



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: Mar 18, 2024

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM at Bridge Church.

Opening Ceremony: Honors rendered to the Flag. Pledge recited & Invocation was given.

Roll Call: Present was Cdr Dyer; Jr Vice-Cdr Grand, Adjutant Moore; Finance Officer Zimmerman; Chaplain Lemon; Trustee Lohman; Trustee Bertagnoli & Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert. Excused was Sr Vice-Cdr. Perkins. There was a quorum present.

Attendance: Eight members of the chapter were present.

New Members: none

Guests: None

Reports:

Minutes: Minutes for the January meeting were available and previously emailed out. Patriot Bertagnoli moved the minutes to be placed into the record. No discussion & Patriot Gilbert made the 2nd to the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. See January minutes.

Finance Report: Finance Officer provided the finance reports and bank statements for January and February. The beginning balance was \$62,719.57 & the ending balance was \$54,710.32. The finance officer highlighted deposits and expenses. Patriot Grand moved the Finance reports to be placed into the record. No discussion and Patriot Bertagnoli made the 2nd. The motion passed unanimously. See the finance reports.

Americanism: - The 4 Chaplains ceremony in February went well. Patriot Moore and Patriot Grand made remarks. Patriots Grand, Patriot Phipps & Patriot Moore placed a wreath.

- Patriot Moore handed out the schedule for ROTC presentations and gave the medal & certificate to the presenters scheduled to present before the next meeting.

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans Report: Stand-down was held on March 13th & 14th. No after-action report yet.

Tucson VAC: Minutes emailed out.

Commander's Report: Cdr's call notes mailed out. Next Cdr's call is March 27th by Zoom. Any member can attend. The Department Convention has been moved to May 11th. Still in Williams, AZ.

Old Business:

Bingo: Patriot Bertagnoli stated Bingo was going OK. Next bingo is Mar 30th. Bingo will need to purchase prizes in the summer. Patriot Moore indicated we had \$500 in the budget for Bingo.

Patriot of the Year: Patriot Mike Dyer was honored as the Chapter Patriot of the Year. Vice-commander John Grand presented the Patriot of the Year certificate to Mike. Mike has also been nominated as the Department of Arizona Patriot of the Year.

Patriot Thompson's Funeral: Honor Johnny by attending his funeral on Mar 22nd at the Marana Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

New Business:

Expenditures: No expenditures were approved by the officers by email since the last meeting.

Trustee Audit: Reminder that the semi-annual trustee audit is to be completed in April. Trustees, Adjutant, & Finance Office will audit the books at 16:30 prior to the April meeting.

Vietnam War Veterans Day: Names of the 107 Pima Country Vietnam fallen will be placed on a plaque at Kino Memorial Park. The chapter will place a wreath during the ceremony on March 29th at 10:00 AM. More information to follow.

Memorial Day Marana Veterans Cemetery: Help place flags on the 4,400 graves prior to Memorial Day. More information to follow.

Memorial Day at Eastlawn & SouthLawn: Place wreaths during ceremonies. More information to follow.

MIA Burial at Marana Veterans Cemetery: The recovered remains of a WWII MIA, TSGT Seifreid, will be buried on April 19th at 12:00 noon.

Budget: Think about items for the annual budget for the next fiscal year. We will go over a draft budget at the April meeting and vote on it at the May meeting.

Jim Click Raffle: Patriot Bertangoli explained how the raffle works and after discussion he will obtain tickets for the chapter to sell. There is no cost to the chapter to participate. Proceeds from ticket sales go to the chapter.

Chapter Elections: Nominees for officer were for Cdr – Mike Dyer; Vice Cdr – Richard Perkins; Vice Cdr – Cody Phipps; Sgt-at-Arms – Roger Gilbert; Finance Officer – Jim Zimmerman; Trustee – Dave Bertagnoli; & Trustee Fred Lohman. There were no other nominations for any of the officer positions. Each officer was elected unanimously by the members in attendance.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the commander.

Meeting Reconvened: The meeting was called to order. The officers were sworn in by the Department Junior Vice Commander, John Moore. The commander appointed Patriot Moore as adjutant and Patriot Lemon as Chaplain.

Pima College Veteran: Student veteran needs a part for his scooter to get to school and work. Patriot Dyer told him we don't provide cash and that we could order the part and pay for it. Should be less than \$400 dollars. Patriot Dyer will provide cost and details at the next meeting for approval.

Good of Order: Patriot Dyer discussed concerns with the responsiveness of our District 6 Congressman regarding veterans' issues. Patriot Lemon will contact the congressman's office to see if a meeting can be arranged. More information to follow.

Closing Ceremony: Moment of silence for departed Patriots. The Benediction was given, and the chapter rendered Honors to the Flag.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM. The next meeting will be on April 15th.