



## MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442

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### MINUTES: September 16, 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 was given.

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

**Attendance:** 7 chapter members present.

**Guests:** - Nate Benedvia. Nate served on the USS Liberty when it was attacked by Israel in 1967. He was wounded and received a PH. He plans on joining the chapter.

### Reports:

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

**Finance Report:** The Finance report for May, June, July, & Aug, was presented by the Adjutant. The chapter had a beginning balance of \$80,797.21 and an ending balance of \$46,346.31. (see the May, June, July, & August Finance reports). Patriot Grand made a motion to approve the finance report. No discussion and Patriot Gilbert made the 2nd. The motion was approved unanimously.

**PH Golf Classic:** PH Classic will be on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Omni's Tucson National. T-sign forms and draft brochures are on the website for download. Patriot Dyer asked that members provide more help on getting sponsors and T-Signs since Patriot Asbell will not be able to devote as much time this year (his wife had a stroke).

**Americanism:** No report.

**VAVS/Welfare Report:** No report

**Tucson Veterans Affairs Council Report:** Patriot Slocum provide a number of flyers on upcoming events: MAIP – Oct 26; NamJam – Oct 19; AZ State Veteran Cemetery raffle – Nov 1; Hats Off to Heroes – Nov 10; EEE Golf Tournament – Nov 2; Marana Veterans Fair; Oct 17 & TVAC Airline Ticket Raffle – Nov 11. Patriot Slocum stated that the state is coming out with a number of new military themed license plates. Also the MAIP mission will bury 2 WWI veterans. He will check to see who has PHs. If the WWI vets have PH Patriot Slocum will provide the Mini-PHs for the urns. The TVAC raffle will help fund d4 Chaplains, Operation Exodus, Military Lounge, and the Veterans Parade. Tickets are \$10 for a chance to win 2 round trip airfares on Southwest to destination of choice.

**Commander's Report:** The commander asked if we should have our Finance Officer bonded. The State MOPH recommends bonding officers if handling more than \$50,000.00. More research is needed. Tabled to October meeting.

### Old Business:

**Bingo:** Patriot Bertagnoli reported that the chapter will need to purchase more coupon books soon and made a motion to allocate \$500.00 for coupon books. Patriot Slocum made a 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Purple Heart Day:** Cdr Dyer stated that the PH Day ceremony to award grants was highly successful. The membership agreed and recommended that it be an annual event. The ceremony to recognize the residents of the Veterans Home who have PHs was also outstanding and well received by families in attendance.

**Walter Ram PH Ceremony:** Chapter member Walter Ram received his 2<sup>nd</sup> PH from Senator Martha McCally. It was a well attended ceremony and included a 4 star general from the pentagon.

**AZ Veterans of Distinction:** Patriot Asbell and Patriot Moore were recognized by Senator McCally for nomination as Veterans of Distinction in a ceremony in Phoenix. Cdr Dyer will continue to submit chapter members for recognition for the work they do for the chapter.

**National Convention:** No new information available on the legal situation with the foundation. The National website is back working. National has a limited staff back at work.

**Trustee Election:** Tabled until October. If you want to serve as trustee or nominate someone contact the adjutant.

#### **New Business:**

**Expenditures:** During June, July, and August the officers approved 14 expenses by email vote totaling \$9,477.37 dollars 12 of the expenses were assistance requests for rent/utilities/etc for veterans in need. Motion to place into the record was made by Patriot Gilbert. No discussion & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patriot Grand. Motion approved unanimously (see warrant log).

**Calendar Fundraiser at State MOPH:** Cdr Dyer talked about the fundraiser. State MOPH is selling calendars to raise money. Patriot Moore has placed a link to online sales on the website & FB page. Calendars are \$50 for 50 chances to win a gun. Only 1,000 calendars will be sold.

**Golf Cart for Veterans Home:** Patriot Slocum briefed on the need for a special golf cart with wheelchair access so the Veterans Home can get patients to the VA. The cost is about \$10,000.00. American Legion post 132 is taking the lead. Patriot Giroux made a motion that we donate \$1,000.00 toward the cart to be held pending the purchase. Patriot Grand made a 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion after discussion unanimously passed.

**Life Membership Verification:** Patriot Moore has submitted the report. All of the chapters required reports are in.

**Honor Flight:** Patriot Moore and Patriot Bertagnoli will represent the chapter at Honor Flight on Sep 28 and Sep 30. 23 WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam Veterans will be on the Honor Flight.

**Condolence Cards for VAVS:** Patriot Slocum stated that the VA needs condolence cards to send out when a patient passes away. Patriot Moore has 4 boxes that he will donate.

**UofA ROTC:** The Army ROTC program is raising money to send a team to the annual Army 10K run in Washington D.C. and is asking for donations. The consensus of the membership was to prioritize our funds to veterans assistance. No motion was made to support the request.

**Good of Order: Nothing**

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM. Next meeting is Oct 21.