Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - 6:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via TEAMS

Minutes

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:	**Representing:**
Alan Young	American Legion Department of Arizona
Ann Hollis	Military Officers Association of America
Bruce Hayes	American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109Tucson Chapter
John Curtis	Fort Lowell – Apache Chapter (0222)
Marlon Ruiz	Military Order of the World Wars, National Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief
Lorraine Obregon	Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Cactus Unit 2 **Arrived at 6:08 p.m.**
Rocio "Rosie" Kary	Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation
Terry Byron	Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72 **Arrived at 6:06 p.m.**
Tom Tunks	Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72 -
William Burks	Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26 – **Arrived at 6:20 p.m.**

Absent:	**Representing:**
Alicia Fuller	Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans
Marcia Wohlhueter	American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132

Staff Members Present:	
Amari Leon	City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary
Francisco Denogean	City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

2. Invocation

The invocation was given by Commissioner Hayes.

3. Introduction of Guests – Update/Discussion

a. Maria Nguyen, Southern Arizona Veterans Health Care System

Ms. Nguyen went through the SAVAHCS October 2025 Directors Report and provided an update on some of the events she wanted to highlight, they just celebrated the Opening of their Sierra Vista Veteran Center which they are also looking for volunteer drivers to help veterans get to their medical appointments in Tucson, they are also getting ready to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month on October 15, 2025 at 11:30 a.m., She also provided information on the Mental Health Open House they are hosting on October 30, 2025 in building 4 at the Tucson VA, Ms. Nguyen concluded by informing the committee the Tucson VA is offering flu shots available by both by appointment or walk-in.

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. Bonnie and Mike Quinn, Rockin' 4 Heroes

Mr. and Mrs. Quinn introduced themselves to the committee and talked about what Rockin' 4 Heroes was and what they do to honor First Responders, Active Military, Veterans and Gold Stars. Mr. and Mrs. Quinn also provided information about their upcoming event scheduled for Sunday, November 9, 2025, at James Kreigh Park in Oro Valley, Arizona.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for September 10, 2025

The motion was moved by Commissioner Hayes, duly seconded by Commissioner Ruiz, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0 to approve the Legal Action Report from the September 10, 2025, meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Byron reported for September the Veterans Affairs Committee had a beginning balance of $2,871.72, with no activity leaving them with a remaining balance of $2,871.72.

It was moved by Commissioner Hayes, 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 reminded the committee that the Missing in America event will be October 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

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

b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

No update to provide

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

c. Military Lounge and Operation Exodus

Commissioner Byron met with the Fort Huachuca officer and provided the committee with an update on her meeting also informed they are looking for volunteers.

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

d. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2026

Commissioner Byron provided a quick update informing the committee the park is reserved for their event on February 1, 2026, she also shared the memorial is complete and shared pictures with the committee.

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

7. VAC Social Media Presence – Update/Discussion

Chair Rocio reminded the committee to keep sharing their events on their Facebook page.

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

8. Outreach to Mayor and Council – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Obregon would like to see about getting the mayor or council to join in at one of their meetings, Commissioner Byron would like to also like to see about inviting Adelita Grijalva or someone on her team to join a VAC meeting.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

9. VAC Fundraising Strategies – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron shared the Horsin' Around Flyer for their fundraising event scheduled for October 25, 2025, Commissioner Byron is also working with the Arizona Wine Collective to possibly host a fundraising event in January or February 2026.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

Commissioner Byron informed the committee they are still looking for donors for the Veteran' Day parade, registration is Open until October 31, 2025. Chair Kary will be representing the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

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

13. Future Agenda Items

None

14. Benediction

Commissioner Hayes provided the benediction.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Veterans' Affairs Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, November 12, 2025