

# MINUTES FOR ARIZONA PATRIOT GUARD RIDERS

20 APRIL 2024

## AZ PGR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP and BOARD MEETING

Anthem Civic Center, "2nd Floor"  
3701 W Anthem Way, Anthem, AZ 85086

Call to Order: 12:39 pm

Members in attendance: 14

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

Introductory: State Captain Report – Bill Wooster

### Comments by Board Members

Treasurer: Sheri Hanson

#### Financial:

Treasurer - Sheri Hanson

Reviewed the financial report and noted that our online donations have increased. Merchandise sales are really good, reviewed bracelet and dog tag expenses. Our insurance and storage costs have increased. Financial report can be found at [azpgr.org](http://azpgr.org).

HOTH: Sheri read some stats from our HOTH missions for 4-01-23 - 03-31-24. 110

Honor Flight Program is in their Spring season. During the fall schedule we welcomed the returning Veterans home from five flights, and we have five for the Spring program. There are three flights April and May. We hope some of you will join us as we welcome home these Veterans from their three – day trip to Washington DC.

Awareness Booth: Sheri: We continue to do presentations about the Patriot Guard - who we are and what we do to many organizations and civic groups which have resulted in support and interest in the AZPGR and our missions and programs.

### Yuletide 4 Heroes:

2023 was our 7th year for the Yuletide 4 Heroes program, and this year we not only assisted families and transitional Veterans that meet challenges during the holiday season, we also helped the Prescott US Vets. In addition, we were honored to serve several LEO families around the Valley with gifts and food boxes. We thank the MSCO CISM team for reaching out to us regarding these families. The stories would break your heart!!!

### Sheri also talked about the Veterans Assist and Charitable Contributions:

One of our largest support efforts was to Youth 4 Troops who were critically low in supplies for boxes shipped to deployed troops. To date, they have shipped 13,604 care packages to deployed troops. Through contacts we have made at the HUDVASH program without Yuletide program, we have also provided assistance to homeless Veterans transitioning into housing with purchases of hygiene supplies, cleaning supplies, pots and pans, dishes, towels .... things many of us take for granted. And Veterans needing simple home repairs that they may be unable to do themselves.

### State Captain – Bill Wooster

Brief overview of the number of missions AZ PGR has done April 2023 – March 2024

320 Honor Missions, 99 of which were escort.

6 KIA Missions, 3 of which were escort.

110 HOTH Missions

24 Memorial Missions, 1 of which was an escort.

Busy time for AZPGR

### Road Guard Representative – Patrick Halliday

Recap of Road Guard training and new RG's.

## **Discussion points with and from membership:**

- Rich Wetenhall wanted to be sure a special appreciation was made to one of our members, Wayne Nicholls, for his continued support playing Taps at the services of fallen soldiers.
- Wanting to increase member attendance, especially training and bringing on new Road Guards.
- Possibility of future flag lines to Honor the unclaimed Veterans!
- Not all requests for Missions are being put on calendar! – Needs Ride Captain to go on calendar and National as a mission.
- Possibility of a Veterans Thrift Store. There's a lot of stuff we can have available for Veterans.
- Outside of the Yuletide 4 Heroes, we helped MCSO with their Christmas Party giving gifts to children and families.
- Increase our goal for wreaths.
- Looking into the possibility of having to increase our liability insurance if we continue to support Dignity.
- Yuma Missions have decreased since the loss of the local Ride Captain.
- Alaska Airlines has been building carts into a dignified Fallen Solider Carts to transport the remains of a fallen service members. Their goal is to get one in every major airport in the USA. Members from AZPGR will join the escort from Seattle to Nashville.
- Bill shared with those present that Dan Lazear's cousin's property was left to the AZPGR at time of her death. John Moffitt and Bill Wooster are working out the details with a Probate Lawyer.
- We need to stay on top of any members who are in the hospital or struggling.

## **John Moffitt opened elections:**

**Open Board Nominations for Next Three-Year Term**

**Nominations:**

- 1. Asst. State Captain Representative – John Moffitt – Running for re-election**
- 2. Road Guard Representative – Patrick Halliday – Running for re-election**
- 3. Member at Large – Jed Kohler – Running for re-election**
- 4. Ride Captain Representative – Rich Wetenhall**

**Motion made by John Moffitt - motion accepted by members**

**No further business – General meeting adjourned 2:04 PM**

## **Board of Directors meeting 2:32 PM**

**Call to Order – Quorum Established**

**Comments by State Captain - Bill Wooster**

**Membership Awareness**

**More community involvement – How can we make ourselves more aware to the public.**

**AZPGR to take the lead at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona - Phoenix for WAA.**

**General discussion by board members:**

**Approval of proposed expenditures: Response: All YES**

- Partial Reimbursement of \$600 for cost of food and PGR hats for the Annual Meeting**

- **Donation of \$500 to support to the Fallen Soldiers Cart escort from Seattle to Nashville.**

**John opened Nominations Officers: Elected Annually**

**Vice President - John Moffitt – Motion accepted**

**Secretary -Patty Palermo – Motion accepted**

**Treasurer – Sheri Hanson – Motion accepted**

**No further business – Board meeting adjourned 3:29 PM**