



## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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### MINUTES: April 20, 2026

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

**Attendance:** 9 members of the chapter were present.

**New Members:** none

#### Guests:

- Brian Kelsey spoke on service dogs and Hyperbaric Chamber Therapy He is a Physician's Assistant who works with Hyperbaric Chamber Therapy.
- Bradley is Brian's well-behaved and trained service dog.
- Dawn Graffam from the Daughters of the American Revolution spoke about funding for the Tucson America250 Mural.
- Sue Ritz, veteran, & George Sullivan, 2xPH recipient attended to see what Chapter 442 is about.

#### Reports:

**Minutes:** Minutes for the March meeting are available and previously emailed out. Patriot Dyer 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 on our website.

**Finance Report:** Patriot Zimmerman presented the February finance report. The beginning balance was \$45,745.63 and ending balance was \$45,346.41. Patriot Zimmerman summarized the report. No income in March except for interest on the account. Outgoing funds was rent for Veteran Cruse. Patriot Dyer made a motion to approve the report. There were no discussions and Patriot Gilbert made the second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously. See the March finance report.

**Americanism:** - Patriot Moore has contacted the schools for JROTC/ROTC ceremony dates. All schools are scheduled except for Globe HS. Medals, certificates, and stipend checks were given to presenters. A special thank you to Sr. Vice Bertagnoli who is presenting to 6 schools.

**Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans:** No report.

**Tucson Veteran Affairs Council:** The April report was emailed out.

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

**Commander's Report:** The Department Convention will be a combo Zoom and in person convention. It will be held in Phoenix on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Any member can attend. Patriot Moore has Zoom log-in info if interested. Convention information has been mailed out. Need someone to represent the department if available. Five of our officers are out of state.

**Old Business:**

**Bingo:** Bingo is April 25<sup>th</sup> at the VA Hospital. If you can help, meet Patriot Bertagnoli at 1:30 at bldg. 60.

**Monthly PH Luncheon:** Our PH Luncheon for April 22<sup>nd</sup> is cancelled.

**Vietnam Veterans' Day and Nighthawk Ceremonies:** Both ceremonies went well. Commander Phipps thanked the members for the excellent turnout for these events.

**Oath of Office:** Oath for Patriot Bertagnoli and Patriot Grand tabled until the May meeting.

**New Business:**

**Expenditure:** The board approved \$400 assistance to Veteran Cruse. Patriot Moore made a motion to place the expenditures in record. There was no discussion. Patriot Gilbert made the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed unanimously.

**America250 Mural:** Patriot Dyer made a motion that we donate \$1,000 to the project and become a founding member of the America250 Mural. No discussion. Patriot Gilbert made the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed unanimously. Vice-Regent Dawn Graffam from DAR thanked the chapter.

**Move Funds from Admin to Welfare on Warrant Log:** Patriot Moore made a motion to move \$10,000 from admin funds to welfare funds on the warrant log. Patriot stated that admin funds included \$10,000 seed money for the PH Golf Classic that we no longer host. The money could be better used for veteran's needs. No other discussion. Patriot Dyer made the second and the motion passed unanimously.

**Annual Budget:** A copy of last year's budget was handed out to the members. Commander Phipps asked members to look it over and be prepared to adjust. The new budget will be voted on in May.

**Flags on Graves:** Flags will be placed on the gravestones at Marana Veterans Cemetery on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 AM. Wear PH gear.

**Memorial Day:** Marana Veterans' Cemetery is at 1:00 PM. East Lawn & South Lawn are at 9:00 AM. We are invited to place wreaths at East Lawn & South Lawn.

**Trustee Audit:** Audit will be at 4:30 prior to the next meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** Cdr Phipps adjourned the meeting.

**The Good of Order:** The chapter will go dark for June/July/August.

**Closing Ceremony:** Moment of silence for departed Patriots. Chaplain Lemon gave Benediction. Cdr Phipps led the chapter in rendering Honors to the Flag.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM. The next meeting will be on May 18.