



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: Jan 19, 2026

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

Attendance: 8 members of the chapter were present.

New Members: none

Guests:

- Vice Regent Dawn Graffam & Regent Linda Magellan from the Daughters of the America Revolution were in attendance. The ladies briefed the chapter on their organization's mission and what they do for service to the community. They explained the procedures to have a wife or daughter become a member and who to contact for help. They thanked us for the loan of "Big George". Regent Magellan presented Patriot Phipps with a Red Rose and small American Flag. Patriot Phipps presented MOPH certificates of appreciation to the ladies along with a MOPH challenge coin. Patriot Phipps will talk with them about possible joint activities in the future.

Reports:

Minutes: Minutes for the December meeting were available and previously emailed out. Patriot Bertagnoli moved the minutes to be placed in the record. Patriot Gilbert 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 \$45,096.85 & the ending balance was \$59,773.03. The report highlighted deposits and expenses. Patriot Bertagnoli moved the Finance reports to be placed into the record. Patriot Gilbert 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. Patriot Moore will give remarks on the Purple Heart and Patriot Grand will read the biography of Chaplain Fox.

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans Report: Stand-Down will be held on March 10th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the GEM Center downtown. More information will follow.

Tucson VAC: Minutes were emailed out.

VA Director: Report was emailed out.

Commander's Report: The Department is just barely going to make money on the calendar Fund Raiser. Calendars can still be purchased. We need to report on what we are doing for the convention at the Dept Cdr's call on Jan 28th. One of the Vice-commanders need to attend.

Old Business:

Bingo: Bingo will be held on Jan 31st 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: Purple Heart Luncheon will be on Feb 18th. Location TBA.

Charlie Skuhr Check Presentation: Patriot Grand, Patriot Bertagnoli, and Friend of the Chapter Susan-Lea Skuhr presented a check for \$14,929.00 to the VA Hospital blood cancer wing on January 12th.

Christmas at the Veterans Home: We visited and passed out gift bags to the residents on Dec 23rd at 1:00 PM. Some residents were out of their rooms with relatives or on appointments. It went well.

Elections: Nominations are open for elections. Elections will be at the March meeting.

Audit: The trustee audit from November/December was placed into the record. The 6 warrants that were not available had been filed in the 2024 files by mistake. Patriot Gilbert made a motion to accept the Trustee Report. No discussion and Patriot Bertagnoli made a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Convention: The Department Convention is on May 2nd. The venue is the Pima Air and Space Museum. We will need all hands-on deck. Patriot Moore and Patriot Grand will be out of state.

New Business

Expenditure: The Officers approved \$400 for rent assistance for Veteran Rollins. Patriot Grand made a motion to place into the record. No discussion and Patriot Gilbert made the second.

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

JROTC/ROTC: Patriot Moore is sending out notification to the schools to provide us with the candidate and time/place for the ceremony. Patriot Phipps will check with the department on the medals/certificates. Patriot Grand and Patriot Moore will not be available to present the last week in April.

February Meeting: The consensus of the group was to have a social on February 16th at the Golden Corral. More information will follow.

Good of the Order: Patriot Bertagnoli has authored a book which is a service memoir of his career. It has been published and ordering info is in the newsletter and on the FB page. Good job, Dave!

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 5:45 PM. The next meeting will be on Feb 16th..