



Veterans' Affairs Committee
Wednesday, September 9, 2026 - 6:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting

REVISED
Legal Action Report

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

The Veterans' Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Jr. Vice Chairperson Lorriane Obregon at 6:11 p.m. those present and absent were:

Present:

Bruce Hayes

Lorraine Obregon

Marcia Wohlhueter

Marlon Ruiz

Rocio "Rosie" Kary

Terry Byron

Representing:

American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109 Tucson Chapter

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 6:17 p.m.**

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

Absent:

Brenda Hughey

Representing:

Military Officers Association of America, Tucson Chapter

John Curtis

Tom Tunks

Fort Lowell – Apache Chapter (0222)

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

Staff Members and Others Present:

Matthew Langseth

Amari Leon

Susana Zamora

Luke Johnson

Marisa Stoller

City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

VA SAVAHCS Director

City Clerk

2. Invocation

The invocation was given by Commissioner Hayes.

3. Introduction of Guests – Update/Discussion

a. Marisa Stoller, City Clerk

City Clerk Marisa introduced herself and asked the Commission if they each wanted to speak. Staff read the Roll Call list. Commissioners: Terry Byron, Bruce Hayes, Rocio Kary. Lorriane Obregon, Marlon Ruiz, and Marcia Wohlhuter made comments.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

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

Luke Johnson started his update by briefing the Committee that the VA will be hosting a quick remembrance ceremony; the Director, Dr. Leslie Lockridge, and the Chaplain will be there. This will be on Friday, September 11, 2026, at 7:15 A.M. at the Tucson VA. Staff will recommit or reaffirm the Federal Oath of Office. Luke also shared some of the future events they have planned at the Tucson VA.

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

c. Matthew Langseth, City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

Mr. Langseth reported that the Skill Bridge Program is going well and that they are breaking internal records for the program. They are also working with the University of Arizona and Volker Alliance, which is learning with the Tucson Water Department. Also, they are doing internal resource group events for City of Tucson employees.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

d. Margo Susco, Tucson Police Department

No update was given.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

e. Sarah Horvath, Kino Memorial Park

No update was given.

No discussion was held, and no formal action was taken

f. 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 May 13, 2026**

The motion was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 (**Committee Members Curtis, Hughey, and Tunks absent**), to approve the Legal Action Report from the May 13, 2026 meeting.

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

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner Byron provided the Treasurer's report informing the committee that their beginning balance was \$2199.25. The committee received interest of 7 cents and purchased a pallet of water for the Military Lounge at the cost of \$191.52, leaving the balance at \$2,007.76.

The motion was moved by Chair Kary, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 (**Committee Members Curtis, Hughey, and Tunks absent**), to approve the Treasurer's Report.

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

6. **Committee Reports**

a. **Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery**

Commissioner Ruiz reported that the interments are at about 6,199, which is reaching the limit on the current grounds. They are waiting for authorization to expand to the next phase on the property by the end of the month.

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 Byron stated that a pallet of water was purchased in August and that Roxanne, the interim, should be hiring someone new very soon.

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

d. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2027

Commissioner Byron stated that the park has been reserved for February 7, 2027, and the event will be at Kino Veterans Memorial Park at 1:00 PM.

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

7. VAC Social Media Presence – Update/Discussion

No update to provide.

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

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

Commissioner Ruiz asked how the City of Tucson is supporting Veterans. Congress is voting on the Richard Star Act in a couple of months.

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

9. VAC Fundraising Strategies – Update/Discussion

No update to provide.

No 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.

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

11. Memorials – Update/Discussion

Chair Rocio mentioned she heard that something happened to the Gold Star Mother Memorial. Commissioner Byron stated that there was Cati stolen and Pima County has replaced them.

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

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

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

13. **Future Agenda Items**

Chair Kary stated that this was her last and final meeting due to her move out of the State. An item for an interim Chair will need to be agendized. The Committee would like to possibly amend their bylaws, and that will also need to be agendized.

Commissioner Byron would like to remove Memorials from the Agenda.

~~Commissioner Obregon would like to remove Memorials from the Agenda.~~

14. **Benediction**

The benediction was provided by Commissioner Hayes.

15. **Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**Next Veterans' Affairs Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, October14, 2026**

Note: Deleted text is ~~strike through~~ and added text is **bold**.