



**COL M. Fyffe Memorial Chapter
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Chapter 572
Meeting Minutes
28 May 2014**

Opening:

The regular meeting of Chapter 572 was called to order at 1815 on 28 May 2014 in the Landmark Cafe by Eddie Weathers.

Roll Call:

Commander: Present

Sr Vice Commander: Present

Jr Vice Commander: Present

Adjutant / Finance Officer: Present

Sergeant of Arms: Absent

Guests:

Shanda Leffelman, the Volunteer Coordinator from Valor Hospice. Ms. Leffelman presented Chapter 572 a Certificate of Appreciation for our monetary contribution to Valor Hospice last month. She also spoke about her organizations journaling project for Hospice patients called "Reflections" and asked for Chapter member to consider volunteering their time since the majority of the patients were Veterans.

Aaron Baca, a potential new member attended the meeting with his wife and child.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Finance Officer's Report:

The Finance Officer presented the monthly financial report to the chapter. The financial report was unanimously approved as distributed.

Open Issues:

Cherry Creek Radio Fundraiser:

Scott Gould, the General Sales Manager for Cherry Creek Radio, is looking to put together a radio telethon type fundraiser for the Chapter around the September timeframe. It will be a weeklong radio pledge drive for the Chapter highlighted by PSA radio spots. We are still waiting on Mr. Gould to shore up the details of the event.

On 17 May 2014 the Chapter Adjutant presented Cadette Troop 1224, Junior Girl Scout Troop 104 and Brownie Troop 419 with a certificates of appreciation for their generous Girl Scout cookie donation for the Chapter's Members Appreciation Dinner. Janice Wheat, the Girl Scout Troop Leader, was enamored with the awards and asked for color copies to be made for each girl. The Chapter gladly did so. Mrs. Wheat will be including her troops in more Chapter events in the future.

On 17 May 2014 Chapter members supported Trail Boss Outfitters in their second annual 2nd Amendment Day.

We had a good turn out at the Memorial Day ceremony. Chapter 572 placed a wreath at the ceremony at the Southern Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. Chapter Officers also spoke with Mayor Rick Mueller, Congressman Ron Barber, and Senator John McCain about the Purple Heart City initiative for Sierra Vista.

New Business:

Top Gun 6:

The event will be held on 25 October 2014. Raffle tickets should be available early to mid-summer. Josh Rummerfield is working with three firearms manufacturers in order to have a rifle donated for the raffle.

Trail Boss Outfitters will be donating a percentage of their firearms sales for the month June to the Chapter. Trail Boss will be advertising the fact that they are raising funds in support of our Chapter this month.

Chapter Adjutant, Christopher Vedvick, was on AM 1420 KTAN radio with Arizona Congressmen David Gowan and David Stevens on Memorial Day. The Adjutant spoke about Memorial Day, how Chapter 572 helps Combat Wounded Veterans and other veterans within Cochise County and he talked about the Purple Heart City proposal for the City of Sierra Vista.

The Chapter voted unanimously to increase the support a local Eagle Scout project that will improve the Southern Arizona Veterans' Cemetery. The Chapter will donate \$516 in order to help replace damaged or missing flag holders in the cemetery.

Ryan Castillo, the JROTC Cadet from Nogales, that is trying to put a Veterans' Memorial in Nogales for his senior project cannot be reached. Brian Gleason has made numerous attempts to contact him. We may have to wait until the next school year.

Purple Heart Park:

The Adjutant attended the Sierra Vista Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in order to request that the City of Sierra Vista refurbish the sign at the Purple Heart Park. The sign has severe signs of wear due to weather and vandalism. Victoria Yarbrough, the Parks and Recreation Director informed the Adjutant that the sign was to be moved because it blocked the line of sight from the awnings to the playground equipment. She said that she would engage Public Works on refurbishment of the sign.

Hearing Loop Project:

The Junior Vice Commander, Whitey Reese, spoke about a program that the Chapter was initiating. The program consisted of the Chapter purchasing hearing induction loop systems for hearing impaired Veterans. The Chapter would also buy a system for use at the Landmark Café, where Chapter meeting are held. Whitey Reese was appointed the Chairman of the Chapter's Hearing Commission and he announced that he would be seeking others to volunteer. The Chapter voted unanimously to support the program and charged Whitey with obtaining cost estimates and surveying the Chapter's membership to establish the total systems needed.

Purple Heart City:

The Chapter Commander and Chapter Adjutant developed a proposal to make Sierra Vista the first Purple Heart City in Arizona. They then presented this proposal in a private meeting with the Sierra Vista Mayor, Rick Mueller. He fully supported the idea and liked the idea of having the proclamation on Purple Heart Day, August 7th. Following the meeting with the Mayor the Chapter Commander and Adjutant presented the proposal to the Sierra Vista City Council in a public forum. All City Councilmembers fully supported the proposal and will put it on the agenda to vote for the next City Council meeting. Another date discussed for the possible proclamation would be on Veterans' Day, November 11th. The only concern for the project from the Mayor was the signage. The Arizona Department of Transportation would have to approve all road signs and the Mayor and the Chapter will have to work out how to install a new dedication plaque near the flagpole at Veterans' Park in Sierra Vista.

Viola Sales:

The Chapter brought back the Viola fundraising with a bang. The Chapter Commander and Junior Vice Commander ran out of over 1000 violas in just about 14 hours. Fry's Grocery Store in Sierra Vista was gracious enough to allow our Chapter to raise funds in front of their store for two days. The Chapter raised over \$2,000 to help local Combat Wounded Veterans.

Professionalizing Fundraising Efforts:

The Adjutant proposed that the Chapter buy tables, chairs, a table skirt with the Chapter logo, a shade tent with the Chapter logo and new vehicle magnets. The Commander motioned that the Adjutant finalize the equipment cost and bring it to a quorum vote as soon as possible. The Chapter voted unanimously to support the motion.

Elections:

The following Officer positions were voted on and the Officers were subsequently installed.

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| Commander: | James "Eddie" Weathers |
| Senior Vice Commander: | Gary Blankenship |
| Junior Vice Commander: | E.C. "Whitey" Reese |
| Finance Officer: | Christopher Vedvick |
| Sergeant at Arms: | Brian Gleason |
| 3 Year Trustee: | Todd Hamilton |

The Chapter Commander appointed Christopher Vedvick as Adjutant.

Ladies Auxiliary:

The Commander was informed by National HQ that the LAMOPH Chapter was defunct. Mrs. Fyffe requested that more research be done in order to ensure that the Ladies Auxiliary was not closed.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1955 by Eddie Weathers. The next general meeting will be at 1800 on June 25, 2014, in the Landmark Cafe.

Minutes submitted by: Christopher Vedvick, Adjutant

Approved by: James "Eddie" Weathers, Commander