**Zoom conference call with MOPH National Commander Felix Garcia, 28 July 2020, 11:00 am**

**Tony Roman, Bob Dillon, Luis Reyna and Bill Crumlett participated in a Zoom meeting with Felix Garcia.**

Felix gave us a report on the situation at National Headquarters. A summary of that report follows:

* The MOPH National Service Office is suspended for three years after discussion with VA Secretary Wilkins. Due to lack of funding from the MOPHSF the NSOs have all been suspended and can no longer provide the service to veterans in applying for VA claims. Veterans are not being represented and the power-of-attorney of claimants must be transferred to other organizations. The NSOs must still be responsible for appeals.
* Funding from the SF went from $500,000 per month to $50,000 and is now at $5,000 per month which does not allow us to maintain any headquarter staff.
* We will have a virtual National Convention 23-25 September. Attendees must register for the convention. There is no cost for the convention.
* They are requesting a loan from the Life Membership fund of $1.5 million to operate the Order over the next three years.
* National is behind 8 months in processing membership applications. It takes about one hour to process each application.
* The link between the National web site and the membership rosters is not available/working , however, a roster may be requested through the Commander.
* National has paid for the liability insurance that covers chapter commander, finance officer and adjutant.
* There does not appear to be anyway forward for the MOPH and SF to work together and the Order plans to form a new 501(c)(3) fundraising organization entitled Military Order of the Badge of Military Merit – which is the original name of the Purple Heart
* We can continue to use the Purple Heart logo in all fundraising activities. This logo is copywrite and belongs to the Order.



* We (Chapter)may want to consider setting up a separate 501(c)(3) organization which cannot be accessed by an outside authority.