

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART  
DENTON, TEXAS  
OCTOBER 12, 2013**

The Executive Committee Meeting of the Department of Texas, Military Order of the Purple Heart was held at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 1434 Centre Place Drive, Denton, Texas, on Saturday, October 12, 2013. The meeting convened at 8:00 am. Commander Tony Roman presided.

After opening joint ceremonies with the LAMOPH, Adjutant Crumlett, called the role of elected Department officers and Chapters present. Present for the meeting were Commander Roman, Sr. Vice Commander Gil Brown, Jr. Vice Commander Richard Whitehead, Finance Officer Bill Bacon and Sergeant at Arms Octavio Laquna.

Chapters with representatives present were:

544 Harlingen  
553 Amarillo  
723 Katy  
768 Denton  
814 Kerrville  
900 Lubbock  
1513 Grapevine  
1836 San Antonio  
1849 Ft. Worth  
1867 Cleburne  
1876 Harker Heights  
1919 Austin  
1952 Nacogdoches  
1991 Beaumont  
4077 Waco  
5077 McAllen

On the basis of this attendance the Adjutant called for a quorum to conduct the business of the Department.

Commander Roman welcomed new Chapters 900, 1513 and 544 to the Department and made brief opening comments.

Adjutant Crumlett distributed copies of the meeting agenda, copies of the Department Officers roster and a roster of the Chapter commanders and Adjutants, and made a report on the annual Convention held in San Antonio on June 12-15, 2013. A copy of each report is attached to these minutes.

Finance Officer Bacon delivered a report on the 2013 Year to Date Finances and Budget of the Department and distributed written copies of the report to those present. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Bacon said it has been a difficult year. We have operated without an audit and the records were in disarray when he became Finance Officer in June. Because six chapters did not turn in their Life Membership Report, the amount of LM rebate we will receive will be diminished by 500 members and other Departments will therefore benefit. The Department has only two sources of funds, 1/2 of the LM rebate and 15% of SWR funds awarded to the Department. We have two accounts, the General Account and the SWR account plus a savings account of \$7,936.10, all with Wells Fargo. The savings account is primary funds that were donated for the IH-35 Purple Heart Trail but were not used. He proposed those funds be placed in the General account. A motion was made by Bud Nettles and seconded by John Murdock to transfer these funds to the General account. **The motion was passed by acclamation.**

Bacon would like to make the Finance Officer position one which is pro-active in raising funds rather than just a bookkeeper. He asked whether the EC would support a \$1 or \$2 charge per member per year to help fund Department activities. He mentioned the fishing tournament and the 5k Ranger run as forthcoming fund raising activities.

The Wounded Warrior Project continues to draw attention. This should not be confused with the Wounded Warrior Programs of the DOD. The Wounded Warrior Project is a private fund raising activity which has been very successful in raising funds. Wounded warrior does not mean combat wounded. Their management earns 6-figure salaries and take 35% of donations for administration. Many in the MOPH feel they are taking advantage of "combat" wounded soldiers to raise funds where there is little accountability and high overhead costs.

The Department needs a logo which can be used across the State to raise visibility and give us a "brand." Bacon distributed a draft copy of a logo which after some discussion and minor changes was recommended to be adopted by the Department. A motion was made by Felix Garcia and seconded by John Murdock to accept the proposed logo for the Department. **The motion passed by acclamation.** A copy of the logo is attached to these minutes. The logo needs to be registered.

**A motion was made and passed to accept the Finance Report as presented.** It was seconded and passed by acclamation. The Finance report is the most comprehensive and best organized report received for a long time and Finance Officer Bacon is to be complimented.

SVC Gil Brown reported the Department had a total of 3,651 Life Members and 118 Associate members for a total of 3,769. We have added two new chapters this year and one which was re-designated. We have 104 members-at-large which we should try to get into a chapter.

Fred Rosenbaum provided 20 cases of used casino playing cards for distribution among the other chapters in the State. The cards are given to veteran's homes and VA facilities.

The Department Memorial trailer was discussed. Expenses have been submitted to the Department but do not have the necessary receipts or invoices to support payment. The Commander led a discussion on how the Department should handle the trailer in the future. The trailer has been accepted in some locations such as Ft. Hood and Nacogdoches with great interest and rave reviews and in other locations with little interest. We must have standard procedures for the trailer so that the Department can control expenses. Should the display be placed in a permanent location? **A motion was made and passed to table further discussion until the Annual Convention in June 2014.**

Crumlett said he has worked on the DOT Bylaws but the different version of Word software used to prepare and amend the document over the years made it a very difficult document with which to work. **After some discussion a motion was made and passed to establish a committee to review and recommend changes to The DOT Bylaws by May 1, 2014.** The committee will consist of Virgil Aldag, Bill Bacon, Gil Brown, Earl Williams and Bill Crumlett.

Crumlett said the MOPHTX.com web site is up and operating. The site is on BlueHost, Inc. hosting at a cost of \$259.39 per year. Don Moore is the web master. Please send any item that you want posted to Bill Crumlett. We will add Facebook and Twitter to the site. If a Chapter has its own web site, send Bill the web address. No political material will be accepted.

Chapter 900 Commander John Murdock covered the Saluting Purple Heart Heroes event planned for Nov. 8-9 in Lubbock. There has been great interest by PH recipients and over 800 have now registered from many different states. It should be a wonderful event.

Crumlett presented a program and distributed literature describing an event organized by Operations Comfort in San Antonio which is raising funds to take Vietnam veterans and disabled soldiers from Afghanistan and Iraq back to Vietnam in the spring of 2014. **After some discussion a motion for a resolution was made and passed:** *The Department of Texas, Military Order of the Purple Heart, hereby*

*resolves to support Operation Comfort and the Vietnam Veteran Honor Ride-Ride Vietnam 2014 by encouraging donations and participation by the National MOPH, the Department, all Texas Chapters and by individual members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in the furtherance of this worthy program.."*

Bacon asked that the EC work with local officials to have towns, cities and counties designated as "Purple Heart" entities. He noted that Georgetown was the first to pass an ordinance designating that city as a "Purple Heart City" and that Kerrville was the second. Kerr County will be the first "Purple Heart County."

Bacon made a presentation and distributed a handout on requesting Service, Welfare and Rehabilitation (SWR) Grants from the PH Service Foundation. A copy is attached to these minutes. Because of mismanagement of the program, the Dept. of Texas has forgone \$80,000 in grants for the past two years. This is a travesty and should never be repeated. These funds are meant to help veterans in Texas and we are not doing our job if this money is not used in a proper manner. We are the largest department in the Nation and should be setting the example. The funds are not to be spent on an individual and original receipts are mandatory to support funds spent. This is a "use or lose" program. We receive \$20,000 at the beginning of the year and receive another \$20,000 when that has been spent.

Several Chapter Commanders then made reports on their activities.

Bacon asked for the return of the Department displays which had been loaned to members.

Commander Roman adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm. The LAMOPH then held a raffle.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Crumlett, Adjutant  
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Attachments:

Meeting Agenda  
List of Department Officers  
List of Department Chapter Commanders & Adjutants  
Report on 2013 Annual Convention  
Department of Texas 2013 year-to-date Finances and Budget  
Draft of proposed Department Logo  
Presentation on Service, Welfare and Rehabilitation (SWR) Grants