



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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

Attendance: 7 members of the chapter were present.

New Members: none

Guests: Colin Mellars: He is a systems engineer and active opponent of the proposed data centers in Marana, Arizona, who has raised concerns about the project's impact on local infrastructure. The data center is being built adjacent to the Marana State Veterans Cemetery.

Reports:

Minutes: Minutes for the February meeting are available and previously emailed out. Patriot Dyer moved to place the minutes into the record. There was no discussion. Patriot Lemon made the second to the motion. The membership unanimously approved the minutes. See February minutes on the website.

Finance Report: Patriot Zimmerman presented the February finance report. The beginning balance was \$46,244.92 and ending balance was \$45,745.63. Patriot Zimmerman summarized the report and highlighted the outgoing expenses. There was not any income in February except for interest on the account. A replacement check was received for an invalid check received during the golf tournament. Patriot Dyer made a motion to approve the report. There were no discussions and Patriot Lemon 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. Most schools have responded. Two schools are being contacted by phone.

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans: No report.

Tucson Veteran Affairs Council: The March 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 2nd. Any member can attend. Patriot Moore has Zoom log-in info if interested. Convention information has been mailed out.

Old Business:

Bingo: Bingo is March 28th at the VA Hospital. If you can help, meet Patriot Bertagnoli at 1:30 at bldg. 60.

Monthly PH Luncheon: Our PH Luncheon will be at 12:00 noon on March 18th at Nana's Kitchen in Continental Ranch off of I10 and on Cortero Rd.

Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony: The ceremony will be on March 29th at Kino Memorial Park. The chapter will present a wreath in honor of the Pima County Vietnam War fallen. Please attend if you can.

Chapter Elections: Elections were held. The current slate of officers was elected for another term at the March meeting. No other nominations were made. Patriot Moore moved the slate to be elected by acclamation. No discussion and Patriot Gilbert made a second. The motion passed unanimously. Results are Cody Phipps > Commander; Dave Bertagnoli > Sr. Vice-Commander; Mike Dyer > Jr. Vice Commander; Jim Zimmerman > Finance Officer; & Roger Gilbert > Sgt-at-Arms, John Grand as trustee 2 and Fred Lohman as Trustee 1. John Moore will serve as Adjutant if appointed, Danny Lemon as Chaplain if appointed.

New Business:

Expenditure: The board approved \$500 assistance to Veteran Aguilar. Patriot Gilbert made a motion to place the expenditures in the record. There was no discussion. Patriot Bertagnoli made the 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.

Oro Valley Country Club Donation: They are considering having members donate to the chapter at their April tournament. We have a certificate to print if this happens.

Lake Peasant Department Cruise: The department is hosting this cruise on May 24th. Tickets are limited to the 1st 140 who sign up. Information is in the department newsletter and has been mailed out. Cost is \$5 and you pay for your own snacks and drinks.

Missing in America Project: The Missing in America Project will bury the remains of homeless and unclaimed veterans cremains on April 18 at 10:00 AM at the Marana State Veterans Cemetery. There will be more information to follow.

Nighthawk Memorial Ceremony: Ceremony is at 10:00 am on April 4th at the Marana Regional Airport. The Chapter will place a wreath. More information to follow.

Adjournment: Cdr Phipps adjourned the meeting.

Meeting called to Order: The newly elected Cdr Phipps reconvened the meeting. The commander appointed Patriot Moore as adjutant and Patriot Lemon as Chaplain. The new slate of officers was sworn in by the Department Sr. Vice Commander Moore. Cdr Phipps gave his goals for the chapter for the new fiscal year.

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. Cdr Phipps. 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.