



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

**FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442**

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### **MINUTES: April 21, 2025**

**Call to Order:** Commander 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 Commander Phipps; Vice-Commander Bertagnoli, Adjutant Moore; Finance Officer Zimmerman; Trustee Grand, Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert; & Chaplain Lemon. Excused was Vice-Commander Dyer. Trustee 2 position is vacant. There was a quorum present.

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

**New Members:** none

**Guests:** The chapter presented the guest with chapter challenge coin.

- Daniel Draper (USMC veteran), spoke on the Staff Sgt Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program and provided the chapter with suicide prevention resources.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the March 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 March minutes.

**Finance Report:** Patriot Zimmerman briefed on the March finance report. The beginning balance was \$53,396.62. Patriot Zimmerman summarized the report and highlighted the outgoing expenses. The ending balance was \$55,667.56. Patriot Moore made a motion to approve the report. There was no discussion, and Patriot Gilbert made the second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously. See the March finance report.

**Americanism:** - Patriot Moore updated the chapter on the 13 JROTC/ROTC school award presentations. Two medals have been misplaced. Patriot Moore will see if the department has extras or order them from National. They should be here in time for the ceremonies at those schools. We still need a presenter for Globe HS. If no presenter Patriot Moore will mail the awards to the high school.

**Tucson Veteran Affairs Council:** Patriot Moore mailed the last available minutes out. Nothing urgent or of importance in the minutes.

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

**Commander's Report:** Patriot Phipps attended the DEC by zoom and briefed the membership. The Department Convention is on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Glendale at the Holiday Inn from 9:00 am to about 3:00 PM. If interested in going several of us can carpool. The Department has a free cruise of Lake Pleasant set up for May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Information is in the department newsletter.

### **Old Business:**

**Bingo:** Bingo is April 26<sup>th</sup> at the VA Hospital. If you can help, meet Patriot Bertagnoli at 1:30 at bldg. 60. We will need to purchase canteen coupons at some point in the summer. Patriot Moore indicated that there is \$500 in the approved budget.

**Zeffy** – Tabled until we decide on a new bank or staying with Vantage West. Zeffy has no fees for non-profits.

**Monthly Purple Heart Lunch:** The monthly luncheon is at 12:00 noon on May 21<sup>st</sup> in Green Valley. Patriot Grand and Patriot Zimmerman will let us know the location. It will be sent out by email and posted on Facebook.

**Nighthawk Memorial Ceremony:** Ceremony went well. Patriot Moore and Patriot Zimmerman placed a wreath. The Marine Corps had an active duty 3 star general in attendance who gave remarks.

**EEE Visit:** Patriot Phipps and Patriot Gilbert visited EEE and assessed EEE's needs. They were very impressed with the organization and feel our donation is being well utilized. They recommend we increase our support for EEE. Patriot Phipps suggests holding a barbeque for the homeless veterans at EEE in addition to the monetary support we currently provide.

#### **New Business:**

**Patriot of the Year:** Patriot Phipps is the chapter Patriot of the Year. He was presented with a Patriot of the Year certificate by the chapter adjutant and soundly recognized by the membership. Cody has been nominated for the Department Patriot of the Year. Congratulations.

**Expenditure:** The board made no expenditure during the month.

**Banking Issues:** The finance officer indicated that Vantage West no longer will allow us to have a standard account. Since we have an EIN number with the federal government we must switch to a business account. This would require us to order new checks and deposit slips at a significant expense. Also, all the records from our current account would be archived and could not be accessed digitally requiring a 2-week response time. The membership consensus is to find a new bank. Patriot Phipps and Patriot Zimmerman will investigate and recommend a new bank or stay with Vantage West. We will stay with Vantage West until after the annual finance report is completed.

**Annual Budget:** The chapter looked at the budget for the next year. The budget was set at \$18,990.00. Cdr Phipps recommended that EEE receive \$500 per month (\$6,000.00 for the year). Most other budget items remain at last year's funding levels. The Toastmasters program was defunded since it is not currently operational. Seed money for the Purple Heart Classic was eliminated. It is not envisioned that we will hold the PH Classic in the next year. Patriot Bertagnoli made a motion to approve the budget and Patriot Grand made the 2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Memorial Day:** Flags will be placed on the Veteran's graves at the Marana Veterans Cemetery at 8:00 am on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. East Lawn, South Lawn and Evergreen will hold their ceremonies at 9:00 am on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The chapter will place a wreath at South Lawn.

**Department Challenge Coins:** The chapter has sold the last of the Department challenge coins. Patriot Moore stated the cost is \$4.50 per coin with a minimum order of 100 Coins. Shipping would be about \$30 dollars for \$100 coins. Patriot Moore made a motion to approve ordering 100 coins at a cost not to exceed \$500. Patriot Grand made a 2<sup>nd</sup>. In discussion Patriot Moore stated that the coins can be given out at events by officers or sold for profit at price we set. The motion passed unanimously.

**Semi-annual Trustee Audit:** Patriot Phipps appointed Patriot Gilbert as a trustee to conduct this audit. Trustee Grand and Patriot Gilbert conducted the audit before the meeting. Two warrants were out of sequence. The adjutant corrected the warrant numbers (43 should be 44 & 44 should be 43). The amounts for the warrants were correct. Warrant 56 should be \$250 dollars to EEE not \$200. Corrected by the adjutant. John Grand made a motion to place the audit report into the record. No discussion and Roger Gilbert made the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Dark for the Summer:** A discussion was held on which months we would be dark for the summer. The consensus was to go dark for June, July and Aug.

**The Good of Order:** None

**Closing Ceremony:** Chaplain Lemon 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 May 19th.