



## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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### MINUTES: Feb 16, 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 Bertagnoli, Vice Commander Dyer, Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert; Trustee Grand, & Trustee Lohman were present. There was a quorum present.

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

**New Members:** none

**Guests:** none

#### Reports:

**Minutes:** Minutes for the January 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 January minutes on the website.

**Finance Report:** Patriot Zimmerman over the January finance report. The beginning balance was \$59,773.03 and ending balance was \$46,244.92. Patriot Zimmerman summarized the report and highlighted the outgoing expenses. There was not any income in January except for interest on the account. Patriot Moore 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 January finance report.

**Americanism:** - Patriot Moore has contacted the schools for JROTC/ROTC ceremony dates. Some responses have started to come in.

**Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans:** Patriot Moore indicated that the Tucson Stand-down is March 10<sup>th</sup>. There have been no requests for assistance with the stand-down from TVSV.

**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 Executive Committee approved the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 policy letters. Policy letters will replace the rescinded department by-laws. The next commander's call is on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> by Zoom. Cdr Phipps will present the plan for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> convention. Any member can attend. Patriot Moore has Zoom log-in info if interested.

#### Old Business:

**Bingo:** Bingo is February 28<sup>th</sup> at the VA Hospital. If you can help, meet Patriot Bertagnoli at 1:30 at bldg. 60.

**Monthly PH Luncheon:** We will Celebrate General Washington's Birthday at 12:00 noon on February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Old Father Inn on Ina Road.

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

**Department Convention:** Cdr Phipps gave an overview of our walk through of the Pima Air & Space Museum which is the site we will propose to Department.

**Chapter Elections:** Elections will be held at the March meeting. Nominations are still open. Nominations made 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 if appointed, Danny Lemon as Chaplain if appointed, & John Grand as trustee 2 and Fred Lohman as Trustee 1.

**New Business:**

**Expenditure:** The board approved \$300 assistance to Veteran Trush's widow. Patriot Gilbert made a motion to place the expenditures in the record. There was no discussion. Patriot Bertagnoli made the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion passed unanimously.

**Suicide Prevention Training (QPR):** The chapter along with VVA132 will have a Suicide Prevention Training session on Feb 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM here at the Bridge Church. All members are encouraged to attend and learn about the QPR method for the Sgt FOX training program.

**Boulder Quest R&R:** Veterans, military, and gold star families get free stays for an R&R at Boulder Quests' beautiful facility in Sonoita, AZ. Information was emailed out and posted to our FB page.

**Free Golf Slots:** Outdoor Ventures for Veterans has offered 14 free slots in their March tournament. Information was emailed out and posted to our FB page.

**Pima County Vietnam KIA Memorial:** The dedication will be on Mar 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at Kino Memorial Park. MOPH will place a wreath. There will be more information to follow.

**Nighthawk Memorial Ceremony:** Ceremony is at 10:00 am on April 4<sup>th</sup> 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 and a receipt from 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 March 16.