

MINUTES FOR ARIZONA PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

ANNUAL AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

23 APRIL 2022 10AM

American Legion Post 35, Chandler, AZ

Call to Order: 10:00 am

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Established Quorum of Directors – Jed Kohler – Absent, Mike Sullivan - Absent

Present: Bill Wooster, John Moffitt,, Sheri Hanson, Patrick Halliday, Patty Palermo

Virtual Presentation - Clyde Taylor MIAP- Presenting PGR Certificate

Introductory:

State Captain – Bill Wooster

Gave a brief overview of the number of missions AZ PGR has done April 2021 -2022 500 of which, 200 escorts, 6 Active Duty, and 81 HOTH. Busy time for AZ PGR. He talked about the three upcoming Pony Express Missions and how they are fully embraced by PGR National.

He also touched briefly on hate mail about mis-appropriated AZ PGR funds going toward personal use. He made it perfectly clear that no funds are personally used by anyone. In fact there is a donor in Nevada who is donating gasoline at one of the NV stops on the route to Oregon.

Bill also mentioned that sometimes the AZ PGR funds are used for out of state cases where a veteran is in a crisis and time is of the essence. He shared a case with the members.

Financials:

Treasurer - Sheri Hanson

Reviewed the financial report and noted that we are under \$50k so we didn't need a CPA to prepare our taxes for this year. Financial report can be found at azpgr.org.

Sheri read some stats from our HOTH missions for 4-21 - 3-22. Even with some restrictions in place 81 HOTH missions were completed. Sheri talked about a change to the Yuletide 4 Heroes program. A Yuletide party for the families took place at The Bunker provided by Ray Perez.

Honor Flights are back!! She is working with the Phoenix Airport on parking situations.

More awareness presentations are being done to help with increase in membership.

Sheri also talked about the Veteran Assist and Charitable Contribution to several VSO's during. 2021 and early 2022.

Sheri also happily announced the first two recipients of the AZ PGR Scholarship Program. This program assists in the cost of education for children of veterans.

New Business

*** Need more awareness for RC, RG, flag support and flag line members**

*** City of Tempe to talk about PGR**

*** Switched from banner flags to actual flags.**

*** Main picture on our Website and Facebook changes to show Guardian Angels names of PGR members who have passed.**

*** Safety Officer Program when someone goes down on an escorted procession for quicker notification to family. Trauma kits carried by the team.**

*** Change in Road Guard procedure to improve safety of everyone.**

*** Dash Cam for PGR Tail Gunners will be provided and required, subject to Board approval.**

*** New Road Guard issued guidelines for June 15 thru Sep 15. One escort a day for the safety of our Road Guards.**

*** New sign for all who are participating in the escort. "Funeral" sign with specific guidelines to be hung on the mirror.**

*** The AZ PGR Plaque wasn't accepted by the National Cemetery. Possibly acceptable to the State Veteran Cemetery in Bellemont, AZ. John Moffitt is tasked with taking the lead on that.**

*** Laser engraved metal wrist bracelet to honor a veteran. Laser engraved ICE dog tags for Road Guards. Possibly opening it up to members. Currently not available to non members.**

*** In the works -**

- Prescott National Cemetery storage area for 1 piece flag poles.**
- Blipboard to advertise AZ PGR and promote awareness**
- Searching for commercial space rental in the North Phoenix area for AZ PGR storage of all supplies. This task is to help reduce our storage costs of \$3700 a quarter.**

Comments by members:

Benefit of AZ PGR presence at the Mesa Swap Meet – Bill to address. Possibly working with another organization already there.

Use stars from retired flags to help promote PGR. Bill mentioned Stars for Our Troops.

Discussion on the challenge coins and how successful it has been with showing our appreciation to LEO, Firefighters First Responders, and other Medical Personnel.

John mentioned a PGR video that is on YouTube that was done by Oregon PGR. Contact John Moffitt for the link.

AZ PGR to make a mock video of an escort, circle of honor, flag line and discussion with family.

More news coverage - Bill said this avenue has been exhausted but is open to another try.

Are we contacting Funeral Homes? - Bill said yes all the time.

John opened elections:

Patty Palermo (Secretary) 2022

Motion made by John Moffitt to elect Patty Palermo to the Board of Directors for a term expiring 2025. - motion accepted

No further business – General meeting adjourned 11:55 am

Board of Directors meeting 12:09

Call to Order – Quorum Established

Comments by State Captain - Bill Wooster

Bill commented on how great the attendance was at the general meeting.

Create business cards to hand out with the challenge coins

Decorative wrap on the trailer that was donated to AZ PGR.

General discussion by board members:

Responding to donors better.

Proposed expenditure for storage costs. We currently have 4 storage units at the cost of \$3700.00 a quarter. Alternatives to look for would be available land, donated space, house, storage building etc.

Research how to contact Robert Parsons – GoDaddy for donation of land or space for AZ PGR storage.

Approval of proposed expenditures: Response: All YES

- **Order more challenge coins - \$1200**
- **Order Dash Cams for AZ PGR Tail Gunners \$600 for 4 dash cams**

No further business – Board meeting adjourned 11:55 am