



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: Apr 17, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM at the AZ State Veterans Home Tucson, Community Room, 555 E. Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ.

Opening Ceremony: Honors rendered to the Flag. Pledge recited. Invocation given.

Roll Call: Present - Cdr - Dave Bertagnoli; Sr-Vice Cdr Dyer; Finance Officer Zimmerman; Judge Advocate Giroux; Trustee Moore; & Trustee Gilbert. Excused - Trustee Ryan & Jr. Vice Cdr Herron; Absent Sgt-at-Arms Perkins. A quorum was present.

Attendance: 9 chapter members present. 2 guests attended.

Guest Speaker: Bill Ohl, Col Ret, spoke on the Foundation Training Program at the VA Occupational Therapy Clinic for back problems. Program has great results and has eliminated surgery for some patients. Mike Bouey spoke on the S.E.E.4Vets program, an educational support program at Pima College. They fund tuition and tutoring scholarships for veterans.

Reports:

Minutes: Motion to approve the Mar minutes was made by Patriot Dyer & 2nd by Patriot Slocum. No discussion & approved unanimously.

Finance Report: The beginning balance was \$37,965.75. The ending balance was \$82,305.38. The chapter had \$76,973.60 income & \$32,633.97 in expenditures. An amended report will be issued to show specific check numbers for donations made to veteran charities at the PH Classic. Motion to approve the report was made by Patriot Moore & 2nd by Patriot Dyer. Approved unanimously.

Americanism: Patriot Giroux handed out the schedule of the JROTC Leadership award presentations and scheduled the MOPH members who would represent the chapter as presenters.

VAVS/Welfare Report: No Report no meeting this month.

Tucson Veterans Affairs Council Report: No report.

PH Golf Classic: Patriot Moore indicated that the gross income for the tournament was \$129,828.90. Expenses were \$19,607.33. So the net was \$110,221.57 of which \$63,370.33 has already been donated to the organizations we approved to support this year. Feedback from the participants in the tournament was highly positive and they are looking forward to next year. Patriot Dyer mentioned that we need to fine tune getting responses from the charities on how they used our funds. Patriot Alegria was going to do this but intends to phase out now that he is fully retired. The commander will give him a call. Patriot Asbell is looking at places to hold the tournament for next year. The chapter still needs to find a Women's Veteran organization to fund with some monies. Patriot Dyer commended the chapter for the member support volunteering at the PH Classic.

Old Business:

Bingo: Patriot Bertagnoli, Patriot Slocum & Jeri Slocum will cover Bingo.

New Business:

Memorial Day: The chapter will hold a Memorial Day Ceremony at Purple Heart Park on May 29th. Patriot Giroux will get the ceremony organized. Patriot Dyer made a motion to spend up to \$200.00 on the brochures for the ceremony. Patriot Slocum made the 2nd and the motion passed unanimously. Eastlawn and Southlawn will hold ceremonies at 9:00 AM on the 29th. They have asked if we are participating. Patriot Slocum indicated that the Marana Veterans Cemetery has not put anything out yet for Memorial Day.

Expenditures: The final two bills for the golf tournament came in. The Casino Del Sol bill was \$10,658.55 and the ZMark bill for T-Signs and programs was \$335.38. Patriot Dyer made a motion to approved the payments. No discussion. Patriot Thompson made a second and the motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Audit: The chapter trustees conducted the semi-annual audit of the finance records on Mar 20th. No major problems were found. 3 Warrants were misfiled in the records. All monies were accounted for. Patriot Solcum motioned that the audit results be placed into the record. No discussion. Patriot Zimmerman made a 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.

Blind Rehab Equipment: \$1,500.00 was previously approved for equipment for the clinic. \$223.00 was spent so far. Patriot Thompson provided a list of equipment to be purchased (X-box console, adapters, & software) with the remaining funds. He will provide the invoices/receipts to the finance officer.

Recruiting Members: Patriot Dyer led a discussion on recruiting new members. Patriot Slocum indicated that feedback from the younger veterans want family activities in an organization they belong to.

Fee for Spouse State Veterans Cemetery: Patriot Slocum informed us that the state has ruled that the burial fee for spouses can no longer be prepaid. A legislative committee is looking at the interpretation. Veterans groups need to push reversing this. He would like it presented to the MOPHAZ.

Tucson Veterans Affairs Council Needs: The TVAC has requested funding support for 4-Chaplains, Exodus & the TIA Military Lounge. We have supported 4-Chaplains and Exodus annually but have not supported the Military Lounge in the past. Patriot Slocum made a motion to allocate \$200.00 fund the Military Lounge. A discussion was held. Patriot Moore made a 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.

Honor Flight: Patriot Slocum indicated the last honor flight was cancelled due to funding. Airfare costs have gone up. We have not supported them in the past. Patriot Slocum made a motion to fund \$1,000.00 for Honor Flight. A discussion was held. Patriot Dyer made a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Foundation Training at PolyTrauma: Patriot Giroux made a motion to approve \$4,000 to fund training of VA instructors in the Foundation Training Program. A discussion was held. Patriot Zimmerman made a 2nd and the motion passed. There was one abstention.

S.E.E.4Vets: Patriot Dyer made a motion that we approve \$5,000.00 for tuition assistance and tutoring for PH Veterans through S.E.E.4Vets. A discussion was held. More research on the program will be done before we issue the funding. Patriot Giroux made a 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.

Quilts for Valor: We have a request for funding from Quilts for Valor. We will table it until the next meeting.

Good of Order: Patriot Giroux has asked about the badges of military merit we had approved funding for. Patriot Moore indicated he had let Patriot Alegria know we had approved that. He will contact Patriot Alegria about the status. Patriot Dyer gave the donated wheelchair to DAV4. He would like a thank you letter provided to the lady who donated it. Patriot Moore stated we received a thank you letter from DAV4 for the donation we provided them. Patriot Moore stated we have a \$200.00 gift certificate towards the purchase of an appliance at Tucson Appliance that can be used by a veteran in need of a stove, etc who is short of funds. Patriot Gilbert will check with EEE. Patriot Slocum stated that the next Stand-down will be on Jun 14th. Clothing is needed. DAV 4 on Ina Rd is the closest drop off point for clothing donations on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Patriot Gilbert talked about the concurrent disability compensation pay program that is not very well known. He will bring more info to the next meeting.

Closing Ceremony: Moment of silence for departed Patriots. Benediction. Honors to the Flag.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. Next meeting is Jun 19th, 2017.