



## **MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART**

**FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442**

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### **MINUTES: Nov 20, 2023**

**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; Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert; & Chaplain Lemon. Excused was Cdr Dyer, Sr Vice-Cdr. Perkins, Trustee Bertagnoli, & Trustee Lohman. There was a quorum present.

**Attendance:** Seven members of the chapter were present.

**Guests:** Bernadette Poly – Spoke on Quilts of Valor presentation for the December meeting.

Alissa McKaig and Rafael Rojas from Pima College thanked the chapter for our support of veteran students and briefly talked about veteran services at PCC. Alissa is the new director of veteran services. She is retired Army and was a Blackhawk pilot.

**New Members:** None

### **Reports:**

**Minutes:** Minutes for the Oct meeting were available and previously emailed out. Patriot Grand moved the minutes to be placed into the record. No discussion & Patriot Zimmerman made the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. See October minutes.

**Finance Report:** Finance Officer provided the finance reports for October. The beginning balance was \$57,408.28 & the ending balance was \$56,859.25. The finance officer highlighted deposits and expenses for the last month. Patriot Moore moved the Finance reports to be placed into the record. No discussion and Patriot Gilbert made the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion passed unanimously. See the September finance report.

**Americanism:** - Adjutant reminded the chapter that we still needed to present the ROTC award to the Air Force ROTC at the UofA. Cpt Renner has scheduled November 28<sup>th</sup> as the presentation date. Patriot Riley & Patriot Bertagnoli will present. The adjutant gave Patriot Bertagnoli the medal and the certificate.

**Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans Report:** No report. Meetings are in person now with a zoom option.

**Commander's Report:** No report on department cdr's call, chapter not able to have a member in attendance. Nov 22 is the next Department cdr's call.

### **Old Business:**

**Bingo:** The chapter will host bingo at the VA Hospital on Nov 25th. Volunteers to help are needed. Contact Patriot Bertagnoli if you can help.

**Mount Lemon Hotel:** Patriot Moore will contact Justin about donated days for our members.

**MIAP:** Patriot Grand and Patriot Bertagnoli attended the ceremony at the Marana Veterans Cemetery.

**Charles Skuhr Golf Tournament:** The chapter will get \$1000.00 of the proceeds and \$8,982.50 was raised for the HEM/ONC wing at the VA Hospital. The bill for golf fees will be \$4,850.10.

**Website:** The new website is up and running. Looks very nice. Easier to use than the old one. No cost to the chapter since it is on the Department server.

**Department Challenge Coins:** The coins are available from the adjutant for \$20 each. The chapter makes \$10 on each coin sold.

**Veterans Day Parade:** Patriots Moore, Grand, Bertagnoli, Zimmerman & Phipps participated in the parade. The parade was well attended by the community. The parade is not organized by the American Legion any longer a new 501 (c) 3 has been formed and runs the parade.

**School talks:** Patriot Moore and Patriot Bertagnoli gave a veteran's day talk at Innovation Academy Elementary in Oro Valley. The class was well behaved and asked good questions.

**Hoppy Vine Event:** Patriots Moore, Phipps, and Grand attended the event at the craft brewery in Oro Valley. Presented the owner with a certificate to honor her father who received 3 Purple Hearts. She wants to work with the chapter on raising funds for veteran issues.

**Wreaths Across America:** Reminder that Dec 16 is Wreaths Across America at 10:00AM at Evergreen, East Lawn, South Lawn, and Marana Veterans Cemetery. Let us know the cemetery and hours if you help place wreaths on veterans' graves.

**Meeting Location:** Patriot Dyer made a motion to have Bridge Church as our permanent meeting location. Patriot Moore made the 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was discussion on moving back to the State Veterans' Home. There have not been enough inquiries about the meeting location. Motion passed unanimously.

**TROT:** Tabled from Oct. TROT is a good organization and does good work with veterans with disabilities and PTSD. The membership felt that our limited funds should be prioritized to veterans with specific needs such as rent, utilities, etc. No motion was made to donate to TROT.

**Pima College Student Assistance:** Originally the officers approved by email \$2000 for 10 \$200 gift cards to help the 10 students through the holidays with utilities/rent/etc. One additional student was added needing assistance and the fees for purchasing the cards were not included. Patriot Moore made a motion to amend the email motion from \$2,000 to \$2483.40 to cover the additional student and the card fees. No discussion and Patriot Lohman made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **New Business:**

**Expenditures:** One expenditure to assist 11 Pima College student veterans was approved by the officers however the amount has changed, and a new motion was made and approved tonight for that expenditure.

**Trustee Audit:** The semi-annual audit by the trustees was held prior to the meeting. No major problems were found. One warrant had not been voided when the check in the finance book had been voided.

**Business Cards:** Adjutant will order business cards for Patriot Lohman, Patriot Lemon, and Patriot Grand.

**Recruiting Letter:** Patriot Bertagnoli will work on a recruitment letter for the chapter. Send him your ideas to include in the letter.

**Life Membership Rebate:** Will be about \$471 dollars and should be deposited to our account in November.

**Christmas at the State Veterans' Home:** Dec 1 we need some members to help move the gift bags at Bridge Church to Patriot Bertagnoli's home. On Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 we will need members to move them to the State Veterans' Home. We need members to help pass them out to the residents at the home at 1:00PM.

**Chapter Elections:** Elections will be held at the March meeting. Let us know if you are interested in a position.

#### **Good of Order:**

**Closing Ceremony:** Moment of silence for departed Patriots. Chaplain Lemon gave the Benediction and the chapter rendered Honors to the Flag.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM. Next meeting is December 18th.