



Veterans’ Affairs Committee

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 - 6:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

The Veteran’s Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Commissioner Alan Young at 6:00 p.m. those present and absent were:

Present:

Alan Young
Bruce Hayes

Marcia Wohlhueter

Marlon Ruiz

Lorraine Obregon

Terry Byron
Tom Tunks

Representing:

American Legion Department of Arizona
American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post
109Tucson Chapter
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

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72
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Absent:

Rocio “Rosie” Kary

John Curtis

William Burks

Representing:

Women in Military Service for America Memorial
Foundation

Fort Lowell – Apache Chapter (0222)

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26 –

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 Bruce Hayes.

3. Introduction of Guests – Update/Discussion

a. Maria Nguyen, Southern Arizona Veterans Health Care System

Ms. Nguyen highlighted a few of the topics from the SAVAHCS January 2025 Directors Report, which included an update on the SAVAHCS Unsheltered Veteran event, The MLK remembrance walk that took place at the VA, The Veteran's Engagement and Resource Fair and also informed the committee they are still looking for volunteer drivers to provide Sierra Vista veterans rides to medical appointments. She also provided an update on the Emergency Department renovation and expansion. Ms. Nguyen concluded by talking about the Yuma VA Outpatient Clinic.

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. Alissa McKaig, Pima Community College, Director of Veteran Services

Ms. McKaig provided an introduction on herself and spoke to the commission about the Pima Community College STRIVE entrepreneurship program which is an 8-week course, 1 night a week for veterans and their families who want to be entrepreneurs. The program is sponsored by the small business development center, and anyone interested would need to apply by January 21, 2026.

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

g. Kimberly Bowie, Grand Canyon University Development Counselor Military Division

Ms. Bowie provided an introduction on herself and spoke to the commission about Grand Canyon University and their Military program offered to active-duty military personnel and their dependents who have access to the Military Education Program, she provided her contact information for veterans interested in returning to school.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

The motion was moved by Commissioner Terry Byron, duly seconded by Commissioner Bruce Hayes, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 to approve the Legal Action Report from the December 10, 2025, meeting

5. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Terry Byron corrected the error on the November report and provided reports for both the months of November and December.

For November the committee had a beginning balance of \$3,037.72 with 2 debits, one for Costco and an erroneous charge totaling \$361.52 leaving a balance of \$2,676.20.

For December the committee started with a balance of \$2,676.20 and received a \$500 donation and the \$170 charge from November was reimbursed bringing their balance to \$3,346.20, Operation Exodus cost the commission \$1,677.00 leaving a final balance of \$1669.19

The motion was moved by Commissioner Marlon Ruiz, duly seconded by Commissioner Bruce Hayes, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 to approve the Financial Report for November and December.

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

6. Committee Reports

a. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

Commissioner Marlon Ruiz reported the 10th anniversary of the foundation is coming up and will be on the west side of Tucson scheduled for March 11th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the cemetery grounds.

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 Terry Byron and Commissioner Bruce Hayes made a trip to Costco and picked up snacks and drinks to deliver for Operation Exodus. Commissioner Terry Byron has yet to hear back from the new representative at the Tucson International Airport for a report to share but hopes to hear back from them soon.

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

d. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2026

Commissioner Terry Byron informed the committee this is the 83rd annual Four Chaplains Ceremony and scheduled for February 1, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the Kino Veteran Memorial Park

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

7. VAC Social Media Presence – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Terry Byron reminded the committee to share and tag their events on their Facebook page.

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

8. Outreach to Mayor and Council – Update/Discussion

The City Clerk's staff updated the committee on email response to Commissioner Lorraine Obregon's email to the Mayor and her office.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

9. VAC Fundraising Strategies – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Terry Byron shared she has secured charcuterie board boxes for their "Night of Wine" wine tasting event for February 15, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., with a price increase of \$40 with a profit of \$10 person for the commission. The event will be held at 4280 North Campbell Ave Tucson, AZ at the St. Philip's Plaza with a deadline of February 8, 2026, to RSVP for the event.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

Commissioner Terry Byron reported they have not yet met this year for the parade, but it is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11th, 2026, at 11 a.m. She informed the VVA 106 is still working on the installation of the Vietnam Memorial at Kino Sports Complex.

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 will be continued until the February 11, 2026, meeting.

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

Commissioners Hayes, Obregon, Wohlhueter, Ruiz, Byron and Tunks provided reports on current events

13. Future Agenda Items

Election of Officers
Junior Vice Chair – Ann Hollis

14. Benediction

Commissioner Bruce Hayes provided the benediction.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

**Next Veterans' Affairs Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, February 11, 2025**