



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 - 6:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via TEAMS

Minutes

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:

Alicia Fuller
Ann Hollis

Bruce Hayes
Lorraine Obregon

Marcia Wohlhueter
Marlon Ruiz

Rocio "Rosie" Kary

Terry Byron
Tom Tunks

William Burks

Representing:

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans
Military Officers Association of America
Tucson Chapter
American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109 -
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Cactus Unit
2

American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132
Military Order of the World Wars, National Senior
Vice Commander-In-Chief

Women in Military Service for America Memorial
Foundation

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72
Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72 -

Arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26 -

Absent:

Representing:

Staff Members Present:

Amari Leon
Francisco Denogean

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary
City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

2. Invocation

The invocation was attempted by Commissioner Bruce Hayes but was having audio issues.

3. Introduction of Guests – Update/Discussion

- a. Jennifer Gutowski, Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System - Maria Nguyen, The Associate Director at the Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Medical Center was in for Ms. Gutowski. Ms. Nguyen informed the committee about the women's Town hall meeting that focused on mental health that was held by the VA last week with over 800 attendees. The VA's outreach team also participated in the Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans Stand Down event providing resources and support to local veterans.

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Ms. Nguyen invited the committee to the Yuma Veterans Engagement town hall scheduled for March 20, 2025, at the VFW Post 1763 in Yuma, Arizona, and the VA's outreach team will be attending the Yuma Military Appreciation Day which will be held on March 22, 2025, honoring military veterans in the region. The Kaakopa Tribal Stand Down will be on March 29, 2025, to continue their commitment to support veterans across all communities. Ms. Nguyen concluded by informing the committee of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service on March 28, 2025, at the Tucson Main Campus at the Tucson VA from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in the "Rose Garden" to honor and remember the sacrifices of Vietnam Veterans.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

b. Matthew Langseth - City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

No update was given.

c. Margo Susco, Tucson Police Department

No update was given.

d. Sarah Horvath, Kino Memorial Park

No update was given.

e. Arlethe Rios, Office of Arizona Senator Mark Kelly

No update was given.

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for February 12, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Obregon, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0 to approve the Legal Action Report from the February 12, 2025, meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Byron stated that the beginning balance at the start of March 2025 was \$1,221.72, there were no expenses or donations, leaving a current balance of \$1,221.72.

It was moved by Commissioner Tunks, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0, to approve the financial report as presented.

6. Committee Reports

a. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

No update was given

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b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Commissioner Byron informed the committee there were 47 internments at the cemetery last month.

c. Military Lounge and Operation Exodus

Commissioner Byron informed the Committee that Operation Exodus went swimmingly, and the Military lounge saw about 230 visitors last month, including active duty and veterans.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

d. Memorial for Vietnam Veteran Memorial Park

Commissioner Byron informed the committee they will be having a ceremony at Kino Veterans Memorial Park. The memorials will not be placed but there will be replicas of the memorials in place for the ceremony. RSVP are being accepted on "EventBrite" for a luncheon at 11 am for Vietnam veterans and surviving spouses at the Desert Diamond Casino.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

e. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2025

No update was given.

7. Nighthawk 72 Events/Memorial – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Tunks reminded the committee of the upcoming 25th Annual Nighthawk 72 Memorial Service for the 19 Marines who lost their lives at the Marana Regional Airport is scheduled for next month on April 5th, 2025, with a candlelight ceremony to follow at 8 p.m.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

No update was given.

9. VAC Social Media Presence

Chair Kary reminded the committee not to forget to share VAC events on their social media pages on Facebook.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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10. Outreach to Mayor and Council – Update/Discussion

No update was given

11. VAC Fundraising Strategies

Commissioner Byron will mail out donation letters and will reach out to some organizations for possible donations to the VAC.

12. Veteran's Day Parade/Memorials – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron informed the committee that the Veterans Day Parade will be on November 10th, 2025, for the 250th anniversary.

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

Chair Kary, Commissioners Fuller, Hayes, Obregon, Wohlhueter, Ruiz, Byron, Tunks and Burks provided reports on current events.

14. Future Agenda Items

Chair Kary informed the Committee this was the VAC's last fully virtual meeting and starting April 9th 2025, their meetings will be held at City Hall located at 255 W. Alameda St, Tucson, Arizona 85701 on the 1st floor.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

15. Benediction

Commissioner Hayes provided the Benediction.

16. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2025