



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: Dec 15, 2025

Trustee Audit: Chapter Trustees audited the chapter's books at 4:30 PM.

Call to Order: Cdr Phipps called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Opening Ceremony: Cdr Phipps led the pledge, and the Chapter rendered honors to the Flag.

Invocation: Chaplain Lemon gave the invocation.

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

Attendance: 10 members of the chapter were present.

New Members: none

Guests:

- Bernadette Polly from Quilts of Valor presented Quilts of Valor to Patriot Van & veteran Mike Hale. The chapter presented Bernadette with a certificate of appreciation, a department calendar and a PH challenge coin.
- Alexis McAllister and Gail Collins from the Bridge Church were presented with certificates of appreciation for the God's Girls and Knitting Ladies who put together the Christmas Bags for the veterans' home. The chapter presented them with a certificate of appreciation, a and a department calendar.
- Tony Day a Friend of the Chapter was given a certificate of appreciation and a department calendar for his support of the chapter's activities. Tony made a beautiful PH wooden bowl for Walter Ram's 102nd birthday gift.

Reports:

Minutes: Minutes for the November meeting were available and previously emailed out. Patriot Gilbert moved the minutes to be placed in the record. Patriot Grand made the second to the motion & no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously. The minutes are on the chapter website.

Finance Report: The Finance Report was emailed out. Patriot Zimmerman provided finance reports and bank statements for November. The beginning balance was \$49,331.70 & the ending balance was \$45,096.85. The report highlighted deposits and expenses. Patriot Moore moved the Finance reports to be placed into the record. Patriot Bertagnoli seconded and there was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. See the November finance reports.

Americanism: The Four Chaplain's ceremony will be on Feb 1st at 1:00 PM at Kino Veterans Memorial Park. The chapter will place a wreath. More to follow.

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans Report: No report. Recent meetings cancelled.

Tucson VAC: Minutes were emailed out.

VA Director: Report was emailed out.

Commander's Report: DEC will not hold a December meeting. November meeting did not discuss business due to a lack of a quorum. The Department may lose money on the calendar Fund Raiser. The chapter has 20 calendars available for ½ price (\$25). We need to report on what we are doing for the convention at the Dept Cdr's call in January.

Old Business:

Bingo: Bingo will be held on Dec 27th at the VA Hospital. If you can help, meet Patriot Bertagnoli at 1:30 at bldg. 60. Bingo is the last Saturday of the month.

PH Luncheon: There will be no PH luncheon in December due to the holidays.

Charlie Skuhr Golf: The event went well and made about \$23,000.00. The chapter will receive about \$1,659.00 and the VA Hospital's blood cancer wing will receive \$14,929.00. Payment to El Conquistador Golf course is \$5,931.83 and to the VA blood cancer wing will be \$14,929.00. Patriot Moore made a motion to approve the two payments. No discussion and Patriot Bertagnoli made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Christmas at the Veterans Home: We will visit and pass out gift bags to the residents on Dec 23rd at 1:00 PM. On Dec 23rd We will need members to move the bags from storage to the Veterans' Home at 10:30 on the 23rd. All are welcome to come and help.

New Business:

Patriot of the Year: Patriot Roger Gilbert was selected as the Chapter Patriot of the Year. Patriot Gilbert was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a department PH calendar. The chapter gave Roger a rousing hand and a thank you for his work for veterans.

Expenditures: The Officers have held no email votes for expenditures since the last meeting.

Trustee Audit Results: Postponed, will be presented at the January meeting.

Wreaths Across America: Patriot Zimmerman purchased the wreaths for the 3 cemeteries we support for \$513.00. Patriot Bertagnoli made a motion to reimburse Patriot Zimmerman. No discussion and Patriot Gilbert made the second. The motion passed unanimously.

Good of the Order: Patriot Moore stated we have a "thank you" letter from Pima College for \$2,800.00 donation for veterans' assistance. We also had a Christmas Card from Boulder Quest with a hint for donations. He has them if you wish to see it.

Closing Ceremony: Moment of silence for departed Patriots. Patriot Lemon gave Benediction, and the chapter rendered Honors to the Flag.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM. The next meeting will be on Jan 19th.