**17th Annual American Legion Riders Convention**

La Mesa, CA

8118 University Ave, La Mesa, CA 91942

April 12 - 14, 2024

**MINUTES**

**Friday, April 12, 2024**

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Pre-Convention Department Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting**

* Meeting to be held at American Legion Post 460 San Diego, 7815 Armour St, San Diego, CA 92111

**Saturday April 13, 2024**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Opening of 17th ALRDOC Convention @ 9am**

* Advancement of Colors – Chapter 460
* Invocation- Robert Lassotovich
* POW/MIA – Mike Smith
* Pledge of Allegiance- Marc Lawrie
* National Anthem – Alexandra Ford of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association
* American Legion Riders Preamble- Mike Smith

**Greeting**

* State Director, Mike Smith

Welcome to the 17th American Legion Riders Convention!

Hope you all had a great trip here!

Thank you, Chapter 460 Riders Julio Gomez and Yura Salter for posting the Colors.

Thank you, Alexandra Ford of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association for the singing of our National Anthem

Make sure you take some time to see Quartermaster and other vendors who are here.

Recognize Post 282 Cmdr. Tony Sodl, Ch 460 Director Wayne Madsen and Ch 460 members. Thank you for all of your hard work in getting ready for the Convention!

Chapter 460 has put together a short ride today after we convene. It is about 35 miles. It is a scenic ride, that will take along the beach and over the famous Cornado Bridge. This is weather permitting of course. Please see Wayne Madsen for any questions. Wayne put your hand up!

Tonight, we will be having dinner and festivities at Post 460. The Chapter has arranged and paid for shuttle service between the Post and the hotels, from 5pm to 10pm. Please make use of this so you can enjoy dinner and some guilt free adult beverages. Any questions, talk to Wayne Madsen.

Thank you to our distinguished guests and American Legion Family distinguished guests for taking time to be here on a Saturday. Your time away from your normal life is greatly appreciated!

Riders, some of our American Legion Family guests are candidates for state or national positions.

One of the things I love about our Legion is we are membership driven!

Take this opportunity to talk with the candidates. Find out about them. Ask them questions, but politely.

I don’t think I can say this enough, thank you for your trust and confidence in me. It is truly an honor to represent you all.

Thank the DEC team. Nothing is done by any individual. It takes us all.

Keep doing the great job you do in growing the American Legion Family.

We continue to march to the infamous words of Cristina Molina, 2GETHER!

Many of us, me included, speak of the American Legion Family, because that is who we are. The Riders represents the entire American Legion Family. As Riders we set the tone. For my Riders: Where are my current and past Post leaders? Where are my current and past District leaders. Where are my current and past Department leaders? Where are my current and past National leaders? If you looked around, you saw many hands go up. We have an impact on our Family. This Legacy is ours to keep alive.

Thank you will never be enough for all of your hard work, time and effort.

A LITTLE HOUSE KEEPING

* RESTROOMS ARE IN THE BACK
* PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOURSELF AND DON’T TRASH THE JOINT!
	+ **State Vice Director Ralph Wenzinger Recognition of War Eras**

Good morning brother and sister Riders, guests, ladies and gentlemen. For those of you who I have not met, I am Ralph Wenzinger. I have to privilege of serving as the Vice Director of the American Legion Riders for the Department of California.

This morning, I have the honor of introducing several American heroes who are amongst us. They are the reason why the American Legion exists. If you are a member of a group I am about to recognize, regardless of whether you are an American Legion Rider or not, please stand. I would ask the audience to hold your applause until the end I am done.

If you served during (fill in the war/conflict) Please stand:

WW II - 0
Korea - 0
Vietnam – 40+
Lebanon – 12+
Grenada – 12+
Libya 1 or 2 - 1
Panama – 10+
Gulf War – 40+
Somalia 1 or 2 – 10+
Bosnia – 10+
Haiti – 10+
Kosovo – 10+
Afghanistan – 30+
Yemen - 5
Iraq 1 or 2 – 30+
Uganda - 2
Niger - 0
Syria - 1

Next, are there any active-duty military members present? Please stand up.

3

Finally, are there any former Prisoners of War present? Please stand up.

1 – will retire the POW/MIA flag at the end of convention.

To each and every one of you we say, thank you for your service and sacrifices. Welcome home!

**Introduction of Local Dignitaries (GROUP 1)**

* Chief of Police, City of La Mesa Ray Sweeney, Candidate for California Congress

Welcome. I’m an Army veteran of 26 years. You can see it in the Police Department. You served to protect the outside and we serve to protect the inside. Our station is across the street from this post. Citizens stopped me on the street today asking why were there so many motorcycles here. I ask you to be safe and enjoy your stay.

* Fire Captain Sean Ficke, Miramar

I’m a bit nervous up here today. I’m not used to talking in front of so many. I want to say thank you to Operation Southern Blaze where I met some members of Chapter 460 last year. I’m a Marine Corps Veteran. I feel welcomed. I didn’t know what to say but there are so many smiles and welcomes today. I should be thanking you. I’ve been in the fire service for 20 years. It’s my passion. Be safe and God bless you all.

 El Cajon Mayor Bill Wells, Candidate for the 51st District.

I still love our vets. Heard the Preamble and the respect you have for the USA. El Cajon had the Wall that Heals here recently. Was in Hawaii recently visiting the USS Arizona. Reminds me of your sacrifices. My son at 13 said he wanted to join the service. At 18 he was in bootcamp. His mom and I were waiting for contact from out son in Afghanistan. We missed the call. I called the number back and got command and hung up. My son called later and said, “Dad, don’t call the war.” Enjoy your stay. Thank you all for your service. I saw the way Vietnam Vets were treated. Welcome home.

* Representative from the Office of U.S. Congressman Darrel Isa, Kalvin ‘Dre’ Stafford III Military & Veterans Affairs

Good morning,

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the American Legion Riders, distinguished guests, families and friends.

I am Dre Stafford, and I am the Military/Veteran Affairs Representative for Congressman Darrell Issa of the CA-48th district.

It is with great honor and humility for the ability to be present and speak with all the individuals in this room who embody the spirit of service, patriotism and camaraderie at the 17th Annual Department of California’s American Legion rider’s convention.

It goes without saying that the American Legion and AL Riders hold a special place in our nation’s heart.

Your defining values over the past 30 years to our great nation is a guiding light that all can look upon for direction on how to be an American citizen (selflessness, dedication and unwavering commitment to our veterans, their families and our communities). You do so with style and a touch of danger.

Every time you mount your motorcycles, you ride not only with the wind in your face but also with a sense of purpose in your hearts. You ride to honor the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, you ride to support our veterans, ensuring they receive the care and respect they deserve. You ride to serve our communities, lending a helping hand wherever and whenever it is needed.

Your tireless efforts do not go unnoticed. From organizing charity rides, raising funds for veteran’s programs, volunteering at VA hospitals to advocating for legislative action on behalf of veterans-each mile you ride, and each hour you dedicate, make a profound difference in the lives of those you serve.

Our office is committed to supporting the mission and ensuring that the voices of our veterans are heard in the halls of power. It is imperative that we uphold our nation’s promises to those who have served, providing them with care, support and opportunities they have earned through their service and sacrifice.

The legislation must make sense and doing right by those who put their trust in the office. By recognizing the sacrifices made by veterans and military families and Gold Star families-the spouses, children and loved ones who stand steadfastly beside our service members as they too deserve our gratitude and support.

As we gather here today, let us all recommit ourselves to the values that unite us- duty, honor and country. Continue to ride with pride knowing that your actions make a difference in the lives of others. Let us never forget the true meaning of service-to give of ourselves for the betterment of our nation and our fellow citizens.

Zin closing, I want to express my deepest appreciation to each and every one of you for your service, your sacrifice and you unwavering dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy. God bless you, your families and America.

 **Karen Hooper – House Director Ronald McDonald House**

I want to thank Chapter 229 for helping to fundraise for the inland Empire Ronald McDonald House. It warms my heart for those willing to help out.

There are 187 Ronald McDonald Houses nationwide and 198 worldwide.

The Houses provide comfort care and support to all with a child getting critical care. The House provides temporary housing. It takes a village to cover the House. The Houses only get a small working pot and all other moneys must be raised. Much of that comes from donors and fundraisers. Many of our families come from the bases with children needing critical care.

I encourage you to find a Ronald McDonald House in your area and help. Thank you for your service in the community.

**Acknowledgment of Past Department Presidents/Secretaries**

**Past Presidents-**

**From April to April yearly**

Jim Banakus 06/07

Terry Baughman 07/08-In Memoriam

Luis Diaz 08/09

Steve Weber 09/10-In Memoriam

Luis Diaz 10/11, 11/12

Albert Villa 12/13, 13/14-In Memoriam

James Adames 14/15, 15/16

Mick Sobczak 16/17, 17/18, 18/19

Rey Ruiz 19/20, 20/21, 21 to November 21-In Memoriam

**Past Secretaries-**

Jeff Gallagher 07/08

Anita Bart 08/09/10/11

Rita Christolear 11/12/13/14

Steve Weber 14/15/16

Monique Clemons 16/17

**American Legion Family Dignitaries**

**Welcome by the 22nd District**

* 22nd District Commander Robert Partlow

On behalf of District 22, welcome to all. Enjoy the weekend. Enjoy the scenic ride today.

**American Legion Auxiliary (GROUP 2)**

* Linda Hayes, Vice President ALADOC

Greetings from President Glenda Shultz. She had other commitments today.

 Her theme this year is “California the golden State-United as one”. She is devoted to having the American Legion family working as one. Our commitment is what keeps us together.

She is emphasis for everyone to be the one. ALR = Ask, Listen, React. Call 988.

I hope to watch all the riders ride in to New Orleans.

I am running for Department President and if elected will work with the ALR. I pray for guidance and your safety.

See you in New Orleans.

**Sons of The American Legion (GROUP 2)**

* Junior Past Detachment Commander Jeff Flynt

Good morning,

Greetings from Detachment Commander Sean Brandon.

I am the Past Commander. Thank you for all you do for the American Legion.

We are a program also. We work together. We area family. We work through our problems.

Membership is down in the American Legion. The Sons and riders keep growing and being successful.

Have a great convention.

**American Legion Baseball (GROUP 3)**

* Judy Leonardi (American Legion Baseball)

Good morning. I’m seeing lots of familiar faces.

Next year is the 100th year of American Legion Baseball. Babe ruth was Director of Operations back in the day.

American Legion Baseball is free to those who participate. They not only learn how to play but also learn what a veteran is and why they are so important. Our youngest generation doesn’t know about vets. Patriotism needs to be taught to our younger generation.

We appreciate the Riders. Larry Leonardo and Robert Lassotovich are on our commission.

In 2021 the largest supporter of AL Baseball was the VFW and that kept Baseball going.

I have a posterboard for each family. A person who donates at least $100 gets to put their name on it. Last year we raised $70,000. We are aiming for $1000,000 this year.

The payoffs will be amazing to see.

We have 2 golden glove trophies for the 2 highest tournament sponsors. One for a Post and one for a District.

There was a $00 donation from Mike Killion, a $1,700 donation from Post 852, a $5000 donation from Leonard Phillips and a $1500 donation from Chapter 684.

**Candidate for National Executive Committee (GROUP 3)**

* Larry Leonardo

Good morning to all and Ralph. (Ralph was sitting in a chair behind everyone else on the stage). I spent 4 years in the Navy here.

The NEC is a conduit from the state with National. We passed 25 resolutions this year of all sorts. One of those is the name change of the Department of Mexico to the Department of Latin America. Another was to get congress to put a cap on predatory lawsuits where our vets only get a small 40% percentage of the lawsuit they win. We are asking congress to not only say they are against the practice but to say the lawyers must be accredited. A third is Be The One- rebranding. $5 million was spent on sponsoring the Indy car last year but $45 million was garnered from PR from that program. Be the one, Save a Life, Change a Life. Help doesn’t end at the end of service. There is more information on Legion.org.

The past few years I have served as an Alternate NE committeeman. This year I am running for NE Committeeman. I would appreciate your vote in June.

In the future the AL will be raising state dues by $5. We have less membership and can’t print money to solve the deficit. Membership is needed. The ALR is the American Legion rolling billboard. Keep up the good work.

**Candidate Department of California Commander**

* Nick Rosa

Good morning, Legion family. I am a Marine vet. Greetings from the 19th district.

I’ve been chosen as the leading candidate for the upcoming American Legion Commander for 24-25. If elected I will lead with dignity and honor to the highest esteem and finish to completion the programs of my predecessors. I would like to take this time to thank you for your support and confidence in me to lead as the next American Legion Department Commander.

I’m proud of the great things the American Legion riders do in our communities, state and nation. As Memorial weekend approaches, it is great to see so much activity from the Riders on social media and how each of you honored our brothers and sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice. I found an article in the San Gabriel Valley Examiner dedicated to the Wall That Heals, honoring and remembering all those who serve. The Wall was escorted by Chapter 180 from Azusa. I would like to acknowledge Chapter 180 for a job well done.

Upcoming are a poker run in Placerville, the California Legacy Run and the West Coast Rally in Porterville.

I hope you all have a great convention. Prayers for safe travels back home.

**Candidates Department of California Sergeant-at-Arms (GROUP 3)**

* Richard Ramirez

Good morning, I am a Navy veteran. I was past President of Chapter 75 and current member of Chapter 804. I am past Area 4 Commander and Past district Commander.

As the California Sergeant At Arms I will be at all events. I get along well with and will support Nick Rosa.

* Danielle Duffaut

Good morning. I am an Army veteran of 20 years. I am the best candidate for Department Sergeant At Arms because I’ve volunteered 6 years of time at the National Convention and the California convention. I attended the national Commander’s visit.

If elected I will be only the 2nd female as Department Sergeant At Arms. I have been endorsed by my Post and District. I will do my best to support the incoming Commander.

**The American Legion, Department of California**

* John Aldridge, Commander

Good morning, it’s a pleasure to be here. Thank God, we made it safely with prayers for safe travels back home.

Everyone knows no war is won by one branch. It takes joint efforts that leads to triumph.

We had riders provide escorts and security during the National Commander Seehafer’s visit. I have certificates for those…Justin Garcia-Ch 184, Brian Toal-Ch 184, Ty Dalmau-Ch 184, Gary Laney-Ch 184, Louisa Carson-Ch 18, Jeff Carson-Ch 18, Mike Keseloff-Ch 53, Don downing-Ch 53, Mike Hjelmstad-Ch 61, John Stites-Ch 61, Rey Maldonado, Ch 299, Tom Lively-Ch 299, Danielle Lively-Ch 299, Austin Vang-Ch 299, Josh Stringer-Ch 299, Marcus Gonzalez-Ch 299, Luis Gonzalez-Ch 299, James Adames-Ch 328, Don Burch-Ch 328, Robert Partlow-Ch 460, Marc Lawrie-Ch 951 and Mike Smith-Ch 20.

**Roll Call of Officers**

Director- Mike Smith present

Vice Director- Ralph Wenzinger present

Sergeant At Arms- Marc Lawrie present

Area 1 Vice Director- Sam Fergason present

Area 2 Vice Director- Robert Lopez present

Area 3 vice Director/Quartermaster Mike Phillips present

Area 4 vice Director- Brian Toal present

Area 5 Vice Director- Robert Partlow present

Area 6 vice Director- Cris Molina present

Secretary- Debbie Proffitt present

Chaplain- Robert Lassotovich present

Judge Advocate- Donny Brannon present

Membership- Rochelle Billet-Smith present

Historian- Louisa Carson present

Treasurer- Stan Tehee present

Safety officer- Andrew Trapani present

Jr Past President- Rey Ruiz in memoriam

Service officer- George Smith excused

Webmaster- Tom Lively present

Parliamentarian/Past President- Mick Sobczak present

Past President- Jim Banakus excused

Past President- Luis Diaz excused

Past President- James Adames present

**Roll Call of Chapters**

Ch 3 Hanford-present; District 9 Antioch- present;

District 10- San Leandro- absent; District 13- Santa Clara- present;

Chapter 16 Stockton- absent; Ch 18 Visalia- present;

Ch 20 Porterville- present, Ch 26 Bakersfield- present;

Ch 28 Petaluma- present; District 28 Prunedale- present;

Ch 30 Pomona- absent; Ch 31 Salinas- present;

Ch 43 Hollywood- present; Ch 48 Oxnard- present;

Ch 50 Paso Robles- present; Ch 53 Hemet- present;

Ch 60 Brawley- present; Ch 61 San Pedro- present;

Ch 64 Santa Cruz- present; Ch 69 Hollister- present;

Ch 77-Woodland- absent; Ch 79 Riverside- present;

Ch 82 San Mateo- present; Ch 83 Merced- present;

Ch 84 Auburn- absent; Ch 88 Turlock- present;

Ch 92 McCloud- present; Ch 95 Oroville- present;

Ch 96 Fort Bragg probation absent; Ch 100 Lemoore- present;

Ch 105 Redwood City- present; Ch 108 Sutter Creek- present;

Ch 111 Healdsburg- present; Ch 112 Ontario- present;

Ch 119 Placerville-present; Ch 130 Grass Valley absent;

Ch 132 Orange- absent; Ch 133 Huntington Beach-absent;

Ch 136 Arroyo Grande- absent; Ch 146 Oceanside- present;

Ch 147 Clovis- present; Ch 149 Escondido- present;

Ch 176 San Fernando- absent; Ch 180 Azusa- present;

Ch 184 Redondo Beach- present; Ch 200 Lake Elsinore- absent;

Ch 202 Brentwood- absent; Ch 211- Lompoc- absent;

Ch 221 Tehachapi- present; Ch 229 Adelanto- present;

Ch 233 Elk Grove- absent; Ch 262 Fontana- absent;

Ch 264 Lincoln- absent; Ch 299 Chino- present;

Ch 311 Lancaster- present; Ch 328 Norco- present;

Ch 348 Palmdale- absent; Ch 354 Buena park- absent;

Ch 364 Santee- present; Ch 365 Vista- present;

Ch 383 Fair Oaks- absent; Ch 416 Encinitas- absent;

Ch 428 Banning- present; Ch 437 Clearlake- absent;

Ch 460 San Diego- present; Ch 468 Julian- present;

Ch 476 California City-present; Ch 497 Bloomington-present;

Ch 507 Newhall- absent; Ch 509 Fresno- present;

Ch 519 Palm Springs- absent; Ch 521 Rio Linda- absent;

Ch 534 Orcutt- present; Ch 555 Midway City- present;

Ch 574 Moreno Valley- present; Ch 584 Big Bear Lake-absent;

Ch 587 Foresthill- absent; Ch 591 Seaside- present;

Ch 595 Perris- present; Ch 684 Ridgecrest-present;

Ch 711 Lake Isabella-absent; Ch 716 Los Alamitos- present;

Ch 739 Indio- absent; Ch 741 Camarillo- absent;

Ch 742 Corona- absent; Ch 755 Covina- absent;

Ch 804- Los Angeles- present; Ch 835 Rancho Cucamonga- absent;

Ch 848 San Jacinto probation absent; Ch 852 Murrieta- present;

Ch 872 Hughson- absent; Ch 951 March Air Field-present.

**Department Awards and Presentations**

* **Charters to New Chapters**

18 Visalia

92 McCloud

591 Seaside

Reissue

61 Battleship Iowa

95 Oroville

* Award to Area with most new Chapters
* **Award to Chapter with most new members**

Area 1 Ch 95- 7 new members

Area 2 D 10- 7 new members

Area 3 Ch 18- 6 new members

Area 4- none

Area 5 tie

 Ch 299- 7 new members

 Ch 328- 7 new members

Area 6 Ch 43- 4 new members

* **Mileage Awards**

Area 1 Ch 111- 11323 miles

Area 2 Ch 69- 13260 miles

Area 3 Ch 18- 31358 miles

Area 4 Ch 184-1109 miles

Area 5 Ch 574- 33917 miles

Area 5 Ch 311- 3172 miles

Mileage cup – Ch 574- 33917 miles

* **Oldest Rider**

86 years old Ch 48 Jerome Pereira

* **Youngest Rider**

28 years old Ch 43 Zack Meyer

* **Farthest Miles Rode to Convention**

674 miles Ch 111 Steve Bowne

* **Shortest Miles Rode to Convention**

7 miles Ch 364 Rod Slavin

**Riders Everlasting Memorial Service, ALRDOC Chaplain**

Area 1

Ch 28 Lonnie Olaeta

Ch 95 Leland Neva

Area 2

D 28 Past President Terry Baughman

D 28 Past President Albert Ponch0 Villa

Ch 69 Ed Hawkins

Area 3

Ch 3 Michael Leach

Ch 26 Phil Mygatt

Ch 83 Vince Cole

Ch 476 Art Cope

Ch 476 James Pavlicek

Ch 509 Frank Sanchez

Ch 684 Buck Guest

Area 5

Ch 53 Patrick McDowell

Ch 53 Richard Padilla

Ch 132 Ken Rocky Low

Ch 149 Lyle Rife

Ch 200 Terry Hobbs

Ch 229 Larry Baxter

Ch 255 Marvin Cannegieter

Ch 497 Dennis Burch

Ch 555 Don Stevenson

Ch 584 John Green

Ch 852 Charles Landreth

Ch 852 Mindy Phillips

Area 6

Ch 48 Past President/Past Secretary Steve Weber

Ch 534 Gene Baird

**Convention in Recess for Convention Group Photo and Lunch, to 12:45 p.m.**

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Convention Reconvenes**

 **Most Valuable Rider patches**

Area 1 Ch 95 Missy Griffiths

 Area 2 D 13 Robert Lopez

Area 3 Ch 18 Jeff Carson

Area 4 Ch 184 Brian Toal

Area 5 Ch 460 Wayne Madsen

Area 6 Ch 43 Cris Molina

**Area Reports**

* **Area 1 – Sam Fergason**

We currently have 15 Chapters geographically dispersed from Elk

Grove in the south to McCloud up north. We have 261 riders. We

welcomed Chapter 92 McCloud in September 2023 and unfortunately lost

two Chapters this past year. We also had three riders join “Riders

Everlasting”. Al Higgs of Chapter 521 Rio Linda, Craig Krogstag of Chapter

28 Petaluma, and Leland Neva of Chapter 95 Oroville. May they rest in

peace. The biggest challenge remains recruitment and retention of new

members.

Statistics

Money raised for Charities $34,227

Ch 95 Oroville $10,000

Money donated to Charities $31,747

Ch 95 Oroville $10,000

Volunteer hours donated 8,702

Ch 95 Oroville 4300

Roundtrip Miles ridden 49,931

Number of events supported 112

Ch 521 Rio Linda 23

Charities Supported

Forgotten Soldier Program

National Veterans Awareness Ride

Wreaths Across America

Gold Star Moms

Boys State

Legacy Scholarship Fund

American Legion Baseball

Special Events Supported

Leland Neva Memorial Ride

Various veteran escorts, flag lines, funerals

Mobile Vietnam War Memorial Wall

Escorts for Veterans from nursing homes to special event in their honor

* **Area 2 – Robert Lopez**

First, I’d like to say thank you to all of the chapters and districts in Area 2, American Legion Riders. It has been my honor to be your Vice Director for the past 3 years. Some of the things that we did as Area 2 that I’d like to highlight is the Livermore VA luncheon for the VA patients, staff, and residents. Area 2 provided a wonderful Mexican lunch as well as sat with each of the residents and gave them their ear to listen to their stories and give them one day of gratitude for their service to our grateful nation. Second, I'd like to highlight, “Operation Surf.” Area 2 gathered together all chapters and districts to escort the wounded warriors from San Jose airport to Santa Cruz, California where they are taught to surf.

I’m also so proud of all our districts and chapters, and I just want to highlight a few things. Rolling 9’s who have done countless Veterans and Memorial Day parades, funeral escorts and missions, and have searched for new members throughout Antioch, Brentwood, and the East Bay.

District 10 has done an awesome job with the flag retirement at their cemetery’s crematory with full honors as well as parades, missions, and escorts.

District 13’s contribution to the boys and girls scouts of America donating hundreds of dollars towards their science camp as well as doing missions and funeral escorts.

Chapter 31 have done many Poker runs, fundraisers, missions, and funeral escorts.

Chapter 64 was installed last year and they have done an awesome job with their Santa Cruz community and helping Veterans, riding missions and escorts, and working together with district 28, 31, and chapter 69.

District 28 has done countless food bank servings, have worked at Laguna Seca raceway for many years providing traffic control, and raising money for our Veterans and the community. It has been a great honor to attend their poker runs, their Christmas parties, as well as riding with them in their funeral escorts and missions.

Chapter 69 have done countless missions, escorts, poker runs, Veterans Day parades, Memorial Day parades, and have donated countless dollars and hours of volunteerism for their Veterans and communities.

Chapter 105 have done countless missions, escorts, honor guard details, and they have raised money for the VA Palo Alto and Menlo Park. They have also done and escorts with the Patriot Guards and have contributed to their communities.

Chapter 591 has ridden with Patriot Guards as well as The American Legion riders. They are our newest chapter, they have been involved with the Veterans Day ceremonies, they have done countless funeral escorts, and were also involved in Operation Surf.

Unfortunately, we lost Chapter 694 in Marina and we are still trying to get Chapter 202 in Brentwood to stay afloat and possibly merge with Rolling 9’s. All in all, it has been an honor and a great pleasure to ride and serve with my fellow Veterans, Patriots, and the American Legion Riders.

* **Area 3 – Mike Phillips**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chapter** | **Rider Ever Lasting** | **Money Raised** | **Money Donated** | **Events supported/Hours** | **Miles** | **Riders within Area 3** |
| **16 Chapters reporting** | **7** | **$38,259** | **$31,028** | **789/10,568** | **159,645** | **373** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| RIDERS EVERLASTING: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Michael “Dipstick” Leach Chapter 3 Albert “Poncho” Villa Chapter 108

Art Cope Chapter 476 James Pavlicek Chapter 476 Ron Wilcox Chapter 476

Frank Sanchez Chapter 509 Lawrence “Buck” Guest Chapter 684

**Charities that benefited from Area 3 Contributions**

Hanford Youth Football

American Legion Baseball

Legacy Scholarship Run

Blue Star Moms

Armed Forces Support Foundation

Bakersfield Toy Run

Merced Elks Autism

Wreaths Across America

American Heart Association

Honor Flight Breakfast/flight support

Toys 4 Tots

Salvation Army

Greatest Generation Mural

Porterville College Veterans group

American Legion Youth Baseball

Bikers for Heros

Bristol Hospice Kids Camp

Kern County 999 Officer Down 17th Annual Support Ride

Sikh Riders of America 11th Annual Motorcycle Run

40th Annual Bakersfield Toy Run and Food

Kern River Blue Star Moms, Associated

Castle Air Force Museum fund

Tunnel to Towers

Wounded Warriors project

Michael J Fox Foundation

Cerebral Palsy Awareness

American Legion Hawaii Relief

Donation to support another post

Valley Childrens Hospital

Autism Awareness

Amador Boy Scouts, Troop 63

Sober Grad Night Amador High School

Girls State

Murray Middle School Robotics Team

Boy Scouts of America Troop 711

Active Duty Banner program

Tuskegee Airmen event Stockton

Boys State

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 108 Tea Party

White Heart Foundation

Fisher House Foundation

Post 509 Car Show

VFW

Kern River Valley Heart Walk

Lake Isabella Park USS Arizona Memorial Maintenance

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| **OTH Poker & Bike Nights**Kern HS Special OlympicsWest Coast RallyPatriot Guard Rider funeral escortsAmerican Race with Chapter 18Our Hero's Dreams Golf TournamentBirthday Parade for WWII Navy Nurse,18th Annual Armed Forces Support 911 RideFlag Day with School Flag Folding CeremoniesPorterville Veteran's Homecoming Court PageantRide for AwarenessVeterans Day Dance & ParadeEscort Veterans FuneralsPatriot Golf TournamentFallen Hero Cart EscortRemembering Our Fallen EscortsRun for The WallOver 50 Basic Military Recruit EscortsKern County Honor Flight EscortsAnnual POW-MIA ServicesFall Festival Post 476 California CityFour Chaplains ServicePro Youth Paint RunEnd of the Trail 10kStarbucks Coffee with a VetMilitary GraduationFour chaplainsBlue Star Moms fundraiser dinnerEscorted Veteran’s MemorialSanger Veterans ParadePorterville Veterans ParadeTrunk or Treat X8Pony Express X2Information and fundraising BoothsWestern DaysVeteran Day Parade ride to cemeteryKern HS Special OlympicsUSS Arizona Memorial Flags/MaintenanceKern HS Special OlympicsWest Coast RallyPatriot Guard Rider funeral escortsAmerican Race with Chapter 18Our Hero's Dreams Golf TournamentBirthday Parade for WWII Navy Nurse,18th Annual Armed Forces Support 911 RideFlag Day with School Flag Folding CeremoniesPorterville Veteran's Homecoming Court PageantRide for AwarenessVeterans Day Dance & ParadeEscort Veterans FuneralsPatriot Golf TournamentFallen Hero Cart EscortRemembering Our Fallen EscortsRun for The WallOver 50 Basic Military Recruit EscortsKern County Honor Flight EscortsAnnual POW-MIA ServicesFall Festival Post 476 California CityFour Chaplains ServicePro Youth Paint RunEnd of the Trail 10kStarbucks Coffee with a VetMilitary GraduationFour chaplainsBlue Star Moms fundraiser dinnerEscorted Veteran’s MemorialSanger Veterans ParadePorterville Veterans ParadeTrunk or Treat X8Pony Express X2Information and fundraising BoothsWestern DaysVeteran Day Parade ride to cemeteryKern HS Special OlympicsUSS Arizona Memorial Flags/Maintenance |

**Area 4 – Brian Toal**

**Chapter 184:**

* Money raised for charities: $2000
* Money donated to charities: $1000
* Roundtrip miles ridden: 350 miles
* Volunteer hours: 130
* Events supported:
	+ Wreaths across America
	+ Josephs Gift
	+ Flags Across America
	+ National Commander escort from USS Iowa to Post 184
	+ Escort “The Wall that Heals” and tear down support

**Chapter 61:**

* Roundtrip miles ridden: 2000
* Volunteer hours: 100
* Events Supported:
	+ The Good Ride
	+ Duffing for Dollars Golf Tournament

**Chapter 804:**

* Money raised for charities: $8181
* Money donated to charities: $2500
* Roundtrip miles ridden: 8455 miles
* Volunteer hours:
* Events supported:
	+ Miracle on 1st St
	+ Winter Wonderland at Brooklin Elementary
	+ Memorial Day Event
	+ PFC Eugene A. Obregon Memorial Day Service
	+ Veterans Day
	+ Medal of Honor Day
	+ National Commander escort to Post 804
* **Area 5 – Robert Partlow**

-34 Chapters

-709 Riders

-Rode 220,892 Miles

-$136,188 Raised For Charities

-$134,104 Donated to Charities

-1175 Events Supported

-32,458 Volunteer Hours

EVENTS AND CHARITIES

-Numerous youth sports teams

-Toys for Tots

-Honor Flight

-Numerous Parades (Veterans Day, 4th of July, Christmas)

-Wreaths across America

-Escort of National Commander

-It has been 4 years but we have returned to the Veterans Home in Barstow. We will be returning on November 16. I am still trying to get us back to Chula Vista Veterans Home. This is not just an Area 5 visit I am inviting all Areas and Chapters to come.

* **Area 6 – Cristina Molina**

Fellow members of the ALRDEC, Fellow Riders, and Friends, here is the report for Area 6.

I’ll start with the tough part – we lost 2 members:

- Chapter 534 lost their member Gene Baird. May he rest in peace.

- Chapter 48 lost ALD DEC Past President, Steve Weber. Steve’s presence in Area meetings and on the DEC calls is sorely missed. May he rest in peace.

TOGETHER we raised over $42,000 and donated over $38,000.

TOGETHER we supported over 140 events and charities, including:

 Local city Christmas events

 Vets 4 Veterans

 The Palmdale Mobile Vietnam Wall

 Many funeral escorts

 The Pete Knight Veterans Home

 Several Veterans Stand Down events

 Suicide Awareness Runs

 Toys for Tots

 Local food banks

 Project Hero

 The Wall that Heals

 Vandenberg POW/MIA event

 Wreaths Across America

 Boys State

 Local Boys & Girls Clubs

 Events held by other Posts

 Supported fellow Posts and Chapters in need

 Bikers Against Child Abuse

 Holiday Parades

 Trunk or Treat events

 Memorial Day and Veterans Day events

 The Wingman Foundation

 The Good Ride

 Infinite Hero

 Vets Helping Vets

 Sending care packages to those deployed overseas

 The list goes on and on...

We rode over 17,000 miles and donated over 2,000 of our time and resources to the causes we

supported.

We, Area 6, did this TOGETHER.

All of the Areas, 1-6, accomplished so much this year and we all did it TOGETHER.

I have served as part of the ALRDEC for 3 years now, so my time is up. Maybe I’ll be back in the future, but for now I am going to leave you with a few thoughts about where we are, how we got here, and what we need to do to continue moving forward.

As an organization, we are in a pretty good place. Under the leadership of our Director, Mike Smith, we are in a place of overall peace, kindness, and support for the American Legion.

How did we get here? And by here, I mean as members of the ALR. Well, here is my brief story. Several years ago, I saw a friend posting on social media about this thing called the American Legion. I asked him about it and he shared that this is a Veteran Support Organization. I immediately said, “I want in. Can I join?” From there I joined the Auxiliary with the purpose of supporting MY Veterans and providing support for their accomplishments. Finding out about the Riders was an added bonus!

I think that story resonates with most of you. We joined this organization to support Veterans and

through this organization we have become a FAMILY.

What do we need to do moving forward? We need to remember that we really are a FAMILY. And we

need to remember that families don’t always get along. BUT when we wear these vests, berets, or

Legion Family covers, we leave the crap at the door because we are all here for the same reason. We put aside our differences to support our Brothers and Sisters through good and bad. THAT IS OUR JOB, THAT IS OUR MISSION, PERIOD, END OF STORY.

So, while you don’t have to walk out of here and hug and kiss every single member, just remember that when we are representing this amazing group, we need to do what is best FOR THE LEGION.

One final note and an example of what family does is my recent car accident, just 3 weeks ago. It was

bad and my mom ended up in the ICU in critical condition. Who immediately reached out to me? My

Legion Family – true story. “What do you need? What can we do? We will drive down to you and be

there for you.” It was insane and it made me cry. Cory & Michelle Wattenbarger, Mick Sobczak, and Mike Smith immediately come to mind. Some of the best people. Then recently Riders from Chapters 299 and 951 came to support an event at my Post. As I greeted each one, they all asked how my mom was doing. THAT is how you do it. So, from the countless comments, messages, and texts I received from so many of you, my ALR Family, I am grateful. Life is too short, my friends. Get busy living it and forget the crap.

Stephanie Huff, Pernell Rush, and Milan Morgan, my 3 Alternates – thank you for your support and

helpfulness. What is that thing we say? Devotion to mutual helpfulness? Nailed it!

Mike, Ralph, Debbie, Rochelle, Mick, Marc, Donnie, Stan, Mark, George, Andrew, Mike, Louisa, Tom,

Kathleen, and all my fellow Vice Directors – Thank you all for your never-ending support.

Don’t worry... I’m not done yet, but as your Area 6 Vice Director, I’m taking a break.

Thank you for your time and support. See you soon.

**Recess to Area Caucuses/Area Elections**

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Convention Reconvenes**

**Report of Area Elections**

**Area 1**

Vice Director- Josh Stiefel Ch 95

Alt Vice Director- Ricky Hunt Ch 95

 Alt Vice Director- Martin Glenn Ch 92

 **Area 2**

Vice Director- Pete Torrecillas Ch 69

 Alt Vice Director- Greg Martin D 28

 Alt vice Director’ Hy Libby Ch 31

 **Area 3**

Vice Director- Mike Phillips Ch 18

 Alt Vice Director- Cory Wattenbarger Ch 476

 Alt Vice Director- Ken Sutton Ch 108

 Alt Vice Director- Robert Lassotovich Ch 20

**Area 4**

Vice Director- Brian Toal Ch 184

Alt Vice Director- Justin Garcia Ch 184

**Area 5**

Vice Director- Robert Partlow

Alt Vice Director- William Blackstone Ch 79

Alt Vice Director- Jeff Beck Ch 328

Alt Vice Director- David Harrison Ch 428

Alt Vice Director- Mike Yirka Ch 574

Alt vice Director- Edmund Arguello Ch 229

**Area 6**

Vice Director- Stephanie Huff Ch 30

Alt Vice Director- Pernell Rush Ch 534

Alt Vice Director- Cris Molina Ch 43

Alt vice Director- Dave Austin Ch 43

**Officer & Committee Reports**

* Director

Since we met last year, I have kept myself busy. Instead of the number of meetings, poker runs, funerals etc. I have been to. I will simply give you one number 14,461 miles. That is the number of miles I put in on my bike’s during the past year.

Some the big highlights are: addressing The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion Department Conventions, going to the California American Legion Baseball Tournament at UCLA, presenting our donation to the National Legacy Scholarship Fund at the National American Legion Convention, attending the National American Legion College, the escort of the National Commander in our state and basically getting to ride around our state visiting chapters and posts.

Over the past year I have been accused of becoming quite chatty when I get behind the microphone. In keeping with my love of keeping my reports brief, I will simply say, getting to be your representative over the last year has been an absolute honor. Thank you all for putting your trust in me.

* 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 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
* May 27, 2923, Memorial Service in Springville, CA
* June 13, 2023, Convention and Rally Zoom
* June 16-17, 2023, Chapter 95 Oroville Poker Run and 1st Anniversary
* **June 23 – 25, 2023, attended T.AL.D.O.C. 104th Convention in Visalia. Addressed Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion Conventions.**
* July 3, 2023 – Funeral Porterville Sounded Taps
* July 15, 2023 – traveled to Chapter 428 Banning 2nd Anniversary to benefit for Post 180, 299 and 428.
* **July 21, 2023 – traveled to UCLA for American Legion Baseball CA State Championship**
* July 22, 2023 – traveled to Orcutt Chapter 534 18th Annual Fallen Warrior Legacy Poker Run
* July 24, 2023 - traveled to Bakersfield, Bristol Hospice Foundation Kids Camp
* July 24, 2023 – Legacy Run Zoom meeting
* July 29, 2023 – Funeral in Lemoore, CA, with Chapters 3, 18, 20 and 100 (In motorcycle accident)
* August 14, 2023 – CA Legacy Run Meeting Zoom
* August 15, 2023 – CA Convention and Rally Meeting Zoom
* August 28, 2023 – Jim Hackney Night Out @ NASCAR Hall of Fame
* **August 29, 2023 – Presented CA ALRDOC donation to National Legacy Scholarship @ National American Legion Convention**
* August 23 to September 3, 2023 – Return ride home to California
* September 12, 2023 – Represented ALRDOC and played Taps at Clovis annual POW/MIA Remembrance
* September 16, 2023 – Attended Chapter 460 San Diego Pig Roast
* September 21, 2023 – Taps for Chapter 20 former Rider Daryl Kulberth
* September 25, 2023 – CA Legacy Run Meeting Zoom
* September 26, 2023 – West Coast Rally Meeting Zoom
* September 29, 2023 – October 1 – West Coast Rally at Post/Chapter 53 Hemet
* **October 4, 2023 – Poncho Villa Celebration of Life in Jackson, CA. Played Taps for Poncho.**
* October 11, 2023 – Chapter 20 visit with veterans at the Sierra Hills veterans assisted living.
* October 17, 2023 – Porterville Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Committee meeting. Spoke to Chamber about motorcycles not being allowed into the parade. The committee agreed to allow 10 motorcycles in as a trial. No motorcycles have been allowed in the parade for years. Small victory for Chapter 20.
* October 21, 2023 – Chapter 20 visit with veterans at the Gateway Post Acute Nursing home
* October 23, 2023 – TAL Convention Committee Zoom
* October 23, 2023 – CA Legacy Run Zoom
* October 26, 2023 – National Commander Escort Meeting Zoom
* October 28, 2023 – Area 5 Meeting
* November 4, 2023 – District 15 Meeting
* November 7, 2023 – National Commander Escort Meeting Zoom
* November 10, 2023 – Our Hero’s Dreams Golf Tournament
* November 10, 2023 – Marine Corps Birthday at Post 106 Redlands
* **November 11 to 17, 2023 – National American Legion College, Indianapolis, IN**
* November 21, 2023 – Convention and Rally Zoom
* November 27, 2023 – Legacy Run Zoom
* November 29, 2023 – National Commander Escort Planning Meeting
* December 6, 2023 – Charles ‘Chuck’ Landreth Chapter 852 Funeral
* December 7, 2023 – Patrick ‘Paddy’ McDowell Chapter 53 Funeral
* **December 15 – 18, 2023 – National Commander Escort (Cut short due to inclement weather)**
* December 19, 2023 – Convention and Rally Zoom
* January 11, 2024 – Legacy Run Meeting
* January 16, 2024 – Convention and Rally Meeting Zoom
* January 19, 2024 – Attended Art Cope funeral at San Joaquin National Cemetery
* January 24, 2024 – Chapter 20 West Coast Rally Zoom
* **January 26, 2024 – PP/PS Steve Weber Celebration of Life (Ventura)**
* **February 3, 2024 – Four Chaplain’s Service in Sanger**
* February 3 – TAL Area 3 meeting at Post 147 Clovis
* February 5, 2024 – Legacy Run Zoom meeting
* February 10, 2024 – ALRDOC Area 6 meeting at Post 43 Hollywood
* February 12-13, 2024 – ALRDOC 2024 Convention site check
* February 16, 2024 – ALRDOC Finance Committee Zoom meeting
* February 12, 2024 – Credentials Committee Zoom meeting
* February 19, 2024 – Legacy Run Zoom meeting
* February 20, 2024 – Convention and Rally Zoom meeting
* February 26, 2024 – Safety Committee Zoom Meeting
* March 4, 2024 – Legacy Run Zoom Meeting
* March 5, 2024 – Convention and Rally Zoom Meeting
* March 9, 2024 – Area 3 Meeting at Post 476 in Californian City
* March 10, 2024 – Area 2 Meeting at Post in San Jose
* March 11, 2024 – Finance Committee Zoom Meeting
* March 12, 2024 – Convention and Rally Zoom Meeting
* **March 14-16, 2024 – Attended Funeral and Celebration of Life for Chapter 95 Oroville Director Leland Neva**
* March 23, 2024 – Chapter 26 Bakersfield Poker Run
* March 25, 2024 – Safety Committee Zoom Meeting
* March 26, 2024 – Convention and Rally Meeting Zoom
* April 1, 2024 – Legacy Zoom Meeting
* April 8, 2024 – Legacy Zoom Meeting
* Vice Director

Since our last convention in Tulare, I have participated in the following:

Monthly meetings of the ALRDOC Executive Committee

The California Legacy Run

The West Coast Rally

Four Area Director’s meetings

Three Chapter Officer Installations

Twenty-two ALRDOC committee meetings

Fifty-five other Chapter, American Legion, community, and veteran’s related events.

Unfortunately, several of those events I attended this past year were for the funerals or celebrations of life for three of our past presidents: Albert “Poncho” Villa; Terry Baughman; and Steve Weber. I also attended services for three past chapter presidents: Art Cope; Leland Neva; and, from my own chapter, Phil Mygatt. These are but a few of our sisters and brothers who have passed onto Rider Everlasting this past year.

While serving as ALRDOC Vice Director, I also served as my post’s 1st Vice Commander, the Junior Past Commander of the 15th District, the Adjutant of Area 3, and as a Commissioner on the Law-and-Order Commission. I do not report this to pat myself on the back for I know many of you also hold leadership roles in the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion. I do so to encourage each of you to become more involved in your post, unit or squadron, even if it is simply by attending monthly meetings.

In the upcoming year I plan on attending the California Legacy Run on the Northern Route, the West Coast Rally, and individual Chapter events such as Chapter 20’s Cannonball Run next month. I am hoping to participate once again in the American Legion Legacy Run this August which will end at the Legion’s National Convention in New Orleans. Should I continue to serve as ALRDOC Vice Director after this convention, I will try to attend a director’s meeting in each Area and travel to other meetings or events as requested by or on behalf of the Director.

On a personal note, I wish to thank those of you who sent prayers and good wishes to me after I suffered a torn retina last June which kept me off my bike for several months. I am happy to report my vision has returned to my eye.

In closing, I want to thank each of you who proudly wear the backpatch of the California American Legion Riders for what you do for veterans, veteran families, and your communities through our two- and three-wheel motorcycling affliction. Ride often, ride safe!

* Credentials

Good morning, it’s great to see so many chapters present this year.

If I call your name, please stand up.

Robert Partlow, Geni Lefler Chris Rohrberg and Bill Blackstone.

Without the people helping at delegate check in it would take a lot longer for you as delegates to get checked in and it wouldn’t be as smooth. Thank you for volunteering to help. You make a difference.

* Secretary

Once again, we are here when it seems we just had our 2023 convention.

I want to congratulate the chapters for meeting all their obligations to be here.

Some of the most important members of your chapter are the POCs. Some of you are already Chapter POCs, points of contact, between your chapter and the DEC. Your chapter is allowed up to 3. All POCs in the coming year will need to contact the Webmaster to get a login. With that login you’ll be able to access the online roster to keep it current, to generate the COO report, POC report and the delegate report. You’ll also be able to pay your delegate fees and per capita from the online roster. And only a POC can order from the Quartermaster. But, that’s not all. A POC is the one who forwards all the emails that are sent from the DEC to the chapter members when asked to distribute to the membership. It might be easier if you take the POC duties and split them up between your POCs. POCs don’t have to be officers. They are anyone who is willing to do the job. Talk among your chapter to see who will be willing, as ALL your POCs need to know how to do all parts in case someone is out of town, ill, etc.

You’ll be having 1st nominations for officers this month. 2nd nominations and voting in May. Officers taking office in June. For old and new officers, communication within your chapter is essential.

When you have a meeting, get the meeting minutes out electronically within 48 hours. This lets those who couldn’t be there know what’s been going on and what’s coming up in the future in a timely manner. Consider texting those who weren’t there and just stating, “We missed you Saturday’s meeting. Hope all is well”. It’s those warm fuzzies that are felt that make a big difference.

In the next week or so, I will be sending out to all POCs the obligation deadlines for the coming year. Bylaws shouldn’t be on there this year unless you are updating something from the chapter end such as a different meeting date and time. The chapter POCs will be asked to distribute to all chapter membership. Why? Because the members are the checks and balances that make sure everything is done in its timeline. If you don’t receive a copy by the end of the month, contact your POCs. It will also be put onto the website.

During the upcoming year, if you have any questions, need clarification, need support, etc. please do not hesitate to contact the DEC. Your Area vice Director, Donny, Mike, Ralph and or me. Unfortunately, we can’t help until you reach out.

We’re here to help.

* Chaplain

I attended the Department Convention for both the Riders and the Legion.

I worked as the Constitution and Bylaws Chair as well as the 6th District Commander.

I was unable to ride with the Legacy Run due to surgery but did attend the West Coast Rally in September.

I attended Chapter meetings and most of the monthly ALR DEC Meetings.

I served on the Training Committee and taught in both California American Legion College Classes.

* Historian

Gold Rush Poker Run Ch 95

Chapter 18 Castle Air Museum Ride

West Coast Rally-Hemet

National Commander Escort

Orcutt Poker Run

Operation: Surf

Acknowledging the following chapters and areas for encouraging my growth: All 6 Areas and Chapters 3,20,26, 299, 509, 147, 476, 88, 95, 328, 951,

Goals for 2024-2025

1. Growing social media for ALR CA through Instagram, TikTok, and possibly starting our own social media page.

2. Improving the existing website with more recent photographed events as well as featuring our founding members history plus the chapters.

* Judge Advocate

No report.

Mike- Thank you for going through all the bylaws.

* Parliamentarian

Progress!

As a parliamentarian, my job was to ensure Robert’s Rules of Order were followed in a meeting. ALRDEC learned how to make proper motions, amendments and procedures.

It was an honor to serve under Director Smith’s leadership.

* Resolutions

No report.

* Convention and Rally

2023 West Coast Rally

Hosted by Chapter 53 Hemet

Was attended by many chapters from throughout the state, It closed with very nice reviews. Thanks to all for attending.

2024 17th Annual ALRDOC convention

Hosted by Ch 460 San Diego

Everything is set.

2024 West Coast Rally

Hosted by Ch 20 Porterville

September 20-22, 2024

Hotels have been identified. Meals are being finalized and pre-registration will be open soon.

2025 18th Annual ALRDOC convention

Hosted by Chapter 69 Hollister

April 11-13, 2025

Organizing of hotels, meeting facilities and meals are moving forward as identified in the guidelines.

2025 West Coast Rally

Hosted by a chapter in areas 4, 5 or 6.

September 2025

2026 19th annual ALRDOC convention

Hosted by a chapter in areas 1, 2 or 3.

April 2026

* Webmaster

I continue to try to respond to login and other issues with the website as quickly as possible.

Calendar and News items are addressed as received.

There are known issues with the email buttons and other functions of the website. To work around this please directly email the person that you are trying to reach. For example, rather than use the “Contact Webmaster” button, email ALRDOCWEBMASTER@gmail.com.

I have contacted GoDaddy to get pricing on a full website redesign. I will have more information on this as it progresses. This will cost money depending on how much we want GoDaddy to do.

If anyone knows of a professional Web Designer that will work with us at a discounted price, I would be happy to speak with them.

* Public Relations

I would like for each Area of the State to have a Facebook page in addition to our State Page. This will require a committee member to Administer that page as well as the Area Vice Director or his assignee.

Currently the following Areas have Facebook pages.

ALRDOC – Admins (Mick Sobczak, Debbie Proffitt, Mike Smith) – **ALR - California**

Area 1 – Admins (Cindy Gano) – **ALR Area 1 American Legion Riders**

Area 2 – Admins (Andrew Trapani) – **Area 2 American Legion Riders**

Area 4 – Admins (Brian Toal, Joel Lopez, Justin Gee) – **ALR DoC Area 4**

Area 5 – Admins (Tom Lively, Danielle Lively, Laura Rescineto, Edmund Arguello) – **ALR DoC Area 5**

Area 6 – Admins (Jim Oxley, Cris Marie) – **American Legion Riders (Area 6)**

It is my feeling that we need to have a more cohesive naming convention. Will discuss with committee members.

Also, it would be beneficial to investigate Instagram, X, and TikTok to promote our brand. Will speak to committee about this as well.

* Constitution & By Laws

No report.

* Membership

Active chapters-93

Area 1-15

Area 2-11

Area 3-16

Area 4-3

Area 5-34

Area 6-14

Total riders 1,829

Total veterans 1,142

Total Sons 376

Total Auxiliary 311

Total Active Duty 25

New chapters since last convention

Area 1 Ch 92

Area 2 Ch 591

Area 3 Ch 18

Most new members

Area 1 Ch 95- 7

Area 2 D 10- 3

Area 3 Ch 18- 6

Area 4 0

Area 5 Ch 328- 7

Area 5 Ch 299- 7

Area 6 Ch 43- 4

* California Legacy Run

Last year we raised $67,503.18 with over 50 riders participating.

The 2024 California Legacy Run: A New Mission, Same Determination.

For the past 16 years, American Legion Riders across the country have supported the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund through various fundraising events. The primary source of the funds was the American Legion Legacy run and several in state Legacy runs, such as the California Legacy Run.

As of 2024, The National leadership of the American Legion has asked the American Legion Riders to change the focus of their efforts as the Legacy Scholarship Fund has enough money to be self-sustaining. In its place, we have been asked to support the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation.

The American Legion Veterans and Childrens Foundation, also known as “The foundation of Hope”, provides temporary assistance for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care and due benefits and opportunities of disabled veterans and families.

The 2024 California Legacy Run is proud to join other American Legion Riders across the country in this new mission with the same determination.

This year is our 5th annual run. We have 2 routes.

The Northern route starts in Healdsburg-Post 111.

The southern Route starts in San Diego-Post 460.

Both Northern and Southern Routes to meet on Day 2, in San Luis Obispo.

Day 3, all riders will ride together to the Vietnam Memorial Wall at the Dinuba Veterans Building. Then, lunch at Post 18 in Visalia.

The beauty of our run is that you can do all 3 days or two or one.

The cost of registration is $50.00.

This year’s run is open to all riders, not just ALR.

Kick off date is Thursday, May 2nd 2024. Run starts Friday, May 3rd through Sunday, May 5th, 2024.

As of now we have 33 riders that are registered.

Please join us or donate. If all 1,829 riders donated or registered, we can raise $91,450!!

* Safety Officer

This year there was a focus on safety issues that we experience while riding. So, to bring light to these issues and find a way to communicate on how to prevent incidents I started a monthly Safety Article that was distributed to all chapters. I felt this was an effective way to communicate with all the chapters.

I will continue to produce these articles in the hope that the readers will gain some knowledge from them.

The Safety Committee also updated the Safety Handbook as well as the ALR Cup. We are operating under the Four Pillars of the American Legion for reporting miles. The Four Pillars are Americanism, Veterans Employment and Education, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children and Youth. These are living documents and will be updated on an annual basis as needed.

One of my goals this year is to encourage our members to seek additional training whenever possible.

Another goal is to set up in the different areas a slow speed training course. There are many incidents that occur at low speeds. I have used this in the past as my Post and everyone enjoys it.

* Uniform

No report.

* Quartermaster

During this past year we had 85 orders through the ALR Quartermaster website 79 of those orders have been completed. We currently have one order wherein payment has been received and is pending processing. We have Five orders that have been invoiced and are waiting payment.

This past year I have added sweatshirts to the website and I am looking to add red Friday shirts once we get a price that we feel is right for our need and a design that the membership wants.

As the Quartermaster, I have noticed that many chapters continue to order one patch at a time rather then several and keep an inventory on hand for their chapter. The problem with this method is the chapter is getting charged $15 for shipping on each order they make. So, if they do three orders of one patch each that’s $45 in shipping cost where if they make one order of three patches is $15 for shipping saving them $30 in shipping charges a chapter can order up to 12 patches at a time and still only get charged $15 for shipping, so if your chapter has the available fund to order in bulk it will save them.

I also ordered berets for convention and they are for sale for $40.

Lastly as many of you may know we are still having issues with the invoices going out through our email system. I t is being worked on but no fix in the foreseeable future, so if you don’t receive an invoice from me within 4 days of your order being placed. You have a couple of options. You can email me, call me or go back into the store find your order. If the invoice was created there will be a tab for you to make payment on your order. If the invoice wasn’t created you will not have access to pay and you need to contact me. Once you have made payment on your order and you want to check the progress of your order you can go back into the store orders find your order and it will have the update progress of your order.

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.

* Service Officer

Make sure you’re doing everything you can through the PACT Act if you’re eligible.

* Ways and Means

This past year has been memorable. The Legacy Quilt 2024 was unveiled at the 2023 Rally in Hemet and tickets were distributed to the chapters in attendance. The remaining Chapters’ tickets were given to the Area Vice Directors to distribute. I sent emails out twice to all Chapters through the POC’s, sent out additional tickets to some chapters, and gave out the mailing address to many chapters, as well as how to make out the checks.

As of April 9, 2024 I have received money and ticket stubs from Chapters 111, 82, 3, 221, 79, 299, 497, 521, 64, 69, 105, 202, D9, 16, 83, 88, 147, 852, 951, 716, 311, 328, 112, 77, 264, 43 and donations totaling $10,460. I am hoping to be getting more checks and ticket stubs at the convention.

The 2025 quilt is done and ready to 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 their tickets as well as request and sell additional tickets. I hope to make 2025 a better donation year than the past few.

* Past President/Director’s Club
* Absent

**Convention and Rally Future Locations**

* Convention 2026 Location Voting (Areas 4, 5, 6)

No takers at this time.

* Rally 2025 Location Voting (Areas 4, 5, 6)

No takers at this time.

* Rally 2026 Location Voting (Areas 1, 2, 3)

Ch 31 Salinas

We had a successful Rally in 2014. We will be able to use the VFW hall that has lots of room.

Ch 95 Oroville

We have many members and have put together poker runs. We would like the opportunity to do a Rally.

Ch 476 California City

We have lots of parking and creative idea for rides and events.

A physical standing vote was taken.

Ch 31- 72 votes

Ch 95- 48 votes

Ch 476- 30 votes

Ch 31 Salinas will host the 2026 West Coast Rally in September 2026.

**Resolutions/Amendments to By-Laws**

* Introduction of Resolutions

No resolutions.

* Voting on Resolutions
* Introduction of Amendments

No amendments.

* Voting on Amendments

**Nomination of Candidates for Executive Officers**

* Director

Ralph Wenzinger- declined

Mike Smith- accepted

* Vice Director

Ralph Wenzinger- accepted

* Sergeant-at-Arms

Jeff Carson Ch 18- accepted

 Marc Lawrie- declined

**Announcements**

Ch 61- April 19 there will be a memorial service at the Battleship Iowa for the 47 sailors killed.

Ch 3- 2nd Annual Poker run is on May 18th. KSU at 9am.

Ch 184- Has a gun raffle in process. $10 for tickets. The winning ticket will be pulled June 22nd.

Ch 64- Will be having a golf tournament. $50 to enter.

Ch 92- Has a Poker Run on June 22nd.

Ch 328- June 15th there is a Patriot’s fundraiser poker run to benefit veteran families.

Ch 119- Is having a poker run June 1st. More info at Legionpost119.org $25/$40

Ch 95- May 18 they are having a bike show at the casino.

 -June 15 they are having their 2nd Annual Poker Run.

Ch 299- The Passport Run raised $1240. Half will be donated to the Nation of Patriots.

Ch 20- May 11 is their Cannonball Run. Will raffle off a Ruger 308. $5 or 5 for $20

 -September 20 is the West Coast Rally.

Ch 476-th roof blew off the Post. Have a gun raffle to help with expenses. $20 per ticket.

Ch 497- May 18 having a Poker Run.

Ch 83- Having a motorcycle raffle $30 per ticket or 4 for $100. To support local vets.

Ch 69- Glad to be hosting the 2025 convention. See you there.

Ch 3- Will be a lunch stop for the Northern Route of the California Legacy Run on May 4th. Come have lunch and support the run. All donations for lunch will go to the CLR.

Ch 31- 3rd Annual golf tournament on April 19.

Ch 18- Jun 22nd having a 22 a day suicide prevention run. $30/$20 registration is 7-8:30am.

The vendor who was selling shirts sold out. Thank you.

$4,300 was raised for the cutting of Mike Smith’s hair to go to the California Legacy Run.

**Benediction – Chaplain Robert Lassotovich**

**Adjourned by Director Mike Smith at 4:05pm**

**CONVENTION IN RECESS TO SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2024 AT 0900 HOURS**

**Sunday, April 14, 2024**

**MINUTES**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Convention Reconvenes @ 9am**

Recognized the Gold Star and Blue Star families.

Presented a Certificate of Appreciation from Chapter 460 to Post 282 Commander Tony Skodo.

 **Finance Report**

* Vote on Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

General Accounting as of 4/11/24

Ending Bank Balance $ 68,907.21

PayPal Balance $ 27,942.07

Ending Total Balance $ 96,849.28

Finance Officer Notes:

We have had a good financial year in 2023-2024. Our current budget has a surplus beyond our management reserve of $47,926.25 of at least $48,923.03.

We have some planned changes to the budget for the 2024- 2025 year. This year more people went to the West Coast Rally than ever before. This is a great thing, but it was noted that this caused some issues in the finance of the event. To keep that from happening again, your officers have been relegated to a reduced stipend similar to how the Convention stipend is configured. This removes the $6,000 “Rally Call in” from the budget, and adds the individual officer stipends that ultimately adds up to $6,300.

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report and 24-25 budget by Wendy Well Ch 105. 2nd by Jeff Gilman D 28. Passed by vote of delegates.

 **New Business**

Ralph- Heard from Legion Baseball. They need help reaching their goal. I move to donate $1,500 to legion baseball. 2nd by James Davis Ch 221.

Mick said that the motion needs to be amended to state the line item the money is coming from.

Ralph amended his motion to increase to $1,900 from line item 3378 from the emergency fund.

2nd by John Botwright Ch 83. There was discussion and the amendment failed as the delegates wanted the money to go to the general fund then be pulled out so as not to show coming from the emergency fund.

Ralph amended the motion to state that the $1,900 was to go from the emergency fund to the general fund then to Legion Baseball. 2nd by Martin Glenn Ch 92.

Edmund Arguello Ch 229 asked if the amount can be increased. Current amendment failed.

Ralph amended the original motion to state that $4,400 be taken from wherever available and go to the general fund and then to Legion Baseball. 2nd by Gus Compton Ch 3. Amendment passed.

Vote on the original motion with amendments passed by vote of delegates.

Historian Louisa Carson presented Mike Smith with a 23-24 yearbook.

JD Bennett made a motion to amend the Rider Cup rules to state all miles on a motorcycle out of state would count. 2nd by James Adames. Much discussion. Carolyn Glenn asked for an amendment that out of state miles would count if they fall under the 4 pillars. Ralph- the motion excludes those riders in retired status that no longer ride 2 wheels.

The motion is dead.

JD made a motion that all miles from anyone who is an ALR member who rides or drives outside the state of California supporting the 4 pillars and are American Legion or American Legion Riders events would count. 2nd by James Adames. More discussion was had and a voice vote was taken. Motion failed.

**2nd Nomination of Candidates for Executive Officers**

* Director

No new candidates

Yesterday-Mike Smith

* Vice Director

No new candidates

Yesterday-Ralph Wenzinger

* Sergeant-at-Arms

No new candidates

Yesterday-Jeff Carson

**Candidates for Executive Officers Address to Delegates**

Director

Vice Director

Sergeant At Arms

 **Election of Executive Officers**

* Director
* Vice Director
* Sergeant-at-Arms

Motion by Mick Sobczak that a white ballot vote be cast. 2nd by mike Daugherty Ch 20. Passed

**Installation of New Officers by AL Commander John Aldridge**

**New Officers Take Positions**

Congratulations and pictures were taken.

**Remarks from New Officers**

**Director**

This is very humbling. Thank you for trusting me and having faith in me. Thank you for the last 2 years. I will continue to work hard.

**Vice Director**

Thank you for your trust. It’s been an honor and privilege to serve all of you and the DEC and to keep Mike under control 😊.

**Sergeant At Arms**

This office means a lot. The ALR has become family. I have visited half the chapters. You will see me on the road in the coming year. Do what you can to ride with your chapter.

**Good of the American Legion Riders**

Debbie- In the back of the room are 2 red, white and blue boxes. When you leave take the paper badge out of your lanyard and leave the plastic lanyard in the boxes. They are expensive to buy.

-Also, don’t take the laminated seat signs. We reuse those.

Judy- Thank you for your donation. So far there have been $17,349 in donations from the ALR to Legion Baseball. I will designate an ALR game of the day during the playoffs. Mike will throw out the first pitch. You can attend free.

Andrew Trapani Ch 105- Post 791 in San Jose was broken into. We offered them help and they asked to donate $100 to the CLR.

JD Bennett- Thank you for the support od my family’s business. T shirt raffle winner is Jeff Beck Ch 328.

Steve Nance Ch 88- Donation from Squadron 88 of $200 to the CLR. Donation from Ch 88 of $200 to the CLR.

Wayne Madsen- 50/50 raffle. $383 to the winner Tony Radovich.

The CLR quilt drawing winner is Don Shore.

Cory Wattenbarger Ch 476- engraved mallet silent auction raised $400. Winner is Donny Brannon.

Happy birthday was sung to Cory and Mick by the delegates.

Happy birthday was sung to Mike Smith by the delegates.

Mike Smith- Congratulation to the incoming officers. For those outgoing, thank you for your dedication and time.

Take the Basic Training class online to learn of the AL.

**Benediction – Chaplain Robert Lassotovich**

**Retirement of the POW/MIA flag**

The POW/MIA flag was retired by former POW David “Critter” Ritter of Ch 3 Hanford.

**Adjournment- Director Mike Smith @ 10:57am**

THANK YOU ALL FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

KEEP WORKING TO GROW AND SUPPORT OUR AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY!

***SEE YA NEXT YEAR! SAFE TRAVELS!***

**(ALRDEC will meet ½ hour after closing ceremony)**