

Los Angeles County Council

Executive Meeting

February 18, 2026

Bob Hope Patriotic Hall

1. Meeting called to order with ritual at 6:30pm by Commander La Sala, with a quorum being declared.
2. Roll call of officers by LACC Adjutant
3. Introduction of distinguished guests by LACC Commander.
4. Reports:
 - A) Service Officer Steve V. Ramirez
 - B) Adjutant Robert C. Brown
 - C) Treasurer Gil Soto
 - D) Judge Advocate Hugh E. Crooks Jr.
 - E) Chaplain Dave Whalen
 - F) Vice Commander for Women Rosio Palmero
 - G) Vice Commander Area 4 George Aguilar
 - H) Vice Commander Area 6 Auggie Galaviz

District Commanders:

1. District 17 Alex Herrera
2. District 18 Sam Cafiero
3. District 19 Karl Wilvert
4. District 20 Johnnie McDowell
5. District 23 Gregory Tayler
6. District 24 Kevin Niles

LACC Vice Commanders:

1. District 17 OPEN
2. District 18 Irvin Flores
3. District 19 Fernando Gallardo
4. District 20 Larry Van Kuran
5. District 23 James A. Hadley
6. District 24 Melissa Orduna

Executive Committee:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. District 17 | Johnny Harris |
| 2. District 18 | OPEN |
| 3. District 19 | Angelo Maldonado |
| 4. District 20 | OPEN |
| 5. District 23 | James H. Wilson |
| 6. District 24 | Jacob O'Meara |

Service Officer Report:

We have 4 new VSO's. They will attend the next LACC General Meeting to introduce themselves to the group. Steve reported that LACC VSO's will attend the Dept of CA convention in Visalia in June and put on a VSO clinic. There will be live action by the VSO's. Legionnaires will be able to file new claims, check old claims, file paperwork. Cost will be approx \$2600

Steve reported on a veteran that is assigned a fiduciary by the VA and is complaining about the compensation he receives. He is currently in a Tiny home in WLAVA.

Steve sees over 1600 veterans in WLAVA each week.

Adjutant: No report – All reports will be posted on the LACC website.

Judge Advocate: No report

Chaplain: No report

Vice Commander for women:

Rosio reported that she is trying to get more women veterans to show up and get involved in meetings and committees/commissions. She wants them to be mentored to get them ready for leadership positions within the Posts/Districts/Areas and Department. Keep checking on your fellow veterans. Keep Hugh Crooks in your prayers as he has been in the hospital.

District Commander Reports:

District 17 – Gave report at general meeting

District 18 – Attended Area 6 Riders meeting. Attended City of Azusa council meeting for recognition for 100th Anniversary. Attended Post 280 breakfast. Post 180 is having 100th Anniversary on February 21st, 1:00pm – 6:00pm. Food and

entertainment provided. District meeting will be at Alhambra Post 139 will host candidates and hold the 4 Chaplain Ceremony.

District 19 – No report

District 20 – Hosted Janice Sommers as a candidate for Dept. Commander. Next meeting will be at Panorama Post 817 March 9th. March 29th is Vietnam Veterans Day. The Wall that Heals will be at Pierce College in March 19-22. Link to volunteer will be available soon.

LACC Vice Commanders:

District 17 – No report

District 18 – No report

District 19 - No report

District 20 - No report

District 23 - No report

District 24 - No report

LACC Executive Committee:

District 17 – No report

District 18 - No report

District 19 - No report

District 20 - No report

District 23 - No report

District 24 - No report

Committee/Commissions:

Hall of Fame: Sam Cafiero

Sam reported that some of the committee members are not participating. We need to redo the committee. We need to reassign the committee with members that show up. Will have online meetings.

Need from:

Districts 17 – Ozan Evans

District 18 – Dave Whalen

District 19 – Manny Vital

District 20 – Julio Jimenez

District 23 – Robert C. Brown

District 24 – Rosio Palmero

Membership: Manny Vital

Department made goal of 85%. We are 43rd in Nation. We need to bring in more women veterans into our ranks. Don't disrespect female veterans.

Resolutions: Scott Sinclair

No report

Personnel : Larry Van Kuran

Interviewed 7 candidates for (4) VSO's.

Long Beach: Carl Oakman

WLA/Temple – Shondra Young

San Gabriel Valley -Demitria Applelight

Temple/East LA - Jorge Ortiz

Antelope Valley - Kevin Sanders

Thanked the members who interviewed the candidates. Would like to make sure the LACC Commander is part of the interview process.

Each new hire is \$20/hr. Annual \$24,960. Total of \$99,840

After 6 months of successful training pay to \$32,000

Baseball:

Legion Baseball fundraiser May 2nd in Seal Beach. \$1250 for a table. Julie will come and speak to us about sponsorship.

LACC Website:

All documents will be posted on the website. Flyers for Post events. Hall of Fame, Officers. Scott Sinclair will work with Dave Mushinskie to set it up.

Old Business:

Burbank Post 150 is all caught up and will be coming off suspension.

Commander spoke about the audit. It will be done in May after the tax season. \$2000 for the audit.

The Legion will be participating with Jim Zenner with the Warrior Heritage Foundation. There will be a breakfast each month to raise funds for a time capsule. On a Wednesday from 9-4pm. Dedicate to all Legionnaires. Post 8 will continue to meet at BPH. A potential multi story parking structure.

New Business:

Motion to hire a 5th VSO part time for Antelope Valley by Steve Ramirez. 2nd by Johnnie McDowell. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to ratify the new hire VSO's by Steve Ramirez. 2nd by Manny Vital. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to have Scott Sinclair become the LACC Assistant Adjutant by Johnnie McDowell. 2nd by Rosio Palmero. Motion passed unanimously. Once ratified by the general membership.

Motion to ratify the 5th VSO Kevin Sanders by Steve Ramirez. 2nd by Larry Van Kuran.

Motion to fund \$3000 for VSO clinic in Visalia in June of 2026. By Steve Ramirez 2nd by Sam Cafiero. Motion passed unanimously.

Good of the Legion:

Montebello Post fundraiser BINGO. Saturday 21st. Comedy Night \$20 March 21st. 6pm. We need to stop bickering at the canteens in front of the new members.

July 3rd Meeting date is a holiday. Maybe change the date.

DSO Jackson resigned. Steve Ramirez will not be applying.

D18 @ Alhambra 139 – 4 Chaplains Night. Post 180 Anniversary.

Next meeting March 6th Post 359 Norwalk

No further business to come before the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm by Commander La Sala.

Respectfully submitted

Scott Sinclair

LACC Assistant Adjutant