



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 - 6:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

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

Present:

Brenda Hughey

Bruce Hayes

John Curtis

Lorraine Obregon

Marcia Wohlhueter

Marlon Ruiz

Rocio "Rosie" Kary

Terry Byron

Tom Tunks

Representing:

Military Officers Association of America, Tucson Chapter

American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109 Tucson Chapter

Fort Lowell – Apache Chapter (0222)

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

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Absent:

Alan Young

Terry Byron

Representing:

American Legion Department of Arizona

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

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 Commissioner Hayes

3. Introduction of Guests – Update/Discussion

a. John Kettele, Southern Arizona Veterans Health Care System

The Southern Arizona Veterans Health Care representative was Dr. Leslie Lockridge; she is the newly appointed Medical Director and Chief Executive Officer as of April 2026. Dr. Lockridge introduced herself and shared some of her background before coming to Tucson and spoke to the committee on what she would like to accomplish in her new role. Dr. Lockridge concluded by taking questions from the committee.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

b. Matthew Langseth - City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

No update was given.

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

c. Margo Susco, Tucson Police Department

No update was given.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

d. Sarah Horvath, Kino Memorial Park

No update was given.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

e. Arlethe Rios, Office of Arizona Senator Mark Kelly

No update was given.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

f. Michael Torres, HSI Military / Veteran Hiring

Mr. Torres and his colleague Antonio Marrero provided a brief introduction on themselves and explained to the committee who the HSI is and what they do. Mr. Torres also explained the application process and what the job benefits and pay were. Mr. Torres concluded by providing his contact information and leaving the floor open for any questions.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

g. Darin Gregg, D-M

Chair Kary provided a brief update for Derek Gregg who is the 355th Wing Director of Staff at the DM, informing the committee they have broken ground on a joint hospital which will be located on the base and will serve both active-duty personnel and veterans.

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for March 11, 2026

The motion was moved by Commissioner Hayes, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0 to approve the Legal Action Report.

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

5. Treasurer's Report

Chair Kary provided the Treasurer's report informing the committee their beginning balance was \$1669.19. The committee received a donation from the American Post Legion 109 of \$500. The committee also has an upcoming charge of \$180 for the band for the Four Chaplains Ceremony, leaving a balance of \$1849.19.

The motion was moved by Commissioner Tunks, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0 to approve the Treasurers Report.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

6. Committee Reports

a. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

No update to provide.

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

No update to provide.

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

d. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2027

No update to provide.

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

7. VAC Social Media Presence – Update/Discussion

Chair Rocio reminded the committee to continue to share their events with the City Clerk's office for distribution.

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

8. Outreach to the Mayor and Council – Update / Discussion

Chair Kary will draft an email to be forwarded to the Mayor asking if she would write a letter of appreciation to former VAC commissioners Burks and Johnson.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

9. VAC Fundraising Strategies – Update/Discussion

No update was given.

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

10. Veteran's Day Parade – Update/Discussion

No update was given.

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

11. Memorials – Update/Discussion

No update was given.

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

12. Election of Officers - Update/Discussion

Junior Vice Chair

The motion was moved by Commissioner Hayes, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0, to approve the election of Lorraine Obregon as the Junior Vice Chair.

The committee also voted 8 to 0 to possibly remove the secretary position off the committee since the City Clerk's staff does all the functions their secretary would do.

Discussion was held.

13. Summer Break – Update/Discussion

Chair Kary reminded the committee after the May 13, 2026 VAC meeting the committee will go on summer break until September 2026.

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

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

Chair Kary, Commissioners Curtis, Hayes, Hughey, Obregon, Ruiz and Tunks provided reports on current events

15. Future Agenda Items

Chair Kary is working on getting a guest speaker from Military OneSource and Endeavors to join a future VAC meeting.

16. Benediction

The benediction was provided by Commissioner Hayes.

17. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.

**Next Veterans' Affairs Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, May 13, 2026**