



## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

web page: <http://mophtucson.webs.com/>

email: MOPHChapter442@comcast.net

### MINUTES: Oct 17, 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 - Sr-Vice Cdr Dyer; Jr-Vice Cdr Herron; Judge Advocate Giroux; Finance Officer Zimmerman; Trustee Moore; & Trustee Gilbert. Excused - Cdr Bertagnoli; Sgt-at-Arms Perkins & Trustee Ryan; A quorum was present.

**Attendance:** 10 chapter members present. Patriot Ram was introduced. Patriot Walter Ram has moved from Tubac to Tucson. He was a B-17 radio operator, shot down twice, and was a POW in Stalag 17. Patriot Ram regaled us with some of his WWII experiences.

#### Reports:

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the Sep minutes was made by Patriot Gilbert & 2nd by Patriot Alegria. Approved unanimously.

**Finance Report:** The beginning balance was \$20,646.30. The ending balance was \$18,983.48. The chapter had \$0.84 in income & \$2,163.66 in expenditures. Motion to approve the report was made by Patriot Thompson & 2nd by Patriot Giroux. Approved unanimously.

**Americanism:** Patriot Giroux reminded everyone about the Veterans Day Parade on Nov 11th. Patriot Moore has submitted the entry form. Staging information and parade route TBA. Pearl Harbor survivors are invited to sit as dignitaries on the reviewing stand. Patriot Slocum has found a vendor who can make the Badge of Merit patch. He provided Patriot Giroux with the contact information. Patriot Giroux will follow up.

**Tucson Veterans Affairs Council Report:** Patriot Grand is the new representative and will replace Patriot Slocum at the end of the year. The state of Arizona is suing the contractor over some construction faults at the new state Veterans Cemetery. That is why the benches are not installed. As a fundraiser memorial pavers can be purchased for \$100, \$300, or \$500 to be placed at the cemetery. Next honor flight is in the spring with 19 WWII veterans. Patriot Moore will add veterans events Patriot Slocum provided to the online and email calendars. Patriot Slocum provided a handout on the Salute to America program at the Gaslight Music Hall in Oro Valley on Nov 11th. It will feature Armen Dirladian, the Manhattan Dolls, & Robert Shaw. Patriot Slocum briefed that HopeFest will be on Oct 22 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Kino Veterans Stadium. Veterans have priority. Veterans can get one-stop service for issues/needs.

**Welfare Report:** No Report.

**PH Golf Classic:** Patriot Alegria encouraged everyone to publicize the Classic in the community. Challenge coins will cost \$2,400.00 instead of the \$1,800 dollars we approved. Patriot Moore indicated that we only have about 25 coins left from last year. Patriot Alegria made a motion to purchase challenge coins for \$2,400.00. It was seconded by Patriot Grioux and approved unanimously.

#### Old Business:

**Bingo:** Bingo at the VA is Oct 29. Patriot Slocum & Patriot Bertagnoli will be at Bingo. Patriot Slocum mentioned that we should consider small penlights as prizes and restock the bingo prizes. They are popular with the patients.

**Toastmasters:** Patriot Grand briefed that he has his last two veteran slots filled in the Veterans toastmasters club. He has funding for the 1st six months. They are settling on a meeting time and place. The chapter will consider helping fund the 2nd 6 months based on how the program goes.

**JOTC Awards:** The commander had asked for thoughts on this program at the last meeting. The consensus was to leave the program "as is" for now. We have time to address it again before Apr if needed.

**DEC Meeting:** Patriot Alegria & Patriot Giroux will attend the DEC meeting. One topic will be fundraising & funding sources. Patriot Alegria indicated that he could not open the funding summary the adjutant provided to the Dept. Patriot Moore will resend it to him in a different format. Patriot Alegria will bring up funding for the Tucson Standdown.

#### **New Business:**

**Operation Exodus:** Patriot Slocum provided sign-up slips for time slots to work at Exodus. Contact Dee Brunner by email or phone to sign-up. 520-573-8374 or dbrunner@flytucson.com Patriot Moore will contact the schools for Christmas Cards to give to the soldiers.

**Hats Off to Heroes:** Patriots Alegria & Slocum went over the activities for HOH on Nov 11/12. American Bombshells Concert at 7:30 to 9:00 PM at the Fox Theater on Nov 11 which is free to veterans. City of Tucson Hats Off to Heroes Celebration at Reid Park. Chapter 442 will maintain/man at MOPH table from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to help man the table. Events, food, displays and bands all day at Reid Park. The American Bombshells and the Tucson Pops Orchestra will perform again this year.

**Routine Expenditures:** The officers voted by email to approve \$300.00 for childcare for a single parent veteran with financial problems & \$150.00 for admin funds for our PH Classic clerk. Patriot Alegria made a motion to place the expenditures into the record & Patriot Zimmerman made the 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

**State Inspection Results:** Patriot Moore briefed the membership on the results of the Department's inspection. Kudos were given to the Finance Officer and the Adjutant for record keeping. Kudos were given to the membership and the Commander for our fundraising efforts. The shortcoming was the opening ceremony was not IAW with the Ritual & Manual of Ceremonies. Patriot Thompson made a motion to place the inspection into the record. A discussion was held about the opening ceremony. Patriot Giroux made a 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.

**Recruiting New Members:** Sr.Vice Cdr Dyer asked that we think about how we can improve recruiting of members and be ready to discuss at the next meeting.

#### **Good of Order:**

Patriot Gilbert briefed the membership on Wreaths-Across-America at the new Veterans Cemetery in Marana. There are 300 burials and wreaths cost \$15 each. There is a shortfall in funding wreaths for the cemetery. Patriot Alegria made a motion to purchase 10 wreaths at a cost of \$150.00. A discussion was held. Patriot Moore reminded the group we have in the past supported Evergreen Cemetery's Wreaths program with a donation to the Gold Star Mothers. We have not heard from them yet this year. Patriot Dyer will contact their POC. Patriot Moore made the 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.

Patriot Thompson briefed the membership on his WWII and Korean War displays that will be available at the Victory Worship Center on Ruthrauff Rd on Nov 11 and Nov 12. A handout with info was provided to the membership.

Sr.Vice Cdr Dyer reminded the membership that Patriot Alegria is being inducted into the AZ Veterans Hall of Fame on Oct 28th.

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM. Next meeting is Nov 21, 2016.