



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: December 16, 2024

Call to Order: Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM at Bridge Church.

Opening Ceremony: Honors rendered to the Flag. The pledge recited by the membership & the Invocation was given by Chaplain Lemon.

Roll Call: Present were Adjutant Moore; Finance Officer Zimmerman; Chaplain Lemon; Trustee Bertagnoli, Trustee Lohman; Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert; & Suicide Prevention Officer Grand. Excused was Cdr. Dyer; Sr Vice-Cdr Phipps; & Finance Officer Zimmerman; Absent was Sr Vice-Cdr. Perkins. There was a quorum present. Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert chaired the meeting.

Attendance: six members of the chapter were present.

New Members: none

Guests: none

Reports:

Minutes: Minutes for the November meeting were available and previously emailed out. Patriot Bertagnoli moved to place the minutes into the record. Patriot Grand made the second to the motion & no discussion. The membership unanimously approved the minutes. See November minutes.

Finance Report: Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert tabled the Finance Report until the next meeting. Patriot Zimmerman is out of town. He will mail the finance report out next week.

Americanism: - Reminder that Patriot Moore will schedule the JROTC/ROTC award presentations starting next month for the spring presentations.

Tucson Veteran Affairs Council: Patriot Moore mailed the TVAC Minutes out.

Commander's Report: No meeting for December. Meetings are now quarterly instead of monthly. The Department has a \$10,000.00 donation specifically to help veterans in need (rent, utilities, etc.). Ask the Department for assistance and give names.

Old Business:

Bingo: Bingo is December 28th at the VA Hospital. If you can help, meet Patriot Bertagnoli at 1:30 at bldg. 60.

Host Department Convention: Cdr. Dyer informed the department we cannot host the convention.

Veteran Empowerment Plan: Patriot Phipps has published a draft plan. Items in the draft in yellow need flushed out. Patriot Moore added a resources section. Tabled for approval at the next meeting.

Monthly Breakfast/Lunch: Patriot Phipps has suggested the 3rd Wednesday at noon. Need to agree on a date. Tabled until next meeting.

Christmas at the Veterans Home: December 23rd pick up gift bags at Bridge Church at 10:30 and deliver them to the Home. Will need several SUVs/Trucks. 1:00pm is the visit with the residents and gift bag pass out.

New Business:

Expenditure: No expenditures by email vote of the board.

Free Hunting and Fishing Trips: A non-profit is donation 4 slots in a Javelina Hunt in February and 4 slots in a fishing trip to San Carlos Mexico in June. Adjutant Moore will email the membership.

Golf Tourney Check Presentation: Check presentation will be Jan 8th at the VA at 12:00 noon. Patriots Grand and Bertagnoli will make the presentation.

Four Chaplains: The ceremony is at 1:00pm on Feb 2nd. We need two members to present the wreath and one member to read the bio of one of the Chaplains and one member to give remarks about the purple heart. Patriot Grand will read the bio and Patriot Moore the PH remarks.

Patriot of the Year. The membership discussed Patriots Gilbert and Patriot Phipps as nominees. Patriot Moore will notify the commander, and he will decide.

Nominations for Officer Positions (nominations are open until March):

- Commander – Cody Phipps
- Sr Vice Commander – Dave Bertagnoli
- Jr Vice Commander –
- Finance Officer – Jim Zimmerman
- Sgt-at-Arms – Roger Gilbert
- Trustee yr 2 – Fred Lohman
- Trustee yr 1 –
- Adjutant – John Moore will serve if appointed by the new commander.
- Chaplain – Danny Lemon will serve if appointed by the new commander.
- Veteran Empowerment – John Grand will serve if appointed by the new commander.

The Good of Order: None

Closing Ceremony: Moment of silence for departed Patriots. Chaplain Lemon gave Benediction. Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert led the chapter in rendering Honors to the Flag.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM. The next meeting will be on Jan 20th.