

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

**Executive Committee Meeting, 3 April 2014**

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

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by Commander Dennis Rike. Our host was ¿*Qué Pasa?* Bar and Grill. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Janson, followed by a moment of silence in respect for the flag.
- II. **Sick Call:** Jeff Dana is in *Antigua* and is bleeding from a stent in his heart. Norm Deveraux is in very serious condition in Regional Hospital here, and there will be more on this later in the meeting.
- III. **Member Introductions:** Ron Abbe, Jim Brockway, Fred Crowley, Bill Evans, Cheryl Kehler, Larry Kehler, Jim Mawdesley, Russ Mills, Dennis Janson, Ken Ragatz, and Dennis Rike.
- IV. **Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of 6 March 2014:** It was **MSC** to approve the Minutes, as distributed at the beginning of today's meeting.
- V. **Committee Reports:**
  - A. **Finance:** Jim Mawdesley reported that he is going to redo the finance report for later distribution. There is a slight increase over last month.
  - B. **Community Relations:** Three people are finishing up on the painting at *Casa Hogar*, and the logos will be added at no charge. We inspected the trailer for peace, which neuters dogs and cats, and our logos will be on it. The *Corazón de Niña* girls are coming to the playground to plant trees and shrubs. Swing seats have been obtained for the playground. A week from Thursday we will be finishing the painting at the Children's Cancer Screening Center.
  - C. **Membership:** Ron Abbe reported that there are no new members here. This year's convention will be in *Antigua*.
  - D. **Torpedoes:** There is a game this Sunday. Ten kids helped with the chili event.
  - E. **Chili Cook-Off:** This event was a success.

- F. **Busca Un Amigo**: We received a donation from a lady who wants to buy an ultrasonic stimulator machine. But the donation is only 7 or 8 thousand pesos. Larry Kehler, i.e., Sr. Fox, recommended that we contact local chiropractors to see if there is an ultrasonic stimulator machine lying around and not being used, which could be contributed. There are old wheel chairs that are gathering dust that could be sold off to raise the funds.
- G. **Service Officer**: Dennis Rike reported that more medicine is needed for Norm Deveraux. He is conscious and needs an operation, but is not stable enough. Cheryl Kehler reported that the paperwork was filed for Bev Huffman for a pension, and we have been helping with some of her living expenses. The VA has a minimum allowance that is required by law for the sustenance of life, and she is eligible for it based on her late husband's service. Frank Myer was receiving compensation for a dependent, who has reached 18, and now the compensation amount has been cut, and it goes directly to the dependent. Ed Clark went to Houston with stomach problems, which turned out to be cancer. He is now in Milwaukee.

Norm Deveraux went to the hospital two weeks ago with acute abdomen pain and spitting blood. He was sent to Regional Hospital, and then had surgery for an ulcer in the duodenum. He went into cardiac arrest and is on a ventilator. He has had discharge from the surgery site. Norm has no insurance, but has 70% service connected disability. We may be able to get the hospital to understand that the bleeding ulcer is related to stress/PTSD. We tried to get him covered with help from Pam Thompson and Amerimed. He is still in Regional Hospital, and technically uninsured. There are other support avenues at the VA. His brother in Utah has power of attorney. If he is in the hospital for 21 days, his disability is increased to 100%. Dennis Janson saw Norm yesterday, and reported that his circulation is better and he looks better. Some of the swelling is down. He is in bed number 48. It was mentioned that Cheryl has worked very, very hard on this, and so has Irma. Regional is doing a good job, but there are no nurses. The hospital is clean and organized. But, if you are a patient there, you need your family or friends to take care of many of your needs, and you need to send out for medication. Carla is taking money for Norm. For Ken, money can go to Chaplain Janson's ministry account. During the meeting, five members contributed \$1,000 each to help with Norm. Pam Thompson has arranged for a volunteer for blood, so we don't need to pay for blood for Norm.

Cheryl pointed out that the Foreign Medical Program (FMP) form can be downloaded. Members with a service connected disability can apply directly, or go through Pam Thompson. Cheryl will send out a copy of the form to everyone. Amerimed is interested in establishing a veteran data base so they can do here in Puerto Vallarta what Lakeside is doing in Chapala.

Ken Maloney is still not making much progress and needs to be in a rehab center.

VI. **Old Business:** None.

VII. **New Business:**

- A. **Children's Cancer Screening Center:** We have donated toys out of recycled parts.
- B. **Torpedoes:** They want to put our logo on their uniforms. It was decided that we will use the new logo developed by Sr. Fox.

VIII. **Good of the Order:**

- A. **Casa Hogar:** Dennis Janson said that the arches at *Casa Hogar* look good. They took five coats of white paint.
- B. **Positive Exposure in Community:** The Post's positive exposure in the community helped us with Norm: they established a laboratory account for Norm so we don't need to pay every time he needs a test. The relationship with *DIF* has been very positive, and led to our being able to put up posters around town about our activities.
- C. **Senior Cards:** New cards still cannot be processed.
- D. **St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser:** Money is coming from Murphy's Bar for the fundraiser.

IX. **Next Meeting.** The next Membership Meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 15 April 2014 at Steve's Sports Bar. **(Note: The decision was subsequently made to postpone that meeting until 22 April.)** The next Executive Committee Meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 1 May 2014, at a location to be announced.

X. **Adjournment.** Following the drawing, Dennis Janson gave the Benediction, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully,

(s) Russ Mills, Adjutant