

**DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS  
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART  
MINUTES OF THE MID-YEAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
16-17 OCTOBER, 2015**

The Department of Texas, Military Order of the Purple Heart, held its 2015 Mid-Year Executive Committee Meeting at Shilo Inn & Suites in Killeen, Texas on October 16-17, 2015. Central Texas Chapter 1876 was host. Department Commander Felix Garcia presided.

The Finance Committee met at 4:00 pm to conduct a mini-audit of Department Financial records. Department Inspector John Footman conducted audits of Chapter finance records of those chapters who had brought their records to the meeting both on the 16th and 17th.

The general meeting of the EC meeting began at 8:30 am on the 17th. After opening ceremonies, ex-mayor of Harker Heights and Purple Heart recipient, Ed Mullen, gave brief welcoming comments to Purple Heart and Auxiliary attendees, after which the Auxiliary departed to begin their own meeting.

Adjutant Crumlett called the roll of officers and Chapters present. Officers present included: Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Judge Advocate, Inspector, Sergeant-At-Arms, Welfare Officer, Chief of Staff-North, VAVS Officer, and Chair of the National Convention Committee. Twelve Chapters were represented.

The following Patriots attended the Mid Year Conference in Killeen on 17 October 2015.

John Lunkwicz Chapter 1513	Homer Garza 1876
Lisa Homes Chapter 1513	Fred Rey 1876
Robert Galpin Chapter 1513	Marty Martinez 1876
Fred Cook Chapter 612	Rodney Ford 1876
David Johnson Chapter 612	Earl Williams 1876
Frank Slater Chapter 612	John Footman 1876
Peter Rosie Chapter 1836	William McMaster Chapter 542
Lorenzo Rodriguez Chapter 1836	Manuel Nelson Chapter 4077
Bill Crumlett Chapter 1836	Rocky Hernandez Chapter 1876
Waymon Faulker Chapter 1849	Jack Palmer Chapter 1876
Richard Whitehead Chapter 1849	Ted Biggin Chapter 1876
Don Wilson Chapter 1849	Lazaro Camarillo Chapter 3077
Jason Dameron Chapter 1919	AJ Garcia Chapter 1544*
Felix Garcia Chapter 723	
James Gully Chapter 723	
Walker Ivey Chapter 740	
Gustav Wittschack Chapter 768	
Martin Garcia Chapter 3077	

\*1544 is a newly re-organized chapter.

Crumlett ask for a motion to approve those assembled as constituting a quorum for conduction the business of the Department. **A motion was made and passed by voice vote approving this motion.**

Commander Garcia began the meeting by explaining the disposition of SWR funds received during 2015. Because the Department was not able to turn in all receipts for all SWR funds received in 2014 in a timely manner, the Department did not receive its share of SWR funds until after the Department convention in June. We should have received the funds in January. We had less than one week to spend the funds received of \$22,283 (less 15%). Garcia made the decision to allocate the funds to the Dallas, Houston and San Antonio Chapters to be donated to the VA facilities in those cities. He did this with expectation of receiving the second installment of SWR funds after the National convention in August. However, he was informed by PH Service Foundation President Roy there would be no further SWR funds in 2015 because of a decline in the value of the SF investments. Garcia said he did not make the decision to go to the three chapters because he felt their need was greater, he only did it because there was not time to use the normal process where Chapters submit requests for SWR funds. The greatest lesson of this experience is that all use of SWR funds must be immediately followed by receipt covering the expenditure be sent to the Finance Officer. Although no vote was taken, it was the consensus of those present that chapters who do not turn in receipts in a timely manner be disqualified from receiving further SWR funds.

Garcia said he has been in communication with the widow of Michael Boyette, the sculptor who designed the PH monument approved at the Annual Convention in Nacogdoches in 2014. He handed out a memo summarizing the costs of the monument (attached). There followed much discussion about the approved monument. Garcia said only \$1,600 has been raised to-date and we do not have a location yet or an estimate of the cost to prepare a location and erect the base. Jon Lundwicz made a motion that the project be discontinued. The motion was seconded by John Footman. The Commander asked for a show of hands on the motion on the floor. Twenty (20) patriots voted to discontinue the project and six (6) voted against the motion. **The motion passed.**

Bill McMasters gave a status report on the 2017 PH National Convention to be held in August at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. Everything is progressing well. Bill listed the activities that he and his committee have already contracted with. Bill asked for volunteers to staff a publicity subcommittee to help sell advertisement for the Convention program. Jon Lunwicz, Bill Crumlett, Felix Garcia, Bill McMasters, Wayman Faulkner, Don Wilson, and Lazaro Camirillo volunteered. He will also need volunteers from across the State during the Convention. They are in the process of designing a uniform for volunteers.

Garcia gave a report on the status of Texas chapters and then asked for a report from officer. He said that we have five chapters at risk:

544 in Harlingen ( which is in the process of being reorganized as Chapter 1544.)

598 in Corpus Christi which has not filed necessary reports.

768 in Denton which has made the decision to close due to lack of participation.

911 in Houston which has not filed necessary reports and has lost its non-profit status.

1952 in Nacogdoches which has made the decision to close due to lack of participation.

He is working to try to resurrect the 598 and 911 but it will take continuing effort.

Crumlett said he is receiving no input from members on their activities for posting on the web site, for example, the new PH cities. Please keep him updated. There are four reports required of each chapter each year. Although these requirements have not changed recently he continues to receive questions. He has prepared a handout and will send it to any member who wishes it. He is not receiving changes in officers. These changes need to go to National and to the Department Adjutant.

Welfare Officer Rosie encouraged members to participate in the VA volunteer program. Members can sign up through VA Volunteer Services. It is necessary to go through the National VAWS Officer Bulldog Turner to become a certified VAWS officer that the VA will recognize.

Commander Garcia reintroduced for discussion a topic he had first brought up at the annual Convention in June. He asked for a motion for the Chapters to remit \$1.50 per Patriot of the LM rebate they receive each year to the Department for the purpose of providing seed money for fund-raising efforts and to provide assistance to struggling chapters. A motion was made by James Gulley and seconded by Don Wilson. Considerable discussion followed. Several members noted they would like to discuss with their chapters before approving such a motion. It was noted that the members have not received a copy of the Department finance report and do not know the status of Dept. finances. A motion was made and seconded to amend the original motion to limit the remittance to the Department to 10% of the life-member rebate. **The motion to amend was approved.** A second vote was taken to approve the amended motion. **The amended motion to remit 10% of life-member rebates each year to the Department was approved.**

Several Chapters gave reports on their activities. Two of the most noteworthy were the recent success in obtaining the Texas Ranger baseball team as a Proud Supporter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart by Chapter 1513 and the current efforts underway to get Texas listed as a Purple Heart State by Chapter 1876.

The Commander agreed to have a report on the activities/use of the Memorial Wall each meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Crumlett, Adjutant