**The American Legion Riders**

**Department of California**

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*For God and Country*

DEC Minutes

June 20, 2024

1. **Call to Order** – Director Mike Smith @ 1900 hours
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Cristina Molina
3. **Pause for POW/MIA** – Director Mike Smith
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** – SAA Jeff Carson
5. **ALR Preamble** – Director Mike Smith
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

**Director-** Mike Smith

**Vice Director** – Ralph Wenzinger

**Sergeant-At-Arms** – Jeff Carson

**Area 1 Vice-D** – Josh Stiefel EXCUSED

**Area 2 Vice-D** – Pete Torrecillas

**Area 3 Vice-D/Quartermaster** – Mike Phillips

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

**Area 5 Vice-D** – Robert Partlow EXCUSED

**Area 6 Vice-D** – Stephanie Huff EXCUSED

**Jr Past** – Rey Ruiz (In Memoriam)

**Treasurer** – Stan Tehee

**Secretary** - Debbie Proffitt

**Chaplain** – Cristina Molina

**Historian** – Louisa Carson

**Judge Advocate** – Donny Brannon

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

**Parliamentarian-** Mick Sobczak

**Safety Officer** – Andrew Trapani

**Service Officer** - George Smith EXCUSED

**Awards and Recognition –** Missy Griffiths

**Convention & Rally** – Bob Atchley

**PP/DC** – Dennis Kee EXCUSED

**Ways and Means** - Kathleen McClary ABSENT

**Webmaster/Public Relations** – Tom Lively

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

Bob Radcliff Ch 30, A5 Alt Wm. Blackstone, Ed Caler Ch 82, A1 Alt Martin Glenn, A5 Alt Jeff Beck, Mike Tomasek Ch 111, Jacque James Ch 64, Andre Belton Ch 100, A5 Alt Dave Harrison, A1 Alt Ricky Hunt, Julie Wallace Ch 211, Pat Burkhardt Ch 108.

PP Mick Sobczak- Hope your 3rd year is as good as the 1st and 2nd.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** –

None

1. **Approval of Minutes** – May 23, 2024 minutes.

Accepted as electronically transmitted.

1. **Financial Report** – Stan Tehee

General Accounting as of 05/15/24

Beginning Bank Balance $ 73,448.10

Bank Deposits $ 824.00

Interest on bank account $ 0.60

Bank Withdraws $ 8,260.82

Ending Bank Balance $ 66,011.88

PayPal Balance $ 34,286.62

Ending Total Balance $ 100,298.50

Motion to accept the finance report as given pending audit by Ralph Wenzinger. 2nd by Cris

Molina. Passed by vote of DEC.

1. **Director’s Report** – Mike Smith

 May 23 – Porterville Military Banner Ceremony

 April 27 – Porterville Memorial Day Service-played Taps

 June 2 – Rode to Post/Chapter 88 Turlock to support monthly breakfast

 June 3 – Ca Legacy Run Zoom Meeting

 June 6 – Conducted Chapter 299 Officer Installation

 June 10 – Website Zoom Meeting

 June 14 – Porterville Flag Day Ceremony – played Taps

 June 18 – Convention and Rally Zoom Meeting

Between meetings things have been a little slow. The American Legion, Department of California 105th Convention is coming up next week, June 27 to 30. I will be addressing the membership on Sunday as well as playing Taps for Post Everlasting.

Area Vice Director’s, please make sure you are looking at the tracking Debbie has sent out. We are just over a month out for the first deadline.

Ralph and I have been looking at the entries being submitted by chapters on the website. Vice

Directors, this is your job much more than it is ours. If a chapter has submitted an entry, as yourself does the entry have enough information to determine if it is in support of the Four Pillars. I would hate to have an entry not counted for lack of description.

Played TAPS for Commrade Mahaffey at Bakersfield National Cemetery.

Stay safe on the road!

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

May 25 Opening Ceremonies for 1000 Flags at Riverwalk Park, Bakersfield

May 27 Memorial Day Service at Union Cemetery, Bakersfield

May 27 Closing Ceremonies for 1000 Flags at Riverwalk Park, Bakersfield

May 28 Red, White, and Blue Assembly for Veterans, Stella Hills Elementary, Bakersfield

May 30 Website Committee

June 2 Recruit Send-off and Escort, Armed Forces Career Center, Bakersfield

June 3 California Legacy Run Committee

June 5 Central Valley Veterans Filmfest information table, Bakersfield

June 7 Funeral for past TALDOC Vice Commander Bobby Mahaffey, Bakersfield National

Cemetery

June 10 Website Committee

June 14 Installed ALR Chapter 26 Officers, Bakersfield

June 16 Recruit Send-off and Escort, Armed Forces Career Center, Bakersfield

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month:

June 22 22 A Day Suicide Prevention/Awareness Ride Chapter 18 - Visalia

June 27-30 TALDOC Convention, Visalia

Events planned for the months to come:

September 20-22 ALRDOC West Coast Rally Chapter 20 - Porterville

1. **Sgt. At Arms’ Report** – Jeff Carson

On 5-27-24, I attended placing the casket flags along the main avenue of the Visalia Cemetery, the memorial ceremony and, the removal and storage of 300 flags.

On 6-1-24 I attended the ALR poker run for Chapter 119 Placerville.

On 6-2-24, I met with riders from Area 3 to attend the Breakfast at Post 88 in Turlock.

On 6-5-24 I gave a speech at the local Rotary explaining who the riders are and our function within the American Legion Family.

On 6-8-24 I attended the Chapter 460 poker run in San Diego.

On 6-11-24 I received a call from Tim at Chapter 147 about a Buddy Check that was needed for a local vet. I made contact with my Vice Director Larry Trexler and made sure things were ok with the vet. We found him washing his car and invited him to the next Post meeting. Then on 6-14-24 our grandbaby arrived!

On 6-15-24 I attended the Rib Fest put on by the Sons of Post 184 South Bay in Redondo Beach.

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

June 3 clr mtg

June 8 ch 716 mtg

June 10 website comm

June 15 ch 328 poker run

June 18 cnr comm

Beginning to receive COOs and POCs. Coos are due July 31 and POCs due August 31.

Family renewals start July 1. Info for chapter renewal went out to all POCs.

We will be riding to and in the National Legacy Run starting in Independence, Mo to Branson, MO to Russellville, AR to West Monroe, LA to Hattiesburg, Miss to New Orleans, LA.

When the Area Vice Directors and Alts contact chapters, please go over the online information with the chapter to make sure the meeting address, time, date, chapter dues, etc are correct.

1. **Area Reports** –
2. **Area 1 Vice D –** Josh Stiefel

**Josh Stiefel**

I attended the recruiting event in Vacaville held by post 165. Jeff Jewell the Adjutant from the post expressed interest in building a chapter at his post but wants to wait until closer to September for the post to get through some events they have planned. I am staying in contact with him.

State Director Mike Smith contacted me about South Lake Tahoe wanting to form a chapter. I will be contacting the POC Wayne and begin the process of forming a new chapter with them.

I attended chapter 119 poker run on JUNE 1. Chapter 119 put on a beautiful ride and a great event. I will be attending chapter 92 poker run on JUNE 22.

I attended my home chapter 95 poker run. It was a great day and we had riders from chapters 521, 88, 119 and 92 attend.

I also attempted to reach out to chapter 96 again and got no contact.

**Martin Glenn**

I reached out again by email to each of my 5 chapters using the published POCs as my contact list. In the email, I reintroduced myself and asked if elections for chapter officers had been held. I reminded each chapter about the 7/31 deadline to submit their COO reports and offered my assistance to anyone who would like help with the process. I received email responses from Chapter 95 who said that the report had been submitted and Chapter 111 who reported that their new director is Mike Tomasek, and Steven Bowne is now past director and Sergeant At Arms.

I also went onto the membership page of the ALRDOC website and compiled a phone list for as many officers as possible for each of my chapters. For Chapters 95, 111, and 119, I was able to compile a complete list of phone and email contacts for each of their officers; I also found the same information for nearly every member in each of those 3 chapters. For chapters 130 and 437, I could not find most of their members listed, including officers. I have email addresses for

3 POCs for each of those 2 chapters, But I only found 2 member pages for Chapter 130 which has 6 members on their roster and 3 member pages for Chapter 437 which has 10 members on their roster. Chapter 437 also does not have any contact phone number, meeting date or time, or location information on their chapter page. I have not had the opportunity to make calls yet,

but I plan to, soon, make calls to each chapter starting with the chapters which are furthest off the radar.

As for chapter activities, Chapter 95 is a busy chapter. They held their 2nd annual Leland Neva Memorial poker run on Saturday June 15th. This event benefits the family of their founder, Leland Neva. The event seemed to be well attended by other chapters and the public. A significant percentage of chapter 95 showed up to volunteer in the event or both volunteer and ride. Other chapters participating included Chapters 88, 92, 119, and a large group from Chapter 521. The ride was enjoyable; the taco meal was delicious; the raffle included a variety of prizes, and there were a lot of friendly people to meet.

On June 22nd, Chapter 95 will divide and conquer and support both a HOG event in Chico and Chapter 92’s 1st Poker Run.

On June 1st, Chapter 119 held their annual Poker Run. This event was attended by about seventy people including members of chapters 92 and 95. I was fully intending to attend this event but had to cancel last minute due to a sudden illness.

1. **Area 2 Vice D –** Pete Torrecillas

I have safely returned from Run For The Wall along with 3 other riders from Chapter 69 after logging in over 7,000 miles in 3 weeks.

I have sent out an Introduction email to all area 2 POC's introducing myself as the new Area 2 Vice Director.

Area 2 has supported/participated in the following.

Issue food bank meals in Chualar.

Volunteer at Laguna Seca.

District 28 Summer Poker Run.

Mike's Veteran Run.

Honor Missions-Sabas Gonzles

Legion of the Silver Rose.

Escort of the Mobile Vietnam Wall.

Salute to Veterans Ride.

Escort of the Fallen Hero Cart.

Memorial Day Veterans Day Parade in Brentwood.

Hawaiian Luau/Fundraiser for Maui Victims.

Chapter 31 Memorial Day Poker Run.

Participated in the Run For The Wall Ontario to Needles, CA.

Events happening in the upcoming weeks.

Issue food bank meals in Chualar.

Volunteer at Laguna Seca.

**Chapter 28**

Issue Food Bank meals for Chualar Community.

Volunteer Ferrari Challenge North America

ALR Chapter 31 Annual Memorial Poker Run

District 28 Memorial Day Ceremonies

Mike's Veteran Run

Honor Mission: Sabas Gonzles USA

Events within my Chapter in the coming weeks & month:

Issue Food Bank meals for Chualar Community, 2nd Thursday Every Month.

June 15th ALR District 28's 25th Annual Summer Poker Run

Volunteer Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey (NTT INDYCAR SERIES)

Events planned for the months to come:

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

September 14th, ALR D28 25th annual POW/MIA Poker Run & Ceremonies

November 2nd, ALR D28 1st annual Turkey Trot fundraiser for Food Bank of Monterey County.

**Chapter 105**

Fallen Officer Ceremony 100 Club San Mateo County Post 105 2nd Annual Car Show Post 105 raised $700.00 for ALR Chapter 105, Memorial Day Firing Detail GGNC. We rode 450 DOC Miles, donated 99 Hours Completed 8 Honor Details and rode 1039 Group Miles.

Events within my Area in the coming weeks & month: Various Honor Details.

Events planned for the months to come: 4th of July Parade Redwood City, 22 Miles for Suicide Prevention

**Chapter 64**

UVC – Donated money fundraised, American Legion Post 64 and Memorial Day Poker Run

**Chapter 591**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5/2/2024 | Fort Ord Retiree Council Mo Mtg |
| 5/3/2024 | PGR- Ortega |
| 5/3/2024 | CCC Vet Cemetery Foundation Mo. Mtg |
| 5/8/2024 | SSHS JROTC Awards Night |
| 5/9/2024 | CCCVC- Chaplain Officiate |
| 5/9/2024 | PGR- Babaian |
| 5/11/2024 | Salinas Hometown Heroes Banner Day |
| 5/16/2024 | PGR- Pannis |
| 5/17/2024 | PGR- VTC Req No Fam |
| 5/25/2024 | Pacific Grove Mem Day Flag Posting |
| 5/26/2024 | D28 Memorial Day Poker Run |
| 5/27/2024 | Seaside Memorial Day Ceremony Prep |
| 5/27/2024 | CCCVC Memorial Day Ceremony |
| 5/29/2024 | United Vets Council Mo. Mtg |
| 5/31/2024 | AL Post 591 Membership Dinner |

1. **Area 3 Vice D –** Mike Phillips

During this month I have working with Post 18 preparing for our fireworks booth in July. I was elected second vice of my post.

I attended a meeting at the new Visalia Veterans Clinic for creating a group that combine all Veterans organizations within are area to reach out to homeless and veterans in need both financially and mentally. Our chapter is preparing for our

22 A Day Poker Run on June 22.

I helped with the Visalia Avenue of Flags.

Met with the Rotary Club of Visalia and attended the Visalia Republican Women’s Federation Flag Day ceremony.

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

Chapter - 18 Attended the Chapter 184 Rib Fest, 328 Poker Run, Visalia Republican Women’s Federation Flag Day ceremony, Chapter 460 Poker Run, Rescue Poker Run, 1st Responder & Veterans Appreciation Poker Run, Rotary Club of Visalia

Presentation, Fireworks Booth Safety Meeting, Chapter 88 breakfast, Visalia

Rescue Mission Poker Run, Chapter119 Poker Run, Avenue of Flags Ceremony.

Chapter - 20 Chapter 88 breakfast, Chapter 119 Poker run, Memorial Day Ceremonies

Chapter - 26 Bobby Mahaffey Funeral Escort/Flag line

Chapter – 88 Funeral/Flag Line x2, Chapter 95 Poker Run, Chapter 119 Poker Run, Memorial Day Ceremonies Turlock Cemetery, Memorial Day Ceremonies San Jose National Cemetery

Chapter - 100 Flag placement and recovery, Memorial Day ceremonies.

Chapter – 108 Memorial Day Ceremonies, Hospice Visit to WWII Veteran

Chapter – 147 Poker Run Recon, Chapter Monthly Ride, Chapter Breakfast, Memorial Day Ceremonies

I have been reviewing the Area 3 mileage entries.

1. **Area 4 Vice D –** Brian Toal

Nothing to report

1. **Area 5 Vice D –** Robert Partlow

June 2 TAL District 22 General Meeting

June 8 Chapter 460 Charity Run

June 13 Officer Installation @ Chapter 132

June 15 Officer Installation @ Chapter 951

June 15 Chapter 328 Poker Run

Miles: 489

I do apologize for not attending the meeting tonight. I am performing the officer installation for the American Legion Post, American Legion Riders and Sons of the American Legion at my home post. This is my last official installation as the District 22 Commander.

Upcoming Area 5 Director Meeting

July 27 Hosted by Chapter 716

October 19 Hosted by Chapter 132

January 25 Hosted by Chapter 460

Rider Everlasting- Ch 497 Joseph Chavez

1. **Area 6 Vice D –** Stephanie Huff

During this reporting period, I was invited to install Hollywood Chapter 43. I would like to thank District 24 SGT AT ARMS, Quinton, for stepping in as the installing SGT AT ARMS and doing an amazing job.

Camarillo has continued to recruit new members to their chapter and they are preparing for their Poker Run on July 20th.

I have met with the Director of Chapter 755, and they have been working with their city for the recognition banner program.

I have been supporting Chapter 30 as their anticipated transition to Area 5 AND losing me as a member/their secretary.

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

I have to report the sad news that Richard Keehmer from Post/Chapter 221 has transferred to Post Everlasting. Please keep his wife and family in your prayers.

I also have an important reminder about buddy checks - they are not for one week a year. It is imperative that we check in on our friends regularly. I've spent the last week dealing with a Veteran in crisis and assisting in any way I can. Anyone can be in crisis at any given moment. Reach out. Say hello. Smile at someone. Simple actions can save a life.

Yours in Service

* 1. **Historian –** Louisa Carson

May 3-5th Attended the CA Legacy Run.

May 11th Attended Chapter 20 Cannonball Run

May 16th Attended Lemoore Fleet CVA Bike Night

May 17th Attended the VCBOC-Visalia Grand Opening

May 18th Attended Chapter 3 Hanford Poker Run

May 18th Attended Rawhide Baseball Game honoring Military and Families

May 27th Attended Ave of the Flags and set up 300 flags

May 31st Attended Battle of the Branches Comedy Show

June 1st Attended Chapter 119 Placerville Poker Run

June 2nd Attended Post 88 Turlock Breakfast

June 5th Attended Post 20 Family Installation

June 8th Attended Chapter 460 San Diego Poker Run

June 12th Attended our Bike Night & Blessing at Moose Dog Brewery

June 15th Attended Post 184 Family RibFest

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

I may seem like I am doing nothing, but I am actively trying to do nothing.

I am so busy doing nothing that the idea of doing anything – which always leads to something – cuts into the nothing and then forces me to have to drop everything.

So I am actually too busy for this report.  That is all I have to report.

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

June 3rd, California Legacy Run Committee

June 5th, Central Valley Veterans Filmfest information table, Bakersfield

June 14th, Installed as the New Director for Chapter 26

* 1. **Parliamentarian –** Mick Sobczak

One granddaughter was born a month ago and one just graduated and will be going to UCLA.

* 1. **Quartermaster –** Mike Phillips

Currently we have 5 orders Invoiced and 2 order Payment Received pending processing, 1 order cancelled at Chapters request, 11 orders were completed during this month. Please pay for all orders submitted in a timely manner and your orders will get out to you as quickly as possible. We have a new shipment of berets so all sizes are currently available.

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

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

No incidents have been reported to the Safety Officer.

I hope everyone is enjoying the great riding weather we have been enjoying. Remember that we can see cars, drivers in cars do not only see us.

If anyone has any safety ideas for articles, they would like to see me cover please let me know.

George Smith lost his younger brother. Please contact your VSO to make sure your benefits are up to date.

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

Fixed access for several individuals and actively responding to emails.

Maintaining Calendar and News.

Met with GoDaddy Designers to discuss new website – Not able to provide what

we need.

o Refunded - $4,359.63

Back to the drawing board

o Search for custom designer

**Public Relations Committee Chair**

Monitoring Area and Department Facebook pages.

Working to develop Department Instagram page.

Will need to convene a committee meeting to discuss Public Relations

opportunities.

1. **Committee Reports** –
   1. **Awards and Recognition –** Missy Griffiths

No report

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

Working on the route. Hope to have the website live soon.

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

Proposal for 2026 ALR Convention

Jeff Beck and David Saena with Chapter 328 placed a bid in for the 2026 ALR Convention in Norco, Ca. They are looking at holding the convention at the Equestrian Center in a newly constructed building called The Barn that will accommodate up to 600 attendees. They have 4 hotels in the near vicinity. Meals will be at Post 328 or at the Barn. An approval vote from Chapter and Post 328 is required and minutes from both are to be sent to the C & R chairman and ALR secretary. There next meeting will take place in July prior to the C & R meeting to be held on July 16th. Upon approval of the committee the bid will then be brought up to the ALR/DEC on July 25th for their approval. A Zoom link will be sent to Chapter 328 so Earl and David can attend. Director Smith asked for some pictures of the facilities. He also asked if there was a stage in the Barn and if there were areas or rooms available for Area caucuses. David asked if their specific dates set for the convention. It was mentioned the last two weeks of April were preferred dates.

2024 West Coast Rally Report

**3 months out report to DEC:**

Mike Daugherty, Chapter 20

Registration is now on-line. A tri-fold form is complete identifying eateries, places of entrust, emergency & repair facilities are located. That form will be placed in all bags for those that registered. V. Director Wenzinger went on-line to register and noticed that only one person could register rather than multiple people at a time. This will be looked into and corrected.

Next report will be on August 16th.

2025 ALR/DOC Convention Report

**11 months out report to DEC:**

Pete Torrecillas & Larry Earl, Chapter 69

On-line registration for the 2025 ALR/DOC Convention in Hollister, Ca. is up and running. Multiple registrations can be done at one time. There are multiple tickets available to choose from. Waiting on approval of coin from ALR/DOC & vendor. Will be working on T-Shirt design next. Working on list of speakers for the convention. Working on rooms for caucuses to insure they have the right size room for each Area. Larry asked what size room would be needed to accommodate the different size areas. Director Smith gave info on size of each Area and what rooms would fit the Area best. Larry asked how many RVs might come to the convention. Director Smith said that a max of 10 at the most might attend. Corbin has set aside 10 spots for camping (3 with electrical hookups and the rest dry). Valado Park has spots at $30.00 a night. Casa De Fruta has put in cabins that will sleep 8 at $450.00 a night.

Next report will be on July 16th.

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

1. **Unfinished Business-**
   1. Suspension notices to Chapters 96 Fort Bragg and 848 San Jacinto were sent out on June 15, 2024. Updates from Areas 1 and 5 Vice Directors.

Will check back on these 2 chapters at the next meeting.

1. **New Business-**
   1. SAA Jeff-Concerns about the flag border colors- Mike stated to get the Uniform committee together and look into it and come back with recommendations.
   2. SAA Jeff-There is no information for etiquette when doing a flag line as far as what is done and what to were. It was stated that different chapters have different colors they use. Told Jeff to get the Uniform committee together to put together recommendations.
   3. Q Mike P-We need a pamphlet that talks about the ALR in California. National no longer puts one out and it didn’t fit California. Mike stated this falls under the Public Relations Committee. Mick state there is info on the hard drive he gave Mike S.
2. **Sick / Memorial-**

**Ill/injured:**

Ch 716-Rosemary Sanchez-shoulder surgery

Post 105-Have an 89-year-old veteran who is ill.

Cris-Asking for ongoing prayers for Mom.

**Rider Everlasting:**

Chapter 595-James Defries-cancer

Chapter 221-Richard Keehmer

Chapter 497-Joseph Chavez

1. **Good of the Riders-**

Ralph-Unfortunately, I will not be participating in the National Legacy Run in August as

I had planned. I’ll be having surgery on July 12 for severe carpal tunnel in my throttle hand. I’d

like to ask for your prayers or positive thoughts for a good outcome. I really need some wind

therapy!

Cris-Prayers work. If you need prayers, please contact me. June 9th spotted a friend posting troubling videos. I immediately reached out to him, the post, the adjutant to help him. Please know that you are not alone. If you need help, reach out to me.

Donny-What is going on with the Past President’s Club. What are they supposed to do. Do we need them. Mike will talk to Ralph and Donny about this.

Jeff-Got a call last week that a mom had lost contact with her son. With many people getting involved contact was made. All is ok. I just signed up to be a PUFL. The more you put into the Riders, the more you’ll get out of it.

Mike-Be the One-It doesn’t hurt to ask how someone is.

Debbie-We have raised just over $82,000 so far for the CLR.

1. **Next Meeting Date** – July 25, 2024 @ 1900 via Zoom.
2. **Benediction** – Chaplain Cristina Molina
3. **Adjournment** – Director Mike Smith @ 8:13pm