**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

DEC AGENDA

February 22, 2024

1. **Call to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 1900 hours
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Mark Rice
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Director Mike Smith
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Mark Rice
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** – Sam Fergason EXCUSED

**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

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Mark Rice

**Historian** – Louisa Carson

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

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

**Parliamentarian-** Mick Sobczak

**Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith EXCUSED

**Convention & Rally** – Bob Atchley

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee ABSENT

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary

**Webmaster/Public Relations** – Tom Lively

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

A3 Alt Gus Compton, Ch 53 Don Downing, A5 Alt Jeff Beck, A5 Alt Wm. Blackstone, D28 Greg Martin, PP Jim Banakus, Ch 460 Paul Swanson, Ch 64 Jacque James, Ch 18 Jeff Carson.

PP Jim Banakus- Glad to be here.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

Ch 694 returning charter.

Possibly placing chapters 476, 574 and 848 on probation.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – ALRDOC January 25, 2024 minutes.

Accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 02/15/24

Beginning Bank Balance $ 56,968.25

Bank Deposits $ 3,870

Interest on bank account $ .48

Bank Withdraws $ 394.76

Ending Bank Balance $ 60,443.97

PayPal Balance $ 19,827.01

Ending Total Balance $ 80,270.98

Motion to accept the finance report as given pending audit by Robert Lopez. 2nd by Cris Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

Mike asked about moving the amount left in the old PayPal account to the bank account and

closing the old account. Debbie will send login info to Stan.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

 January 26 – PP/PS Steve Weber Celebration of Life (Ventura)

 January 27 – Advanced Skills Rider Course

 February 3 – Four Chaplain’s Service in Sanger

 February 3 – TAL Area 3 meeting at Post 147 Clovis

 February 5 – Legacy Run Zoom meeting

 February 10 – ALRDOC Area 6 meeting at Post 43 Hollywood

 February 12-23 – ALRDOC 2024 Convention site check

 February 16 – ALRDOC Finance Committee Zoom meeting

 February 12 – Credentials Committee Zoom meeting

 February 19 – Legacy Run Zoom meeting

 February 20 – Convention and Rally Zoom meeting

I will try to keep this short and to the point. We are quickly approaching the convention. With that, Area Vice Directors, keep in mind:

a. Area Tracking – Keep up on your areas. If you need help in contacting your POC’s, let

us know. We will help you out. Do not let up.

I will not steal Donny’s thunder this time on the numbers, but please make sure you are helping him out in contacting your chapters about getting them turned in ASAP.

b. Area Vice’s – Make sure your chapters know what they will need to be seated as

delegates on the floor of the Convention:

i. ALR Vest in compliance with Uniform Standards

ii. Current Parent organization membership card

iii. Current ALRDOC membership card

iv. Beret or parent organization cap

v. Make sure you are encouraging your chapters to attend the annual

convention.

We have one more meeting between now and the convention! I am looking forward to seeing

everyone in person!

Stay safe on the road!

I highly recommend advanced course training.

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

January 27 Celebration of Life for Past President Steve Weber, Ventura

January 28 Armed Forces Recruit Send-off and Escort, Bakersfield

February 3 TAL Area 3 meeting Post 147 Clovis

February 7 Chapter 26 General Meeting Bakersfield

February 10 ALR Area 6 meeting, Chapter 43 Hollywood

February 13 ALR Convention Site Inspection La Mesa

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

March 9 ALR Area 3 meeting Chapter 476 California City

March 16 Celebration of Life for Leland Neva, Chapter 95 Oroville

March 23 Veterans Memorial Run Chapter 26 Bakersfield

Events planned for the months to come:

April 1 to Oct 31 Tour of Honor Nationwide

April 12 to 14 ALRDOC Convention San Diego

May 3 to 5 California Legacy Run

May 11 Cannonball Run Chapter 20 Porterville

Well done to Area 6 Vice Director Cris and Chapter 43 for a well-done Area meeting.

Thanks to those who went to Steve Weber’s services.

Went to la mesa for a sight visit for convention. All is coming together.

If Areas need help in any way, please call me.

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

Nothing to report.

Mike-Good to see you.

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

I have been tracking all chapter’s obligations and forwarding the info to all Area Vice Directors

on an almost daily basis as we get closer to convention.

I have sent reminders of upcoming obligations to all chapters.

I have sent reminders to those chapters in arrears and that are on probation.

I have participated in multiple committee meetings including hosting the Credentials Committee meeting.

All Officers need to be checking your emails at least 3 to 4 times per week. Once a week won’t

cut it at this point.

I emailed the info to Mick for this year’s Rider Everlasting Past Presidents and also a list of the 6 years of Riders Everlasting ribbons that needed to be redone. On or about March 1 I will email the final list for 23-24.

All delegates must have their beret or family cover, in compliance vest, family card and rider card

ALL TOGETHER to be able to check in at convention.

At this point Gunny and I are planning on participating in the National Legacy Run in August.

**Area Reports** –

1. **Area 1 Vice D –** Sam Fergason

* Contacted Chapter 96 Fort Bragg and explained how to update their on-line Chapter roster.
* Several discussions with Chapter 84 Auburn regarding potential decision to disband their Chapter.  They are struggling with only a handful of members still able to ride and few members attending meetings.  Advised them to notify Director Mike Smith if they decide to disband.  Advised they can consider merging with another nearby chapter if they decide their current chapter is no longer viable.
* Several discussions with Chapter 92 McCloud regarding planning for their first poker run.  Provided them with a sample liability waiver and a list of items to consider for a successful poker run event.
* Forwarded the letter regarding the Legacy Quilt raffle to all Area 1 Chapters.
* Sent reminder of March 1, 2024 deadline to send in revised by-laws to all Area 1 Chapters.
* ALR Cup - It is my opinion that ALL chapter rides within the State should count in order to motivate members to ride more.  I believe restricting the ALR cup to veteran specific rides is counterproductive at a time when we are all experiencing declining membership.  The more exposure we get in the community the better.  I have been approached several times while on a lunch ride or another biker event by people wanting to know more about the American Legion Riders because they saw my rider’s vest.  The most recent example was a couple of weeks ago when Chapter 119 attended a Chili Cookoff hosted by Folsom HOG.

1. **Area 2 Vice D –** Robert Lopez

**Chapter 105-**

Events in the coming weeks & month

VVA Car Show, Post 105 Car Show

**Rolling 9’s-**

Funeral Escort for Retired U.S. Army Major and District 9 Commander/Member in

good standing Post 202, Brentwood, Ca. Anthony (Tony) Web.

**District 28-**

Attended Honor Mission for: Joseph Alonzo USN.

Issued Food Bank meals for Chualar Community.

Participated in Burrito Run to Gilroy Veterans Memorial Building

Events within my Chapter in the coming weeks and month:

Honor Mission for Salvador Ortega USA, and Richard Lane USN.

Issue Food Bank meals for Chualar Community.

ALA District 28 Scholarship Fundraiser.

Events planned for the months to come:

Volunteering at Laguna Seca Raceway to raise funds to support veterans.

ALR District 28 Summer Poker Run

March 17 is the Wounded Warrior Surf escort.

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Mike Phillips

In the month of February, I rode to the celebration of life for Steve Weber, worked at the Veterans booth for our post at the Visalia Home Show, I rode up to Legion in Sanger to get applications for the Sons of the American Legion as a part of our recruitment efforts and lastly had a blast throwing powdered paint colors at runners during the Pro Youth Color Run at Mooney Grove Park.

I telephoned all chapters in my area to address the areas on the tracking sheet they were deficient in and all chapter acknowledge and are attempting to get these deficiencies corrected in a timely however due to issues beyond their control some chapters are unable to get curtain items on the tracking completed at this time but will complete them as soon as they can make the proper arrangements to get the done.

It is with heavy heart that I announce the passing of yet another Chapter 476 member. Chapter 476 Vice Director James Pavlicek passed away on January 29th

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

Chapter – 3

Assisted in hosting a Valentines Day breakfast at Post 3.

Chapter - 18

Armed Forces send off for a new Army Recruit in Sanger. Rode to Ventura for Steve Weber’s celebration of life.

Rode to Post 124 for their Playoff game event.

Flag line.

Recruitment for SAL program.

Rode to the Area 6 Directors meeting and visited the USS Iowa.

Worked the Veterans Booth at the Visalia Home Show

and Participate as a sponsor in the Pro Youth Color Run.

Chapter - 20

Rode to Ventura for Steve Weber’s celebration of life. Four Chaplains ceremony

Chapter - 26

Rode to Ventura for Steve Weber’s celebration of life. Fairwell Visit and Salute to

Veterans in Hoffman Home

Chapter – 83

ALR/HOG event, Valentines Day ride

Chapter - 100

Flag Line for Mr. Cavin retired Navy, Community event

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Brian Toal

Nothing much to report.

1. **Area 5 Vice D –** Robert Partlow

I have been out and about a bit.

Rain has been ruining a lot of events.

My back tire is not good for riding in the rain.

Have been attending some chapter, post and area meetings.

Looking forward to convention.

March 23 going to Barstow.

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

Chapter 534 recently reviewed and updated their mileage in the Mileage Cup. t should be clear now.

Chapter 43 members went to Post 30 in Pomona to help with the building clean-up after recent vandalism.

Area 6 Vice Director went to Post 30 to help with building clean-up and revitalization. Volunteered to cook at the SAL breakfast at Post 817. Supported Post 817's Valentine's Day event. Currently working to assist the families of 2 departed Veterans with escorts. Hosted the Area 6 Directors Meeting at Post 43, which was well-attended. Thanks to our ALRDOC Officers and other Chapters who attended.

Thank you to all from Areas 3, 5 and 6 who attended the Area 6 meeting.

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

Worked the 6th District revitalization.

Working with the Legion Posts doing bylaws.

Attending the Area 1 meeting and District 6 meeting.

Will have knee surgery April 23rd.

* 1. **Historian –** Louisa Carson

1/27/24 COL for Steve Weber in Ventura at VFW 1679 Posted on social media.

2/3-4/24 Visalia Home Show at the Veteran’s Booth

2/8/24US Navy Seabee Bill C Biggers Flag line in Fresno

2/10/24 Area 6v Director’s Meeting in Hollywood Posted on social media.

2/11/24 Toured the USS Iowa in San Pedro American Legion Post 61 and stopped by at American Legion Post 299 Chino for the Super Bowl Festivities. Posted to social media. 2/17/24 Pro-Youth Color Run at Mooney Grove Park. Volunteered on a color stand. Posted to social media

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

I have been buried in work on the Legion side.

Will catch up with the bylaws.

Will have surgery on a foot and a hernia coming up.

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

1/27/2024-Celebration of Life for Past President Steve Weber, Ventura

2/5/2024-California Legacy Run Meeting

2/7/2024-ALR Chapter 26, E-Board / Chapter Meeting

2/10/2024-Area 6 Directors Meeting-Collected $90.00 in fines for California Legacy Run

2/19/2024-California Legacy Run Meeting

* 1. **Parliamentarian –** Mick Sobczak

Progress

* 1. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

We have 6 orders invoiced and 6 order being processed. Please pay for all orders submitted in a timely manner and your orders will get out to you as quickly as possible. Once you have submitted your order and paid for it, you check on the progress of your orders by logging back into the store and going to your order.

Sweatshirts are now available for order at a price of $40 plus shipping.

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.

Ordered more black and white berets for convention.

I have hip surgery coming up.

Chapter 18 will have a 22 a day ride on June 22nd.

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

All vice Directors need to look at the miles before convention.

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

Had knee surgery.

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

Getting calls daily for POC access.

Limping along on the website as is. Looking for someone to rewrite it.

Public Relations-

Looking to do an Instagram and TikTok account in the future.

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

Working with Fred on the website. Should be live on Saturday.

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

2024 ALR/DOC Convention Report

2 months out report to DEC:

Wayne Madsen, Chapter 460

Walk through of hall was done on Feb. 13. Director Smith, VD Wenzinger, Bob Atchley and Debbie Proffit (via video) were in attendance. Hall will be setup on Friday for early check-in. T-Shirts will be ordered at pre-registration closes on Feb. 24th. Everything is in order for the start of the convention. Director Smith asked if a pickup for the Dept. Commander at the airport could be arranged. Wayne is to arrange for that.

Time and date for pickup to be sent to Wayne.

Next report will be on March 5th.

2024 West Coast Rally Report

8 months out report to DEC:

Mike Daugherty, Chapter 20

Has 8 vendors interested and will hold that date for the Rally. Whiskey tasting will be an additional line item on the registration. The cost will be approximately $30.00. Attempting to lineup a DJ for the night. A Ruger 308 rifle w/scope will be raffled off. Having raffle tickets made and will be sold at Chapter 20 Cannonball Run through to the West Coast Rally. Winner does not have to be present to win. Hope to have registration on-line by March 1, 2024. Registration will be $70.00 through Event Create and US

Mail. Checked with the Quartermaster to ensure design was good. Quartermaster said there were no violations. Submitted to the Convention &amp; Rally committee as we spoke. Debbie displayed the shirt and poker chip during the meeting. All present approved its design. Hotels have been confirmed. Best Western (15 rooms-5 king at $148.00 and 10 double queen rooms at $161.00 a night), Holiday Inn (10 king at $149.00 a night and 10 double queen at $165.00 a night). Continental breakfast will be available at both hotels. Hotels want their quiet hours respected. Quiet hours for the hotels was addressed at the last DEC meeting by Director Smith. Dry camping will be available. The amount of those spots will be made available at the next meeting. Those spots will be first come first served. T-Shirt and poker chips will be ordered once pre-registration has closed for accurate quantities.

Next report will be on April 16th.

2025 ALR/DOC Convention Report

18 months out report to DEC:

Pete Torrecillas, Chapter 69

11 hotels have been spoken to as possibilities and 2 RV locations. A host hotel for the convention will be identified at a later date. They are finalizing a T-Shirt and Coin design. Hope to finalize T-Shirt, Coin and Pin design at the Chapters March meeting. Plans are to send in design shortly after the March meeting to the Quartermaster to ensure design is legal. Final design is to be sent to Debbie for presentation and

approval of the Convention &amp; Rally Committee. Ross Brown and one other vendor have committed. Researching other vendors. I Rode My patches was brought up. Chapter 460 will be the 17th annual and Chapter 69 will be the 18 th annual. Mirror Image will be able to tell the Chapter what their minimum order is. Director Smith will send out information on Mirror Image for I Rode my patches purchase to

Chapter 69 and Chapter 460. Need to update guidelines to include that patch. If a raffle is to be held it is at the Chapters discretion. The Poker Chip is at the Chapters discretion on whether to include that for the convention. Insurance coverage needs to be discussed with your insurance agent to determine if you have adequate coverage for the event.

Next report will be on April 16 th .

Next meeting to be held on March 5th, 12th, 19th, 24th & April 2nd

2024 at 1900 hrs. for Chapter 460.

* 1. **PP/DC –** Dennis Kee
  2. **Ways and Means –** Kathleen McClary

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

done. I have emailed all of the POC’s reminding them that time is getting short,

and tickets stubs and money are due March 31st. I have received money and ticket

stubs from Chapters 79, 22, 119, 299, and 497 at this time. I have also received

$200 for 20 tickets from a member of Chapter 82. I am hoping to be getting more

checks and ticket stubs as the days go on.

The 2025 quilt is almost done. I should be dropping it off with the quilter on

February 28th. 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.

Area Vice Directors please contact your chapters about the tickets,

1. **Unfinished Business-**
   1. Discussion of Safety Committee proposed update to Mileage Cup Rules.

Motion to accept the cup rules as submitted by Cris Molina. 2nd by Robert Partlow.

There was much discussion about the changes and what people would like to see in them. Such as any ride in the state would count as long as it fell under the 4 pillars, etc.

The motion did not pass. The document was sent back to the Safety Committee for revising.

* 1. Discussion of Post 1000 opinion by Judge Advocate.

The decision by the Judge Advocate was sent out to the DEC. We are a program of the Legion and don’t vet membership in the Legion. The Legion has a way to vet those who apply for membership under post 1000. We will accept members from post 1000, Auxiliary 1000 and Squadron 1000 as they are members in good standing.

1. **New Business-**
   1. Return of Escalon Chapter 263 Charter

Motion to accept the return of the charter from Chapter 263 by Mike Phillips. 2nd by ralph Wenzinger. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Return of Alturas Chapter 163 Charter

Motion to accept the return of the charter from Chapter 163 by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Robert Partlow. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Return of Marina Chapter 694 Charter

Motion to accept the return of the charter from Chapter 694 by Robert Lopez. 2nd by Mike Phillips. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Putting Chapter 574 on probation for nonpayment of per capita.

Motion to put Chapter 574 on probation by Robert Partlow. 2nd by Marc Lawrie. Passed by vote of DEC.

* 1. Putting Chapter 848 on probation for nonpayment of per capita.

Motion to put Chapter 848 on probation by Robert Partlow. 2nd by Mike Phillips. Passed

by vote of DEC.

* 1. Putting Chapter 476 on probation for nonpayment of per capita.

Motion to put Chapter 476 on probation by Robert Partlow. 2nd by Marc Lawrie.

There was discussion that the Chapter has recently lost its Past Director and Vice

Director.

Motion and 2nd were withdrawn.

1. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

**Chapter 108-** Ken Sutton shoulder surgery

**Chapter 105-**Gary Schweid motorcycle accident

**Chapter 328-**Mike Norman vertigo

**Chapter 43-**Milo Staley massive stroke

**Chapter 105-**George Smith knee surgery

**Chapter 105-**Alvin Pacheco shoulder

**Rider Everlasting:**

**Chapter 497-**Dennis Burch accident

**Chapter 476-**James Pavlicek illness

1. **Good of the Riders-**

PP Jim Banakus- Interesting meeting tonight. Excellent job. The Riders have grown so much.

It’s a pleasure to see what’s going and how confident you are to using the bylaws. It means

A lot to be able to sit in on the meetings.

Andrew Trapani- Lots of weather. Look at the road conditions.

Robert Partlow- The weather’s changing. Let’s ride.

Robert Lopez- Looking forward to installing the Marina chapter officers.

Mike Smith- the season of fining has begun.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – March 21, 2024 @ 1900 hours.
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Mark Rice
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:58pm