

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

Membership Meeting, 22 April 2014

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. Our host was Steve's Bar. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Janson, followed by a moment of silence in respect for the flags of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.
 - II. **Sick Call:** Several members have been sick with colds, flu, and other non-threatening ailments.
 - III. **Member Introductions:** Ron Abbe, Bill Evans, Tony Fearis, Stan Francis, Ed Griffin, Irma Guzman Roblyer, Dennis Janson, Walter Johnson, Cheryl Kehler, Larry Kehler, Jim Kilpatrick, Jim Mawdesley, Russ Mills, David Puckett, Ken Ragatz, Dave Rathje, Richard Rideout, Dennis Rike, Don Shingler, and Richard W. Turel.
 - IV. **Approval of Minutes:** It was **MSC to approve the minutes of the Membership Meeting of 18 March 2014 as sent out.**
 - V. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Finance Committee:** Jim Mawdesley, Treasurer, reported that the balance remains at approximately \$44,000 pesos. There has been little revenue, and no new members have joined. At the end of the Chili Cook-Off there were an unexpected and unidentified additional \$2,000 pesos. Jim noted that shortly he will be out of town until 18 June.
 - B. **Community Relations:** Dennis Rike reported that most of the painting has been done at the Cancer Screening Center, and that the place looks beautiful. Ron Abbe's sister, Bev, helped with this, along with Jim Sullivan and Bill Clark. The arches have been finished at the *Casa Hogar* orphanage, and the new logos are now on. It was noted that Dennis Janson got us in there to do this work. The swing seats still need to go up in *Caloso*. Chains are missing from out storage unit, which is being looked into.
 - C. **Membership:** Ron Abbe reported that in Puerto Vallarta, Post 14, we are at 105%. The Department of Mexico has about 870 members, and we want to get up over 1,000.
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- D. **Torpedoes**: There are games the next two Sundays.
- E. **Chili Cook-Off**: This year's Cook-Off is completed, and there are \$2,000 pesos left over. We should use it to give framed certificates to those who sponsored the event. It was **MSC to purchase certificates and frames**. The Cook-Off event was a success. The American Legion and the Navy League netted \$24,000 pesos each from ticket sales, and the above mentioned \$2,000 pesos were extra. The middle of March seems to be a very good time for this event. It was **MSC to allocate the proceeds as follows: 40% Women's shelter, 20% Busca Un Amigo, and 40% Torpedoes, with a note or e-mail to Busca Un Amigo that there would have been a higher percentage awarded to them had they participated.**
- F. **Busca Un Amigo**: As noted above, there was disappointment that no one from *Busca Un Amigo* showed up for the Chili Cook-Off event, notwithstanding that they were/are an intended recipient of the funds received. It was further noted that the Eagle Wings Foundation (through *Via Del Palmar*) sent Marta an application which she hasn't filled out, so she isn't receiving donations from them either. Ron Abbe attended a meeting with Florence, who is active in the Rotary in the U.S., and who wanted to go through the Rotary here in giving a large sum to *Busca Un Amigo* for its operating costs over the next two years. Apparently these funds have gone directly to Marta, which raises questions about whether or not they will be given out in a restrained manner over the next two years, for day-to-day operations, or possibly be spent more quickly which would not support the understood original intent. It was emphasized that Jay Sadler should be the one to talk to Marta about this. Dennis Janson pointed out that *IJAS (Instituto Jalisciense de Asistencia Social)* (Jalisco Institute of Social Assistance) is involved, and it is good as they are involved because they make inspections. Yet another issue is that *Busca Un Amigo* is not involved in the annual Altruism Festival.
- G. **Service Officer**: Cheryl Kehler reported that for the first two weeks of the month we were involved and quite busy trying to help Norm Deveraux before he passed away following multiple surgeries. The family has sent funds for cremation. There will be some reimbursement through the VA. A flag is being obtained. We are working on getting a report from Regional Hospital. Everything will be linked to his service connected disability. There were out-of-pocket expenses. We need the American death certificate from the American Consulate. Dennis Rike has a folder with all of the bills in it, and we need to consolidate all of the paperwork that we have. The family requested that we check on his belongings, and especially his medals, which Dennis Rike did. It was emphasized that the American Legion has no responsibility for his property or medals: that is a family responsibility. The family wants to donate his motorcycle and truck to the Post. The family arrives on 25 May and the service for Norm will be Monday, 26 May, which
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just happens to be Memorial Day in the U.S., at Sea Monkey, with his ashes being spread there. Members are asked to meet at the Post and then we will walk over to Sea Monkey as a group. Jim Kilpatrick, Cheryl Kehler, and Dennis Rike will fold the flag. Irma stepped up and helped quite a bit with Norm, so we saved quite a bit of money at Regional Hospital.

Cheryl also reported on Ken Maloney. His brother came down and spent time with Ken at the Rehabilitation Center. Ken needs more intensive post stroke therapy. He is not walking and his speech is slow. He can sit and eat and he does understand. He should go back to the VA in the States for intense rehab work. Jaylene from the Department is working on sending him to Houston. His passport expired, and Kelly Trainor has that. We need to get him a 48-hour travel permit to travel without a passport. We can't do the flight reservation until this is in order.

Cheryl's extraordinary efforts, as well as her clear and articulate reporting on all this, were gratefully noted by the Membership.

VI. Old Business:

- A. **Shirts for Volunteers:** Shirts need to be ordered for our volunteers, with the logo, a pocket, and Canadian and U.S. flags. We have \$2,400 pesos from Murphy's Irish Pub, and we have \$600 pesos left over from earlier, and we can get \$1,000 pesos donated for this. It was **MSC to order 54 shirts.**
- B. **Paypal:** There was some discussion about our organizational status. Right now we are informal, but we need to consider AC status (*Asociación Civil*), or Civil Association, which is analogous to becoming a not-for-profit organization in the United States, although not at all identical.

VII. New Business:

- A. **Officer Elections:** The following slate of officers for the year was offered, all of whom had accepted the nomination:

Commander	Dennis Rike
First Vice Commander	Vacant Until June in Respect for Norm
Second Vice Commander	David Rathje
Adjutant	Russ Mills
Finance Officer	Ed Griffin
Service Officer	Cheryl Kehler
Judge Advocate	Fred Crowley
Chaplain	Dennis Janson
Historian	David Puckett
Sergeant at Arms	Jim Brockway

An opportunity for nominations from the floor was offered and, there being



none, it was **MSC to elect the above slate.**

Commander Rike then appointed Jim Mawdesley to continue as Treasure and it was **MSC to confirm the appointment of Jim Mawdesley as Treasurer.**

- B. **Corazón de Niña:** The girls are to plant trees in the *Aurora* Playground this Friday. *Café Roma* is providing pizza. Everyone is welcome.

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

- A. **International Festival of Altruism (Festival Internacional de Altruismo):**
The annual event at the Marriott takes place on 4 May starting at 6 p.m. The entry is \$350 pesos, with food provided by high-end restaurants. There is also wine and tequila. Carla has tickets which are part of the Toys for Tots allocation.
- B. **Canadian Flag:** Jim Mawdesley said he would like to buy a Canadian flag to place in the Post. It was **MSC to approve the purchase of a Canadian flag.**
- C. **License Plates:** We need to order these. They usually come in bunches of 25. It was **MSC to purchase or have made here a supply of license plates.**
- IX. **Next Meetings:** The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, 1 May 2014, at Murphy's on the *Malecón*. The next Membership Meeting will take place at Steve's Bar at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 20 May 2014. The memorial service for Norm Deveraux will take place at Sea Monkey on Monday, 26 May 2014, at a time to be announced.
- X. **Adjournment:** Chaplain Janson gave the Benediction, and Dennis Rike closed the meeting at 12:37 a.m.

Respectfully,

/s/ Russ Mills, Adjutant
