

The American Legion Riders

Department of California



For God and Country

DEC Minutes

June 22, 2017

1. **Called to Order** - President Mick Sobczak @ 7:00pm
2. **Invocation** – Chaplain Anthony Serio
3. **Pause for MIA** - President Mick Sobczak
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Sgt. At Arms Caleb Homer
5. **ALR Preamble** - President Mick Sobczak
6. **Roll Call** - Secretary Debbie Proffitt

DEC Officers

PRESENT:

President-Mick Sobczak; Vice President-Randy Brenneman; Sergeant-At-Arms-Caleb Homer; Secretary-Debbie Proffitt; Area 2 VP-Warren Halstead; Area 3 VP-Ralph Racacho; Area 4 VP-Joel Lopez; Area 5 VP-Rey Ruiz; Area 6 VP-John Archuleta; JR Past President-James Adames; Safety Officer-Ken White; Service Officer-George Smith; Webmaster-Jim Oxley; Quartermaster-Patrick Tafoya; Membership-Gary Teicher; Convention & Rally-Dee Pittenger; Parliamentarian-Hy Libby; Chaplain-Anthony Serio;

ABSENT:

Judge Advocate-John Bart UnEx X 2; Historian-Denise Schroers UnEx X 2;

Treasurer-Leonard Phillips-EX; Area 1 VP-Fred Branson

GUESTS:

Don Marriott- ch 66; Cory Perryman- ch 233; Area 5 Commissioner-Paul Patricio; ALR Commissioner-Vince Cole;

7. Additions to the Agenda

Review and vote on chapter 221, Tehachapi, pending proof of payment.

8. Approval of Minutes –

Motion by Warren Halstead to accept the May 25, 2017 DEC minutes as electronically submitted. 2nd by Ralph Racacho. Passed by vote of DEC.

9. Financial Report – Leonard Phillips-ex; asst.-Anthony Serio

*Finance report will go out next week.

*Anthony Serio--As of 6/22/2017 the balance was \$56,016.36. The insurance check for \$990 was cashed/cleared on 6/14/2017. Reinstatement letter sent. Form letter always sent out. No lapse in the insurance policy. We were good until July.

*Have \$25 from California City.

*Will send out a statement to Mick.

10. President's Report – Mick Sobczak-

*The Legion Convention is tomorrow. I will be there and will present at 10:00am a plaque to the Commander and a check for over \$10,000 to the Legion for VA&R. Money coming from the motorcycle raffle. ALR 684 presenting a check for VA&R. ALR 521 will present a check, also. Hoping the total is around \$15,000.

11. Vice President Report - Randy Brenneman

*Not much to report. Area VPs, I'll ask that you respond to emails sent. Better communication makes for better feedback. Get into the By-Laws, Constitution and Uniform Manual and get very familiar with them. There have been questions about the vest and patches. These could have been answered by the VPs if they were familiar with them.

*The weather is getting hot so be careful.

12. Secretary Report – Debbie Proffitt

*Area VPs have been getting weekly Certification of Officer updates. Keep pushing your chapters to get the COO in on time.

*Thinking about putting out a message to the chapter POCs. Some chapters have more than 3. President, Secretary and Road Captain as POC for each chapter

*Don Marriott reported not getting emails until after others. Have to wait for Don Dale to send them.

13. Sgt. At Arms Report – Caleb Homer

*Caleb is updating some of the pictures in the Uniform Handbook for better clarification. Mick stated that when Caleb is finished to present it to the Uniform Committee.

14. Area Reports

a. Area 1 VP-Fred Branson-ab-given by Cory Perryman

*Haven't been in contacts with chapters in a month.

*Will be presenting a check for \$5,000 to VA&R at the Legion convention from bike raffle.

*July 20th is the California State Fair. Post/chapter 233 will have a booth for membership. Will have information on all the area chapters so anyone interested came go to one they choose.

b. Area 2 VP-Warren Halstead

*Will participate in many Memorial Day events. Doing many escorts of heroes to their resting places.

*Has gotten a COO from only 1 chapter. 1 chapter will hold elections in July. Has a COO on his desk that needs signing. All other chapters stating that they are “working on it”.

c. Area 3 VP-Ralph Racacho

*COOs- 7 reporting, 12 not reporting. Contacted by phone and left messages.

*Have 1 new chapter, 221 Tehachapi. Have all the paperwork except the \$25 new chapter fee. Working on it right now. Mick asked him to check on the whether the fee has been paid yet.

*Ralph had a chapter Honorable Mention- ch 83, Merced, and Robert Carrier were doing slow maneuver training and have invited all chapters to attend.

*Is looking for a chapter to host the Area VP meeting.

*Status of the issues with the ALR 26 Bakersfield chapter and the Commander, Ralph hasn't talked to the Commander yet but has been following the emails. Got a letter from Doc Bart saying the Freedom Riders are like the PGR. It's a mute situation. Will contact Ralph.

*Randy asked about Ed. Ed Chacon will be having surgery for broken bones. Ch/post 11, Madera, will be having a fundraiser to help with bills.

d. Area 4 VP-Joel Lopez

*Stated that he will be sure to respond to emails.

*COO- not done yet because they didn't have a quorum for a meeting in June so had no elections. Will have them in July.

*PGR rider has expressed interest in possibly starting a chapter at post 496. Will be at convention and will be able to talk to interested chapters with Kiki. Mick stated he and Gary Teicher will be there and can talk to them also.

c. Area 5 VP-Rey Ruiz

*Have been doing normal things like escorts, breakfasts, dinners, etc.

*Area 5 President's meeting will be July 21-23 at the Norco post. Tried to get ch 79 to Host but they wanted to piecemeal the weekend out because they had other things going on in July.

*It was discussed that at convention you wear your vest and garrison cap. Mick will wear his beret unless voting. You can wear a beret while Mick is talking then take it off. Wear your navy blue shirts. Mick will be wearing a tie.

e. Area 6 VP-John Archuleta

*Don Marriott stated that the ROMP went very well. Could have been better but went well though we were very successful. 350 riders showed up from 10 states including Alaska. We support vets, that's our main thing. Sometimes we forget as an organization. We supported our veterans. Had some great rides. Excellent ROMP. Would like to do it again.

*We were asked by Walmart in Santa Maria to lead their 1st responder's fundraiser. Chapters 66, 534 and 211 participated.

*Asked to lead the Santa Inez Valley Day parade. Chapters 66, 371, 534 and 21 participated with 14 riders.

*Went to installations at chapters 66 and 613.

*Went to ch 211 installation on 6/17/17.

*Working with Ways and Means John Carradine to have a booth at next years' Mid State Fair.

*Santa Barbara Riders Foundation contacted them about participating in the July 4th Parade.

They are interested in forming a chapter in Santa Barbara. Will invite them to go to the Lompoc bike night on 6/30 and possibly a meeting in Oxnard.

15. **Committee Reports**

a. Quartermaster- Patrick Tafoya

*All is going well.

*Red Friday shirts will be available in the website soon. Shirts are \$15 each. Trying to figure out shipping with the Post Office. Looks like 1 shirt shipping will be \$3-\$4 dollars. 2 or more will be Priority mail. Have shirts up to 3x.

*Rally patches- state has plenty available. Will just need to order small year rocker.

*There is 1 order waiting to be filled from the store. The vender we use will be down 3 weeks so there might be a slight delay on orders.

b. Convention and Rally – Dee Pittinger

*RALLY-Emailed the final details. Friday—dinner 5-8pm; sign in; DEC meeting;; Saturday—Registration 7-11am; breakfast 7-11 am; dinner is cook your own; band; Sunday- full rider breakfast available. SOS will be the shuttle all weekend.

*CONVENTION-had a meeting last night. Junior Saio is on contract with help from Dana Higgins. Looking into ways to get grants, etc. % hotels available. The list will be released in January. Holiday Inn will be the host hotel. 30 rooms are blocked. @ RV parks will be available. Plenty of time. There are 9 months left.

*Vests will not be allowed to be worn in any establishment that serves alcohol. They don't allow and type of rider vests from anywhere. Rider shirts are ok.

c. Judge Advocate Report – John Bart-ab

No Report

d. Service Officer – George Smith

*All members need to get the information being disseminated. Need to get information out to membership as a whole.

*New ID card. Chapters don't need to vote on it. It was voted on by DEC. It wasn't accept it well. Communication was not good to explain. Mick will be there to let anyone know that there were no by laws violated.

e. Safety Committee – Ken White

* All Area VPs have gotten emails about the California Legacy Run on August 15th. No response from the chapter about anything Friday night. Will be leaving at 7am to get to Fallon, Nevada early evening for Operation Comfort Warrior presentation. It will be a 6 hour ride with no stops. Breaking it up into 110-115 mile legs. Can make the legs longer if ok with riders. The next morning riding from Fallon to Reno. Riders need to register on the National Legacy website and register and pay fees. If staying for the Convention and want access you will have to pay fees to get in the door even if only looking at the vendors.

*Will be working on each Area and chapter having a Chapter Safety Rep.

*It's hot. Hydrate and be well fed.

f. Webmaster – Jim Oxley

*Officers report is online.

*Have gotten emails from people wanting to be added as POC and there is no button. Informed that each chapter only gets 3. No complaints from anyone.

*Debbie mentioned that there is a need for the areas on the COO auto fill not automatically filled in to be filled in, signed then sent. It was asked if those area still needing to be filled in could be highlighted. Jim will look into it.

g. Membership Officer – Gary Teicher

*Membership report was emailed out.

-Area 1- 11 chapters 280 riders

-Area 2- 09 chapters 254 riders

-Area 3- 17 chapters 421 riders

-Area 4- 01 chapter 9 riders

- Area 5- 31 chapters 789 riders
- Area 6- 14 chapters 301 riders
- *Last year there were 1841 riders, this year 2054 riders.
- *This month chapter 684 added 12 members.
- *Randy-Online rosters are not being updated. Have sent an email to all Area VPs and ch POCs to check rosters monthly and update as necessary.
- *Randy-did a random check of 20 rosters across the Areas. Only 2 had been updated since convention. It throws the membership info off. It was asked which 2 had updated and Randy didn't know as he hadn't written it down.
- *Mick-Area VPs to give an Area report at their Area Vice Commander's meetings. Area VPs are to go into the website and check the status of their chapters.

h. Historian – Denise Schroer-ab

No Report

i. Jr. Past President – James Adames

- *Progress, going as well as could be.
- *Mentioned to Debbie that there was a picture of Gunny (Art Odom-ch 716) with William Shatner on the National Legion Website for the Riders.
- *delegates to convention-wear the Legion cap. Mick will wear his beret when representing riders. Delegates can wear their beret when Mick is speaking then replace with Legion cap. Non delegates can wear beret when Mick is speaking- taken off when he is done speaking. Mama Dee asked if Auxiliary can come and support, answer-yes. Don Marriott stated that this is wrong- was told that it was the Legion Convention and we are Legionnaires first. Legion convention=Legion rules. He understood.

j. Dept. Commissioner – Vince Cole

- *Had an ALR meeting at Convention- 26 people came.
- *Membership card issue- membership not approving of the cards. Asked about why they can't use the card to get into Legion posts. Told we are Legion first.
- *Those at the meeting were asked...
 - How many had been post officers=almost 100%
 - How many had been post commanders=75%
 - How many had held district positions=65%
- *Talked about the Legacy Run
- *Vince was commended for doing a great job.

16. **Old Business**

None

17. **New Business**

a. New Chapters –

*Ralph- Dan Tehee from chapter 221 has sent the \$25 startup fee and completed all paperwork that was sent out to DEC yesterday. Motion was made by Ralph Racacho to accept ch 221, Tehachapi, as a new ALRDOC chapter. 2nd by Randy Brenneman. Passed by vote of DEC. Ch 221, Tehachapi, becomes the 85th chapter.

*Caleb Homer- Met Jose Mendoza, Senior Vice Commander of Ch 12 DAV in San Bernardino. Interested in supporting the Legion and the Riders. Need someone from that area to contact him. Mick knows him. Was told to get information to Rey Ruiz.

18. Sick / Memorial – Chaplain Anthony Serio

*Not received any emails. Most everyone should have my email and phone number.
Chaplain@alrdoc.org

19. Good of the Riders

a. Committee SOP's

b. Officer SOP's

*the SOPs will be the turnover guide for the next Area VP/ Committee Chairperson.

*Due Out Tracker- only got response from 5 of 17- get these done and turned in.

*This is the 2nd DEC meeting since new officers appointed/elected. There are 2 that haven't attended either DEC meeting. If not at next meeting they will be removed and replaced. These are the Judge Advocate and Historian positions.

*Anthony went on 5400 mile ride from Dublin, CA to Cherokee, NC. Met the Dept of OK Legion and riders. Was part of a fundraiser for post 143 in Cherokee, NC in the Great Smokey Mountains. They raised \$5000 for their Cancer Society. Went to a new memorial for the only Native American awarded the Medal of Honor. While there also rode the Tail of the Dragon. Great experience. Highly recommend the Great Smokey Mountains.

*George asked about Rally information. Dee stated that all DEC would get the information by tomorrow noon to all. Mick stated that it would be on the website.

*Hy Libby spoke about the Epic Ride. It's a fundraiser for phase 2(in ground burials) at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. Phase 1 took 28 years and is only for cremated remains. It's a one month ride from early September through early October. Daily events on Facebook page. Ambassadors for the state and the chapter as we meet riders from across the country and hopefully pick up some donations. Lost a major donor. Trying to make up a 2M\$ shortfall. More information at EPICRIDE2017.ORG John Archuleta asked Hy to call him about possible donations. On July 9th will have a 2 hour stint on a radio show called "Vets Get It Done".

*George stated that a San Mateo radio station would do the same.

*James Adames asked for confirmation that California is riding in the Legacy Run on day 6. It was confirmed.

20. Next Meeting Date – July 27, 2017 at 7 pm.

21. Benediction - Chaplain Anthony Serio

22. Adjournment – President Mick Sobczak @ 8:28pm