



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: April 19, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM at the Bridge Church. Meetings are being temporarily held at this location due to COVID19 restrictions at the AZ ST Veterans home.

Opening Ceremony: Honors rendered to the Flag. Pledge recited. Invocation was given.

Roll Call: Present were Cdr Dyer; Jr. Sr. Vice Cdr Bertagnoli, Vice-Cdr Grand; Adjutant Moore; Trustee Slocum; Sgt-at-Arms Gilbert; Chaplain Giroux; Finance Officer Zimmerman, Sr., & Trustee Lohman There was a quorum present.

Attendance: 8 chapter members were present.

Guests: none

Reports:

Minutes: Minutes for the March meeting were available. Patriot Giroux moved the minutes be placed into the record. No discussion and Patriot Gilbert 2nd the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Finance Report: Finance Officer provided the finance report for February. Beginning balance was \$79,968.28 and the ending balance was \$75,570.01. The finance officer highlighted deposits and expenses for the month. Patriot Moore moved the Finance reports be placed into the record. No discussion and Patriot Grand made the 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

MOPH Golf Classic: Patriot Dyer reported that for this fundraising this year we will ask our major PH Classic donors for donations in lieu of holding the tournament. We are awaiting approval to use the PH trademarks from the National Foundation.

Americanism: JROTC medals and certificates are in. Patriot Zimmerman has the stipend checks. Patriot Bertagnoli will present to Tombstone and Buena HS. Patriot Patriot Giroux will get the award to Globe HS. Patriot Moore will get the award to Cienega HS. Patriot Slocum will get the award to Desert View HS. UofA Navy ROTC will present the award in the fall. Patriot Moore will mail. Nogales HS, Cholla HS & Flowing Wells HS no ceremony/no awardees. Sahuarita HS MOPH has no one free to present. Patriot Zimmerman will get award to school. Rio Rico HS Patriot Grand will select. The PMS planned to give 3 awards he ordered himself. Patriot Giroux will contact him about the National policy on awards. Nothing scheduled yet for UofA Air Force and Army ROTC.

VAVS/Welfare Report: No Report.

Tucson Veterans Affairs Council Report: Patriot Slocum provided the adjutant with items to distribute by email. The VAC is asking for donations for operating costs.

VA VSO Meeting: No Copays for 1 year due to the COVID crisis. Vaccine site moved to auditorium due to hot weather. They are starting to open up a few more areas to volunteers at the hospital. Have a strict visitor policy. J&J vaccine on hold due to clotting issue.

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans Report: No report. Stand-down as reported before is moved to August. It will be a one day only event.

Commander's Report: Cdr Dyer & Patriot Moore attended the Department Convention. The Department has about \$33,000 on hand. They made about \$11,000 on the calendar gun raffle. Department officers were elected. Patriot Leighton is the new Department Commander. All of the officer positions were filled except for Department Inspector. If interested in the Department Inspector job let us know. The

Department will hold a ceremony on PH Day at the PH Memorial at the state capitol building. Detailed minutes will be sent out when published by the department.

Old Business:

Bingo: Cancelled due to COVID19 restrictions from VA. May start again in two months.

JROTC Stipends: Since the chapter picked up 4 additional high schools the leadership stipend for those 4 schools were not in last year's budget. Patriot Slocum moved that we approve \$200 leadership stipend for each of the 4 additional schools. Patriot Moore stated there would only be 3 stipends because one school was not selecting a cadet or holding a ceremony due to COVID. Patriot Grand 2nd the motion which passed unanimously.

Arizona Veteran Cemetery PH Monument: Patriot Moore reported that the cemetery has set aside August 7th for our dedication of the PH Monument and they have ordered the monument.

Flags and Cases for Deceased at VA: Patriot Thompson reported that the VA will get the flags for free from the post office. Flag cases would be about \$70 each but the VA has not decided what to do.

TVAC Funding: The TVAC has requested funding for 4 Chaplains, Exodus, and the operational fund. Patriot Slocum recommends tabling until we have more on what is the actual need.

MIAP Followup: Patriot Moore and Patriot Kusama attended for the chapter. Patriot Leighton attended for the department. It was a good ceremony and well attended by the community. 26 remains were buried.

New Business.

Expenditures: The officers approved 2 expenditures by email vote. \$400 dollars for financial assistance to Veteran McSwain and \$500 bronze sponsorship for the Women Warriors program. Patriot Gilbert made a motion place the expenditures in the record. No discussion and Patriot Grand made the 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Audit: The semi-annual Trustee Audit was conducted prior to the meeting by Patriot Lohman and Patriot Slocum. No mistakes were found in the Warrant Log or the Finance Records. The records balanced with each other. Patriot Slocum made a motion to place the audit in the record. No discussion and Patriot Gilbert 2nd the motion which passed unanimously.

Website Domain Renewal: The website domain expires in 30 days. We have the option to renew for 1 up to 5 years. Patriot Giroux recommended renewal for 5 years for a total of \$74.75. No discussion and Patriot Grand made the 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

Memorial Day at Eastlawn & Southlawn: The cemeteries have asked if we will be placing a wreath during their Memorial Day Ceremonies. Patriot Moore should be able to do Southlawn. We have to reply by mid-May. Status of the Veterans Cemetery's ceremony is not known.

Department & Region Patriot of the Year: Congratulations to Patriot Bertagnoli who is the AZ Department and also the Region Patriot of the year. His plaques will be presented at the June meeting.

EEE: We need to fund food for the homeless Veterans at EEE for May to cover until the annual budget is approved. Patriot Slocum made a motion to provide \$250 for food for EEE. Patriot Zimmerman reported EEE had sent the receipts for Feb. No other discussion and Patriot Gilbert 2nd the motion which was approved unanimously.

Fisher House: Cdr Dyer is looking into needs for the Fisher House and how we can support them. Patriot Thompson will look into what needs VAVS & the Fisher House have and report back in May.

Good of Order: We will be drafting the annual budget at the May meeting. Need ideas & input.

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. Next meeting is May 17th. Meeting place will continue to be the Bridge Church.