



## **MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART**

**FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442**

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### **MINUTES: Oct 20, 2025**

**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.

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

**Attendance:** Eight members & two Associate members of the chapter were present.

**New Members:** none

**Guests:** Department Inspector Stephen Bobby; Tom Robles Legion Post 132; Gene Wickey Legion Post 132; Jim Barnhart Legion Post 132; & Nancy Lopez Legion Post 132 Auxiliary.

**Guest Speaker:** John Schannep, a financial planner, spoke on Financial Stress & Soldier/Veteran Suicide.

### **Reports:**

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

**Finance Report:** The Finance Report was emailed out. Patriot Zimmerman provided finance reports and bank statements for October. The beginning balance was \$52,114.99 & the ending balance was \$51,130.84. The report highlighted deposits and expenses. Patriot Gilbert moved the Finance reports to be placed into the record. Patriot Lohman made the second. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. See the finance reports.

**Americanism:** - Patriots Moore, Bertagnoli & Patriot Dyer will speak at Innovation Academy Elementary for Veterans Day. The Veterans Day Parade will be at 10:00 AM on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Staging downtown in the same location as last year. We can have six vehicles in our entry. Flags will be placed on the graves at the Marana Veterans Cemetery at 8:00 AM on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Tucson VAC:** Minutes were mailed out.

**VA Director:** No Report

**Commander's Report:** DEC will be held on Oct 24. Department bylaws were rescinded and will be replaced by policy letters. Dept Policy Letter Committee has drafted eight policy letters, but they have not been approved yet by the DEC. Follow National Bylaws. Support the Department fundraiser by purchasing a calendar.

### **Old Business:**

**Bingo:** Bingo is Oct 25 at the VA Hospital. If you can help, meet Patriot Bertagnoli at 1:30 at bldg. 60. Patriot Bertagnoli needs to purchase Canteen coupon books for prizes. We are running low. Adjutant Moore stated that we have \$500 in the annual budget for them. Patriot Bertagnoli will purchase.

**PH Luncheon:** Luncheon will be at noon on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at Nate's Italian Kitchen at 7074 E. Golf Links Road. Hope to see you there.

**Banking Issue:** Patriot Zimmerman stated that there had been no further communication about converting to a business account and currently we are operating under the previous rules.

**Host Department Convention:** Need to get venue and hotel in place to give the Department an update on plans for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> department convention. Patriots Moore, Bertagnoli, and Phipps will work on it. Looking at Pima Air & Space as the convention site.

**New Business:**

**EEE:** The Department wrote the check for \$1,000 that the department approved at the convention in May directly to EEE. As a result, we do not need a vote or action on paper towels and toilet paper. Cdr Phipps presented the check to EEE.

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

**Empower Coalition:** Patriot Phipps and Patriot Moore drafted a request for a \$10,000 grant from Empower Coalition. \$5,000 for the Chapter use and \$5,000 for the golf tournament. There was concern from the Finance Officer, and the IRS reporting issues a large donation causes. The consensus is to obtain a CPA if needed.

**Charlie Skuhr Golf:** The Event is on November 9<sup>th</sup>. We need a 4-member team to play. The golf fees are paid for by a donation. Patriot Grand will play and recruit the other three players. The Chapter will place an info table at the golf course. Patriot Moore, Patriot Bertagnoli, and Patriot Phipps will staff the table.

**Christmas at the Veterans Home:** It will be on 23 or 24 December at 1:00 PM. Patriot Moore will contact the home. Patriot Dyer made a motion that the chapter provide \$800 to the Bridge Church Ladies groups for purchasing the items to stuff the Christmas Gift Bags. Patriot Moore indicated that \$800 was already in the annual budget for the Christmas visit to the Veterans home. Patriot Grand made the motion to approve the \$800.00. No discussion and the second was made by Patriot Bertagnoli and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Gift Cards for TVSV:** They have requested donations for their Holiday Gift Card program for homeless veterans & veterans in need. Patriot Dyer made a motion to approve \$500. Patriot Moore stated that we have provided from \$300 to \$1800 in years past but did not donate last year. Patriot Grand seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Vet Fest at PCC:** Vet Fest is on Nov 6 at the main PCC Aviation campus. A discussion was held on the request. Consensus was not to set up a table this year but have someone attend if possible.

**Trustee Audit:** The semi-annual Trustee Audit will be at 4:30 PM prior to the November meeting.

**Legion Post 132:** Legion post 132 is holding a gold bar raffle for a \$4,119 gold bar. See Patriot Lemon for tickets. Tickets are 1 for \$10, 3 for \$20, & 9 for \$50.

**Good Order:** Patriot Moore stated we had “thank you” letters from the state veterans’ home for our \$500 donation and from EEE for our September \$500 food donation. He has these if you wish to see them.

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM. The next meeting will be on November 17th.