

The American Legion Riders Department of California



For God and Country
Minutes
Monday Mar 28, 2016

1. **Called to Order** - President James Adames opened meeting in due form at 1900
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Mary Estrada gave opening prayer
3. **Pause for POW/MIA recognition** - President James Adames
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Sgt. At Arms Steve Storey
5. **ALR Preamble** - President James Adames recited
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Steve Weber – Quorum declared excused were Jake Jacobson, Ken White and Sonny Stowers, Guests were Hy Libbey, Monique Clemons and Anthony Serio
7. **Additions to the Agenda** - Retired Status Mbr,
8. **Approval of Minutes** – Feb 22 1st by Mick Sobczak, A2 Nacho, Date change to Feb 11th and spell his name correctly, Passed and Mar 8 1st by Mick Sobczak, 2nd A3 JD to accept, discussion to put count on vote for roll call votes, 4 voted nay, 4 abstained and 6 yea's, motion passed
9. **Financial Report** – Don Christolear - start funds at \$55,728.71 end at \$57,353.02 income of \$1624.31 A2 Nacho to accept subject to audit, 2nd by Mick Sobczak, passed- we are looking at many chapters not sending in money yet and quartermaster payments are down too, he needs to start working on budget for next year but some of the donation funds are going to be affected. Lost allot of members this year possibly about 100 members. Mick S. may need to boost per capita to \$7.50 for next year to increase funds, James we would need to bring it to the floor any increases, Doc Bart affirmed we would need to go to floor. JD A3 chapter 100 and 355 are having allot of trouble, may close. Discussion on affects and possible alternatives. Jim Banakus stated that only going after delegates would not be enough to cover losses. Don Christolear hopes that we gain some of the members back next year. Budget has charity items and that may be affected. Nacho suggested turning \$3.00 to Dept and \$7 to Convention Chapter. Don will send out Excel spreadsheet for everyone to look at and make suggestions to him and finance committee.
10. **Vice President Report** - Mick Sobczak – went to Area 3 meeting and went to Legion DEC meeting in Santa Maria. Has listened to all input.

11. Area Reports

- a. Area 1 VP – Mike Ross – sending out word to escort Fallen’ Heroes Cart, District 2 in turmoil, trying to get a chapter in Fort Bragg area. Bylaws are not being updated as per the spreadsheet for his chapters, he will call chapters again.
- b. Area 2 VP – Ignacio Alvarez - been busy with Easter rides, HOG riders assoc. riding with them too, invited VP Sobczak to accompany meeting in April with him, would like to escort the National Cdr again when he visits, trying to get those dates and times, any resolutions for convention coming forward? Resolutions need to be turned in by Sat morning for convention.
- c. Area 3 VP – J. D. Bennett – great Easter weekend, had A3 presidents meeting, light turn out, had a rider that had passed and his ashes were spread the same weekend so riders went there, Retired members has been brought up with his chapters too, Fallen Heroes Cart will be coming through Area 3 and they will be supporting May 14 – 18, JD will be going up further north and coming down with them through Area 3, great cause, he will resend info soon. James may make it to Redding too. Mick will be in Visalia.
- d. Area 4 – Vacant
- c. Area 5 VP – Paul Patricio – **progress**, has allot of events, staying in touch with his chapters, chapters supporting Veterans and veteran issues.
- d. Area 6 VP – Don Marriott – has been working hand in hand for convention committee, holding meeting every 2 weeks getting ready for convention, wants to work on outline/ or procedure book about things that are needed for convention, so chapters have more knowledge up front as they get involved, monies that are needed for getting ready for convention, etc., wished he had more time to get ready before but they will be ready by convention.

12. Committee Reports

- a. Quartermaster – Patrick Tafoya – biggest expenses are the centers, 30 centers are \$1000.00 order 60 is over \$2000.00, has some funds for deposit and have not had the orders lately, has to keep the money in account to keep orders coming in and has not been able to release funds back to Dept.
- b. Uniform Committee – no report
- c. Convention and Rally – Terry Baughman – just got home today, been to San Simeon. Dist 28 holding rally and they are getting ready, Laurel Inn will be host hotel. Will have flier hopefully by convention, April 21-23, 2017 should be in Hollister, 2nd by Paul Patricio to accept Chapter 69 proposal, need to get help from rally and convention committee, will be discussed more by the committee but should be a go, Terry stated that it is hard to get chapters to step up to get convention and rallies further out in years to come. He will continue to work on it this year as promised.
- d. Judge Advocate Report – JAG - Doc Bart
 1. In communication with Mick for compliance issues on vests and other issues, thinks we are doing a good job

- 2. we have support of Dept for our efforts as a DEC
- 3.
- e. Service Officer – Chris Coleman - we have been spoiled due to Mike Schuster was a Service Officer and had lots of input, he is working on talking to more Service officers so he can give better reports, asked if Chapter 66 had a service officer in their area that could give report at convention?
- f. Webmaster – Jim Oxley – mailing list has grown larger to get info out to members that want it, JD – Jim has done great job on website to date, Big Mike says allot easier to surf the site and find stuff.
- g. Safety Committee – Ken White - nothing new
- h. Jr. Past President – Poncho Villa – question for Don, rooms for convention, just check in and they have your name on reservation list
- i. Historian – Jake Jacobsen – not present
- j. Dept. Commissioner – Jim Banakus – has contacted American Legion for call in for the commissioners for Friday afternoon and Sunday morning, commissioners are informed about our dates and where the convention will be, 2 commissioners are not responding, need 12 seats for his committee meetings

13. Old Business

- a. Chapter Forms and Payments – some chapters have not sent in their forms or money to date 6 chapters haven't paid anything yet, CH 456 hasn't paid or sent in anything, Chapter 22 has not sent in anything and want Charter before they send in anything, Area 2, Chapter 456 out of Fairfield and have not participated in anything over 100 miles from their chapter, James asked A2 Nacho and Asst VP George Smith to investigate and report in April with a recommendation of what to do and what we should do, A3 JD will deliver charter to Ch 22 and will expect paperwork, and fees, Doc stated that we need to meet all our obligations to proceed, once we fulfill our obligations then we would expect them to fulfill their obligations. Don, stated that we have not taken payments at convention since he has been finance officer, bylaws state they are to have funds and forms into Dept. on time that they are required to have into Dept., if put on probation could they be off of probation at the preconvention DEC, Smokey stated that we can put on probation and not seat delegates at convention if not paid, Nacho 1st to suspend chapters that have not complied to date, 2nd by Mick Sobczak, recommend by Doc Bart to inform the chapters that have not complied if they have not complied by April 11th they will be put on suspension, it gives them notice, an opportunity to correct and time to do so. 10 days prior to convention to fix chapter. Nacho amended motion to the suggestions made by JA Doc Bart regarding suspensions and review chapters at pre DEC, 2nd by Mick to change motion, passed.
- b. Credentials committee members will be needed to work table at convention, will send out info to members on the committee
- c.

14. New Business

- a. New Chapters none

- b. Convention - preconvention DEC at 1730, James will be at convention meeting tomorrow at 66, Mick asked that everyone wear red on Friday, people can still do preregistration on line
- c. Retired Status Member – we have had many discussions regarding this issue, letter attached he sent out to DEC members, detail guidance are included in the letter, the retired member is still a member but the chapter needs to vote on this member, include spouse in recommendation of change to bylaws, it will apply to ownership and ride ability of a motorcycle. VP Mick has seen a retired status rider come out of retired status and started riding again, this is not a problem per the Dept., A2 Nacho- M1 licenses vs. 3 wheel motorcycles, Smokey stated 3 wheel M/C are in our bylaws. Doc and Smokey will detail this further at convention.
- d.
- e.

15. **Sick / Memorial** – Chaplain Mary Estrada – rider everlasting names read for rider everlasting to date, asked for any other names, none given. James talked about Buck Barker helping him get involved in ALR, has cancer and Alzheimer's.
16. **Good of the Riders** – President James Adames – Pancho, after last convention because of resolution 11-004, riders have been leaving, when we have new members coming in we need to be careful of who we bring into the ALR so we don't have some of the problems we have had in the past, VP's need to let chapters know what we are doing with the money so they understand where we are and what we are doing overall.
17. **Next Meeting Date** – Consensus Friday April 22, Friday at 1730 at convention.
18. **Benediction** - Chaplain Mary Estrada gave closing prayer. Watch over our military and our sick comrades.
19. **Adjournment** – President James Adames closed meeting in due form at 2150.