

Minutes of the October 2009 meeting of the Puerto Vallarta Navy League

The meeting came to order with Interim President Bill Clark officiating. Two guests were introduced namely, Andrew Robertson and Dennis Rike who presented his printout from National as having just joined the National Navy League. Andrew indicated he was on the same track. Welcome aboard.

MINUTES:

A motion was called for to accept the minutes from the September meeting as forwarded by email was requested and met by Judy Sorrell and Sydney Phillips seconding.

Treasurers Report:

It was reported that the Bank account stood at \$343,088.43 and a motion to accept the report as filed was answered by Jim DeVaney and Cal Leavitt seconding.

Old Business:

Toys for Tots:

- 1) Toys for Tots playground equipment is still in the charge of DIF and moves to establish proprietorship before the change in government is being pursued. There are apparently 8 pieces which constitutes a set of five and three extra pieces for a further playground.
- 2) Moves to contact past sponsors so as to establish who will appear on the poster and tickets (on a golf ball) entry level for this is a donation in cash or kind of \$50000. Pesos.
- 3) A volunteer to police and collect the ticket sales was requested as Robt. Bertrand who has carried this duty for the last two years asked to be relieved of this duty. Carol SMITH agreed to assume the task. Bravo Carol.

Comrel with USCGC Hamilton was carried out at AGAPE with 21 crew members and many Navy Leaguers mustering for the work which was considerable and consisted of clearing and moving a great deal of material, and demolishing a garage palapa and felling a tree that was a invitation to thieves to scale the high wall. Luis Espinoza, the director commented on how this work would help his budget by not having it impacted by an outside contractor.

It was noted by Dr. Irv Readerman that two sizeable ships were in port currently and the question was have we and should we be greeting these other foreign military ships. According to our mission statement we should indeed. Unfortunately we still suffer from either a short notice on arrivals or any notice at all. It was decided that we will be more

vigilant in the future and indeed greet any and all military or government ships of friendly nations.

Membership: It has been noted that the dues for National are now \$50./ year with discounts for prepaying still in force. (Visit www.navyleague.org) It was also pointed out that a required field is the postal or zip code and some Puerto Vallarta ones clash or are not accepted. When the drop down menu appears for states look for "other". Dennis Rike initially had a problem but managed to skate around it. It is imperative to enter Puerto Vallarta (Council ID **VALLRT**) in which council you are to be listed under.

Discount list for Navy League members.

Bill Semeyn reported on the progress of his committee to broaden and consolidate the discount list for navy league members as well as visiting sailors of friendly nations. A motion to expend up to \$3000. pesos for frames to hang in the co-operating businesses (50 for starters) was introduced and passed (introduced by Dennis Rike and seconded by Cal Leavitt) and the indication was that as of next week several members would be canvassing establishments around the bay with a determined plan to be outlined by weeks end when the material is ready. Any one friendly with owners of likely businesses please contact this writer (322-135-5506 or casanita@prodigy.net.mx) as we don't want to fumble anyone.

NEW BUSINESS:

Oktoberfest: a tentative date of November 11th was proposed however the social committee said they have planned a gourmet dinner at TRIOS for the 5th of November and that would conflict. (limit 48, contact Irv Readerman) I am now, as a result, considering a date of November 18th at 1900hr. at Hacienda Aleman. No buffet but excellent fare with wine and beer and to include the White Elephant Auction of course. Circle your calendar. No limit on numbers (bring friends....this is a fund raiser for the Mariners fund remember) plus lots of fun. Bring an article for the auction or donate to the Mariners fund at the door. Pay at the door \$350 pesos and it includes both wine and beer. Please call me at either 222-0018 (land line) or cel 322-135-5506. Cut off for reservations Nov. 16th.

Monthly meeting for the numerous committees of the Toys for Tots program where committees report their progress in each area are being held. The next scheduled one is Oct. 22. Several more volunteers are needed to flesh out these committees so come on out and at least sample the waters and find out what is going on.

Laura Joachim reported from the Social Committee that she would like to see more activities to involve members and she has a great idea she's working on to have a genuine Mexican Fiesta perhaps at the bull ring with Charros and a rodeo with Mexican food and of course traditional libation (read Tequila and Cerveza) Stay tuned for more info and dates.

A Navy League Brochure is in the works and will hopefully be ready to accompany the discount canvassers, or allow them to go back to non-co-operative candidates with

something to explain who and what we are. We will be offering them an opportunity to a decent market that they may not otherwise enjoy. The brochure will serve to explain to the many, who don't know who we are and what we do, as well as serve as a recruiting tool. Bravo for this long over due initiative (see accompanying excerpts as an interim guide)

Laura Joachim gave an explanation of our relationship with Desarrollos Humanos. This relationship has been going on for three years now and it has caught the attention of this group who initially were surprised at the foreign volunteers offering to promote, boost and help out the community. After getting over their surprise and seeing the genuine commitments already achieved over the 3 years of observation they are motivated to embrace us more readily. Indeed we may become the poster boy for joint initiatives, namely finding worthwhile COMREL projects (something we've not achieved quite as well as we might have wanted as evidenced by our returning repeatedly to the same haunts) This would of course be great. To further foster this relationship one member suggested that maybe a spokesperson from DH come to speak to us at a future meeting. Language could be an issue however we have many capable people to do running translations so why not? More to follow on this. This could become a very important issue in our evolution.

As the meeting was running late and Sue Fornoff was not present to give a report on Publicity the *Other reports and Open items* was deferred, a call for adjournment was made by Judy Sorrell and seconded by Joy Johnson.

Bill (Guillermo) Semeyn,

For new members and those that may not understand completely WHO we are as the Puerto Vallarta Navy League .

Excerpt(s)

Taken from the back of our Membership enrolment form authored by Norman Yellowlees:

The NAVY LEAGUE was founded by U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt in 1902 and today is the foremost organization representing all of the sea services. Our slogan "Citizens in Support of the Sea Services" represents our mission to serve, support and stand with the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine or all friendly nations. More than 300 councils currently operate in the U.S. and around the world, including four councils in Mexico . International Councils such as the Vallarta Council must adapt to local environments and circumstances, to find different way in which to support the Sea Services. In Puerto Vallarta we have focused on the following key activities:

- 1) GREET VISITING SHIPS - We welcome up to 15 naval ships (U.S. , Canadian and other friendly Sea Services each year, providing in port advice,

recreational activities, and PVNL sponsored social events. We are proud to be recognized by 3rd Fleet and Coast Guard as the friendliest and most popular port destination in Mexico .

2) SPONSOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS (COMREL) PROJECTS – Each visiting ship and crew is offered the opportunity to participate in a community project to enhance the image of the military among Mexican Citizens. These generally involve the painting of a school, orphanage, or other community facilities, and routine repair and maintenance work. Most ships find the time to generously devote a morning to such a worthwhile project.

3) ARRANGE TRANSPORT OF DONATED GOODS FROM THE U.S. – Ship are encouraged to pick up donated medical goods in San Diego prior to departure for Puerto Vallarta . These goods are distributed to needy local charities and institutions. We have our own warehouse on the Navy Base in San Diego , where we receive dedicated medical and educational donations from groups such as “Bridges Across Borders” in California . The NL Council in San Diego assists in the coordination of complicated logistical arrangements.

4) SPONSOR TOYS FOR TOTS- We sponsor the local Toys for Tots program operated worldwide by the U.S. Marine Corps. This program has been very successful and well received by the local community and this past year distributed more than 13000. Toys to needy kids in the area.

5) STUDENT MENTORING- Some of our member serve as mentors and advisors to National Honour Society students at the local American School

We are a group of men and women, including local citizens and retired ex-patriots from various walks of life and location throughout North America and around the world, who reside permanently or seasonally in Puerto Vallarta . The PNVL Council provides an opportunity to socialize as well as give back to the community. A prior military service is NOT a prerequisite to membership. General monthly meeting are convened the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1100hrs at the CASA MAGNA Marriott Resort and Spa, in the Marina area.

Annual membership dues are \$50 USD for the National fees plus \$20USD for the local Council fees. National dues can be paid on line at the U.S. Navy league website (www.navyleague.org) or locally at regular monthly meetings. Local dues are collected locally on a calendar year basis. Visit our local website at (www.vallartanavyleague.org)

Mission Statement of the Puerto Vallarta Navy League

- 1) To operate under the Objectives and statements of Policy of the NAVY LEAGUE of the United States .
- 2) To invite and welcome ships of all friendly Sea Services to Puerto Vallarta

- 3) To utilize the resources of the U.S. Navy and the Coast Guard and other government agencies, to support the Council projects for the benefit of the Puerto Vallarta community, such as transport of donated goods and COMREL projects.
- 4) To promote goodwill and joint projects with the Armada of Mexico
- 5) To support community projects, importantly including Toys for Tots and school mentoring
- 6) To sponsor social events for the membership.

Article written in 2005 and published in VALLARTA TODAY

(Visit of the FFG-46 RENTZ)

A surprise visit by the FFG-46 RENTZ which arrived in our port on Wednesday was a welcomed stop for the crew who has been deployed now for six months. The only thing to top a port call in Puerto Vallarta will be the next port which is their HOME PORT , San Diego .

Because of their 'slipping in' on a foggy morning *we* missed greeting the ship after it docked as is the custom. Who are we? We are the local Chapter of the NAVY LEAGUE which is an organization founded by President Teddy Roosevelt in New York in 1902. Today it is the foremost organization representing all of the sea services. Our Slogan "Citizens in Support of the Sea Services" represents our mission to serve, support and stand with the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and merchant marine of all friendly nations. More than 300 Councils such as the Vallarta council must adapt to the local environments and circumstances, in which to find different ways in which to support the Sea Services. In Puerto Vallarta our membership, which numbers close to 100 members, have focused on the following key activities:

- 1) Greeting of visiting ships - We welcome up to 15 naval ships (U.S. , Canadian and other friendly Sea Services) each year.
- 2) Sponsor community relations (COMREL) projects – Each visiting ship and crew is offered the opportunity to participate in a community project to enhance the image of the military among Mexican citizens.
- 3) Arrange transport of donated goods from the U.S. – Ships are encouraged to pick up donated medical goods in San Diego prior to departure for Puerto Vallarta .
- 4) Sponsor Toys for Tots- We sponsor the local Toys for Tots program operated worldwide by the U.S. Marine Corps.
- 5) Student Mentoring – Some of our members serve as mentors and advisors to the National Honor Society students at the local American School
- 6) To promote goodwill and joint projects with the Armada of Mexico.

All of our thoughts of course are with JEFF dealing with his grief over the loss of SALLY a stalwart of the NAVY LEAGUE. God Bless her and him also.

Echoing the membership as a whole I'm sure.