**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

DEC Minutes

8/24/2023

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** – Andrew Trapani
5. **ALR Preamble** – Director Mike Smith
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – Marc Lawrie ABSENT

**Area 1 Vice-D** – Lane Ybright ABSENT

**Area 2 Vice-D** – Robert Lopez ABSENT

**Area 3 Vice-D** – Mike Phillips

**Area 4 Vice-D** – Brian Toal EXCUSED

**Area 5 Vice-D** – Robert Partlow

**Area 6 Vice-D** – Cristina Molina

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee ABSENT

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Mark Rice

**Historian** – Louisa Carson

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

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

**Parliamentarian-** Mick Sobczak EXCUSED

**Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith ABSENT

**Convention & Rally** – Bob Atchley

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee ABSENT

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Webmaster/Public Relations** – Tom Lively EXCUSED

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

A5 Alt Vice D Bill Blackstone, A3 Alt vice D Gustie Compton, Ch 468 Bryce Weaver, Ch 69

Pete Torrecillas, Ch 82 Ed Caler, Ch 30 Bob Radcliff, Cal, A6 Alt Vice D Milan Morgan, Brianna

Mitchell

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – ALRDOC July 27, 2023 minutes.

Accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 8/25/23

Beginning Bank Balance $ 96,551.14

Bank Deposits $ 6,016.00

Interest on bank account $ 4.07

Bank Withdraws $ 4,538.74

Ending Bank Balance $ 98,032.47

PayPal Balance $ 30,163.64

Ending Total Balance $ 128,196.11

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

Since our last meeting I have:

* July 29 – Funeral in Lemoore, CA, with Chapters 3, 18, 20 and 100
* August 4 – Funeral at Post 20; played Taps
* August 11 – Funeral Post 20; played Taps
* August 14 – CA Legacy Run Meeting
* August 15 – CA Convention and Rally Meeting

I am currently in Loganville, Georgia on my way to the National Convention in Charlotte, NC.

I have had a fairly slow month due to the accident and with getting ready to leave for the National Convention. I hope each of you is doing well.

I am looking to all of us on the DEC to get the word out about the West Coast Rally. I have been sharing it on all Area Facebook accounts. As the leadership it is important for us all to get this out and encourage chapters to attend. Besides Convention, this is the one time we really push for us all to get together. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

Update on Mick-He lost traction and hydroplaned. Bike went down an embankment and he slid about 150 feet. Had a brain bleed that has stopped. Road rash on right arm. Having trouble with word association and texting.

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:

July 27 – 70th Anniversary Korean War Armistice Ceremony Bakersfield

August 5 – Chapter 20 Porterville overnight ride to Cayucos

August 6 – Chapter 48 Oxnard monthly meeting

August 8 – Chapter 26 Bakersfield Bike Night at Post 26

August 9 – Chapter 26 Bakersfield monthly meeting

August 13 – Military recruit escort from Armed Forces Recruiting Center Bakersfield

August 14 - California Legacy Run committee meeting

August19 – Celebration of Life Past Chapter 26 President Phil Mygatt Bakersfield

August 24 – Escort / Funeral for Past ALRDOC President Albert “Pancho” Villa at

California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery - Seaside

Thanks to Hy Libby for orchestrating the escorts.

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month: None

Events planned for the months to come:

August 26 – ALR Area 2 Directors Meeting Chapter 105 Redwood City

September 15-17 – 2023 ALR Western Romp, Tombstone Arizona

September 29 - October 1 – West Coast Rally Chapter 53 Hemet

October 7 – TAL Area 3 meeting, Post 190 Ripon

October 14 – Sikh Riders of America 11th Annual Ride – Bakersfield

October 14 – Four Seasons Blue Star Moms Poker Run - Tehachapi

October 28 – ALR Area 3 Meeting Chapter 88 Turlock

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

No report sent.

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

For COO we have 2 chapters still under suspension because the posts are under suspension. I chapter is reviewing its viability and another who has asked for help to see if it can survive. Those 2 chapters have been given extensions.

For POC reports there are 45 chapters who need to get their report in by next Thursday, August 31. Those include the 4 previously spoken of.

Please keep you rosters updated and make sure emails and phone numbers are correct.

RE Ch 69 ed Hawkins, Ch 200 terry Hobbs, Ch 255 Marvin Cannegieter, Ch 26 Phil Mygatt, Ch 555 Don Stevenson, District 28 Poncho Villa. Please keep us updated as soon as a chapter knows of a rider everlasting so we don’t miss anyone at convention.

We will be going to Julian this Saturday for their bison burgers and stopping at the Julian Pie Co.

September 12 we will be leaving for Tombstone for the Western Romp. Anyone wants to ride together, let me know. We plan to be back September 19.

Reminder that the September DEC meeting will be in person at post 52 in Hemet at 6pm Friday, September 29 at Rally. For those who are officers there will be invoices to fill in and we will need your hotel receipt. Cal will be raffled here.

October 14th, please join chapter 716 to celebrate our 15th charterversary will a Halloween party starting at 4pm. There will be games, prizes, food, etc. There are hotels within walking distance.

November 18, after a 4-year hiatus, area 5 will be going to the Barstow veteran’s home. Areas 3, 4 and 6 will be coming along.

December 3, Ch 716 will be hosting our 14th annual Toys for Tots breakfast starting at 9am.

December 16, please plan on assisting with laying wreaths for Wreaths Across America.

December/January I’ll be looking for rosters being updated.

The year is going by fast. Stay jazzed and enthusiastic about **why** you’re a rider.

Upcoming-August 2024-“X” flight will ride again in the 2024 National Legacy Run. Join Us.

-For 3 wheelers-the 2nd week in July 2025-3 wheel rally in Deadwood, South Dakota.

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

Since our last meeting I have participated in:

2 flag lines to honor veterans in our county.

Joined in on several rides with my own chapter 119 to the beautiful Sierra mountains to a little town called Pioneer for lunch approx. 100 mi round trip with lots of curves and beautiful vistas.

I was contacted by our Veterans Resource Officer and asked to help a Veteran in need, that had lost his job and was struggling to provide for his family. My Auxiliary president and I reached out to him and found out that he has a 10-year-old daughter and a 5 year old son. The daughter is just about to start the 5th grade with old clothes and no means to get her a haircut or school supplies. We immediately took action and got her all the school supplies and a backpack, my Auxiliary Pres took her to get a full makeover, nails painted and haircut. She was so excited. Thank you to our awesome Director Mike Smith for donating the haircut and nails. I then got her registered in the local 20-30 club's shopping spree and they were able let here pick out some new clothes for school. We also got her little brother a new hair cut as well so he didn’t feel left out.

The following Saturday started by hauling 44 backpacks full of school supplies to Walmart at 7am to participate in the Goldrush Unit #1034 20-30 Club's back to school shopping spree and backpack give away to school children of all ages in El Dorado County, then at 9:30am directly on a ride to Farmington to celebrate Bill Bryant feeling better at his favorite hide out for frog legs, Lagorio’s Grill and Bar. He’s not quite ready to ride yet so he drove his car and led the ride, 140 miles round trip.

The next day I rode w/ my wife Leanne to Chapter 28 Petaluma for their inaugural car and bike show, it was fantastic and run very well for their first bike and car show event. This Thursday morning at 6am I will be leading the first leg of Albert "Poncho" Villa's escort from Jackson to Westley then back to work, 210-mile round trip.

I have hope that all my chapter POC's will be turned in on time for Area 1. We are getting there slowly.

I also have been doing everything I can to assist a new rider’s chapter up in McCloud at Cheula Post 92 in getting its paperwork ready to be submitted for review and hopefully we can get them their new charter before the next convention.

That is all I have to report this month.

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

I received reports from C105, C694, D9 and D28.

I did not receive reports from C31, C64, C69, C82, C202, D10 and D13.

District 9:

07/04/2023/ 4th of July Annual Parade American Legion Riders

07/05/2023/: Riders monthly meeting, had Visitor from VFW and Marine corps league. (Bill Webber)

## 07/21/2023/ Visit to local college. Los Medanos College Community in Pittsburg, California /VA Center: Mission to recruit new American Legion members and ALR Riders.

District 9 and Chapter 202: 07/26/2023: sent letter to Contra Costa board of Supervisors (Supervisor Burgis) regarding an urgent concern About Fire Station Location - Preserving Our Heritage and Downtown Businesses.

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Mike Phillips

In the month of August, I still have no motorcycle. I can’t wait to get back on two wheels and start visiting the chapters in my area.

Area 3 Chapters had a slow month with only two chapters reporting events. Below is a list of events they have participated in:

Chapter -18 Funeral Escorts X2 and support Ivanho Post 743 in their annual hot dog feed at a local elementary school.

Chapter -100 Flag line Funeral escort X5

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Brian Toal

No report.

1. **Area 5 Vice D –** Robert Partlow

Events/ Meetings Attended

-July 30-Attended Chapter 460 and 149 Breakfast

-July 25-Attended Post 460 General Meeting

-July 26-Attended Chapter 460 Meeting

-July 27-Attended ALR DEC Meeting

-August 12- Conducted Chapter 716 Installation

- August 13- Attended TAL District 22 Meeting

Total Mileage 310 Miles

Other

Upcoming August 26 – Chapter 468 4th Annual Bison Burger Burn 11AM-2:30PM

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

Not much to report.

Chapter 40 - Supported Stephanie, Alternate 2, being installed as the District 18 First Vice. Congrats! They also have a new Chapter member and they look forward to seeing everyone on the road.

Chapter 43 - Added a new member at the last meeting. Having a Bob's Big Boy fundraiser on Friday, August 25th in Toluca Lake.

Chapter 534 - had a breakfast on August 6. Participated in the Nation of Patriots ride on August 19. Several officers went to Sturgis.

Chapter 741 - Up to 31 members now. Worth the kudos for keeping their numbers up.

Area Vice - Spoke with Hawaii Department Secretary regarding wildfire relief. They currently don't want material donations. It's a logistical nightmare. Monetary donation should be sent directly to the Department. She assured me that they are vetting recipients of the funds and helping those affected by the fires. I have her contact information if anyone needs it.

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

No report.

Been celebrating a new acquisition of a Street Glide Special.

* 1. **Historian –** Louisa Carson

7/29/2023 Attended the Celebration of Life for U.S. Army Veteran John Riley Staggs in Lemoore. ALR Chapters 18, 20, and 100 came together in a flag line. ALR Ch 18 Director Jeff Carson carried the urn and ALR-DOC State Director Mike Smith played taps. After the service, we went for lunch at The Vinyard.

8/3/2023 Cooked hot dogs for the students and their families at Ivanhoe Elementary School for their Community Back to School Backpack Giveaway. 6 members attended. After the event 3 members went to the Ivanhoe Post 743 and got a tour plus had a history chat with Roy Phillison. He is one of 5 Legionnaires left in that post.

8/5/23 Joined ALR Ch 20 Fun Ride to Cayucos for an overnight trip. We had a great time and it was a beautiful ride.

8/18/23 Attended the Dinner to fundraise for The Greatest Generation Mural in Visalia at the Visalia Veterans Memorial Building. We had a guest speaker who is a Korean War Veteran, a magician, raffle, and dinner.

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

I’ve been consumed by Post and District events. There will be a tri-mixer with chapters 299, 951 and 229 coming up.

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

Since our last meeting I have participated in the following:

8/5/2023-Area 3 overnight Ride to Cayucos, Chapters 18, 20, 26 & 221

8/6/2023-Attended Chapter 48 Meeting in Oxnard, CA

8/8/2023-ALR Chapter 26 1st Bike Night

8/9/2023-ALR Chapter 26 E-Board & Riders Meeting

8/14/2023-California Legacy Run Meeting

8/19/2023-Celebration of Life for Past President of Chapter 26, “Phil Mygatt”

8/24/2023-Attended the funeral for Past President Albert Poncho villa. Got to meet and

talk to Terry Baughman.

* 1. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

Currently we have 3 orders Invoiced, 3 orders in process, 2 orders payment has been received and 14 orders were completed. Please pay for all orders submitted in a timely manner and your orders will get out to you as quickly as possible. Sweatshirts are now available for order at a price of $40 plus shipping.

Once again, 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](mailto:alrdocquartermast@gmail.com) and I will email you a copy of your invoice.

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

It was reported the Chapter 20 had an incident on one of their rides. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries.

Mick was injured in a single vehicle accident.

Rick Phinney of Chapter 31 was side swiped. His gold Wing was totaled.

I have begun a series of monthly safety articles that are being sent out to the Area Vice Directors as well as Area Alternate Vice Directors to be distributed to all members.

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

No report sent.

* 1. **Webmaster –** Tom Lively

Fixed access for several individuals and actively responding to emails.

Fixed Stack Overflow issue on Website that was throwing errors.

Dug into areas of website that are not currently working.

 Mail to Members – Missing coding to allow for email to be sent out. Need to engage

someone well versed in PHP to fix.

 Look for Chapter – Missing PHP code to allow for search. Need to engage PHP expert.

Looking into possible College Web Designer to design new Website.

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

Will be updating the website.

Ending balance for the 2023 CLR is $67,503.18

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

2023 West Coast Rally Report

Chapter 53 Hemet, Mick Sobzcak-Questions that were asked during the July meeting are as follows.

Questions from last meeting.

Was there going to be a mail in form for registration? It was developed and sent out.

Shirt size available to women only went up to X-Large. Were larger sizes going to be made available?

Women sizes were increased to include 2X & 3X.

1 Month Out

a. Report to DEC that merchandise has arrived. Merchandise will be ordered once pre-registration has closed. Need Chapter 20 to bring with them to Rally the remaining I Rode My patches that they have. Will re-embers Chapter 20 for those patches. Mick gave a complete run down from beginning to end of what has been completed as far as check in, hotels, camping, meals, ride, raffle, entertainment. Card reader will be available. Mike reported that the DEC meeting will be at 6 pm. Debbie reported that Cal is to be raffled off Saturday night.

b. Report to DEC that prior reports in the timeline are still complete with no issues and all requirements are in place. Yes, timelines are being met. T-shirt design has been submitted and ready for print with additional sizes included. Shirts will be safety green. On Sept. 2nd the order will be place for pre-registered members. Those that are 2X and larger that have pre-registered will get a shirt. Not ordering any extras in those sizes.

c. Report to DEC, the DEC Convention and Rally and Chapter/District Rally Committee’s will continue to conduct weekly meetings. The next meeting for Chapter 53 only will be on August 29th , 7 pm.

2024 ALR/DOC Convention Report

Chapter 460 San Diego, Wayne Madsen reported

9 Months Out

Where convention will be held. Must be able to hold a minimum of 350 to 375 persons, be ADA compliant and have suitable parking. Post 282 La Mesa has seating for 300. Chapter 460 is asking committee to allow the seat count to be adjusted from 350 to 375 to be adjusted to 300.

A motion was made by R. Lassotovitch to adjust the seating to 300 and seconded by Mick Sobzcak . There was discussion regarding the seating. Vote was taken to allow for the adjustment. Approved. There are adequate rooms for breakouts. Need letter from Post 282 La Mesa allowing Chapter 460 to utilize their building for 2024 Convention.

List of accommodations, (hotels, motels, RV &amp; camping), with reservation codes for each.

There are very few hotels. Hotels for convention will be in San Diego.

Images of logos for flyers and merchandise have been previewed, completed and approved by Emblem Sales. Design for T-shirts, pins & flyers have been presented and approved by the committee. Color and material of T-Shirt are being discussed by Chapter.

Preview of Convention flyer presented to ALRDEC. Will be presented to ALRDEC once approved.

Online registration open. Accepting mail in registration. Not open yet. Will be using Event.com for registration.

What merchandise (wristbands, shirts, pins, hats, etc.) has been ordered. Once design has been approved it will take approximately 40 days to receive.

Report on Opportunity drawing donation progress, 50/50, etc. There will be no 50/50. Raffle will require a permit from the State of California.

Hotel rooms are being looked into. Wayne asked how many rooms are required to be block out at each hotel. Recommendation was made to block out approximately 30 rooms. RV parking is posing a problem due to distances from the convention site. Mick recommended to check with 731 to see if they would allow RV parking. Parking at 460 is limited but additional parking is available across the street at Post 460. Going to organize a ride on Saturday for those that want to go on a ride.

Flyer or booklet which shows: Motorcycle repair shops, points of interest, medical facilities, local eateries. Working on list but there are eateries every second door in the city of San Diego.

Contact is being made with motorcycle shops and medical facilities. Recommend that the list be inserted into the check in bags.

2025 ALR/DOC Convention Report

Chapter 69 Hollister, No one attended meeting.

No report given

2024 West Coast Rally Report

No report was required of Chapter 20 Porterville. 1st report will be given at the next meeting.

Next monthly meeting to be held on August 19, 2023 at 1900 hrs.

* 1. **PP/DC –** Dennis Kee

The next ALRDOC PPC/PDC meeting is scheduled for 28th of August at 7 p.m.

We had a meeting in July but did not have a quorum. We still have a position open for Secretary that we would like to get a volunteer for.

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

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

No report

* 1. **Public Relations –** Tom Lively

No report.

1. **Unfinished Business-**

None

1. **New Business-**

Ralph- Sent a plant to Mrs. Villa for Poncho’s services. She has requested that we donate in his name to Wounded Warriors.

Motion to donate $100 to Wounded Warriors in Poncho Villa’s name by Ralph. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

Ch 53 Mick Sobczak- accident

Ch 31-Rick Phinney-side swiped.

**Rider Everlasting:**

Past Department President Albert Poncho Villa July 31 D28

1. **Good of the Riders-**

Mark Rice- Maui emails-Check with Districts and Posts. American Legion Dept. of California Relief Fund. The fund is going to the Dept. of Hawaii.

Mike Phillips-Bruce Lippman’s son passed away at 40 years old of a heart attack.

Cris-Thanks for the prayers for Mom. She is doing well. Work has been challenging.

Ralph-Sent an email to all vice directors concerning plea about donations. Pony Express by August 31.

Ralph-Terry Baughman was the first President of the ALR. Got to speak to him.

Ralph-Zip ties-Carry them on your bike.

Ralph-Thanks to those who have given thoughts and prayers for my eyes. They are better but coming back slowly.

Mike Smith-Great ride to Georgia. Spent the first night at Janet Wilson’s house in Kingman.

Long days but a great ride.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – September 29, 2023 @ 1800 hours at Post 53 Hemet.
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Mark Rice
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:10pm