The American Legion Riders

Department of California

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For God and Country

DEC minutes

May 25, 2023

1. **Call to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 7pm
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Mark Rice
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** – Lane Ybright

**Area 2 Vice-D** – Robert Lopez-ex

**Area 3 Vice-D** – Mike Phillips

**Area 4 Vice-D** – Brian Toal-ex

**Area 5 Vice-D** – Robert Partlow

**Area 6 Vice-D** – Cristina Molina-ex

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Mark Rice

**Historian** – VACANT

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

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

**Parliamentarian-** Mick Sobczak-ex

**Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith-ex

**Convention & Rally** – Bob Atchley

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee-ab

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Webmaster/Public Relations** – Donny Brannon (interim)

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

A3 Alt Gus Compton, Louisa Carson 785, Paul Swanson 460, Jeff and Tami Beck 328, Jeff Carson 785, A5 Alt William Blackstone, Tom Lively 299, Larry Earl 69, A4 Alt Jeric Wilhelmsen, A3 Alt Ken Sutton, Mike Daugherty 20, Greg martin D28, Jacque James 64, PP Steve Weber, Calvin Chaney 229, Bob Radcliff 30, Wayne Madsen 460.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

Zoom licenses; return charters of chapters 289 and 359; Transfer chapter 785 to 18; 2024 Rally location; hoodie quotes; copyright; Alternate Vice Director assignments.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Convention and Post Convention DEC Minutes, April 23, 2023.

Convention and post-convention minutes accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 5/25/23

Beginning Bank Balance $ 81,011.74

Bank Deposits $ 36,077.00

Interest on bank account $ 6.35

Bank Withdraws $ 18,187.80

Ending Bank Balance $ 98,907.29

PayPal Balance $ 25,944.74

Ending Total Balance $ 124,852.03

Finance Officer Notes: This is predominantly one of our busiest months, we had a lot of transactions around the convention that was the month earlier and the Legacy Run.

Motion to accept the financial report pending audit by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Marc Lawrie. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

Since our last meeting I have:

 April 21-23, attended ALRDOC 16 th Convention in Tulare

 April, 26, 2023, CA Legacy Zoom

 April 23, 2023, attended and reported at TAL DEC at Post 26 Bakersfield

 May 4, 2023, attended CA Legacy Run Kickoff at Post 221 Tehachapi

 May 5 – 7, 2023 CA Legacy Run

 May 13, 2023, Chapter 20 Cannon Ball Run

 May 15, 2023, donated blood at Post 20 Porterville Blood Drive

 May 16, 2023, Convention and Rally Zoom

 May 20, 2023, attended District 15 Meeting

 May 20, 2023, attended Chapter 3 Hanford Inaugural Poker Run

 May 22, 2023, CA Legacy Run Zoom

Although I have stayed pretty local over the last month, I have remained busy. I am planning on attending Chapter 95 Oroville’s Poker Run on June 17. After that we have TALDOC Convention on June 22-25, in Visalia. I am still looking for something on the first weekend of June, so if there is anything going on in your area, please let me know.

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:

April 28-30 - TAL DEC Bakersfield Post 26

May 4-7 -California Legacy Run

May 13 - Cannonball Run Chapter 20 Porterville

May 14 - Recruit Send Off and Escort at Bakersfield Armed Forces Recruiting Center

May 15 - Recruit Send Off and Escort at Bakersfield Armed Forces Recruiting Center

May 16 - ALRDOC Convention and Rally Committee meeting

May 20 - TAL 15th District meeting Bakersfield Post 26

May 22 - ALRDOC California Legacy Run Committee meeting

Events within my Area in the coming weeks &amp; month:

May 27-29 - Memorial Day events at Bakersfield National Cemetery, Union Cemetery and

Camp Hamilton Veterans Park

June 7 – Installation Chapter 20 Porterville

June 9 – Installation Chapter 26 Bakersfield

June 14 – Flag Retirement Ceremony Post 26 Bakersfield

June 17 – Installation Chapter 221 Tehachapi

Events planned for the months to come:

September 29-30 – West Coast Rally Chapter 53 Hemet

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

Events Attended, and miles ridden

1. ALRDOC Convention: 543 miles.

2. Chapter 149 poker run: 264 miles.

3. Chapter 460 monthly Sunday breakfast: 242 miles.

4. Chapter 299 monthly Wednesday wing night: 102 miles.

5. Chapter 328 monthly Sunday breakfast: 52 miles.

It was great to see everyone at the convention, and I had a great time. I also want to thank everyone again for allowing me to continue to perform the duties as the Sergeant at

Arms for another year. Last year will be hard to beat, but let’s get more stuff accomplished and have more fun this year. I look forward to seeing you all out on the road and getting to as many events as I possibly can.

In the month of June, I will be attending the American legion convention in Visalia.

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

I have been working on…

The Convention and post-convention minutes were completed.

Tracking COOs coming in. 2nd nominations and voting should be completed at this month’s chapter meeting with new officers taking positions in June. COOs are due no later than July 31 and the POC report is due no later than August 31. If there are any changes in officers and/or POC before next convention, new reports must be sent in.

The Area Vice Director and Alt Vice Director chapter responsibility list has been completed.

Am working with past DEC officers and committee chairs to get their email turned over to the new officers and chairs.

Reminder that DEC meeting reports are due the Tuesday before the DEC meeting.

DEC meeting for the year will be June 22, July 27, August 24, September 29 at Rally in Hemet, October 26, November 16, December 21, January 25, February 22, March 28 and April at convention.

A reminder about logging chapter activities from the chapter roster page went out to all POCs.

I deleted the Dialpad account so we will no longer be paying for it.

I continue to track the CLR funds. We fundraise until August 1.

Family renewals start July 1. A rider MUST show proof of renewal with their family BEFORE renewing with the chapter. Annual liability waivers must be completed. I will be sending out a reminder about this with the renewal guidelines to all chapter POCs.

Chapter 716 will be celebrating their 15th charterversary with a blowout Halloween party on October 21st. All are welcome.

I am working on a special project for the ALRDOC that will be revealed at rally.

Last but not least, Cal will be auctioned to the highest bidder at Rally. The winner will be able to keep him for a year while taking him to meetings, etc. and sending in pictures of his adventures. They winner will then bring him back to the 2024 Rally to be auctioned again. The money raised will be going to the new run.

If anyone needs anything, send me an email or text.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. **Area 1 Vice D –** Lane Ybright

As the new Area 1 Vice D, I’m off to a rough start.

I will be attending an event hosted by chapter 264 Lincoln this Saturday at Rocklin Harley, as well as attending the Memorial Day ceremonies in Placerville for chapter 119 standing in a flag line. Also, Monday morning early we will be putting full size flags up along HWY 50 going through Placerville prior to the ceremonies. I will have pictures to post.

I will be attending an event luncheon at chapter 521 Rio Linda on Saturday June 3.

I will also attend the 1st birthday celebration of chapter 95 Oroville ALR on June 17th.

I have been able to make contact with only five of the 15 chapters in my area with responses as to what they have been doing or are going to be doing in the near future. All 5 of which are having Memorial Day ceremonies in their respective areas at their local cemeteries and Veterans halls.

I hope to have much more to report at the next meeting.

1. **Area 2 Vice D –** Robert Lopez/Andrew Trapani

Attached is the compilation of the Area 2 monthly reports

We are missing 4 reports:

Chapter 31   - Officers on Ride to the Wall

Chapter 82 - Reported that they are making progress

Chapter 202 - No report

District 10 - Officers out of town on business

On Memorial Day we will be at the Golden Gate national Cemetery.

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Mike Phillips

Since being elected as the Area 3 Vice I have been without a motorcycle. The only event I have attended is the Legacy Scholarship Run at Post 3 to assist in preparing the food with Jeni.

Many Chapters have gotten off to a good start, below is a list of events they have participated in:

Chapter 3 California Legacy Scholarship Run, Chapter 20 annual Cannonball Run, Chapter 3 inaugural poker run

Chapter-20 California Legacy Scholarship Run, Chapter 20 annual Cannonball Run

Chapter 100 Flag line X2, California Legacy Scholarship Run, 5 Pillars of Freedom Dedication Flag Line

Chapter-687 Ridgecrest Military Banner Installation, California Legacy Scholarship Run

Chapter-785 California Legacy Scholarship Run, Chapter 20 Cannonball Run, Chapter 3 inaugural poker run.

Currently, preparing to change from Post 785 Visalia to Post 18 Visalia.

JD Bennett is on Run For The Wall.

Chapter 18 will be doing opening ceremonies at the Veterans Hall in Visalia and a flag ceremony at the post.

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Brian Toa/Jeric Wilhelmsen

Nothing to report from area 4 for the month.

1. **Area 5 Vice D –** Robert Partlow

Events/ Meetings Attended

-May 9-Attended CH 416 Meeting

- May 10-Attended meeting with Area 5 Alt. Vice Directors via Zoom

- May 13-Attened TAL District 22 meeting

- May 21-Ate breakfast at CH 299

- May 21-Attenended TAL Area 5 meeting

- May 22-Attended meeting with Area 4 and 6 Vice directors along with Nation of

Patriots

- May 24-Attended CH 460 meeting

Total Mileage 360 Miles

Upcoming

June 7 – Conducting Ch 299 Installation

June 10 – Conducting Ch 53 Installation

Insert from my Last weekly email

This year we are finally going to be able to go back to the Barstow Veterans Home. Keep November 18th open. This is an event for all of Area 5 and surrounding areas that would like to attend.

1. **Area 6 Vice D –** Cristina Molina

Chapter 43 - Attended Convention. All officers retained for the coming year with the exception of Treasurer.

Chapter 136 - Supported Chapter 534 BBQ. Attended convention.

Chapter 534 - They retained all officers for the 2023/24 year. They are working hard to make this year's Poker-Run event even better than last year.  So please come out to "The Friendliest Post on the Coast" 22 July. Attended convention.

Chapter 741 - Hosted the California Legacy Run at their Post. Attended convention. Attended Ride for the Blue in memory of Sgt. Ron Helus. Hosted their dinner and monthly meeting. Attended convention.

Cris Molina - Area 6 is now participating in the Passport Run. Will be picking up items from Danielle Lively on June 10th. Met with Nation of Patriots to discuss ways NOP and ALR can support one another. Also on the call with NOP were Brian Toal, Area 4 Vice, and Robert Partlow, Area 5 Vice, as well as Tom Lively from Chapter 299 who coordinated the call. Good things are coming. Honored and grateful to be the Area 6 Vice for this year.

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

Since Convention I have attended the DEC Meeting in Bakersfield and made the necessary reports.

I have not received any notices of injury, illness or transfers to Chapter Everlasting.

* 1. **Historian -** VACANT
  2. **Judge Advocate –** Donny Brannon

 I need to start off by saying there was an issue with the Chapter Bylaw Template.

o Article IX Finances section(s) 1-8 had a numerical error and there was no section 5.

o I have since rectified this and it now is section(s) 1 -7

 I have emailed a copy of the bylaw template to the following posts:

o 28, 31, 43, 64, 79, 111, 112, 146, 221, 262, 460, &amp; Aera 6 VD

o Please let them know of this error so they can rectify this on their end.

 I have uploaded both the ALR DOC Bylaws as well as the Chapter Template to ALR DOC

website.

o The Chapter Template is in word format for an easier amendment.

o Please direct your chapters to the alrdoc.org website

 From there click Resources

 Click ALR Bylaws and Resolutions

 Then click Bylaws, you will see the department bylaws and the chapter sample

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

4/28/2023-Friday Night Dinner for Post 26

4/29/2023- Honor Flight Breakfast- Tehachapi

4/29/2023- California Legacy Run, packing of bags.

4/29/2023- Dec Dinner Post 26

5/4/2023 - 5/7/2023- California Legacy Run

5/9/2023-ALR Chapter 26 E-Board Meeting

5/10/2023-ALR Chapter 26 Riders Meeting

5/13/2023-chapter 20 Cannonball Run

5/18/2023-American Legion Unit 26 Auxiliary Meeting

5/19/2023-Friday Night Dinner for Post 26

5/20/2023- Auxiliary District 15 Meeting

5/22/2023-California Legacy Run Committee Meeting

* 1. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

Currently we have 7 orders Invoiced and 1 order Payment Received pending processing. Please pay for all orders submitted in a timely manner and your orders will get out to you as quickly as possible.

I currently have two quotes for sweatshirts. Vendor #1 is White Hot Tees (Placerville) with a cost of $39 a sweatshirt. Vendor #2 is Old Glory Rebel (Visalia, Disabled Veteran own) $33 for pullovers and $35 for zippered.

I understand many Chapters aren’t receiving their invoices when they place an order. If you do not receive your invoice with 4 days of placing your order, first check your spam as I have found that some of my invoices go there and if it still is not there email me at alrdocquartermast@gmail.com and I will email you a copy of your invoice.

Recently I sent out copies of invoices with deadlines for them to be paid. Once the deadline had passed, I cancelled those orders. Please, if you submit an order remember to pay it in a timely manner or your order will be cancelled.

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.

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

This month the focus is on continuing Rider Education. Follow-up training has shown a 37% to 61% reduction in fatalities. Be sure to look into Intermediate and Advanced training.

I do teaching. Expect the unexpected. Have an escape route and be aware. I will be teaching in all areas.

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

What Critical Information Will Your Heirs Need?

 Recent copies of your credit report – TransUnion, Equifax and Experian will provide you with free copies, once a year

 List of debts and reoccurring bills

 Scan a page of each of your insurance policies (attach to list of reoccurring bills)

 If you have other users of your credit cards, tell them they cannot use them after your death (it’s fraud)

 A list of any money owed to you and if it should be collected or forgiven.

 Make sure someone can access your online accounts, it could be a family member or a trusted friend.

 Instructions to periodically check missing money under your name, missingmoney.com

 If you have a pet, leave pet care instructions.

 Vital Records – Birth Certificate, Driver’s License, Medicare Card, Military ID, Social Security card (or number) and any other personal documents you think might be necessary.

 A list of valuables and not so obvious valuables, i.e., pictures, paintings, drawings, sculptures, figurines, collector plates, etc.

 Access to frequent flyer miles, they may be transferable.

 Details about your funeral preferences and/or prepaid funeral arrangements.

This is just a quick list of things we should be thinking about as we get older. This list is from Bottomline monthly newsletter.

Please share this with your Post and anyone you think would be interested.

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

This page will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

Please follow the link below for more information and share with your Post and any Veteran you know that the PACT Act might affect.

The PACT Act and Your VA Benefits | Veterans Affairs

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

There were 42 registrations this year.

There were no accidents, no medical issues and no breakdowns.

National has put out notice that the American Legion Legacy Scholarship fund is now fully funded for the foreseeable future. There will still be a run but it will benefit the Veterans And Childrens Fund.

Next year’s run will be May 3-5, 2024.Rochelle read an email from the Ventura Veteran’s Home.

* 1. **Convention and Rally –** Bob Atchley

We had our 1st meeting of the year.

Rally will be September 29-October 1 in Hemet with chapter 53. Registration is open.

Chapter 460 in San Diego is looking into hosting the 2024 convention. Should have a vote at the June meeting.

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

Need Past Presidents and Past Directors to be on the meeting. Haven’t had a quorum.

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

The 2023 Legacy Quilt Raffle has come to an end. The Chapters have sold what tickets they could or made donations in lieu of selling them. unaccounted for. All money collected so far and that collected at the Convention was turned over to Stan Tehee, State Treasurer on Sunday April 23, 2023. Final accounting for the 2023 Legacy Quilt is pending receipt of money from one Chapter who neglected to get it in or bring to Convention. I emailed the Chapter in question on Tuesday and have not heard back yet. I will be starting on the next quilt this weekend.

* 1. **Webmaster/Public Relations –** Donny Brannon (interim)

We have successfully moved the ALRDOC website from Jim Oxley’s private hosting service

to our own account on GoDaddy.

 Both Tom Lively and I have been given administrative rights.

 We both feel confident we can navigate through the website for the most part.

 Jim is willing to field any calls we might have going forward.

 We are going to be working on permissions and house cleaning in the coming months.

1. **Unfinished Business-**
   1. Website migration.

See previous reports.

* 1. Zoom account-

Ralph has changed the number of licenses from 10 to 3. This brings the yearly fee from $1999 to $450.

* 1. Assignment of chapters to Alt Vice Directors.

Completed.

* 1. Hoodies-

Mike Phillips received 3 new bids for the black ALRDOC California zip hoodies. One was from White hot Tees for $4580.23. another was from French Press for $3428.51. another was from Old Glory Rebel for $3630. After much discussion is was voted to go with Old Glory Rebel as they were close to the bid from French Press but very close to the Quartermaster so there wouldn’t be any shipping costs to get them. Motion to accept the bid from Old Glory Rebel by Mike Phillips. 2nd by Marc Lawrie. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **New Business-**
   1. Accept return of Chapter 359 Norwalk Charter

Motion to accept the return of the chapter 359 Norwalk charter by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Mike Phillips. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Accept return of Chapter 289 Riverside Charter

Motion to accept the return of the chapter 289 Riverside charter by Robert Partlow. 2nd by Andrew Trapani. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Approve transfer of Chapter 785 Visalia to Post/Chapter 18 Visalia.

Motion to accept the return of the chapter 785 Visalia charter by Mike Phillips. 2nd by Ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

Motion to approve the charter of chapter 18 Visalia by Mike Phillips. 2nd by ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. 2024 Rally-

Representatives from chapter 69 and chapter 20 were both on the Convention and Rally committee meeting. Both were instructed to have a presentation for the DEC meeting.

Chapter 20 gave a presentation to the DEC stating the Rally would be in Porterville and only 4 miles from the hotels.

Chapter 69 representatives were not on the DEC meeting.

Motion to award the 2024 West Coast Rally to chapter 20 by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Robert Partlow. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. 2024 convention-

Information was given that chapter 460 San Diego had received approval from the chapter to host the 2024 convention. They will be going to the next post 460 meeting to get approval from the post. This will be revisited at the June DEC meeting.

* 1. Establish Webmaster, Web Administrator and Public Relations positions. Past Webmaster Jim Oxley has discussed in the past he had three (3) roles while in his appointed position. Webmaster, Web Administrator and Public Relations.

See below.

* 1. Ratify appointment of Tom Lively as Webmaster/Web Admin and Public Relations Chair.

Motion to ratify Tom Lively as the Webmaster, Web Admin and the Public Relations Committee Chair by Marc Lawrie. 2nd by Robert Partlow. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Historian vacancy.

Mike will put out a message on the Facebook pages.

* 1. Mileage Cup entries.

POCs CANNOT log events onto the website through the online roster UNTIL AFTER the event has happened. Any logged in before will be deleted. Vice Directors were directed to get the Rules out to all POCs.

* 1. Copyrighted artwork-

Artwork is copyrighted until 70 years from the death of the artist. Any artwork used in chapter posters, flyers etc. must have the permission of the original artist or their family.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:** Gary Williams chapter 716 had hip replacement surgery.

**Rider Everlasting:**

1. **Good of the Riders-**

Andrew Trapani- Ride safe. Be aware of your circumstances and surroundings.

Mark Rice-Is the stress and aggravation of infighting, etc. worth the damage to our organization?

Bob Atchley-The registration for the 2023 rally in Hemet is open ion Eventbrite and by mail.

Mike Smith-There was a lot of love and camaraderie while on the California Legacy Run. Take those feelings back to your posts. This year I will be talking about kindness, compassion and caring in out chapters and our posts.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – June 22, 2023 @ 1900 hours via Zoom.
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Mark Rice
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:46pm.