



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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MINUTES: March 18, 2019

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 Dyer; Sr Vice-Cdr Bertagnoli; Sgt-at-Arms Grand; Adjutant Moore; Trustee Gilbert; Chaplain Giroux; Golf Chair Asbell & Historian Thompson. Excused - Finance Officer Zimmerman;; Jr Vice-Cdr Herron & Trustee McNutt. A quorum was present.

Attendance: 10 chapter members present.

Guests: - Patriot Dennis Belcastro MOPH Ch 703 in Maryland. Dennis served with Patriot Giroux in Vietnam

Reports:

Minutes: Motion to approve the Jan & Feb minutes was made by Patriot Gilbert. No discussion & 2nd by Patriot Grand. No discussion and approved unanimously (see Feb & Jan minutes).

Finance Report: The finance officer had back surgery. The Finance reports for Jan & Feb were presented by the adjutant. The chapter had a beginning balance of \$35,203.45 and an ending balance of \$52,799.07. (see Finance reports for Jan & Feb). Patriot Thompson made a motion to approve the finance report. No discussion and Patriot Gilbert made the 2nd. The motion was approved unanimously.

PH Golf Classic: Patriot Asbell provided an update on the PH Classic. Everything is in place and set to go on Mar 30th. The classic has had a few groups drop out. There should be around 124+ players. There are 4 flag officers playing in the event. It looks like Empower Coalition will be the title sponsor and donate \$10,000.00 to the chapter. Patriot Moore reported that we have taken in \$59,000.00 so far for the classic and it looks like we will get to about \$70,000.00.

Americanism: Patriot Giroux provided dates for the JROTC and ROTC awards ceremonies. Presenters were assigned for the various schools. Patriot Moore will check on Patriot Wheeler for Vail and Patriot Clark for the air force presentations. Patriot Moore will add the dates to the calendar.

VAVS/Welfare Report: No Report this month.

Tucson Veterans Affairs Council Report: Patriot Slocum has been accepted as the new TVAC representative and will start attending in April. Patriot Grand's resignation has been accepted.

Commander's Report: Cdr Dyer reported on the issue of suicides among veterans. The Southwestern states have the high rate among all of the regions of the nation. The national average is 22 veterans commit suicide a day and Arizona is at 40 per day. He wants the chapters focus for the next year to be on suicide prevention. Our funds should go to organizations that help with reducing suicides among veterans.

Old Business:

Bingo: Patriot Bertagnoli can't cover Bingo for March. We are in good shape for prizes for a while. Patriot Johnson will cover for March.

Four Chaplains: Patriot Grand and Patriot Bertagnoli placed the chapter's wreath. Patriot Bertagnoli took Patriot Ram to the ceremony. The ceremony went well.

Gathering of Native American Veterans: Casino Del Sol will hosted the Gathering of Native Veterans on Mar 2nd. Patriot Moore & Patriot Grand staffed the MOPH table. Only had 3 PH recipients stop at the table. None wanted to join. It was a nice ceremony but was not that well attended.

Membership Application Form: Cdr Dyer reported that the chapter is the final authority on accepting a member with a felony.

New Business:

Expenditures: Since the last meeting the officers approved by email a \$1,000.00 donation to PGA Project Hope Tucson (they provide free golf instruction to disabled veterans) and \$691.41 for PH Chapter themed tumblers to sell at events. Patriot Bertagnoli made a motion to place the vote by the officers into the record. No discussion and Patriot Asbell made the 2nd. The motion passed unanimously.

Annual Reports: Patriot Moore indicated that report dates were moved up for this year. Election report is due 30 Mar, Welfare & Americanism are due 15 Apr, and Finance/property are due 31 May.

Budget: Be prepared to plan the 2019/2020 budget at the next meeting. Look at who we want to fund and that they use our funds to meet our goals.

Trustee Audit: The semi-annual trustee audit will take place at 4:00 pm prior to the April meeting. Trustees, Finance Officer, Adjutant, and Commander need to attend.

Dark in June, July August: The chapter will go dark for the months of June, July, and August.

Memorial Day at PH Park: Patriot Moore asked about moving the ceremony from Memorial Day to PH Day as a way of celebrating PH Day and still honoring GWOT fallen. A discussion was held of the pros and cons. It was decided to keep the ceremony on Memorial Day at PH Park. Patriot Giroux will contact the City of Tucson and begin the planning.

Purple Heart Day: The commander asked that members come up with ideas to celebrate PH Day on August 7th for discussion at the next meeting.

Chapter Elections: The chapter elected officers for 2 year terms last year. Patriot Moore made a motion to reaffirm the officers for 2019/2020. No discussion & Patriot Giroux made the 2nd. The motion passed unanimously. Patriot Moore will submit the election report.

Good of Order:

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM. Next meeting is April 15.