

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

Membership Meeting, 20 August 2013

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

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:16 p.m. by Dennis Rike, Commander. Our host was *Cuale* Paradise.
- II. **Invocation:** Chaplain Janson is out of town, and Commander Rike offered the invocation.
- III. **Guests:** Jim Ranallo from Chicago, and now from *Melaque*.
- IV. **Member Introductions:** Members introduced themselves: Ron Abbe, Norm Deveroux, Rudy García, Ed Griffin, James Mawdesley, Russ Mills, Dennis Rike, Don Shinglen, and Phil Weinstein.
- V. **Sick Call:** Tom Wood is having surgery in Guadalajara. He is doing well and will be at the next meeting.
- VI. **Approval of Minutes:** It was **MSC** to approve the minutes of the Membership Meeting of 16 July 2013 as sent out.
- VII. **Housekeeping:** Ed Griffin was elected Finance Officer, Jim Mawdesley Treasurer, the undersigned Adjutant, and Dennis Janson to a two-year term on the Finance Committee, and the undersigned to a one-year term on the Finance Committee, with the last two Finance Committee positions being nominated from the floor, as per our bylaws. Fred Crowley was added by the Commander to the Executive Committee. These actions bring the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee to full complement and into compliance with the bylaws.
- VIII. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Executive Committee:** No report.
 - B. **Finance Committee:** Treasurer Jim Mawdesley passed out the July 31st financial report. We are holding steady on revenue even though it is low season and there isn't much going on right now. The report has been simplified, and some further changes are anticipated. The Convention costs are now shown, and will eventually be reduced to one column. Printing, postal, and courier have been consolidated. We have hats, T-shirts, and

other things on hand now at the Commander's house. The new bank account has been opened. Ed Griffin endorsed Jim's remarks, and Ron Abbe said that he has checks totaling \$240 U.S. Dollars in membership renewals and donations. Because they are made out to The American Legion, and we don't have not-for-profit organizational status yet, and the bank account is in the names of four individual members, we need to deposit them into the Department account and have the credit there. It would be better to receive funds in pesos or dollars, or have people renewing on-line on their credit cards. Ron added that there is a new membership form. Jaylene, who is taking care of storing our DD Form's 214, can also handle the next-of-kin notification portion of our membership forms. Dennis Rike showed the Navy League's brochure, which is a good membership recruitment tool, and recommended that we develop our own. We could work on this in the fourth quarter.

- C. **Community Relations:** Dennis is looking for someone who knows how to lay red ceramic roof tile for the Santa Barbara Clinic roof. This weekend a U.S. Coast Guard cutter will be in and members may sign up for a tour. After the tour we will pick up the tile, and also pick up ladders and brushes from the Navy League.

The playground was finished at San Vicente. We need to fix the swing. A sample swing seat was passed around for members to look at.

IX. **Communications:**

- A. We have received an invitation from the Navy League inviting us on the above mentioned tour.
- B. Phil Weinstein shared a letter he has written regarding the fact that we cannot use our VA medical coverage here in Mexico, or Medicare either. This letter is for our political representatives. Phil wants a petition, to be presented to the Department. It was **MSC to approve Phil's letter, and to put it on line so that members can individually see it and use it.** There was some discussion of this, and earlier attempts to get a pilot project going here so VA and Medicare could be accessed by retirees living in Mexico.
- C. Mark Walker, who was a member of Post 14, and who now lives in Thailand, has reported that there is a very active VFW there; he sent a report format showing how they keep track of time, money, and material spent on projects.

X. **Old Business:**

- A. Dave is going to modernize our web page. He will be at our next meeting.

- B. Starting in October, Monthly Membership Meetings and Monthly Executive Committee Meetings will begin at 11:00 a.m.
- C. On Thursday we are going to *Boca de Tomate* to finish our project there. A collection was taken up for a new toilet in the school.
- D. A flag for Dean Lazarus will be framed and put on the wall in *La Escondida* Bar.

XI. New Business:

- A. **Plaques:** Norm reported that, from the Convention, we are having plaques and certificates made up in recognition of individuals and businesses who helped us. The plaques are engraved at \$35 U.S. Dollars each, and the certificates cost about \$200 Pesos. It was **MSC to approve the plaques and the certificates.**
- B. **Meeting with DIF:** A meeting that had been scheduled was cancelled. Dennis is seeking approval for a dozen or so set-aside priority senior cards for our members when the process finally does get re-started.
- C. **School for the Deaf:** Jay Sadler is interested in doing more work for the School for the Deaf.
- D. **Road Sign:** When you enter Puerto Vallarta from the north, there are various signs announcing the presence of organizations: we need to get one installed there for the American Legion Post 14.
- C. **Lakeside Medical Group:** There was a meeting in Chapala sponsored by Lakeside Medical Group, and attended by Dennis Rike and Ron Abby. If you are a disabled veteran on Tri-Care you get hospital services. You don't have to have the money up-front. The payment goes directly to the hospital from the VA and several insurance companies.

XII. Good of the Order:

- A. **Donation for Toilet:** Dennis thanked members present for "passing the hat" at the meeting, so that the money for the toilet was in hand.
- B. **Checks:** Jim Mawdesley reminded everyone that we can't deposit checks into the bank account if they are made out to The American Legion. Cash renewals and donations are better, until we get not-for-profit status in Mexico, i.e., approval as a NGO (non-governmental organization).

XIII. Next Meetings: The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place at 12 Noon on Thursday, 5 September 2013, at Captain Don's Bar. The next Membership

Meeting will take place at 12 Noon on Tuesday, 17 September 2013, at Steve's Sports Bar.

XIV. Benediction: Commander Rike gave the Benediction.

XV. Adjournment: 1:54 p.m.

Respectfully,

(s) Russ Mills, Adjutant