



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - 6:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

Legal Action Report

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

The Veterans' Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Alan Young at 6:02 p.m. those present and absent were:

Present:

Alan Young

Brenda Hughey

Bruce Hayes

John Curtis

Lorraine Obregon

Marcia Wohlhueter

Marlon Ruiz

Rocio "Rosie" Kary

Terry Byron

Tom Tunks

Representing:

American Legion Department of Arizona

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 – **Arrived at 6:08 p.m..**

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

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Absent:

Representing:

Staff Members and Others Present:

Nikki Lee,

Miranda Schubert

Lisa Floran

Gabriel Holguin

Matthew Langseth

Amari Leon

Francisco Denogean

Dr. Leslie Lockridge

Laura Butler

Kimberly Bowie

Ward 4 Council Member

Ward 6 Council Member

Ward 6 Council Aide \

Ward 5 Council Aide

City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

VA SAVAHCS Director

Military OneSource

Grand Canyon University Representative

2. Invocation

The invocation was given by Commissioner Hayes.

3. Introduction of Guests – Update/Discussion

a. Nikki Lee, Ward 4 Council Member

Council Member Lee introduced herself and shared some of her background with the committee, she also shared some of the work she has done in the community and what else she hopes to accomplish. Council Member Lee also informed the committee the organization Soldier's Best Friend are opening a location in Tucson with the grand opening and ribbon cutting scheduled for June 1, 2026, with an open house from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and ribbon cutting scheduled for 4:30 p.m. at 3102 E Fort Lowell Rd.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

b. Miranda Schubert, Ward 6 Council Member

Council Member Schubert introduced herself and shared her background with the committee, she also spoke to the committee about what she would like to work towards as new Council Member not only for the Ward 6 community but all of Tucson.

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

c. Dr. Leslie Lockridge, Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Dr Lockridge started her report by briefing the committee on Secretary Douglas Collins' visit to the Tucson VA. Dr. Lockridge also shared some of the future events they have planned at the Tucson VA. Dr. Lockridge reminded the committee to be on alert for scam messages requesting payment for future services. Dr. Lockridge concluded by providing an update on the construction at the Tucson VA.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

d. Darin Gregg, DM VA Health Clinic

No update was given.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

e. Laura Butler, Military OneSource

Ms. Butler introduced herself and informed the committee what Military OneSource is and what they do for active-duty service members and their families. Ms. Butler concluded by providing contact information for those who are interested in their services.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

f. Matthew Langseth, City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

Mr. Langseth reported he just reached his 3 years as the Military and Veteran program coordinator for the City of Tucson. Mr. Langseth spoke about the city's skill bridge program and how it has grown. Mr. Langseth concluded by providing details on the upcoming employee resource group event scheduled for June 16, 2026, at TPD Midtown.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

g. Margo Susco, Tucson Police Department

No update was given.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

h. Sarah Horvath, Kino Memorial Park

No update was given.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

i. Arlethe Rios, Office of Arizona Senator Mark Kelly

No update was given.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for April 8, 2026

The motion was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 9 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 \$2199.19. The committee received a donation of 2 cents and no expenses leaving the balance at \$2,199.21.

The motion was moved by Commissioner Hayes, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 9 to 0 to approve the Treasurers Report.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

6. Committee Reports

a. Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

Commissioner Ruiz reported for April 2026 there were 63 interments, 18 burial urns, 18 caskets and 27 columbarium, with a total of 5,959 interred as of April 30, 2026. Commissioner Ruiz also reminded committee of the upcoming flag placement for Memorial Day scheduled for Friday, May 22, 2026, at 8 a.m.

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, Commissioner Byron should have more information come September 2026.

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 on their Facebook page and 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 thanked Council Members Lee and Schubert for attending our meeting and welcomed them to attend future meetings. Chair Kary also wanted to thank Mayor Romero for the Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition provided to former member Henry Johnson and William Burks, Chair Kary would like to see if we can add "City Representative" to the guest speakers for future agendas.

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

9. VAC Fundraising Strategies – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron informed the Council Members on what the committee uses the funds that are raised, Council Member Lee asked if the committee could provide her with what the VAC needs from a fundraising standpoint and would like to possibly work with Council Member Schubert to help make connections that would be interested in supporting the committee.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

10. Veteran's Day Parade – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron informed the committee that the Veterans Day Parade Committee is in full swing and they are meeting monthly. The theme for this year's parade is 250 years of freedom and is scheduled for November 11, 2026, at 11 a.m. and will stay on the same route as the previous year.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

11. Memorials – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Young provided a brief update informing the committee that the memorials have been installed at the Kino Sports Complex and the stolen granite markers have been replaced, he has also requested to add the Space Force flag under the Air Force flag.

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

12. Summer Break – Update/Discussion

Chair Kary reminded the committee they will go dark until September but can still share events or information with the committee by sending them to the clerks for distribution.

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

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

Chair Kary, Commissioners Byron, Hayes, Hughey, Obregon, Ruiz, Tunks, Wohlhueter provided reports on current events

14. Future Agenda Items

The September VAC meeting will be held virtually voted on by the committee due to Mayor and Council meeting scheduled for the same day.

Chair Kary, Commissioner Ruiz and Commissioner Young informed the committee they may not be returning after the summer break.

Commissioner Obregon would like to agendize a discussion with Juan Ciscomani to discuss property taxes for disabled Veterans.

15. Benediction

The benediction was provided by Commissioner Hayes.

16. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

**Next Veterans' Affairs Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, September 9, 2026**