**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

DEC MINUTES

November 16, 2023

1. **Call to Order** – ALRDOC Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger @ 1900 hours
2. **Invocation** – Louisa Carson
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Robert Lopez
5. **ALR Preamble** – Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith EXCUSED

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger

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

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

**Area 2 Vice-D** – Robert Lopez

**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 EXCUSED

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Mark Rice

**Historian** – Louisa Carson

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

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

**Parliamentarian-** Mick Sobczak ABSENT

**Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith EXCUSED

**Convention & Rally** – Bob Atchley ABSENT

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Webmaster/Public Relations** – Tom Lively

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

PP Jim Banakus, A5 Alt Jeff Beck, D28 Greg Martin, Ch 64 Jacque James, Ch 30 Bob Radcliff, Ch 328 Bob Elder, A3 Alt Gus Compton, Post 176 Mark Boyd, Ch 229 Calvin Chaney

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – ALRDOC October 26, 2023 minutes.

Accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee
2. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

 October 26 – National Commander Escort Meeting

 October 28 – Area 5 Meeting

 November 4 – District 15 Meeting

 November 4 – Chapter 20 Veterans Day Dance

 November 5 – Post 20 POW/MIA Ceremony

 November 7 – National Commander Escort Meeting

 November 10 – Our Hero’s Dreams Golf Tournament

 November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday at Post 106 Redlands

 November 11 to 17 – National American Legion College, Indianapolis, IN

This has been a hard month for our family. We have lost 2 Riders to accidents. Please keep their families and chapters in your prayers. Keep your head on a swivel and be safe.

I am hopeful I will have been able to send out information with regard to the National Commanders Escort by this meeting. This was a quick month between meetings. I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving!

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

October 28 – ALR Area 3 Meeting Chapter 88 Turlock

October 29 – 92nd Recruit Send off and Escort of 2023 at Armed Forces Career Center,

Bakersfield

November 3 – Honor Flight Kern County Welcome Home flag line at Meadows Field, Bakersfield

November 4 – TAL 15th District meeting Post 20 Porterville

November 8 – Chapter 26 – Bakersfield general membership meeting

November 11 – Bakersfield Veterans Day Parade / Ceremonies

November 12 - 96th Recruit Send off and Escort of 2023 at Armed Forces Career Center,

Bakersfield

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

November 18 – Veterans Memorial Poker Run Benefitting Central Valley Honor Flight, Mathews Harley Davidson, Fresno

November 19 – Post 476 Family Fall Festival, California City

Events planned for the months to come:

December 10 – Bakersfield Toy Run

1. **Sgt. At Arms’ Report** – Marc Lawrie
2. **Secretary’s Report** – Debbie Proffitt

Sent out reminders for roster updates, chapter renewals and the National Commander escort.

Chapter 716 will be having their 14th Annual Toys for Tots breakfast on Sunday, December 3rd from 9 to 1. Please come and support.

POCs need to make sure all emails are distributed to all chapter members in a timely manner.

Sent out area tracking to all Area Vice Directors and Alt Vice Directors.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. **Area 1 Vice D –** Lane Ybright
3. **Area 2 Vice D –** Robert Lopez

**Ch 69-**

2 Honor Missions, Chapter 69 Veterans Day Poker Run, Watsonville Veterans Day Parade, Salinas Veterans Day Parade. Santa Cruz Warriors Hoops for Troops.

Events planned for the months to come: Lights on Parade, Hollister, CA

**D 9-**

Rolling 9’s.

Function # 1: Rolling 9’s Riders Participated in a recruiting dance: Titled: BE

THE ONE: Hosted at Post 202 757 1 st Street Brentwood, Ca 94513 {October 2013}

Function # 2: Rolling 9’s Riders Participated Community Awareness Ride to Promote the American Legion and American Legion Riders. {October 2023}

Function # 3: Rolling 9’s Riders Participated Veterans Day festivities i.e., Veterans Memorial and Living Veterans Celebration, followed by a mini ride to Veterans Memorial sites. {November 2023}

**D 28-**

 Attended four Honor Missions for: Erasmo Inzerillo USN, Rodney Rocero USAF, Vernon Avant USA, and William Milo USMC

 ALR Chapter 69 First Annual Ed Hawkins run to Castle Air Force Base

 Celebration of Life for Poncho

 Run to Operation Freedom Paws

 Heroes Open Golf Tournament

 ALR Joint Chapter 31, 64, 69, 591, 694, &amp; D28 Meeting

 Issued Food Bank meals for Chualar Community.

Events planned for the months to come:

• Saturday December 2nd – Toys for Tots Run, Marine Corps Reserve Santa Cruz.

• Friday December 8th – Run to KSBW Share Your Holiday.

• Saturday December 9th – ALR District 28 Christmas

• Saturday December 16th – Wreaths Across America

• Monday January 1st – Burrito Run to Gilroy Veterans Memorial Building

**Ch 105-**

Ranger Shawn Patterson Walk of Remembrance

Post 791 Bike or Treat

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

Training Ride with the 23rd Regiment, Various Honor Missions

**Ch 591-**

10/3-26/23- Conducted Buddy Checks- 3 Calls/ 1 in person contact (Hostetler)

10/5/23- Attended Fort Ord Retired Soldiers (Presidio of Monterey) Monthly Mtg (Hostetler)

10/6/23- Participated in Patriot Guard Honor Mission for Veteran Rocero to CCCVC (Kunoa)

10/7/23- Participated in POW/MIA Poker Run Hosted by D28 Riders (Kunoa)

10/13/23- Participated in Patriot Guard Honor Mission for Veteran Nier to CCCVC (Kunoa)

10/16/23- Assisted with Project Hero R2R stop at Post 591. Made sandwiches, provided local traffic control. (Kunoa/ LaMica/ Hostetler)

10/26/23- Attended (via Zoom) ALRDOC Monthly Mtg (Hostetler)

10/29/23- Attended All District 28 Chapters Mtg (Hostetler)

11/3/23- Attended CA Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation (CCCVCF) Monthly Mtg (Kunoa)

11/6/23- Attended UVC presentation to honor Veteran Janet Parks for Lifetime Achievement (Kunoa)

11/9/23- Assisted with flag planting for Vets at El Carmelo Cemetery (Kunoa)

11/11/23- Assisted/ Participated in Vets Day Ceremony and Salinas Parade (Kunoa/ Hostetler/Benitez)

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

Buddy Checks/ Patriot Guard Honor Missions/ Special Events for Christmas

Events planned for the months to come:

Installation of Officers being planned for when new building is completed. ETC Feb/Mar

All berets and back patches have been purchased and distributed to current members.

**Ch 202-**

For the month of October- November 13, 2022:

October 7- Veteran Escort. Escorted veteran Marine Veteran Sergeant Kyle Garcia to Homes for Our Troops Community Kickoff in Byron, CA

 Riders: Kelly Reynolds, John Reichenbach, Ernest &amp; Alex Luckhardt, Eddie Laudani, Nina Choy-Rohmiller, Luis Torres

ALR Riders outing from Brentwood CA to Ione, CA and a stop on the way back in Lockeford, CA

 Riders: John Reichenbach, Ernest &amp; Alex Luckhardt, Luis Torres, Eddie Laudani, Shaun Rohmiller, Nina Choy- Rohmiller

ALR Riders participated in Brentwood, CA Veterans Day Ceremony. American Legion Post 202 ran point, with support from the AL Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, VFW Post 10789, and MCL.

 Riders Shaun Rohmiller and Nina Choy-Rohmiller performed the POW/MIA Ceremony. Riders John Reichenbach, Maryann Reichenbach, Ernest & Alex Luckhardt, Eddie Laudani and Mike Grillo in attendance

Veterans Pancake Breakfast 11/14/2023

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

Brentwood, CA Holiday Parade 11/25/2023

Events planned for the months to come:

Crab Feed Feb 17, 2024

**D 10-**

D10 has participated in 2 parades, 2 ceremonies, with rides going to and from all events

D10 will be looking into supplying food and clothing to the local shelters throughout Alameda County, also starting up our volunteer hour, and helping with the 4th Sunday breakfast at post 117.

Chapter 591 is waiting for their post to open to have installation.

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Mike Phillips

In the month of November, I rode in two Veterans Day Parades (Porterville and Lemoore), attended the Visalia Harley Veterans Day appreciation lunch event and attended Fresno Chapter 509’s first ALR meeting since coming off suspension.

Below is a list of events Area 3 Chapters have participated in during the last month:

Chapter - 18 One rider attended the American Legion College, Area 3 Directors Meeting, 2 Trunk or Treat Events, Poker Run, Our Heros Dream Golf Tournament Flag Line, Two Veterans Day Parades and Fresno Chapter 509 ALR Meeting.

Chapter - 20 Area 3 Directors meeting and Area 5 Directors Meeting in Hemet

Chapter - 26 Veterans Day Parade and Escort New Recruits to MEPS

Chapter – 88 Hosted the Area 3 Directors Meeting

Chapter - 100 Kern River Honor Flight send off and welcome home, Funeral escort and flag line, Lemoore Veterans Day parade.

Chapter - 221 Trunk or Treat, Area 3 Directors Meeting, 2 Parades, Buddy Check, Veterans Day Celebration at Post 221

My motorcycle is back and I have been riding.

Ch 83 founding member Vince Cole passed of cancer.

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Brian Toal

Nothing to report.

1. **Area 5 Vice D –** Robert Partlow

-November 9-Attended and emceed veterans day dinner and Marine Corps Birthday

-November 11-Visited numerous posts/chapters Vetfest/ lunches/ dinners

-November 12-Participated in San Diego Veterans Day Parade

Total Mileage 210 Miles

At the Veterans Day parade there was a trolley with honor flight participants aboard. I talked to a few. One was 100 years and another at 101 years. The vet who was 101 years asked that the riders escort her when she had passed. Gave info to her and her niece.

Barstow Veterans Home visit has been postponed. New date is March 23. Anything you have accumulated please hold until then.

My first grandbaby was born a few days ago. A girl. Very excited.

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

Chapter 30 supported their auxiliary unit and other community events and escorts.

Chapter 43 attended the Veterans Day event at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall.

Chapter 180 participated in the Azusa Founders Parade.

Chapter 755 had a successful Veterans Day Dinner.

Chapter 136 hosted a poker run and raised over $6400.

Chapter 534 Rider's participated in escorting Ride2Recovery bicyclists from Pismo Beach to their Post where they were fed lunch by Post Auxiliary members. Once they were ready, they escorted the on to their destination is Solvang.

Ride2Recovery/Project Hero is a non-profit dedicated to helping Veterans and First Responders affected by PTSD, TBI, and injury achieved rehabilitation, recovery, and resilience in their daily lives and increasing awareness to combat the national mental health emergency posed by PTSD and TBI.

Mom has been having many health issues and the newish job has been intense. Please send good vibes our way.

Congrats to Grandpa Boo.

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

I completed my visits to all the Posts as the District 6 Commander.

I attended the American Legion Area 1 meeting on November 4th and 5th.

I attended the Mather Regional Hospital Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th.

* 1. **Historian –** Louisa Carson

10/14th Tehachapi Poker Run Blue Star Moms Assoc- I attended the event with ALR Ch 147, Ch 20, and Ch 18. Both of my boys were featured in the slide show during lunch and raffle time. Posted onto social media.

10/21st Castle Air Force Museum Fun Ride-I attended with ALR Ch 147, Ch 509, Ch 476, Ch 18, and American Riders Group. We had several of the members sharing their memories of when they were in the service and the connection to the base. Posted on social media.

10/22nd Frank Goldsmith Memorial Ride-I attended the ride ALR Ch 88 had which consisted of breakfast first then a ride over to Gustine. The National Cemetery reflection pool was a spot that visitors can walk to and look all ways and see the graves of our service personnel. Posted on social media.

10/28th Quail Park Trunk &amp; Treat- Attended the 3 rd annual event and took part of the community fall festival. Posted on social media.

10/31st Visalia Trunk &amp; Treat- This is the 5 th year of volunteering for the event. 2nd for ALR 18.

11/4th Visalia Hometown Heroes- Attended with our chapter on Main St where all of Visalia’s 1st Responders, Law Enforcement, and various state organizations displayed their professions in hopes of bridging the community with information on programs and the impact of having them in the community. Posted on social media.

11/10th “Our Heroes Dreams” Tulare Golf Course- Attended with ALR 18 and 20. We also had 2 members playing in the tournament. Posted on social media.

11/11th “Unsung Heroes” Porterville Veteran’s Day Parade- Attended with ALR 18 & 20. Had breakfast as a group and then rode in the parade. Posted on social media.

11/11th Lemoore Veteran’s Day Parade- Rode with ALR 100, 3, and 18. Supported ALR 100 as this was the second year Post 100 took part in organizing the event along with the Lions Club. Posted on social media.

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

Nothing to report.

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

10/28/2013-Area 3 meeting

11/4/2023-Kern County Honor Flight # 48 “Native American Indians” Chapter 100- Andre Belton and Chapter 476-Stan Tehee, both were on the flight.

Rochelle is in the ER with her mom who took ill.

* 1. **Parliamentarian –** Mick Sobczak
  2. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

Currently we have 2 orders Invoiced, 2 order payment received and 8 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 the orders are placed. 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. If you have not received your invoice, please email me at 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

Two of our Riders have gone to Post Everlasting due to them being involved in separate traffic accidents in October.

The Riders are,

Charles “Chuck” Landreth from Chapter 852.

Leland Neva Chapter 95

According to sources that were present Charles suffered a medical issue prior to his accident.

Leland was involved in a head on collision.

A zoom meeting is scheduled for November 20 th to review the Safety Handbook and Cup Rules.

We are the mouse on the road and the cars and trucks are the elephants who don’t see you. Please make yourself visible while riding.

* 1. **Service Officer –** George Smith
  2. **Webmaster/Public Relations –** Tom Lively

Attended Area 5 meeting in Hemet, CA on 10/28/2023

Fixed access for several individuals and actively responding to emails.

Maintaining Calendar and News.

**Public Relations**

Added new Committee member from Area 5 – Laura Mendez.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. **California Legacy Run –** Rochelle Billet-Smith
   2. **Convention and Rally –** Bob Atchley
   3. **PP/DC –** Dennis Kee

Next meeting is November 27 at 7pm. Position of Secretary is open.

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

This month’s report is short, sweet, and to the point. The Legacy Quilt 2024 is

done. All other tickets were picked up by the Area Vice Directors or a

representative thereof, to be distributed by them. Also distributed was an

informational letter including when ALL money is due, who to make checks out to,

who &amp; where to mail them, and who to contact if they need more tickets. I have

emailed all of the Area Vice Directors requesting that they get all tickets out to

the Chapters ASAP so the Chapters have time to sell them. I would really like to

have all distributed tickets sold this year, and hopefully most if not all of the ones

not assigned to a specific Chapter.

The 2025 quilt design is set, and some preliminary work has been done. The 2025

quilt will be displayed at the 2024 Convention in San Diego, and tickets will be

distributed at that time so Chapters will have basically a year to sell tickets.

1. **Unfinished Business-**
   1. Chapter 263 Escalon update about returning to normal business.

Mike Phillips-Have been trying to contact by phone and email. Got a call back while I was at work. Returned the call but no answer. Will continue to try.

Ralph-We need to see if they are still a viable chapter.

* 1. Safety Committee update on Mileage Cup Rules.

Have a Zoom meeting set for November 20 at 7pm. We will be looking at the Cup rules

and the Safety handbook.

1. **New Business-**
   1. Donation Chapter 95 Director Leland Neva’s family.

Motion to donate $500 to the family of Leland Neva by Cris Molina. 2nd by Robert Lopez. Passed by unanimous vote.

Robert Lopez will donate $100.

* 1. Donation to the family of Charles ‘Chuck’ Landreth Chapter 852.

Motion to donate $500 to the family of Charles Landreth by Robert Partlow. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by unanimous vote.

Robert Lopez will donate $100.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

Ch 299-Doug Wray-Still healing from an accident in June.

Ch 476-Art Cope-Home from the hospital with terminal COPD

D 10-David Leavitt-Was in a rollover and hurt his back.

**Rider Everlasting:**

Ch 852- Charles Landreth-accident-October

Ch 95-Leland Neva-Director-accident-November

Ch 83-Vince Cole-past Area 3 ALR Commissioner-illness-November

Ch 229-Larry Baxter-November

1. **Good of the Riders-**

Ralph-I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and, for those who are traveling,

please be safe! Also, there are only 5 ½ weeks until Christmas. Finally, I know we all

wish our Director, Mike Smith, safe travels home tomorrow.

Ralph-Take a moment to remember those who will not be home for Thanksgiving.

Ralph-Chapter 26 had a Vets Day parade put on by the post. Had breakfast, then to the Wall of Honor then to the Post then to the parade and back to the Post for lunch. When arriving for breakfast all vets received a card hand made by a school child. These re the next generation. Ask the schools near you to do this.

Ralph-Have been in Pismo Beach for a week. Go home tomorrow. In the space next to us there was a coule and the gentleman was a 39-year retiree from the Coast Guard. He noticed the ALR writing on my shirt and said I need to thank you. When asked what for the gentleman said when his son was kia your people met the plane, escorted him, then escorted him to his place of rest. He said the riders made his day that day.

PP Jim Banakus- I served 9 years as ALR Commissioner. Vince Cole served after me. I will miss him. I am proud of what the current DOC are doing.

Lou Carson-Asked about mileage when someone is injured and is in 4 wheels temporarily. Does that count? Andrew said only if in retired status. It’s an honor system.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – December 21, 2023 @ 1900 hours. 3rd Thursday
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Mark Rice
3. **Adjournment** – ALRDOC Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger @ 8:32pm