



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 - 6:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via TEAMS

Legal Action Report

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

The Veteran's Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Rocio "Rosie" Kary at 6:00 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Alan Young
Ann Hollis

Lorraine Obregon

Marcia Wohlhueter
Marlon Ruiz

Rocio "Rosie" Kary

Terry Byron
Tom Tunks

William Burks

Representing:

American Legion Department of Arizona
Military Officers Association of America
Tucson Chapter -
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 6:04 P.M.

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26 -

Absent:

Alicia Fuller
Bruce Hayes

Representing:

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans
American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109 -

Staff Members Present:

Amari Leon
Francisco Denogean

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

2. Invocation

The invocation was given by Chair Rocio "Rosie" Kary.

3. Introduction of Guests – Update/Discussion

- a. Jennifer Gutowski, Southern Arizona Veterans Health Care System – Ms. Gutowski gave an update on the Veteran Health Fair that was being held at the VA's Rose Garden with different healthcare specialties available to answer questions. Ms. Gutoski also brought up the upcoming 2k walk that the VA has scheduled for May 21, 2025 from 7:30 a.m. until noon to encourage healthy living and support the Veteran's Homeless program also that day they will be hosting the Southern Arizona VA Research day and have a special guest speaker from the Phoenix VA Healthcare system. Ms. Gutowski

**Legal Action Report
Veterans' Affairs Committee
May 14, 2025**

again, wanted to remind the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the new travel claim form that has recently taken effect and where they can be found if needed. Ms. Gutoswki concluded her report informing the committee on the secretary of the VA's Doug Collins visit on April 28, 2025, to the Tucson VA.

No 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.

f. Noreen O'Shea, Gift Horse – Chair Kary informed the committee she has been in communication with Ms. O'Shea to possibly use her facility to host a fundraiser for the Veterans' Affairs Committee, they are thinking for possibly having the event sometime October 2025, but dates are still being discussed, additional updates will follow.

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for April 9, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded by Commissioner Wohlhueter, and passed by a roll call vote of 9 to 0 to approve the Legal Action Report from the April 9, 2025, meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Byron shared for April 1st to April 30th the beginning balance was \$1,221.72 and did receive a donation of \$700.00 from the American Legion Auxiliary Post 132 bringing their total balance to \$1921.72.

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

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

6. Committee Reports

a. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

Commissioner Hollis briefed the committee there were 75 interments for the month, bringing the total number of interments at the cemetery to 5,304.

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

+

b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Commissioner Byron shared there were over 1,200 claims submitted for the month of April with a 96% approval rate.

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

c. Military Lounge and Operation Exodus

Commissioner Byron provided update on behalf of James Robertson from the Tucson International Airport informing for the month of April they had a total of 155 visitors to the military lounge.

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

was held, and no formal action was taken.

d. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2026

Commissioner Byron informed the committee they still owe the band they booked \$150.00 and did notice they are repairing the walls at Kino Veterans Memorial Park she is hopeful after that work is complete, they will be able to move to the Mosaic Quarter.

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

7. Nighthawk 72 Events/Memorial – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Tunks gave a brief update on this year's Nighthawk 72 Memorial and informed next years event is still being planned but believes it will be smaller than the recent memorial they just had.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

8. VAC Social Media Presence – Update/Discussion

Chair Rocio reminded the committee to keep sharing their events with Franciso and Amari at the City Clerks office and to not forget to utilize their Facebook page.

Legal Action Report
Veterans' Affairs Committee
May 14, 2025

9. Outreach to Mayor and Council – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Ruiz would like to follow up with the mayor or her assistant on the MOWW proclamation for August 2025.

10. VAC Fundraising Strategies – Update/Discussion

The committee talked about possibly having a fundraising event at Brawlers Tavern, also Commissioner Byron has reached out to Arizona Wine Collective to possibly coordinate an event for the Veteran's Affairs Committee.

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

Commissioner Byron gave a brief update on the Veteran's Day Parade, currently the Tucson Veterans Day Parade is still in the planning stages so she didn't have a lot of information but could confirm the parade is scheduled for 11 a.m. on November 11, 2025, and will be on the same route as the year before.

12. Summer Break – Update/Discussion

Chair Kary reminded everyone that the Veterans' Affairs Committee will be on their summer break until September 10, 2025, events and notices the commissioners would like to share with the Veterans' Affairs Committee can still be emailed to Francisco and Amari at the City Clerk's office for distribution to the committee during that time.

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

Chair Kary, Commissioners Byron, Tunks and Burks provided reports on current events.

14. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Byron suggested temporary removing Nighthawk 72 from the Veterans Affairs Committee agenda.

15. Benediction

Commissioner Lorraine Obregon provided the benediction.

16. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2025