



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, November 12, 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:

Ann Hollis

Bruce Hayes

John Curtis

Lorraine Obregon

Marcia Wohlhueter

Rocio "Rosie" Kary

Terry Byron

Tom Tunks

William Burks

Representing:

Military Officers Association of America

American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post
109Tucson Chapter

Fort Lowell – Apache Chapter (0222)

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary
Cactus Unit 2

American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132

Women in Military Service for America Memorial
Foundation

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72.

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Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26 –

Absent:

Alan Young

Alicia Fuller

Marlon Ruiz

Representing:

American Legion Department of Arizona

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans

Military Order of the World Wars, National Senior
Vice Commander-In-Chief

Staff Members Present:

Amari Leon

Francisco Denogean

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

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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 started by introducing the new SAVAHCS assistant director, Mr. John McPherson, and shared his background with the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Ms. Nguyen concluded by highlighting some of the events from the SAVAHCS November 2025 Directors Report.

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

A brief update was provided by Commissioner Byron informing the committee the Kino Memorial Park recently hosted an event to show the newly completed memorials.

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

e. Arlethe Rios, Office of Arizona Senator Mark Kelly

No update was given.

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for October 8, 2025

The motion 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 October 8, 2025, meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Byron reported for October the Veterans Affairs Committee had a beginning balance of \$2,871.72, with a donation of \$166.00 from their Horsin' Around for Veterans Fundraiser which was held on October 28, 2025, bringing their ending balance to \$3,037.72. The committee will also be purchasing a pallet of water for the Military lounge in November costing \$192.

It was moved by Commissioner Tunks, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 9 to 0, to approve the financial report as presented.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

6. Committee Reports

a. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

Commissioner Hollis informed the committee the interments at the cemetery are approaching 5,600.

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 restated they will be purchasing a pallet of water for the Military lounge at the airport, they will also be doing shopping for snacks for Operation Exodus which will take place December 20th and 21st the committee will be looking for volunteers with trucks on December 18th and 19th. Commissioner Byron also informed James Robertson is no longer with the airport so will be coordinating with his replacement.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

d. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2026

Commissioner Byron informed the committee the 83rd annual Four Chaplains ceremony is set for February 1, 2025, at Kino Park, and that more information to follow.

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 and to continue to share events with City Clerk staff for distribution. Chair Rocio also informed the committee they can use Veterans.org to share and view events.

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 to join in at one of the Veterans' Affairs Committee meetings.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

9. VAC Fundraising Strategies – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron briefed the committee on the “Horsin’ Around” fundraising event and reminded the committee they have another fundraising event coming up in February. Chair Rocio mentioned possibly hosting another “Horsin Around” event again in the Spring of 2026 before the Gift Horse ranch closes for the summer.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

Commissioner Byron informed the committee they have a post parade meeting scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of the month and let everyone know if construction continues the route will not get any larger.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

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

13. Future Agenda Items

Election of officers for 2026.

14. Benediction

Commissioner Hayes provided the benediction.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**Next Veterans’ Affairs Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, December 10, 2025**