



## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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### MINUTES: May 18, 2015

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, David Bertagnoli; Sr-Vice Cdr, Mike Dyer; Finance Officer Jim Zimmerman; Judge Advocate, Bob Slocum; Trustee Year 1, Frank Giroux; Trustee Year 2, John Moore; & Trustee Year 3, Mike Ryan. Absent were Sgt-at-Arms, Ruben Campos & Jr-Vice Cdr Johnny Thompson. A quorum was present.

**Attendance:** 7 chapter members & 2 guests were in attendance.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Mike Dyer & 2nd by Bob Slocum. The minutes were approved unanimously. (See the April minutes)

**Guests:** Patriot Joe Tidwell, Inspector Department of Arizona, and Ricardo Gonzalez, Blind Veterans Association were the guests. Joe was presented with a Purpleheart wood writing pen from the Southern Arizona Woodturners Association.

### Reports:

**Special Report:** Ricardo Gonzalez attended the Blind Veterans Association annual meeting last year funded with a grant from the chapter. 200 blind veterans attended the national conference. He gave a follow-up brief to the members on the current issues and programs for blind veterans. There have been big advances in treating macular degeneration. Also technology has improved computer applications for the visually impaired. Ricardo requested funding to assist in attending the national convention again this year. Frank Giroux made a motion that we provide \$500 for the conference attendance. Jim Zimmerman made the second & the motion was unanimously approved.

**Finance Report:** The Finance Officer issued the finance report for April. The beginning balance was \$47,605.17. We received donations totaling \$14,149.57 & we spent \$28,816.09. The ending balance was \$32,928.65. The annual finance report was submitted and provided to the state inspector. A motion to approve the reports was made by Bob Slocum and seconded by John Moore. A discussion was held about the return address currently on the checks. The PO Box belongs to either Dave Warman or Pat Kilburn the previous finance officers. John Moore will contact Pat Kilburn. We have 30 checks left and will put a new address on the next check order. The finance reports were approved unanimously. (See the April & annual finance reports.)

**Americanism:** Frank Giroux mentioned that the JROTC/ROTC awardees were instructed to send thank you cards to the chapter. The Army ROTC cadet has sent a thank you note. All of the leadership award presentations went well.

Frank briefed the membership on the Purple Heart Park Memorial Day ceremony and handed out a sequence of events. The Sons of the American Revolution will provide the color guard instead of DMAFB. The radio station has not responded about the PA system. The City of Tucson will provide the PA. The UofA Alumni Band will provide the music. John and Dave will bring the display, table, wreath, & colors. The City will provide water. Mike Ryan will represent MOPH at Southlawn Cemetery.

Frank suggested that it would be nice to have a standard set of words to say at funerals we attend of veterans. A lot of our old timers are passing away and this is meaningful to the families.

## **Old Business:**

**Bingo:** Bingo at the VA will be on the 30th. Mike Ryan, Bob Slocum & David Bertagnoli will cover Bingo. Bingo committee needs more canteen books for prizes. David Alegria made a motion to purchase the canteen books for \$500. Bob Slocum made a second and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Donations:** David Alegria reported that the PH Classic cleared just over \$50,000.00 and we have given out just over \$22,000.00 in donations to help veterans. The plan we presented for the PH Classic was to donate \$30,000.00 to assist veterans. A discussion was held on where to donate more funds so we can show the PH Classic donors where their monies went. A motion was made by David to provide \$1,000 to Velovets (a cycling program for disabled/PTSD veterans). John Moore made a second and the motion passed unanimously. David Alegria made a motion to donate \$2,000 to TROT (a therapeutic horse riding program for PTSD patients), \$2,000 for the Fisher House, & \$2,000 to the Polytrama/TBI network at the Tucson VA. Frank Giroux made a second and the motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by David Alegria to allocate \$4,000 for PTSD programs. A second was made by John Moore. Bob Slocum will investigate PTSD programs in the area and recommend which programs to spend the monies on. The motion passed unanimously.

**Expenditures:** We had a couple of bills still to pay for holding the PH Classic. David Alegria made a motion to pay Z-Mark \$85.16 for PH Classic shirts, \$108.05 for frames for donor certificates, & \$139.55 processing fees for the credit card scanner donations. David Bertagnoli made a second and the motion was approved unanimously.

**The Moving Wall:** The commander will contact the VFW commander for more info on times the chapter can help out. The Moving Wall is at the Three Points VFW Post the weekend of 5 Jun.

**IRS Policy on Donations.** The finance officer passed out the IRS policy on substantiating charitable contributions. A written disclosure statement (receipt) must be provided for a 'quid pro quo' contribution in excess of \$75 dollars.

## **New Business:**

**Assistance Policy:** A discussion was held on the current assistance policy which limits assistance to chapter members to \$250 but non-members do not have a limit. A discussion was held and the consensus was that we need a more flexible policy so we can help Veterans in need. John & Bob have a draft policy that will be sent out by email for comment by the officers.

**Challenge Coins:** David Alegria made a motion to purchase 500 challenge coins at a cost not to exceed \$2,200. Bob Slocum made a second and the motion passed unanimously.

**PH Wristbands:** David Alegria made a motion to order 10,000 PH wristbands at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. Bob Slocum made a second and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Badges of Merit:** David Bertagnoli made a motion to purchase 250 badges for \$500. Mike Dyer made a second and the motion was approved unanimously.

**Assistance to a member:** The officers approved by email vote \$250 to assist Tony Medrano with expenses for child in hospital. David Alegria made a motion to place the expenditure in the record. Jim Zimmerman made a second and the motion passed unanimously.

**Welfare Report:** Bob Slocum has the hours tallied and the report is ready. It will be emailed to Jack Craig by the 31st of May.

**CFR 38 Letter:** Bob Slocum reported that several veterans organizations are drafting letters to Martha McSally the congressional delegation recommending they propose a change to the CFR 38 rules for veterans with cancer to state "That when a Veteran is diagnosed with cancer regardless of the type of cancer that they be rated at 100% Total and Permanent **Disability** even if it goes into remission without any further evaluation required." The chapter will work on a similar letter.

**Department Patriot of the Year:** Bob Slocum has been selected as the Department Patriot of the Year and will represent the Department for the Region VI Patriot of the Year. Congratulations were given by the chapter commander and the membership.

**Good of Order:** Bob Slocum is having National send him a current copy of the bylaws & procedures manuals.

David Alegria talked about handling the money for the PH Classic. David Bertagnoli will be the sole point of contact for funds going in or out next year. The classic was a learning experience. We had some problems but it evolved and we did a good job overall.

David Alegria floated the concept of building a Purple Heart Memorial at the new veterans cemetery in Marana. A discussion was held. The idea will be investigated for the future.

Joe Tidwell, the National Homeless Coordinator for MOPH talked briefly on homeless issues and indicated Tucson is doing well in this area. He is also the state inspector and congratulated the chapter on their records keeping and conduct of meetings. He would like some of the other chapters to see how we run things.

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. Next meeting is June 15th, 2015.