

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

Executive Committee Meeting, 8 January 2015

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

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by Commander Dennis Rike. Chaplain Janson gave the Invocation. There was a moment of silence in respect for the flag. Our host was Sea Monkey.
- II. **Introduction of Members and Guests:** Ron Abbe, Jim Brockway, Carrol Daigle, Dennis Janson, Cheryl Kehler, Jim Mawdesley, Russ Mills, Dave Rathje, Dennis Rike, Nicholas Scott, and Don Shingler. Late in the meeting, Tim McGrath arrived and introduced himself. Tim is from Rochester, NY, and is a Vietnam Veterans Member. He is thinking of moving here full-time, and may join The American Legion, Post 14.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** It was **MSC to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of 4 December 2014 as distributed.**
- IV. **Communications:** Dennis Rike received an e-mail that the National Commander is coming to Antigua to review what is going on in the Department. Our report for that event is due 8 February. We also received a thank you note from the Garden Club for cleaning the flower beds around town.
- V. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Finance:** Jim Mawdesley presented a two-page **2015 Annual Budget**, with Income on the first page and Expenses on the second page. This is our first ever annual budget and is presented in the new January 1-December 31 fiscal year that the Post has recently decided on.
 - B. **Community Relations:** There was a tour of a Coast Guard cutter yesterday, and about 20 people, boys and adults, painted four rooms at the *DIF* boys' home. We have a meeting tomorrow at the School for the Deaf regarding the funds granted by the Punta de Mita Foundation for construction of two new classrooms, as well as other fundraising ideas that could benefit the school. PV Choppers is donating 2500 pesos to Post 14 for Community Relations projects.

- C. **Membership:** Ron Abbe said we are still behind last year. We are now fourth in the Department, and need 13 more members to reach our projected goal.
- D. **Service Officer:** Cheryl Kehler reported on Steve Mattox, a veteran who has just had a hip replacement after a broken hip, and his wife, Angela Corelis, who are going to Houston for placement in long-term care. Beverly Huffman must have finally received her checks, because we haven't heard anything. Jimmy Stewart wrote thanking the Post for helping.
- E. **Busca UN Amigo:** They had their *Posada*. It was a great, catered event, with good music. We received a certificate of appreciation.
- F. **Chile Cook-Off:** Last year, the proceeds from this event were split 50/50 with the Navy League. Maybe this year we should do this event on our own. The extra money could support scholarships for kids at the *DIF* boys' home to play football. We should have representatives from *DIF* and the *Torpedoes* to make this happen. It was **MSC that we do our own chili cook-off, with a decision being made later on what to do with the extra funds.**

VI. **Old Business:**

- A. **IJAS/Civil Association Status:** A meeting has been held with an attorney regarding *IJAS* status, and the possibility of being able to establish the Post as a civil association without having to pay extraordinary initial and ongoing costs. *IJAS* stands for the Jalisco Institute of Social Assistance, which is a state agency that helps not-for-profits to do things correctly. The attorney has offered his time *pro bono*. Nick is going to check to see if his business accountant would be interested in working with us at a reasonable fee level. At this point, the discussion is exploratory.
- B. **Bylaws Revisions:** The *ad hoc* committee to review the bylaws will meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, 15 January at Post HQ at Steve's Bar.

VII. **New Business:** Concerns have been raised about our financial donation last year to Wounded Warriors. The group pays a high salary to its executive director, and it appears that its administrative costs are in the neighborhood of 52%. The American Legion now does similar things, and there are other groups as well

VIII. **Good of the Order, Members' Concerns, Announcements**

- A. **Hats:** It was **MSC that the officer titles be put on the hats that were ordered for Veteran's Day ceremonies that happened in November.** (It

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will be recalled that all thirteen hats had been provided with the same title – Commander. The intent was to have one for each officer who was going to participate. The cost is \$35 pesos each and this will be paid for by the Post for those officers wishing to have the hat.)

- B. **Jay Sadler**: Pam Thompson’s help was acknowledged for getting Jay Sadler’s medical records translated from Spanish to English so they could be used in the U.S. where Jay is currently undergoing treatment.
 - C. **Toys for Tots**: In *Boca de Tomate* (“the American Legion route”) 400 to 500 toys were given out on 7 January. We also gave some balls to the orphanage and some 25 toys to the Cancer Screening Center.
- IX. **Next Meeting**. The next Membership Meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 20 January 2015, at Steve’s Sports Bar. The next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 5 February 2015, at a location to be announced.
- X. **Adjournment**. Carrol Daigle gave the Benediction and the meeting was adjourned by the Commander at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully,

(s) Russ Mills, Adjutant