



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

**FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442**

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### **MINUTES: Sep 18, 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; Adjutant Moore; Finance Officer Zimmerman; Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert; Trustee Bertagnoli; Chaplain Lemon & Trustee Lohman. Excused was Sr Vice-Cdr. Perkins, Jr-Vice Grand, & Trustee Lohman. There was a quorum present.

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

**Guests:** Bruce Grissom from the University of Arizona & Bernadette Polly from Quilts of Valor

- **Mr. Bruce Grissom, Director of Veterans Education & Transition Services at the UofA** highlighted the services and programs provided to the 5,500 veterans and military students at the university. The Arizona Tuition Waiver program provides eligible Purple Heart recipients with a tuition-free education (up to a Bachelor's degree) at the university. Eligibility is a current member of the Arizona National Guard who received a Purple Heart Citation after 09/11/01. Or a person who is a former member of the United States Armed Forces who received a Purple Heart AND was an Arizona resident or stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the Purple Heart AND has a VA disability rating of 50% or more.
- **Bernadette Polly** updated the chapter on the Quilts of Valor program. Her group is temporarily short of quilters and won't be able to award quilts until at least January.

**New Members:** None

### **Reports:**

**Minutes:** Minutes for the May meeting were available and also previously emailed out. Patriot Gilbert moved the minutes to be placed into the record. Patriot Thompson made the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. See May minutes.

**Finance Report:** Finance Officer provided the finance reports for April. The beginning balance was \$60,691.02 & the ending balance was \$58,503.87. The finance officer highlighted deposits and expenses for the last 3 months. Patriot Gilbert moved the Finance reports to be placed into the record. No discussion and Patriot Lemon made the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion passed unanimously. See May, June, July, & August finance reports.

**Americanism:** - Adjutant reminded the chapter that we still needed to present the ROTC award to the Air Force ROTC at the UofA. Cpt Renner is checking on a presentation date and will get back to us. Patriot Riley or Patriot Bertagnoli will present.

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

**Commander's Report:** The department Jr. Vice-Cdr. covered the highlights from the Department Cdr.'s Call. National has enough funds to pay chapters a Life Membership Rebate this year. Department Challenge coins have been ordered and will be available at the October meeting at \$20 ea. The chapter will make \$10 per coin. The Tiny Home Casitas project groundbreaking has been delayed until Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. The department needs an Americanism Officer. Patriot Bob Metzger has resigned from the position. The American Dream

Program is a good way for the chapters to get some funding. The chapter gets \$25 for each person who signs up. Info is on the department website.

#### **Old Business:**

**Bingo:** The chapter will host bingo at the VA Hospital on Oct 23. Volunteers to help are needed. Contact Patriot Bertagnoli if you can help.

**Meta Facebook Portals:** We still need ideas on how to use these. Patriot Moore has one and Patriot Grand has the other. They are for use by veterans and can-do zoom, messaging, texting, and web browsing but are not a full computer.

**PH Day:** The chapter visited the Veterans Home and honored the 4 PH recipients in the home. One was in hospice and did not attend. Patriot Moore presented the home with a \$500 check for resident welfare. Each PH recipient received a PH Hat, PH cup, PH coin, and a certificate of appreciation.

#### **New Business:**

**Expenditures:** The officers approved \$1,913 in assistance requests over the summer. Patriot Moore listed the requests for the members. Patriot Bertagnoli moved we place the expenditure in the record. No discussion and Patriot Gilbert made the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion passed unanimously. See Warrant Log.

**MIAP Mission:** Remains of 20 homeless/unclaimed veterans will be interred on Oct 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the AZ State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marana.

**Website:** The chapter website has been taken down since it is no longer free. The adjutant is looking for a new web host. The chapter has space on the Department website with a chapter address that the website will move to. In the meantime, Facebook is the best place to keep up with chapter activities.

**Meeting Location:** Several members have indicated they would attend meetings if the site was back at the VA home. A discussion was held. There was not a consensus to change the site at this time and the item was tabled until October's meeting.

**Annual reports:** Americanism, Welfare, Finance, Property and Election reports are turned in. Life membership verification is due on 1 Oct.

**Trustee Audit:** The semi-annual audit by the trustees will be at 4:30 PM prior to the October meeting.

**Good of Order:** Patriot Moore shared a thank you letter for a veteran we had helped recently. Also, flyers were available from TROT and Boulder Quest on their programs to help veterans. Cdr. Dyer asked that TROT be placed on the Oct. agenda.

**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 Oct 16th.