



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 - 6:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via TEAMS

Minutes

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

Virtual online meeting called to order by Rocio Kary at 6:03 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Alicia Fuller
Ann Hollis

Bruce Hayes
Lorraine Obregon

Terry Byron
Tom Tunks
Henry Johnson

Martin Belden
Melvin Morgan
Rocio "Rosie" Kary

William Burks

James "Tub-Bee" Louis

Absent:

Kassie Diaz
Marlon Ruiz

Staff Members Present:

Amari Leon

Representing:

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans

Military Officers Association of America
Tucson Chapter

American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary – Arrived at
6:14 p.m.

Cactus Unit 2 – Arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

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Post 81 Scottish American Military Society of
Southern Arizona

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106

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Women in Military Service for America Memorial
Foundation

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26 – Arrived
at 6:25 p.m.

Arizona Department of Veterans Services

Representing:

Women Marine Association

Military Order of the World Wars, Region XIII

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

2. Invocation

The invocation was provided by Committee Member Johson.

3. Introduction of Guests

- a. Jennifer Gutowski - SAVAHCS Director
- b. Matthew Langseth - City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator
- c. Margo Susco, Tucson Police Department
- d. Boulder Crest – Codi McCaw/Scott Abrams

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4. Approval of Legal Action Report for April 10, 2024

It was moved by Committee Member Belden, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0 (Committee Members Burks, Diaz, Ruiz, and Obregon absent), to approve the Legal Action Report from the April 10, 2024 meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Committee Member Belden stated the beginning balance at the start of the month of April 1, 2024, was \$1,455.21. He reported they received \$500.00 from Jim Click, \$500.00 from American Legion Aux #132, and \$200.00 from DAV #2 Auxiliary in donations, leaving a current balance of \$2,655.21.

It was moved by Committee Member Johnson, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0 (Committee Members Burks, Diaz, Ruiz, and Obregon absent), to approve the financial report as presented.

6. Committee Reports

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

Jennifer Wasielewski, Member of SAVAHCS provided a report on behalf of SAVAHCS.

Jennifer Wasielewski mentioned a few important things that have been going on at the VA Hospital. Nurses Week has made this week very busy for the VA, with 13 Nurses who are being honored. The VA Hospital started a new procedure with the Watchman Device, which is a small device placed in the arteries for patients who suffer from Atrial Fibrillation to help keep blood clots from forming. There is a new Mobile Medicine Unit that will be available for the homeless Veterans to meet them wherever they are located.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

b. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

Committee Member Hollis reported there was going to be a Golf Tournament and all proceeds will go to the cemetery. Also, that there was going to be a Memorial Day Service on May 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Committee Member Louis mentioned there were 100 internments at the Marana cemetery last month.

No discussion ensued, and no formal action was taken.

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c. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Committee Member Louis reported that the BBC Conference was last month, and it was a success. 786 claims were submitted as an agency and 284 of those claims were submitted by the South. Committee Member Louis also mentioned that two were hired, one in Sierra Vista, and one was hired in Benson and two more are needed.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

d. Matthew Langseth, City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

No update was given.

e. Margo Susco, Tucson Police Department

Margo introduced herself and stated how excited she was to be a part of the VAC meeting. Over 400 Tucson Police Officers are Veterans and one of the first things they want to do to be more involved is a part of the Veterans Day Parade. Margo also mentioned that she was asked to join the Korean War Veterans Group and has been a part of the group for four in a half years now.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

f. Boulder Crest – Scott Abrams

Scott Abrams described Boulder Crest and what they do for Veterans. Boulder Crest is all about post-traumatic growth and helping support Veterans and First Responders with invisible wounds along with amputations and traumatic injuries. Treatments for PTSD, depression, and anxiety are a hit or miss and they haven't helped control the number of suicides there are and that's why Boulder Crest focuses on post-traumatic growth.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

Committee Member Morgan mentioned that they had a meeting last Saturday and as of right now the granite will be put on the wall at the Veterans Memorial and then the frame will be engraved by those who donate \$500.00 or more.

No discussion ensued, and no formal action was taken.

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8. 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War – Update/Discussion

Committee Member Morgan stated that last Saturday they put a program together for the event and he mailed out 30 letters to Veteran Organizations inviting them to be a part of the celebration.

No discussion ensued, and no formal action was taken.

9. Military Lounge – Update/Discussion

No update was given. Committee Member Byron made a motion to purchase a pallet of water for the Military Lounge.

It was moved by Committee Member Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 12 to 0 (Committee Members Diaz, and Ruiz absent), to approve the purchase of the water pallet for the Military Lounge.

10. VAC Social Media Presence

No update was given.

11. Outreach to Mayor and Council – Update/Discussion

No update was given.

12. VAC Fundraising Strategies

No update was given.

13. Veteran's Day/Memorials – Update/Discussion

Committee Member Byron mentioned that the Veterans Day Parade is on November 11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. and a flyer was sent out asking for sponsorships as it is about \$10,000 to run the parade and the theme is honoring Desert Storm Desert Shield Desert Calm Veteran.

14. Summer Break – Update/Discussion

Chair Rocio mentioned that the Commission is going on summer break until September. Committee Member Obregon made a motion to move the September 11, 2024 meeting to Thursday, September 12, 2024 to observe 9/11.

It was moved by Committee Member Obregon, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 2 (Committee Members Diaz, and Ruiz absent), to approve moving the September 11, 2024 meeting to September 12, 2024.

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15. Approving the Purchase of a Water Pallet for the Military Lounge

This item was combined with item 9.

16. Consideration/Approval of Members

a. Appointment of Marcia Wohlhueter as recommended by the American Legion Auxiliary

It was moved by Committee Member Morgan, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 12 to 0 (Committee Members Diaz, and Ruiz absent), to approve the appointment of Marcia Wohlhueter.

17. Report on Current Events: For the Good of the Order

Chari Rocio, Committee Member, Byron, Hollis, Johnson, Louis, Obregon, and Tunks provided reports on current events.

18. Future Agenda Items

Committee Member Byron mentioned that after summer break we will need to add the Four Chaplains Ceremony and Operation Exodus back on the agenda.

19. Benediction

Committee Member Johnson provided the Benediction.

20. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 12, 2024