

**David F. Lilley, Post 14,
Puerto Vallarta and Banderas Bay
The American Legion, Department of Mexico**

Membership Meeting, 18 June 2013

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Dennis Rike, Commander. Our host was Steve's Sports Bar.
- II. **Invocation:** Chaplain Janson offered the invocation.
- III. **Guests:** John Murphy introduced Larry and Evelyn Dorwart from Canada. They have a whiskey distillery in *Boca de Tomatlán*, "The World's First Recognized Mexican Whiskey," where they have lived as retirees for ten years. (A tasting sample of their whiskey was passed around.) Their distillery can eventually employ up to 30 people. They have set up a trust for the schools in *Boca de Tomatlán*, are interested in philanthropy, want to be associate members of The American Legion Post 14, and would like to have synergy with the American Legion in doing good work in the community. See also www.dortwart.mx
- IV. **Member Introductions:** Members introduced themselves: Ron Abbe, Jim Brockway, Norm Deveroux, Stan Francis, Ed Griffin, G.W. Sonny Hendrickson, Doug Huffman, Dennis Janson, Cheryl Kehler, Sam Le Beau, Bob Martinez, James Mawdesky, Russ Mills, Jimmy Moffitt, Jon Murphy, Ken Ragatz, Dennis Rike, Don Shinglen, Chuck Shmelzor, Mark Walker, and Phil Weinstein.
- V. **50:50 Tickets:** There was a brief mention of the 50:50 Tickets sold at each meeting. At the end, there is a drawing, and the winner receives 50% of the proceeds, with the balance supporting the good works of Post 14. Winners often donate their share back.
- VI. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were sent out beforehand. A correction was made to Dennis **Janson**'s name, which was incorrectly shown as Johnson. It was **Moved, Seconded, and Carried (MSC)** to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2013, as corrected.
- VII. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Executive Committee:** This committee will be formed following the approval of the Bylaws, which is on the agenda for today. (Later in the meeting, Dennis Rike announced the appointment of an Executive

Committee consisting of himself, Jim Brockway, Norm Deveroux, and the undersigned.)

- B. **Convention**: Ron Abby said that many individuals attending reported that everything went very well at the convention last week. Dennis Rike reported that he was elected First Vice Commander of the Mexico Department, and also was appointed to the Foreign Relations Committee. A name change for the Department of Mexico is under consideration, because it really is a Department of Latin America, or at least of Mesoamerica. Ron and Dennis are going to San Miguel de Allende at the end of July to try and reactivate the Post MX 08 there; they have as a contact Keith Thompson, Smokehouse Bar & Grill.
 - C. **Bylaws**: It was **MSC to adopt the Constitution and Bylaws as revised in committee and distributed before the meeting.**
 - D. **Finance**: The committee needs a new chair. We will be opening a bank account. We are waiting on a format for reporting of finances similar to what is used by the Department of Mexico or by other posts, i.e., Antigua. (Later in the meeting Dennis Rike announced that this committee will include himself, Cheryl Kehler, Dennis Janson, a new officer, and the undersigned.)
 - E. **Mexican Naval Hospital**: We need to pursue this quietly and make new contacts.
 - F. **Community Relations**: Two work days were completed at *Busca Un Amigo*. We got a five-gallon paint donation. At *Boca de Tomatlán* we are working on the water supply for school bathrooms. We are going to the School for the Deaf on Friday. Jorge N.L. is installing lights for the *Clínica Santa Bárbara*.
 - G. **American Football Team**: It was **MSC to have a fundraiser for Community Relations and the American Football Team.**
- VIII. **Communications**: Jon Murphy reported on a charity quiz that he hosted that raised 3,200 pesos, and a total of more than 15,000 by The Navy League, for Toys for Tots. This was a Navy League event, over five weeks, with a quiz in several bars. They want to work with The American Legion to make it better.
- IX. **Old Business**:
- A. **Web Links**: The information about the Mexican Senior Citizens Card will eventually be linked to our web page, but is being withheld pending yet one more change in the location of the office where one applies, and also due to lack of the form on hand for making the application.

- B. **Future Meeting Time:** The Chair announced that, beginning in October, we will start our meetings at 11:00 a.m. instead of 12 Noon.

X. **New Business:**

- A. **Status as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO):** The Chair announced that it is time that we seek NGO (Mexican not-for-profit) status, which will allow us to participate in the annual altruism event at the Marriott, improve our fundraising ability, and move us to a more visible level. We are in line to receive the attorney's service *pro bono*, but the notary services will cost around \$5,000 pesos. It was **MSC to file papers for NGO status in Mexico.**
- B. **DD Form 214:** We need someone to be custodian of the Post's forms. Mark Walker emphasized that a 214 is a confidential form, and they should not be generally made available to the public. The national flag can be obtained in the case of a member's death, for the funeral or memorial, and presentation to the next-of-kin.

XI. **Good of the Order:**

- A. **Golf Shirt:** Blue golf shirt, with emblems, available to the Post for \$110 pesos, \$112 pesos with your name and available to members for \$115 pesos, and \$200 pesos to the general public. It was **MSC to buy 50 shirts.**
- B. **New Members:** Bruce A. Morin and Dominic Nestfall paid their dues as new members at the Executive Committee Meeting.
- C. **Mark Walker:** Mark Walker is leaving and going to Thailand for seven months; members wished him well.
- D. **William Dean,** a Veteran, is in Hospice Care here. He is very ill. Kelly Trainor, the U.S. Consular Agent, was very helpful with his placement. Again, the importance of being able to lay one's hands on a copy of his or her DD Form 214 was emphasized. It is extremely important in such situations.
- E. **"Rhythms of the Night":** A flyer was distributed, about a 4th of July celebration event in which some members may care to participate.
- F. **Annual Membership Dues and Cards:** Now is the time to renew, and Ron Abbe has the new cards.
- G. **Lakeside Medical Group:** We will be checking out a program in Chapala that includes direct payment by many U.S. and Canadian insurance companies to doctors and hospitals for several private insurance companies, and the VA in the case of disabled Veterans living here or traveling

Veterans, not necessarily disabled, who have medical emergencies while in Mexico. Clearly this has no applicability to non-service-connected-disability Veterans who are residents of Mexico.

- H. **Recognition Plaques**: Plaques have been made up recognizing kids who have participated in our projects.
- I. **Veterans in Need**: It was pointed out that The American Legion provides help and support for all Veterans, regardless of whether or not they are members of The American Legion.
- XII. **Next Meeting**: The next regular membership meeting will take place at 12 Noon on Tuesday, July 26, at Steve's Sports Bar.
- XIII. **Benediction**: Chaplain Janson gave the Benediction.
- XIV. **Adjournment**: 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully,

(s) Russ Mills, Acting Adjutant