



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: May 16, 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 were Cdr Bertagnoli; Sr-Vice Cdr Dyer; Jr-Vice Cdr Herron; Finance Officer Zimmerman; Trustee Gilbert; Trustee Ryan; Trustee Moore; Judge Advocate Giroux & Sgt-at-Arms Perkins. A quorum was present.

Attendance: 11 chapter members were present. P. M. Ryan and Randall Bliven were guests from Wisconsin. They are PH recipients who served during Vietnam. They were welcomed by the chapter and presented with purpleheart wood pens. Randall plans to transfer to our chapter.

Guest Speaker: Kelcie Douglas, SW Blind Rehab Center gave a presentation on their program at the VA Hospital and the needs that exist in the program to provide care for their patients.

Reports:

Minutes: A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Patriot Dyer & 2nd by Patriot Gilbert. The minutes were approved unanimously. (See the Apr 2016 minutes)

Finance Report: The finance officer issued the finance report for April. The beginning balance was \$53,624.20. The ending balance was \$19,354.34. The chapter had \$18,166.64 in income and \$52,436.50 in expenditures. A motion to approve the report was made by Patriot Moore and seconded by Patriot Dyer. The finance report was approved unanimously. (See the Apr 2016 finance report.) Patriot Zimmerman indicated that the annual finance report is completed and ready for the commander's signature and will be sent to state and national.

Americanism: Patriot Giroux reported that the JROTC/ROTC presentations all went well. Patriot Ryan brought up the point that his cadet had not sent a thank you to the chapter for the award/check. A discussion was held. One cadet did call the commander and thank him for the award/check. Patriot Zimmerman let the membership know who had cashed their checks so far. Patriot Giroux briefed on the plans for the Memorial Day Ceremony at Purple Heart Park (10:00 AM on May 30th). The air force is providing flyovers again and we have one this year. He provided a sequence of events handout and program brochure to the participants. Patriot Ryan had a query about the chapter providing a representative at East Lawn & South Lawn. Patriot Slocum will represent the chapter at the Marana Veterans Cemetery with a small wreath. Patriot Ryan had a query about the chapter providing a representative at East Lawn & South Lawn. Patriot Ryan will represent the chapter at South Lawn with a wreath. A discussion was held about providing a representation at Evergreen and East Lawn. At the current time we don't have the participants to cover all the cemeteries that hold Memorial Day ceremonies. The chapter will look at getting two more wreaths in the event we have participates for the other cemeteries next year.

Tucson Veterans Affairs Council Report: Patriot Slocum reported that stand-down has been moved from Jun 10th to Jun 24th. Patriot Slocum reported that donations to Fisher House such as food items, comfort items, etc must go through the VAVS office now. The Fisher House is open now and they don't want others in there and possibly interfering with residents or conduct of business. The Four Chaplains Ceremony will be on Feb 5th at 1:00 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. Ft. Huachuca does not have the certificates for the Operation Exodus participants yet. The TVAC will go dark for Jun, July, & Aug. Next meeting will be in Sep. Honor Flight is on the 21st and 23rd of May. The Student Veterans Association at the UofA is providing the 24 guardians for the 24 WWII & Korean War veterans. DAV4 has a food box/cleaning supplies for EEE at their northwest location. They also collect clothing for stand-down.

Welfare Report: Patriot Slocum has the annual welfare report completed. We had approximately 1,100 volunteer hours and donated \$76,000.00 to agencies and veterans. The adjutant will submit it to state & national. Patriot Herron has been selected by the commander to be the new VAVS Rep/Welfare Officer. He will check with his employer (he works at the VA) to make sure there is no conflict of interest. The adjutant will get the appointment letter ready.

PH Golf Classic: No report this month.

Old Business:

Bingo: Bingo at the VA is May 28. Patriot Slocum, Patriot Ryan & Patriot Bertagnoli will be at Bingo.

Routine Expenditures: Patriot Dyer made a motion to reimburse Patriot Alegria \$575.55 for the purchase of baby cribs and other household items for two homeless veterans w/families. VAVS made the request to the chapter and the officers voted by email to approve it. Patriot Zimmerman made a 2nd and the motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

Certificates of Appreciation: Commander Bertagnoli presented the officers from the previous term and other chapter Patriots with certificates of appreciation. He thanked each for their dedication and efforts for the chapter.

SW Blind Rehab Center Needs: Patriot Moore made a motion that the chapter purchase an ES 700 Recumbent Bike and a LifeFitness 93C Commercial Treadmill for the Blind Rehab Center at a cost not to exceed \$3,300.00. Patriot Thompson made a 2nd and the motion passed unanimously. The commander appointed Patriot Thompson to coordinate the purchase.

EEE: Patriot Moore made a motion to fund EEE's food activity for homeless veterans for \$1,000.00 to cover May/June for \$500.00 for each of those months. A discussion was held. The funds will go to the Combat Motorcycle Veterans who will provide accounting of the expenditures for EEE. A discussion was held. Patriot Giroux made a 2nd and the motion passed unanimously. The commander appointed Patriot Gilbert to coordinate/manage the donation.

DEC Meeting: The commander will attend the meeting on Jun 4th to represent the chapter. The commander asked for items to bring to state's attention. Patriot Moore indicated that national is slow in approving membership requests. It takes 8 to 12 weeks to get a new member approved. Patriot Slocum asked that the legislative committee do something about PH recipients having to pay for their PH plates.

Good of Order: Patriot Gilbert gave an update on 1-Veteran Foundation that we donated funds to. They have 2 dogs in training as service dogs and 2 more ready to go into training. The chapter will look at some more funding next month. The commander decided that the chapter will go dark for the months of July and August.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM. Next meeting is Jun 20, 2016.