



**DAVID F. LILLEY, POST 14
PUERTO VALLARTA AND BANDERAS BAY
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MEXICO**

Membership Meeting, 20 January 2015

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

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:00 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:** The members welcomed Cary Corn, Korean War Veteran and Commander of Post 8, *San Miguel de Allende*. Another guest, Dale Carry, introduced himself near the end of the meeting.
- III. **Members Present:** Ron Abbe, David Barton, Todd Baumruck, Fred Crowley, Carrol Daigle Bill Evans, Tony Fearis, Stan Francis, Dennis Janson, Bernie Jene, Walter Johnson, Cheryl Kehler, Alvin Kern, Steve Leopold, Jim Mawdesley, Russ Mills, Ken Ragatz, David Rathje, Dennis Rike, Allen Schaefer, Don Shingler, Ken Solom, and J. R. Wilson.
- IV. **Sick Call:** Ronnie Sharpe is in *San Javier* Hospital. Two stents have been put in due to a heart problem. He will come home tomorrow. Dr. Ian helped with this; Amerimed wouldn't follow through without a substantial up-front payment, but *San Javier* required a reasonable \$15,000 peso deposit.

Dennis Rike received a call from a veteran in the U.S. whose father is here at Regional Hospital. Dennis worked on this for four days; the son is here now. Jay Sadler had an out-patient operation on his toe in the U.S., and is doing okay now.

It was announced here that shirts, hats, shot glasses, etc., are for sale after the meeting.

V. **Approval of Minutes of the Membership Meeting of 16 December 2014:** It was **MSC** to approve the minutes as sent out.

VI. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Finance Committee:** Jim Mawdesley, Treasurer, reported that we have a balance of 83,600+ pesos on hand. He distributed copies of the newly formatted Annual Budget for 2015, with income on the first page and expenses on the second.

B. **Service Officer:** Cheryl Kehler reported that Steve Mattox, a recently joined Post 14 member, is in declining health. Cheryl arranged for him to go to the Houston VAMC, where he receives his routine medical care, and he and his wife, Angela Corelis, went there via medi-vac. Unfortunately, when he got there he was deemed “medically too stable” to be admitted to the hospital. He saw the social worker. But, due to a lack of service connected disability, he would have had to go on a waiting list for long term care. They gave him an IV and sent him home. (A few minutes later in the meeting, Angela came in and informed us that her husband, Steve, had just died. She expressed her frustration about how poorly things had gone in Houston. This event underscores the difficulties we have trying to make arrangements from here.)

Bev Huffman still has not received her money from the VA. It has been approved and is apparently being processed, but this is taking a very long time.

Bob Davis, retired Navy, died in his apartment. The family wants the Post to take care of the remains and to have a memorial. We need a release to pick up the remains. The family stated that they would like the computer, watch, and ring. We have no idea where the computer is; staff at *Celis* may have knowledge of the watch and ring.

C. **Community Relations:** Dennis Rike reported that the guys from the coast guard cutter that has just arrived are helping to paint the *D.I.F.* Boy’s Home. The boys are 7-15 years old. Most are from dysfunctional homes or are otherwise in trouble. They will get to visit the cutter. In *San Ignacio* Community Center we are doing some electrical work. We met with Rotary and the School for the Deaf to discuss the grant from the *Punta de Mita* Foundation.

D. **Membership:** Ron Abbe reported that the Post is still down; we are 15 short of this year’s goal. If we had the 13 who have not yet renewed, we would reach our goal.

- E. **Chili Cook-Off:** The committee had its first meeting. The date for this event will be 14 March 2015, and it starts at 1 p.m. We have twenty sponsors. We will do it on our own this year. The next meeting is a week from this Friday at *El Río*. We will need help from six or so members. We expect 400 people.
- F. **Busco Un Amigo:** We have had no update on the financials. Fred Crowley may check it out and get back to us. The place looks really good. But, they just don't seem to be steady with reports and numbers.
- G. **Toys for Tots:** 7,000 toys were given out in the Puerto Vallarta/Bay of Banderas region. Post 14 distributed toys in *Boca de Tomatlán* and *Mismaloya*.

VII. **Old Business:**

- A. **Will:** We have information available on getting a Mexican will done. If you have property here, you need a will. Otherwise, on your demise, the government will get your property.
- B. **Bylaws:** The *ad hoc* committee met on 15 January. The minutes of that meeting will be sent out with these membership meeting minutes.
- C. **Civil Association:** We are in the process of gathering information on establishing Post 14 as a Civil Association; this would give us status under Mexican law similar, but not identical to, not-for-profit, charitable status in the United States. The drawback has always been the cost of doing it, but we recently have learned that there are less expensive ways of doing it, and we have the *pro bono* assistance of an attorney who is interested in helping.

VIII. **New Business:**

- A. **Requests by Veteran's Families:** There was some discussion of requests we receive from veteran's families, which sometimes don't seem to connect directly with the help that we provide to veterans. The Commander pointed out that persons concerned about this might draft a written policy so that we might have something to look at and consider.
- B. **Medical Matters:** The Medical Matters day at the Marriot will take place on 9 February. We will have an information booth and brochures.
- C. **Wounded Warriors:** Fred Crowley and Ron Abbe are going to look into what is going on with Wounded Warriors. We clearly need more accurate

information about what is going on there, rather than simply reacting to some of the negative things that have been stated lately in news releases.

- D. Medical Records:** Pam Thompson had Jay Sadler's medical records translated at no charge from Spanish into English, so that they can be used in the United States, where Jay is now.
- IX. Next Meetings:** **The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 5 February 2015, at Captain Don's Sports Bar, which is located at *Calle Honduras, No. 126*.** The next Membership Meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 17 February 2015 at Steve's Bar.
- X. Adjournment:** After the drawing, Chaplain Janson gave the benediction and the meeting was closed by Commander Rike at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully,

/s/ Russ Mills, Adjutant