



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: Feb 17, 2025

Call to Order: Jr Vice-Cdr Phipps 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 Vice Commander Phipps, Adjutant Moore; Finance Officer Zimmerman; Chaplain Lemon; Trustee Bertagnoli, Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert; & Suicide Prevention Officer Grand. Excused was Cdr. Dyer & Trustee Lohman. Absent 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 December meeting are available and previously emailed out. Patriot Gilbert moved to place the minutes into the record. There was no discussion. Patriot Bertagnoli made the second to the motion. The membership unanimously approved the minutes. See December minutes.

Finance Report: Patriot Zimmerman over the January finance report. The beginning balance was \$70,425.48 and ending balance was \$53,395.80. Patriot Zimmerman summarized the report and highlighted the outgoing expenses. There was not any income in January except for interest on the account. Patriot Bertagnoli made a motion to approve the report. There was no discussion and Patriot Grand made the second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously. See the January finance report.

Americanism: - Patriot Moore has contacted our 13 JROTC/ROTC schools for award presentation dates.

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

VA Director's Report: Patriot Moore mailed the report to the membership.

Commander's Report: 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. The next commander's call is on March 26th by Zoom. Any member can attend. Patriot Moore has Zoom log-in info if interested.

Old Business:

Bingo: Bingo is Mar 29th at the VA Hospital. If you can help, meet Patriot Bertagnoli at 1:30 at bldg. 60.

Veteran Empowerment Plan: The membership approved of the Veteran Empowerment Plan. Patriot Moore made a motion to approve the plan. There was a discussion on the monthly lunch. 12:00 none on the 3rd Wed was the recommended date. Patriot Gilbert made second. Patriot Moore will email the final copy out.

4 Chaplains: The ceremony went well. The chapter was well represented and presented a wreath in honor of the Four Chaplains.

San Carlos Fishing Trip. 3 Chapter members were interested in the free trip. Patriot Moore submitted the names to the non-profit hosting the trip.

Chapter Elections: Elections will be held at the March meeting. Nominations are still open. Nominations made so far are Nominees so far are: Cody Phipps > Commander; Dave Bertagnoli > Sr. Vice-Commander; Mike Dyer > Jr. Vice Commander; Jim Zimmerman > Finance Officer; & Roger Gilbert > Sgt-at-Arms. John Moore will serve as Adjutant, Danny Lemon as Chaplain, & John Grand as Veteran

Empowerment Officer if they are appointed by the new commander. We need nominees for Trustee 1 & Trustee 2.

New Business:

Expenditure: The board approved \$341.71 assistance to Veteran Heller and \$1,000.00 for disaster relief for the LA area fires. Patriot Grand made a motion to place the expenditures into the record. There was discussion on where the disaster funds go. Patriot Moore stated that they go to the MOPH Fund to be used by the MOPH in California. Patriot Gilbert made the 2nd, and the motion passed unanimously.

Pima County Vietnam KIA Memorial: The dedication will be on Mar 29th at 9:00am at Kino Memorial Park. MOPH will place a wreath. There will be a free lunch at 11:00am at Desert Diamond Casino after the event. More information to follow.

Nighthawk Memorial Ceremony: Ceremony is at 10:00am at the Marana Regional Airport. The Chapter will place a wreath. More information to follow.

The Good of Order: The chapter received a thank you letter for the VA Hospital for the Skuhr Golf Tournament donation of \$15,435.00 to the HEM/ONC clinic.

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.