

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

Membership Meeting, 18 November 2014

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

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Commander Dennis Rike. Chaplain Janson gave the invocation, and there was a moment of silence in respect for the flag. Our host was Steve's Bar.
- II. **Guests:** Dr. Ian Fischman Z., Angela Corelis and Steve Mattox (Marines), Richard Bogle (Post 200, Taylor, Michigan), and Carol Clarke (PV Angels).
- III. **Members Present:** Ron Abbe, Jim Armstead, Lee Cady, Brian Caldwell, Nick Capozzul, Carrol Daigle, Del Duvall, Tony Fearis, Stan Francis, Harvey Goldstein, Charles (Pat) Haley, Dennis Janson, Walter Johnson, Joe Kaminski, Daniel Lanahan, Jim Mawdesley, Russ Mills, Jim Moffett, Ken Ragatz, Dennis Rike, Nick Scott, Ron Sharp, and J.R. Wilson.
- IV. **Presentation by Dr. Ian Fischman Z. from Lakeside Medical Group in Ajijic:** Dr. Ian (as he is called) was here as guest speaker, and he was accompanied by Gabriela Aldrete, the Administrator of Lakeside Medical Group. The meeting was turned over to Dr. Ian, who gave a short presentation on the benefits that their group practice has been able to bring to veterans in the Chapala/Ajijic area, and what they plan to bring to Puerto Vallarta. They operate like an HMO in the U.S., and work with the VA and with Medicare Advantage here in Mexico. Medicare A and B can be converted into Medicare Advantage, usually through United Health Care, Humana, or one of many other medical insurance carriers, most often with no extra cost. There is little or no out-of-pocket expense for most medical services, and they handle the billing. (Here Dr. Ian emphasized that those individuals wishing to make the conversion have to do so on their own, as it would be a conflict of interest for Lakeside to do it.) Lakeside provides services to veterans with service-connected disabilities, and is working on bringing services to veterans who are in the VA but who do not have a disability rating. This would obviously be of great advantage to those of us retired and living in the Puerto Vallarta area. Dr. Ian's timeline is at the end of the first quarter in 2015, but he emphasized that this is their goal, and is not a sure thing. There are legal issues that are being worked on.

Dr. Ian said that disabled veterans should provide a **disability rating letter** from the VA, if available, as this gives Lakeside greater access to information on the respective veteran.

Following is the information from Dr. Ian's business card: Lakeside Medical Group, Dr. Ian Fischman Z., Carretera Oriente #11B, Ajjic, Jalisco C.P. 45920, Telephone: 01-376-766-0395, E-Mail: ian@lakemedicalgroup.com, www.lakemedicalgroup.com. Dr. Ian asked members to provide the names and contact information of any medical doctors here in the Puerto Vallarta area who the members would recommend that Dr. Ian contact with a view to working with them in the future.

The Commander thanked Dr. Ian and others from Lakeside Medical Group, and there was a round of applause from the membership which much appreciated the presentation.

V. **Approval of Minutes of the Membership Meeting of 21 October 2014:** It was **MSC to approve the minutes as sent out.**

VI. **Committee Reports:**

- A. **Community Relations:** We are currently doing work at the *DIF* orphanage for boys.
- B. **Finance Committee:** Jim Mawdesley, Treasurer, reported that we have approximately 77,000 pesos in the account. Also, there is a large supply of souvenirs for sale that members and guests may purchase.
- C. **Torpedoes:** The team plays this Sunday.
- D. **Membership:** Ron Abbe reported that 15 members have not renewed, and he asked that everyone please pay their annual dues.
- E. **Busco Un Amigo:** It was **MSC to approve the expenditure of \$550 pesos for repair of the screen window.** The walls in the pool area have been painted. We have bought a better quality of paint than we were using before, which should be easier to work with and last longer.
- F. **Chili Cook-Off:** The committee will meet at the end of December.
- G. **PV Poker Tour:** The event will be on December 13, starting at 12:30 p.m. at Steve's Bar. Seven locations in Old Town have been identified, and several bars have paid up. We raised \$20,000 pesos last year. This money funds our projects in the community.

Individuals wishing to send money to Post 14 may do so by visiting www.paypal.com. Register to enter the site. Then type info@americanlegion14.org (all small letters). The page will ask for your paypal account or, if you don't have one, your credit card number.

- H. **Service Officer:** Cheryl Kehler could not be here today. There was a discussion of the Service Officer Training which will take place in Indianapolis in February. Several members made comments on the excellence of Cheryl's work as Service Officer and there was reference to the report that was mailed out listing all of the veterans that had been helped over the past year. It is important that Cheryl be able to attend this training, which will provide her with a lot of important information as well as contacts that she will be able to use in helping veterans in the future. It was **MSC to pay Cheryl's expenses for the training in February.** Jim and Cheryl will work out a budget.

VII. **Old Business:**

- A. **Veterans Day/Remembrance Day Event:** The parade was cancelled because of the rain, and the event was moved to the Post. It was a success, with Steve's Bar full and many people standing on the sidewalk.
- B. **Oktoberfest:** Also a success. The proceeds are split 50/50 with the Navy League.
- C. **Norm's Medical Expenses:** The VA still has not paid these bills. Ron Abbe will look into it.
- D. **Adoption of Policy and Procedure Regarding Financial Assistance to Individual Veterans and Their Families:** The subject draft dated 12 November 2014 had been circulated before the meeting as a motion from the Executive Committee to the Membership. It was **MSC to change the word "may" to "shall" in the second to last paragraph on Page 3, so that the section now reads "Reimbursement: The Post shall seek reimbursement for these expenditures from the veteran or family member that receives reimbursement for the expense for which the assistance was granted."** Then the amended procedure was moved for adoption by the membership, and the motion carried.
- E. **Grant Request from Punta de Mita Foundation:** We have received preliminary notification from the Punta de Mita Foundation that \$45,000 pesos, or half of what had been requested, is being awarded for a project to construct two new classrooms at the School for the Deaf. The American Legion facilitated and assisted the Rotary Club in applying for the funds, with the latter serving as fiscal agent.

VIII. **New Business:**

- A. **Stranded Disabled Veteran:** We received a call from Kelly Trainor, U.S. Consular Agent, and have provided limited housing and meal assistance to a

Individuals wishing to send money to Post 14 may do so by visiting www.paypal.com. Register to enter the site. Then type info@americanlegion14.org (all small letters). The page will ask for your paypal account or, if you don't have one, your credit card number.

32-year-old disabled veteran who is stranded in Puerto Vallarta without funds. He is awaiting his disability check, due to arrive on 26 November, and we have paid out \$1,650 pesos to date to assist him. After some discussion of the potential for the individual's problem to become ongoing, it was **MSC to provide financial assistance on a one-time basis up to \$250 U.S. dollars, or its equivalent in Mexican pesos, with the understanding that (1) \$1,650 pesos of that amount had already been provided, and (2) that Kelly Trainor will be contacted about transporting him back to the United States.**

- B. Bylaws Revisions:** An ad hoc committee will meet in January to propose changes to the bylaws, now that they have been in operation for over a year.
- C. Golf Tour:** It was **MSC to sponsor a hole at a cost of \$2,000 pesos.** For this, we get a table at the golf tour, where we sell our T-shirts and other souvenirs, which pay for the hole. The tour benefits the Christmas Toys for Tots program.
- IX. Next Meeting:** The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 4 December 2014, at the *Que?Pasa Bar*, which is located at 625 *Aquiles Serdán*. This places it on the south side of the *Río Cuale*, several blocks up hill from *Calle Insurgentes*, or several blocks downhill from Highway 200 between the two tunnels if you are using the *Libramiento*. One need not be a member of the Executive Committee to attend its meetings. All are welcome.

The next Membership Meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 16 at Steve's Bar.

- X. Adjournment:** Chaplain Janson gave the benediction and the meeting was closed at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully,

/s/ Russ Mills, Adjutant