



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: Dec 19, 2016

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

Attendance: 7 chapter members present. James Owens of Project Healing Waters was a guest.

Guest Speaker: Project Healing Waters gave a presentation on their Fly Fishing Program that provides therapy for Veterans with PTSD or physical disabilities.

Reports:

Minutes: Motion to approve the Nov minutes was made by Patriot Dyer & 2nd by Patriot Zimmerman. Approved unanimously.

Finance Report: The beginning balance was \$17,564.25. The ending balance was \$24,345.07. The chapter had \$7,480.82 in income & \$700.00 in expenditures. Motion to approve the report was made by Patriot Dyer & 2nd by Patriot Moore. A discussion was held on encumbered funds. Approved unanimously.

Americanism: No Report. Patriot Moore reminded everyone to turn in their hours for Wreaths Across America and Exodus.

Welfare Report: No Report. The commander has signed the letter recommending the new chapter VAVS and VAVS Alternate Representatives. Patriot Moore will send them to state.

Tucson Veterans Affairs Council Report: Patriot Grand reported no major activity due to the committee holding elections for the new committee year.

PH Golf Classic: Spending targets for assistance using the PH Classic income that the budget group came up with will be presented at the next meeting. Patriot Alegria stress the importance of everyone selling T-Signs. Patriot Dyer stressed that we will need to have more volunteers involved this year.

Old Business:

Bingo: Bingo at the VA is Dec 31. Patriot Bertagnoli will be at Bingo. Patriot Slocum will not be available.

Christmas at Veterans Home: Gift hand-out will be a 1:00PM on the 24th. Patriot Slocum will play Santa. He will hand-out the Christmas cards that the Marana students. Gift bags will be put together at the commander's house at 1:00PM on the 23rd. Patriot Moore made a motion that the commander be authorized to spend \$500.00 for gift items (blankets & backscratchers) for the Christmas gift hand-out. Patriot Gilbert made the 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Certificates of Appreciation: John Grand and the chapter was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Commander of the 111th MI Brigade for work on Project Exodus last year. Several other chapter members also received certificates previously: John Moore, Jim & Mrs. Zimmerman, Bob & Mrs. Slocum, Mike Dyer, & Veronica Harper.

Project Healing Waters: Patriot Dyer made a motion to fund Project Healing Waters for \$1500.00 for their Silver Creek trip for veterans. Patriot Alegria made a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Routine Expenditures: The officers voted by email to approve \$200.00 for rent assistance to a veteran, \$59.34 for adjutant supplies, & \$7,000.00 for Hats Off to Heroes which was a pass through of \$2,000.00 from GEICO and \$5,000.00 from AZ Dept of Veteran Affairs.. Patriot Zimmerman made a motion to place the expenditures into the record & Patriot Grand made the 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

501 (C) 3: Tabled until next meeting.

Debrief from Meeting with Asst Sec Gibson of the VA: Patriot Dyer represented the chapter at the stakeholders meeting. Patriot Dyer asked about appeal times. He explained there is a 3 tier process and if there is a change it has to start all over. DAV asked about why not use video appeals for vets who can't drive long distance to the appeal site. Sec. Gibson said they would work on that. Trying to fix things/improve scope and scale. Working on improving suicide call assistance.

Chapter Fiscal Year: Patriot Moore recommended the chapter fiscal year run from 1 May to 30 Apr. Patriot Alegria made the motion and Patriot Gilbert made a second. A discussion was held. We need to insure it is ok with State and National. The motion passed unanimously.

Good of Order: Patriot Alegria was approached by Right Choice Collision Center who wants to partner with the chapter to provide car repair/fix up for 2 veterans vehicles. Basically they want to use our brand. A discussion was held and the chapter elected not to do it at this time.

Patriot Alegria explained the types of grants organizations can apply for from the State Veterans Affairs. Grants less than \$5,000 can be applied for anytime of the year. From \$5,000 to \$100,000 are due each Dec 15th and go through a committee approval process.

Patriot Zimmerman reported on the filing with the Secretary of State has been submitted. The IRS and state are not in sync which resulted in some glitches but it is now submitted.

Patriot Slocum briefed on stand-down. Clothing can be dropped at DAV4 until the 30th after that they can be dropped at the NG Armory on Jan 4. Stand-down has a big need for donations of all grooming and hygiene items and new men's underwear. Stand-down runs Jan 13th thru 15th. Contact Patriot Slocum if you want to volunteer.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 PM. Next meeting is Jan 16, 2016.