

Minutes-Navy League Meeting-5 February 2008  
Puerto Vallarta Casa Magna Marriott Resort and Spa

The meeting was called to order by chapter President Jeff Miltenberger at 11:00 A.M.

Forty-six members and guests were in attendance.

A DVD of the Toys for Tots toy distribution activity produced by Dale Hansen was aired.

In attendance were five Charter Members of the Puerto Vallarta chapter: Warren and Joy Johnson, Ray McPherson, Bunny Ribbs and Lou and Stella Ruggiano.

Guests introduced included Captain Vincent DeLaurentis of the USCG High Endurance Cutter Hamilton, Salvador Flores from the local Club 4 x 4 and Otis Dinning from Virginia.

New members Daniel and Gabriella Russell were welcomed.

Captain DeLaurentis spoke to the group: the Captain assumed his fifth command, that of the USCG Hamilton, recently, in January 2008. He previously visited Puerto Vallarta with the USCG Steadfast and told us that in his opinion the Vallarta chapter conducts the best Community Relations (COMRELS) projects in the Navy League.

**Minutes:** It was noted by Sally Miltenberger that minor corrections to the January minutes were in-process.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jim Brophy read year-end highlights of both the Navy League and Toys for Tots financials-see attached report. The Toys for Tots balance is pending receipt of funds from the Scotia Bank contribution and from donations processed for us by Navy League headquarters. A motion to approve the report was made by Bunny Ribbs and seconded by Dale Hansen.

**Old Business:** Membership Chairman Norm Yellowlees reminded members that 2008 local chapter dues of 200 pesos are now due. The 2008 laminated membership cards are available from Norm.

Bill Clark and Warren Johnson discussed the January 24 arrival of the USCG Cutter Active. The ship transported one and one-half pallets of medical equipment from the Navy League Building 78 in San Diego to Puerto Vallarta. A ComRel project to pressure wash and seal the walls at Biblioteca Los Mangos was initiated by eighteen of the Active's crew under the direction of Bill Clark and Cal Leavitt.

On February 5, fifteen crew and Captain DeLaurentis of the USCG Hamilton were finishing the prep job at the biblioteca. Bill Clark indicated another ComRel was required to complete this painting project.

Subsequent ComRels will include Casa Hogar (an orphanage) and two small schools. Please advise Bill Clark and Cal Leavitt of other ComRel candidates. Various local chapters of Rotary have identified several ComRel projects for evaluation.

**Toys for Tots Vallarta:** Dusty Graham announced that recognition plaques for the many contributors to this year's events were available on the back table and encouraged members to assist in the distribution.

Members were requested to purchase #2 pencils for distribution to local schools next year-a bargain during "back-to school" sales in late summer.

El Colomo, Nayarit is under consideration as a future playground site. John Moore, Josefina Naya and Kelly Trainor have visited the proposed site, along with Jeff Miltenberger and Fred Piontkowski. The local Ejido council has approved dedication of the community land for the project. Next steps include a neighborhood commitment agreement to maintain the playground.

Jeff Miltenberger is working with Aleyda Bravo and DIF to develop a Commitment Document for neighborhood playground maintenance. It was noted that the La Aurora playground site needs raking and clean-up of broken glass, in addition to paint.

An audit of the Toys for Tots strategy was conducted by Desarrollo Humano. Bill Clark, Laura Joachin and Jeff Miltenberger participated in the audit.

**New Business:** Warren Johnson noted it was possible the USS Peleliu, a carrier, would be in Puerto Vallarta at the end of the month. A Toys for Tots fundraiser at the Marriott will be scheduled in addition to usual activities should the visit occur.

Next week a visit from the U.S. Coast Guard Attaché from Mexico City is expected.

The USS Eagle training ship will visit Mazatlan in May 2008. Puerto Vallarta may be visited in 2009. A new class Coast Guard cutter may visit next year as well.

It was suggested that Dr. Peter Gordon communicate with the Palm Springs chapter of Navy League to encourage more shipments of medical equipment to Building 78 and subsequent transport to Puerto Vallarta.

The new commander, Vicealmirante C. G. DEM Comdte. Armando García Rodríguez of Zona Naval VIII was formerly the Mexican Naval Attaché to France.

The former Commandante, Almirante Santiago Valdez, now heads up the entire region from his new position in Manzanillo.

The Damas Voluntarias Promotorias are sponsoring a Carnaval fiesta Saturday evening February 23 at the Club Naval. Proceeds of 400 pesos/person will benefit the naval hospital. Tickets may be obtained from our Social Chairman, Laura Joachin-call 221-2493 or email [laura\\_joachin@yahoo.com](mailto:laura_joachin@yahoo.com).

Laura Joachin announced future fundraisers to replenish our visiting Mariners' fund are under consideration.

**Publicity:** Peter Gray displayed a poster containing clippings of recent Navy League activities, including articles from Ambito. Dale Hansen and Bill Clark were thanked for the photos of ComRel projects. Peter is working with Bay Vallarta on future Navy League publicity.

**Other:** Carlos Fregoso announced this year's BECAS ball will be held on March 6. Buri Gray heads up the committee, which includes Angela LeBrun and Mariel Fregoso. Tickets are 850 pesos/person.

Bill Semeyn is circulating a petition to replace the "missing" statue honoring fallen sailors.

**Adjournment:** Bob Dhamer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Carlos Fregoso.

A second Dale Hansen Toys for Tots DVD was aired after adjournment.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 11:00 A.M. at the Marriott CasaMagna Puerto Vallarta Resort and Spa.