



Veterans’ Affairs Committee

Wednesday, December 10, 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

Bruce Hayes

John Curtis

Marcia Wohlhueter

Marlon Ruiz

Lorraine Obregon

Rocio “Rosie” Kary

Terry Byron

William Burks

Absent:

Alicia Fuller

Tom Tunks

Staff Members Present:

Amari Leon

Francisco Denogean

Representing:

American Legion Department of Arizona

Military Officers Association of America

American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post
109Tucson Chapter

Fort Lowell – Apache Chapter (0222)

American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132

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

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Cactus
Unit 2

Arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Women in Military Service for America Memorial
Foundation

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26 –

Representing:

Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

City Clerk’s Office, Recording Secretary

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 briefed the committee on some of the topics from the SAVAHCS December 2025 Directors Report, which included an update on the SAVAHCS partnership with Onvida Health and the progress of the new veterans medical facility being built in Yuma, Arizona. Ms. Nguyen also shared information on the Tucson VA's clinic lab and their updated hours, she also touched on other topics that were in the December Directors report which included the Zero Clinical Findings, the Million Veteran Program, Volunteer drivers, Prescription refills through the VA pharmacy, The Falcon Marching Band of Catalina Foothills High School, The Southern Arizona Walmart Region and concluded with a progress update on the construction happening at the Tucson VA Clinics Building 80.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

b. Matthew Langseth - City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

Mr. Langseth updated the committee on some of the City of Tucson's Military and Veterans programs starting with the Transition Program which is a skill bridge program that has continued to grow in popularity with 13 transitioning servicemen the previous year and 16 this year and is currently coordinating another 5 servicemen for 2027. Mr. Langseth also spoke on the other veteran employee resource groups with the city that continue to partner with the Arizona Department of Veteran Services as well as the Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System to provide veterans with assistance with VA claims and healthcare. Mr. Langseth also announced the city of Tucson is officially partnered with the Army PaYS program and the Military Spouse Employment program. Mr. Langseth concluded by answering questions the committee had.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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 November 12, 2025

The motion was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded by Commissioner Hayes, and passed by a roll call vote of 10 to 0 to approve the Legal Action Report from the November 12, 2025, meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Byron noticed an error in the Treasurer's Report during the meeting and will amend the Treasurer's Report and provide an updated copy for review at the next Veterans' Affairs Committee meeting.

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

6. Committee Reports

a. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

Commissioner Hollis reported the cemetery recently had an inspection with 2 areas scoring 100% and the other area scoring 98%, She also reported the cemetery was unfortunately broken in to and vandalized and currently under police investigation.

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 Informed the committee she has spoken with the replacement of James Robertson from the Tucson International Airport, she will now be coordinating with Nicole Valencia. Commissioner Byron also informed she is coordinating a snack drop off with Commissioner Hayes scheduled for December 19th, 2025, she concluded by informing the committee because of new security protocol changes at airport they will no longer be able to provide beverages.

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

d. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2026

Commissioner Byron provided a quick update informing the committee both the park and band are reserved for February 1, 2026, additional flyers will be sent out for distribution. Commissioner Byron informed she's now working on securing porta potties for the event.

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

7. VAC Social Media Presence – Update/Discussion

Chair Rocio reminded the committee to utilize their Facebook page to share their events.

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

8. Outreach to Mayor and Council – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Obregon had questions about writing a letter to the Mayor, once she is complete with the letter it will be sent to Chair Kary for review and once approved by the Chair it will be sent to the Mayor.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

9. VAC Fundraising Strategies – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron shared she is currently working on a wine fundraising event for February 2026, flyers will be distributed with additional information.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

Commissioner Byron reported they were able to cover the cost of the 2025 Veterans Day parade through various donations made, She also informed that Kino Memorial park is moving forward with installing a Vietnam Veterans memorial.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

11. **Nominations and Election of Officers - Update/Discussion**

Chair – Rocio Kary
Senior Vice Chair – Al Young
Junior Vice Chair Ann Hollis
Treasurer – Terry Byron
Judge Advocate – Bruce Hayes
Secretary – Lorraine Obregon

(This item was taken out of order and was heard after the invocation)

12. **Public Notice Statement**

The Veterans' Affairs Committee will continue meeting in hybrid format on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., passed by a roll call vote of 9 to 0 to continue the same schedule in 2026.

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

Chair Kary, Commissioners Wohlhueter, Obregon, Ruiz and Young provided reports on current events

14. **Future Agenda Items**

None

15. **Benediction**

Commissioner Hayes provided the benediction.

16. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

**Next Veterans' Affairs Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, January 14, 2025**