



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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

email: MOPHChapter442@comcast.net

MINUTES: June 20, 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 Ryan; Trustee Moore; & Sgt-at-Arms Perkins. Excused - Trustee Gilbert & Judge Advocate Giroux. A quorum was present.

Attendance: 11 chapter members present. Gary Schott was a guest. Gary is a Marine Corps veteran with a Purple Heart. He & his wife are considering joining the chapter. They were welcomed by the chapter & Gary was presented with a purpleheart wood & Badge of Military Merit.

Reports:

Commander: The commander & adjutant read several thank you letters from recipients of our donations. A certificate from South Lawn Cemetery was presented to the chapter for participation in their Memorial Day Ceremony. Patriot Ryan was our representative at South Lawn. The commander gave Patriot Algeria a Certificate of Achievement for his service & efforts over the last year. The chapter thanked Patriot Alegria.

Sr. Vice Commander: Congratulations to Patriot David Alegria, on his selection to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. His induction ceremony will be on Friday October 28th. This is a well deserved honor for David's many years of service to veterans in the Southern Arizona community. The chapter thanked Patriot Alegria.

Minutes: A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Patriot Dyer & 2nd by Patriot Thompson. Approved unanimously. (See the May 2016 minutes).

Finance Report: The finance officer issued the finance report for May. The beginning balance was \$19,354.34. The ending balance was \$17,072.75. The chapter had \$6050.80 in income & \$8,332.39 in expenditures. A motion to approve the report was made by Patriot Dyer & seconded by Patriot Thompson. A discussion was held on identifying the net & gross from the golf tournament. Patriot Zimmerman will work on it. Approved unanimously. (See the May 2016 finance report.)

Americanism: No report this month. The commander stated that Patriot Giroux did an outstanding job with the chapter's Memorial Day Ceremony.

Tucson Veterans Affairs Council Report: Patriot Slocum reported that stand-down has been moved from Jun 10th to Jun 24th. The TVAC will go dark for Jun, July, & Aug. Next meeting will be in Sep. Patriot Slocum's term expires in December. Patriot Grand will accept appointment as the new representative.

Welfare Report: No Report.

PH Golf Classic: Patriot Alegria indicated that the golf committee is still working on confirming a date with Casino Del Sol for next year's tournament. Once we have that we can move forward with planning, printing brochures, etc. We have asked for April 8th for the tournament date but it is not confirmed. He is meeting with Fisher House to see if they will partner with us on the tournament.

Old Business:

Bingo: Bingo at the VA is Jun 25. Patriot Slocum, Patriot Ryan & Patriot Bertagnoli will be at Bingo.

Appointment of VAVS/Welfare Officer: Patriot Herron has been appointed the new Welfare Officer/VAVS representative. The appointment letter was sent to the state commander for endorsement. Patriot Herron was provided the Welfare/VAVS files from the prior office holder.

DEC Meeting: The commander attended the meeting on Jun 4th to represent the chapter. Woody Glaudel is the new Department Commander for Arizona. Due to financial shortfalls at National there will most likely be no life membership rebate next year. Most of their income comes from car donations which have fallen off in recent years. The commander informed the legislative committee of the issues with the cost of PH license plates & burial fee for spouses in the state veterans cemeteries.

Toastmasters: Patriot Grand gave an update on the toastmasters project for homeless veterans. He has funding for the 1st 6 months & is waiting on the names for the homeless veterans that will participate. He provided the adjutant a letter that outlines successes with veterans in the programs. The adjutant will forward to the officers. The chapter is open to funding this program in the future.

Installation of Officers: Patriot Perkins was installed as Sgt-at-Arms by the Department Legislative Officer, Patriot Alegria. Patriot Perkins could not be installed until National had approved his membership.

New Business:

Challenge Coins: Patriot Moore indicated that we only had about 30 challenge coins left. Patriot Thompson made a motion that we purchase 500 coins at a cost not to exceed \$1,800.00. Patriot Dyer made a second & the motion passed unanimously. Patriot Alegria will handle the purchase.

Wristbands: Patriot Moore indicated that we had about 1,000 wristbands left. A discussion was held about ordering more. The concern is that the purple needs to be the correct color. Patriot Moore will look at costs, etc & report back to the chapter. We paid about \$1,500.00 for 10,000 on the last purchase.

Checks & Banking: Patriot Zimmerman stated that we only have a few checks left & need to order new ones. With the number of checks we deposit from the golf tournament he would like to get two rubber stamps to use when making deposits to the bank. One for him & one for the commander. Patriot Dyer made a motion to purchase checks & stamps not to exceed \$200.00. Patriot Alegria made a 2nd & the motion passed unanimously.

Stand-down: Patriot Slocum indicated that the chapter has supported the summer stand-down in the past with funding for meals/comfort items. He made a motion to provide TVSV with \$500.00 for the June 24th Stand-down. Patriot Dyer made a second & the motion passed unanimously.

Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Luncheon. Patriot Slocum reminded everyone about the Sep 30th luncheon, It is free for a Vietnam Era veteran & spouse but space is limited so you should RSVP soon. He had a hand-out with the information.

EEE: Patriot Slocum indicated that EEE has 9 children of homeless veteran families that need help with school supplies for the fall. Is this something the chapter could help with? After a discussion the commander tabled the item & will have Patriot Gilbert look into it.

Badges of Military Merit: Patriot Giroux by email indicated that Thomas Publications is no longer making the Badge. Costs have gone up & quality from China is poor. They will provide the artwork/plans to us if we can find a vendor & they will commit to ordering 5,000. Patriot Giroux is looking at a possible vendor in Phoenix & want us to do the same here. Patriot Moore found 2 museums that have a few in stock but the quantities are very small & would not meet our needs. Commander Bertagnoli said we could look into it.

Good of Order:

Patriot Dyer informed the chapter that Chick-fil-A on Oracle will donate 10% of their proceeds on July 4th to chapter 442. They would like a bio & photo of some of us for their veterans wall. He will send out a sample & needs ours back by Monday. The adjutant will inform the membership.

Patriot Moore asked about changing meeting times to a Saturday morning to try & increase meeting attendance. Patriot Herron suggest moving the current meeting time up to 4:00 PM. Patriot Moore will survey the general membership & report back to the officers.

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 Sep 19, 2016.