

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

Executive Committee Meeting, 4 September 2014

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 offered the invocation, and there was a moment of silence in respect for the flag. Our host was Captain Don's.
- II. **Member Introductions:** Ron Abbe, Dennis Janson, Cheryl Kehler, Larry Kehler, Jim Mawdesley, Russ Mills, Dennis Rike, and Mark Walker.
- III. **Sick Call:** Ronnie Sharpe is in the hospital in Seattle with a heart problem that is on the mend. He will be returning to Puerto Vallarta.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** It was **MSC** to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of 5 June 2014, as distributed.
- V. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Finance Committee:** Jim Mawdesley reported that there are approximately \$66,000 pesos in the account, plus the \$5,000 that had been allocated for helping James Watson, which were not expended (due to his death), which Dennis Janson has returned to the Treasurer. Approximately \$3,000 in membership dues was received. Dennis Rike submitted a bill for \$2,800 for the first road sign with the American Legion official logo, including the mounts. Jay Sadler paid half, or \$1,400 pesos, so the cost to the Post is only \$1,400.

Commander Rike called for a meeting of the Finance Committee, which was set at 9:30 a.m., Monday, 8 September, at Page in the Sun. The purpose is (1) to draw up a document that clearly defines who we assist and how, and (2) to draw up a budget.

It was **MSC** to reimburse Ron Abbe for the framing of two certificates in memory of Norm.

- B. **Community Relations:** Dennis Rike reported on the exercise equipment the Post put into the *Aurora* playground. Members of the police department

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saw it and have asked if we can help them with equipping their exercise area in *Las Juntas*. We are working on painting and planter boxes at *Corazón de Niña*. We are still working on the water in *Aurora Park*. Jim Mawdesley has been helping with painting and electrical work at the Senior Center: there are no more extension cords and trip hazards all over the place. We are also putting in some track lighting. This Wednesday is the final work day. Next to it, in *Coapinole*, is the *D.I.F.* orphanage, which has 19 boys ages 7-16; we are working there with Secrets and another hotel to manage a painting project. We have swing seats for the playgrounds, and got more trees and plants from the nursery. The boys from the orphanage came to *Aurora* and painted. We bought a “gringo football” for them.

- C. **Membership:** Ron Abbe reported that Post 14 is eighth in the Department of Mexico, with 42 members paid up and 56 still unpaid.
- D. **Chili Cook-off:** This is scheduled in March.
- E. **Busca Un Amigo:** We are working on the pump in the pool.
- F. **Service Officer:** Cheryl Kehler reported that **Donald Smith**’s father, a veteran, passed away, and needed the form for the embassy to fill out so he could get a flag. He got the form and needs to get the DD 214. It is easy to obtain a 214 on line, and the process is made considerably easier by providing as much information as possible about the person. **Frank Myers** went to the U.S. for surgery and is now back. **Mark Schmeideberg** had a hip injury and went to the V.A. in Atlanta. They did a workup and he was discharged with a 30-day supply of Percocet. He is trying to get more Percocet, but it isn’t available in Mexico. Tangesic is available in two forms: injection and pills. We only agreed to help him purchase the pills, but he was seeking an injection. He was advised that it might be best for him to return to the V.A. in the United States for follow-up. **Ray Giancoli** used to live here but went back to the U.S. for health reasons. He is coming back to Puerto Vallarta for a visit in October. He needs dialysis, which he will get at Amerimed. We have had no follow-up on **Charley Henshaw**. **Jim Phoenix** needs to go back to the U.S. for treatment for lymphoma tumors, but doesn’t wish to go back.

VI. **Old Business:**

- A. **American Legion Park:** There will be a dedication ceremony in October, and we would like to have as many members there as possible.
- B. **Wheelchairs:** We got two wheelchairs and took one to the rehab home. The other will be repaired, to include new foot pegs.

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- C. **Patches:** 25 patches were ordered at \$35 pesos each. We will sell them for \$50.
- D. **Flags:** We want to have all three flags (U.S., Canada, and Mexico) for the 11 November Veterans/Remembrance Day activities.

VII. New Business:

- A. **Veterans/Remembrance Day:** We will have a short parade and service, starting at Steve's Bar and ending at *Parque Lázaro Cárdenas*. There will be music, and 50 poppies have been ordered. We hope to have the participation of many Canadians.
- B. **Oktoberfest:** Scheduled for Wednesday, 12 November. This is a fundraiser held (together with the Navy League) that helps with our community relations projects.
- C. **Signage:** We have ordered one sign, and it has been approved, for a location coming out of the Airport.
- D. **Poker Tour:** Scheduled for Saturday, 6 December. We will rent one van and shuttle people around to the participating bars.
- E. **Mexican Fiesta:** The idea has been floated to do a fundraiser, together with the Navy League, in the second week of January.
- F. **Resolution on Membership Dates:** An approved Department of Mexico resolution would change the membership dates so that Veterans of all periods of U.S. combat can become members of the American Legion. The resolution is now in a committee with National.
- G. **Men's Auxiliary:** Cheryl raised the fact that there is no auxiliary for men who are the spouses or partners of women who have served in the Armed Forces. This is something that needs to be looked into.
- H. **Norm Deveraux:** There is a small plaque at Sea Monkey that is in a bad state of disrepair. We need to replace it. It was **MSC to authorize Jim Mawdesley to replace the plaque honoring Norm.**
- I. **Mexican Last Will and Testament:** Dennis Janson and Dennis Rike met with an attorney. It was noted that one needs a Mexican will if one has assets in Mexico. September is a good time to do this, because many notaries and attorneys have lower rates in September.

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VIII. Good of the Order, Member Concerns, Announcements:

- A. **Personal E-Mail:** Members were reminded that we need to always be careful to not use our American Legion Post 14 officer titles when writing and sending personal e-mails. We don't want to confuse anyone who might assume that our personal thoughts and opinions are representative of official A.L. policy.
- B. **Dates:** 16 September is The American Legion Day; 17 September is Citizenship Day; 19 September is POW/MIA Recognition Day.
- C. **Fire Equipment:** Tim Stern, Lake Chapala American Legion, is looking for Post 14 and the Navy League of Vallarta to assist in bringing donated fire equipment to the Lake Chapala Fire Department. Jon Murphy, Navy League and American Legion members, is working with the Coast Guard. Jon is a former Lieutenant and academy graduate and a natural to accomplish this project.
- D. **Clayton Hill Services:** This is a nursing service that did a good job with Norm's home care during his illness.
- E. **U.S. Checks:** The recent changes to U.S. law that prevent Mexican banks and other Mexican financial institutions from cashing U.S. checks are causing some problems.
- F. **Form EZ 99:** Mark Walker mentioned that this form, listing post officers, must be filed by the Post Adjutant with the IRS.
- IX. **Next Meeting.** The next Membership Meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 16 September 2014, at Steve's Sports Bar. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 2 October 2014 at a location to be announced.
- X. **Adjournment.** Dennis Janson gave the Benediction, and the meeting was adjourned by the Commander at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully,

(s) Russ Mills, Adjutant