



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: March 17, 2025

Call to Order: Commander Dyer 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 Commander Dyer.

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

Attendance: seven members of the chapter were present.

New Members: none

Guests: The chapter presented the guests with chapter challenge coins, replica badge of merits, & Purpleheart wood writing pens.

- Alan Ekman, a PH recipient, interested in joining the chapter was introduced by Cdr Dyer. Alan talked about his Vietnam service. Adjutant Moore will get membership information to him.
- LTC Dick Tobiason USA Ret, Department of Oregon MOPH, briefed the chapter on the National Medal of Honor Highway. US Hwy 20 the longest coast to coast highway was designated as the National Medal of Honor Highway on Dec 17th by the president. LTC Tobiason would like to see states have a highway in their state to honor their MOH recipients. He presented Cdr Dyer and Jr. Vice Cdr Moore, Arizona MOPH, with National Medal of Honor Highway challenge coins.

Reports:

Minutes: Minutes for the Feb meeting are available and previously emailed out. Patriot Grand moved to place the minutes into the record. There was no discussion. Patriot Gilbert made the second to the motion. The membership unanimously approved the minutes. See February minutes.

Finance Report: Patriot Zimmerman briefed on the February finance report. The beginning balance was \$53,396.62 and the ending balance was \$53,146.62. Patriot Zimmerman summarized the report and highlighted the outgoing expenses. There was not any income in February 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. Patriot Moore gave the certificates and medal to the presenters. We still need a presenter for Globe HS.

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: No meeting in February. The next meeting is on March 26th. Any member can attend. Patriot Moore has Zoom log-in info if interested. The Department Convention is May 17th more information to follow.

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 at the February meeting. Adjutant Moore emailed the plan to the officers.

Zeffy – Patriots Moore and Zimmerman still need to look at this alternative for PayPal. Zeffy has no fees for non-profits.

Monthly Purple Heart Lunch: The monthly luncheon is at 12:00 noon on March 19th at the Old Father Inn on Ina Rd.

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.

New Business:

Expenditure: The board made no expenditure during the month.

Investment Accounts – Patriot Phipps is on the Department Investment Account and wondered if the chapter should do something similar. Alan Ekman works in that arena and traded information with Patriot Phipps.

Chapter Elections: Nominations are still open. There were no further nominations. Nominations made were Cody Phipps > Commander; Dave Bertagnoli > Sr. Vice-Commander; Mike Dyer > Jr. Vice Commander; Jim Zimmerman > Finance Officer; John Grand as Trustee & 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. One Trustee position is vacant. Patriot Moore moved to elect the slate by acclamation since no position had more than one nominee. No discussion and 2nd by Patriot Gilbert. Dept Jr. Vice-Commander, John Moore administered the Oath of Office. Commander Phipps is to be added to the chapters checking account with Vantage West.

Adjournment: Cdr. Dyer adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Called Back to Order: Commander Phipps called the meeting to order. Commander Phipps appointed as Adjutant, Danny Lemon as Chaplain, & John Grand as Veteran Empowerment Officer. Cdr Phipps issued guidance on his goals and direct for the chapter. He desired we focus on the four missions assigned by National.

The Good of Order: None

Closing Ceremony: Jr. Vice-Cdr Dyer gave the Benediction. Commander Phipps led the chapter in rendering Honors to the Flag.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM. The next meeting will be on April 21st.