

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

**Membership Meeting, 21 January 2014**

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

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Dennis Rike, Commander. Our host was Steve's Bar. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Janson, followed by a moment of silence in respect for the flag.
- II. Sick Call:** Ken Maloney was in the hospital, but is now out. Kelly Trainor and others have been involved in trying to help, and a brother is now involved and is sending some money. Cheryl reported that Regional Hospital has been involved in trying to transfer him to the U.S., but that right now he is in a senior center. In a couple of months he will be going to the V.A. in the U.S. He has social security and disability, and Cheryl is working on getting him a subsidy to get him up to the \$1,800 per month acceptable minimum that the V.A. wants for its members. Pam Thompson was helpful with this and with another veteran. There also was a veteran at *I.M.S.S.*, but he passed away. Another, named Rick Main, is in Guadalajara with an aneurism, a slight stroke, and kidney problems, and is in very bad shape. He was operated on, but will lose a leg. He has done a lot for the community there. Captain Don is hanging in there, and the swelling is down, but he is having a rough time. We got an exception on his tourist visa so that he can stay past the 180 maximum. Ronnie Sharp is back and is doing well after going to the V.A. in the U.S. Ron Abbe has been having blood pressure problems, but is doing okay.
- III. Guests:** Introduced as guests, but really new members, were the following: Tom Palmer from Colorado, U.S. Navy, 1955-59; Barry Greenfield, U.S. Air Force, 1966-69, who moved here with his wife, and who has a 100% service connected disability; and Allan Schaefer, U.S. Army, 1967-68, from Chicago.
- IV. Member Introductions:** Ron Abbe, Fred Crowley, Norm Deveraux, Del Duvall, Barry Greenfield, Ed Griffin, James R. Isler, Dennis Janson, Bernie Jene, Cheryl Kehler, Larry Kehler, Steve Leopold, Jim Mawdesley, Russ Mills, Tom Palmer, Ken Ragatz, Dave Rathje, Dennis Rike, Bud Rozanden, Allan F. Schaefer, Don Shingler, Ken Solom, Dennis Walsh, Tom Wood, and Dale Wright.
- V. Approval of Minutes:** It was **MSC** to approve the minutes of the Membership Meeting of 17 December 2013 as sent out.

## VI. Committee Reports:

- A. **Finance Committee:** Jim Mawdesley passed around the year-end balance sheet. We have \$43,000 pesos in the bank, and are healthy. Sales of hats and t-shirts have been quite good. It was decided to include the Paypal address as footer in the minutes from now on.
- B. **Community Relations:** Dennis Rike reported that the Canoso playground is being spruced up, with new nets for basketball. Jim Mawdesley said that we need help on our projects, and we should have a way for people to sign up. There are seven playground projects, including lots of painting. We may make an actual sign-in sheet. Mr. Fox added that we need to check in the communities to see which parents will help.

We had a table at the Farmer's Market, but there was very light response, so we are putting a hold on that for a while.

Mr. Fox and Dennis continue work on the brochure, which is almost done.

Jay Sadler and Dennis Rike met with the Vallarta and *D.I.F.* recreational directors. We are going to sponsor four basketball teams, and will pay four coaches. Posters will be put around to recruit players.

Repairs have started on the Children's Cancer Center, with power washing and painting. We can only work there on Thursdays. This playground is for use by the families while the parents are visiting their sick kids.

- C. **Service Officer:** Cheryl Kehler reported that another service member had applied for an increase in his disability, and his case was reopened and is under review. Another veteran is here and is in need of medication, including hydrocodone, which is quite difficult to obtain in Mexico.

## VII. Old Business:

- A. **Senior Cards:** *D.I.F.* is no longer handling the cards, and the service is being moved to the State building in *Fluvial*. There will be further information about this.
- B. **Pub Crawl:** 15 February is the date for this event, and eight bars are participating: Steve's Sports Bar, Nacho Daddy, Thirsty Cougar, *Escondida*, Captain Don's, *El Torito* and other establishments. We are engaging taxi buses, and the bars are contributing to their cost. Tickets will be \$100 pesos each, and will be available at the bars. We should also tip the drivers. There will be prizes, etc. 50% of the proceeds go to the winners of the card

A *PayPal* account has been established, allowing members to send money to Post 14 from anywhere. Go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com), click on "send money," and type in [americanlegionpost14pp@gmail.com](mailto:americanlegionpost14pp@gmail.com) (all small letters). The page will ask for your *paypal* account or, if you don't have one, your credit card number.

games. The events will start at Steve's Bar. Bonnie is on board and will be helping. Dennis Rike will be sending out an e-mail about this later on.

- C. **Medical Matters Event**: This all-day event, put on by Kelly Trainor and Pam Thompson, takes place on 10 February at the Marriott. We will be getting a free table, saving us the \$4,500 peso fee, and it will be manned by two of our members, providing exposure for the American Legion Post.
- D. **Chili Cook-Off**: A first planning meeting has been held. The event will take place on the last Saturday of March.
- E. **Busca Un Amigo**: Fred facilitated a very sizable donation that we are about to receive from a Colorado lady named Florence Northway. This money will be doled out on a monthly basis to keep the school open. It was pointed out that members can make donations directly, but those doing so need to know that, if you are writing a check, it needs to be completed very carefully using the exact legal name of the entity in Mexico, in this case *Proyecto Pitillal Busca Un Amigo, AC*.
- F. **Toys for Tots**: We had a good run with some 8,000 toys being given out this year.

#### VIII. **New Business**:

- A. **Mrs. Huffman**: Dennis contacted Mrs. Huffman to see how she is doing, and she offered Doug's books on Vietnam.
- B. **Hearing Tests/Speech Therapy**: Dr. Lawrence was here doing the hearing tests, which Norm described at a recent meeting. It was discovered that she also does speech therapy, which might be very good at the orphanage, so we will be inviting her to attend one of our meetings.
- C. **Sign on Highway**: We are going ahead with this.
- D. **Torpedoes Football Team**: There was a fundraiser Sunday, at *El Torito*, and we raised \$5,000 pesos.

#### IX. **Good of the Order**:

- A. **Whiskey from Boca**: There was a donation of whiskey, if anyone wants a shot.
- B. **Basketball Net**: A sample playground basketball net was passed around.
- C. **Shirts and Hats for Sale**: All are available at meetings.

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- D. Post 3 in Guadalajara:** Rob Abbe and Dennis Rike attended a meeting there, and they will be going back on 10 February.
- E. David Lilley:** It was mentioned that it would be good to have a little printout about David Lilley, for whom Post 14 is named, to hand out to members and visitors at meetings. There is a piece about him linked to our web page.
- F. Department of Mexico Executive Committee Meeting:** 19 February in *El Salvador*.
- G. Brochures:** It was decided to have 1,000 printed, at a cost of \$2,100 pesos, and see how they go before printing more.
- H. Stickers for Backboards:** The stickers, with the logo Jay Sadler/Post 14, cost \$64 pesos. We can put polyurethane over them.
- X. Next Meetings:** The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 6 February 2014, at *Café Roma*. The next Membership Meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 18 February 2014, at Steve's Bar. The March Executive Committee Meeting was also set: 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 6 March, at *Cuale Paradise*.
- XI. Adjournment:** After the drawing, Chaplain Janson gave the Benediction, and Dennis Rike closed the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully,

(s) Russ Mills, Adjutant