Harmon, Escort & Flag line For Marine Veteran Michael Mend.

**Chapter 221** supported Returned Ashes to Earl Seiler's Family, PGR Escort Sp/4 Jeffery Lee Palmer, American Legion #221 Bingo Night, PGR Escort CPL Valdez USMC, Trunk or treat, Birthday Ride, 100 Birth Day Escort for Lou Moore WW11, Earl's Bike Nite, ALA Quarter Auction, Special Olympic, PGR Escort US Army Pfc Barry Logan.

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

**Chapter 785** supported Sanger Veterans Parade/ Pony express to 509, Trunk or treat, Birthday party for Lou WWII veteran.

Many chapters continue weekly meals and fundraisers.

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Brian Toal

Nothing to report.

1. **Area 5 Vice D –** Robert Partlow

Events/ Meetings Attended

-October 30-Attended Chapter 460 Breakfast

-November 5-Attended Chapter 289 Meeting, Working with new Director

-November 6-Attended American Legion Area 5 meeting

-November 6-Attended Chapter 328 Bike Rodeo

Total Mileage 356 Miles

Area Chapter Activities

-November 20-Area 5 Directors meeting hosted by Chapter 132 Orange

Other

Work with Chapter to become our 101st Rider Chapter and Currently working with a new Chapter to be elected for at our next meeting

1. **Area 6 Vice D –** Cris Molina
2. **Officer Reports-**
   1. **Jr. Past President –** Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)
   2. **Chaplain -** Fred Branson

I will be sending out condolence cards.

If a chapter is planning on doing a 4 Chaplain’s Ceremony they need to be planning now.

It usually is in February. We will be having the 4th annual in our area.

* 1. **Historian -** Mick Sobczak
  2. **Judge Advocate –** Donny Brannon

Enough chapters voted and of those chapters that voted enough voted for changing the bylaws. They now will go to the Legion DEC for approval.

Attended the Ch 328 rodeo.

Have been working with Ch 574 and the post to get them squared away.

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

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

10/28/2022-Post 26 Friday Night Dinner-selling tickets

11/1/2022-Delano Parade Committee meeting

11/5/2022-Delano CA, Inaugural Veterans Day Parade, Chapter’s 20 &amp; 26

11/11/2022-Bakersfield, CA Veterans Day Parade

* 1. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

Currently we have 3 orders Invoiced and are pending payment, 1 order wherein payment was received and are pending production and 6 orders that were shipped on November 15th. 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

We have Scheduled Safety Committee Meeting for November 15th, 2022. All

members are encouraged to attend. All Vice Directors should encourage members in their Area to attend.

The committee had the meeting and finished updating the Safety Handbook. It was sent out to all committee members for approval. Once I have it back, I will get it out to all members.

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

Hoping everyone are getting my emails. If anyone needs to know about benefits, call me.

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

Stops & motels pending

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

Mike Daugherty, Ch 20- Plenty of breakout rooms, good size stage. Working with the hotels for discounts as there are multiple events in town that weekend.

Flyer will be out next week.

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

Had a meeting on the 25th of October. No quorum. Next meeting is the 28th of November. We need more support.

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

Not a lot to report. I am still working on getting the emails out to District Commanders, and the POC’s regarding the quilt/tickets. Geni took the quilt to the Area 6 Meeting to show and possibly sell some tickets. Other than that, things are on track.

Ch 299 has sold all their tickets.

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

Still trying to put together new people to run the website.

Would like to move it to a new server.

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

See Quartermaster report.

* 1. Website revamp. Work continues. A meeting was planned for Wednesday, November 9, 2022, but was canceled due 2 of 4 being called to work. Another meeting will be conducted in the near future.
  2. Reflective top and bottom flares discussion. Hy Libby and Rick Phinney. Added is Comrade Libby’s summary:

**After a few months and many different occasions to "test ride" the silver reflective flairs, Rick and I have some shared observations:**

**1. The lettering is highly reflective, as my test in the darkness of my garage showed.**

**2. Despite all the miles Phinney and I ride, very little is done at night, so we did not observe this quality in real time.**

**3. On rainy days we typically ride with rain gear on, covering our patches completely, so no conclusions can be drawn in this case.**

**Conclusions:**

**1. These might have a valid purpose for riders who ride at night, or even early morning.**

**2. The reflective flairs are not as noticeable as the traditional yellow lettering in broad daylight.**

**It will have to be decided if these become optional, if we are content with two different looks to our "uniform".**

**Other alternatives to explore for those times when we need to be more conspicuous (nighttime) could be a separate reflective vest with our patch printed on it to be worn over our regular gear.**

**For rainy days we could have our patch printed on the jacket of a quality rain suit.**

\*After much deliberation and discussion, it was concluded that this subject will be tabled.

* 1. Chapter voting for changes to By-laws. Completed. The required number of chapters voted in the affirmative. The ALRDOC By-laws have been sent to TALDOC for review by the TALDOC, DEC.

See Judge Advocate report.

1. **New Business-**
   1. Vote on Charter for Chapter 951 as the 101st chapter.

Motion to accept Ch 951 as the 102nd ALROC chapter by Robert Partlow. 2nd by mark Rice. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

Cris Molina-Area 6 Vice D- Is ill with the flu.

Stan Tehee-Treasurer- is still recovering from a deer shot.

Pat McDowell-Post 53-Had surgery this past Tuesday. He is now back in the Loma Linda VA to figure out what is going on.

Eddie Orosco-Ch 20- is ill.

John Alba-Ch 20- Is in the VA for a procedure.

Rochelle Billet-Smith-Membership- her father is on hospice.

**Rider Everlasting:**

Robert (Grizz) Rank, Chapter 460 San Diego, transferred to Riders Everlasting on 10/6/2022.

Johnny Santias, District 13, transferred to Riders Everlasting.

Linda McIntyre-District 28, transferred to Riders Everlasting on October 5, 2022.

1. **Good of the Riders-**

George- When we have a veteran pass, we give them full military honors. When a SAL or Auxiliary pass we only give them a flag line. What can we come up with for the SAL and AUX to give them more honors? Mike suggested checking with the SA and AUX leadership to see if they have something in place already.

Mike made George head of an Ad Hoc committee to look into this. Mick will be part and Mike Smith will be part. Anyone else can be part of the Ad Hoc also. Let George know.

Paul- to the Webmaster- The alternate Vice Directors need to have access to the area chapters so they can contact chapters when needed and to walk them through how to do things on the online roster. Jim stated that that is a gray area and we shouldn’t be giving them access. Paul stated that they need to be able to see the info. Mike stated that he would call Jim.

Past President words of Wisdom.

Mick- Keep up the good work Mr. Director.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – December 15, 2022 @ 1900 hours, via Zoom.
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Fred Branson
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:07pm