



# Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 - 6:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting via TEAMS

**MEETING NOTE: Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have prompted declarations of a public health emergency at the local, state and federal levels, this meeting will be conducted using measures to protect public health. This meeting will be held remotely through technological means, as permitted under Arizona law. In-person attendance by members of the public will be prohibited.**

## Legal Action Report

### 1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

Virtual online meeting called to order by Rocio "Rosie" Kary at 6:00 p.m. Those present and absent were:

**Present:**

Rocio "Rosie" Kary

Bruce Hayes

Gary Smith

Henry Johnson

James "Tub-Bee" Louis

Kassie Diaz

Lorraine Obregon

Terry Byron

Marlon Ruiz

Martin Belden

Melvin Morgan

**Absent:**

Ann Hollis

Minou De La Rosa

**Staff Members Present:**

Robert Hunter

**Representing:**

Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation

American Legion Post 109 – Arrived at 6:12 p.m.

American Legion Department of Arizona

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72, and Post 81 Scottish American Military Society of Southern Arizona

Arizona Department of Veterans Services

Women Marine Association

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary – Arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Cactus Unit 2

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

Military Order of the World Wars, Region XIII

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106

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**Representing:**

Military Officers Association of America

Tucson Chapter

TAA, Non-voting Advisory

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

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**2. Invocation**

The invocation was provided by Committee Member Johnson.

**3. Introduction of Guests**

a. Jennifer Gutowski, Director – (SAVAHCS)

**4. Approval of Legal Action Report for November 8, 2023**

It was moved by Committee Member Belden, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 9 to 0, **(Committee Members Hays, Hollis, and Obregon) absent**, to approve the Legal Action Report from the November 8, 2023, meeting.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Committee Member Belden stated the beginning balance at the start of the month of November 2023 was \$3,540.44. He reported no expenses, leaving a current balance of \$3,281.42.

It was moved by Committee Member Ruiz, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 9 to 0, **(Committee Members Hays, Hollis, and Obregon) absent**, to approve the financial report as presented.

**6. Committee Reports**

**a. Southern Arizona Veteran's Affairs Health Care System (SAVAHCS)**

Jennifer Gutowski, Director of SAVAHCS provided a report on behalf of SAVAHCS.

Discussion was held, and no action was taken.

**b. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery**

Committee Member Louis reported Sierra Vista had 28 interments last month. He also noted there they would participate in the Races Across America. Marana Cemetery had 31 Interments, and a family who sponsored would be at the Races as well. Commission Byron stated that 1,782 wreaths were purchased as of the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**c. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**

Committee Member Louis stated last month they had their annual BBC Conference; new counselors were able to meet their fellow BBC. In-person appointments are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 332 claims were submitted.

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**7. Memorial for Vietnam Veteran Memorial Park – Update/Discussion**

Committee Member Byron gave a brief update. She noted that no one has reached out to her. She asked if City Clerk staff could assist further.

**8. Standing questions: COT assistance with printing and Operation Exodus, Eligibility for the VAC to apply for COT and other grants – Update/Discussion**

City Clerk's Office staff noted they spoke to the City Clerk and are still waiting on something in writing. Also, the news wasn't so good, due to budgetary reasons.

**9. Military Lounge – Update/Discussion**

Committee Member Byron stated the representative of the Tucson Airport Authority (TAA) has not been attending the VAC meetings. She stated she has reached out to the TAA for an update on their representative and will report to the Committee on Operation Exodus when she has received a return response. The Exodus will be on Monday, December 18, 2023. She stated that there was another request for water from the Airport.

A motion was made for Operation Exodus to spend \$2,323.34 at Costco.

It was moved by Committee Member Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 11 to 0, **(Committee Member Hollis, and Ruiz) absent** to approve the purchase of Operation Exodus to spend \$2,323.34 at Costco.

A motion to purchase another case of water from the Airport was made.

It was moved by Committee Member Belden, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 11 to 0, **(Committee Members Hollis, and Ruiz) absent** to approve the purchase of a pallet of water for the Military Lounge.

**10. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vietnam War**

Committee Member Morgan gave an update, and no action was taken.

**11. Memorial of Vietnam Veteran Memoria Park**

Item duplicated on agenda.

**12. Wreaths Across America**

Commissioner Byron stated everyone was very successful this year in getting their wreaths.

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**13. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2024**

Commissioner Byron stated that she sent out the flyer and the event is at 1:00 p.m. and will be just a ceremony.

**14. Outreach to Mayor and Council**

Commissioner Belden stated that they just need to get their attention.

**15. VAC Future Events - Discussion**

No report was given.

**16. Report on Current Events – For the Good of the Order**

No report was given.

**17. Nominations and Election of Officers**

- Chair

It was moved by Committee Member Johson, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0, **(Committee Members Hollis, and Ruiz) absent** to approve the Election of Chairperson Rocio “Rosie” Kary.

- Senior Vice Chair

It was moved by Committee Member Belden, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0, **(Committee Members Hollis, and Ruiz) absent** to approve the Election of Senior Vice Chair Henry Johnson.

- Junior Vice Chair

It was moved by Committee Member Johnson, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0, **(Committee Members Hollis, and Ruiz) absent** to approve the Election of Junior Vice Chair Lorraine Obregon.

- Treasurer

It was moved by Committee Member Johnson, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0, **(Committee Members Hollis, and Ruiz) absent** to approve the Election of Treasurer Martin Belden.

- Judge Advocate

It was moved by Committee Member Belden, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0, **(Committee Members Hollis, and Ruiz) absent** to approve the Election of Judge Advocate Terry Byron.

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**18. Chair's Appointments**

- Secretary – Kassie Diaz
- Chaplain – Henry Johnson

**19. Consideration/Approval of Members**

- a. Appointment of Tom Tunks as recommended by the Nighthawk-72 Marana Detachment #1344
- b. Reappointment of Terry Byron as recommended by the Nighthawk-72 Marana Detachment #1344
- c. Reappointment of Marlon Ruiz as recommended by the Military Order of the World Wars

It was moved by Committee Member Morgan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0, **(Committee Members Hollis, and Ruiz) absent** to approve the appointments.

**20. Future Agenda Items**

None as of right now.

**21. Benediction**

Committee Member Johnson provided the benediction.

**22. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.**

Next Meeting: January 10, 2024