



Veterans' Affairs Committee

Wednesday, October 14, 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 Jr. Vice Chairperson Lorriane Obregon at 6:11 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Terry Byron

Bruce Hayes

Brenda Hughey

Lorraine Obregon

Marlon Ruiz

Tom Tunks

Marcia Wohlhueter

Representing:

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

American Legion McCulloch-Wagner, Post 109 Tucson
Chapter –Signed off at 6:53 p.m.

Military Officers Association of America, Tucson
Chapter

Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Cactus Unit 2.

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

Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72

American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132

Absent:

John Curtis

Representing:

Fort Lowell – Apache Chapter (0222)

Staff Members and Others Present:

Leslie Lockridge

Orlando Ford

Matthew Langseth

Amari Leon

Francisco Denogean

Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care
System

Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care
System

City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

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

Dr. Lockridge spoke on key topics from October's SAVAHCS report, including flu vaccination clinics, mental health support, veterans benefits and assistance, community outreach and engagement, breast cancer awareness, and facility renovations and improvements. Dr. Lockridge ended her report by highlighting upcoming events, including the Cochise County Veterans Stand Down and the Veterans Day Parade.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

b) Matthew Langseth, City of Tucson Veterans Coordinator

Mr. Langseth provided updates on programs supporting transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses. He highlighted partnerships with Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the University of Arizona, along with employment and fellowship opportunities such as Skill Bridge, Education with Industry, the Army PACE program, and Spouse Works. He also discussed ongoing veteran employee resource group meetings and thanked the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System for partnering on semiannual VA claims and health care events, with the next event tentatively planned for January.

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

4. Approval of Legal Action Report for September 9, 2026

The motion was moved by Commissioner Hayes, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (**Commissioner Curtis absent**), to approve the Legal Action Report from the September 9, 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 their current balance is at \$2007.78, the motion was moved by Commissioner Hayes duly seconded and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (**Commissioner Curtis 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 there are 6,199 interments and stated the previous month was low. Commissioner Ruiz informed the committee that phase one will be terminating and phase two is under negotiation for expanded land and services to be determined.

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 reached out to Roxanne Harding who is the contact person at the airport but has not heard back but did get a response from the warehouse lead Jorge Calderon who informed her they will be needing a pallet of water for the airport soon, the motion was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (**Commissioner Curtis absent**) to purchase a pallet of water for the Military Lounge at the airport.

No discussion was held, and formal action was taken.

d. Four Chaplains Ceremony 2027

Commissioner Byron announced the 85th Annual Memorial Service is scheduled for February 7, 2027, at 1 p.m. A motion was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (**Commissioner Curtis absent**) to pay for a band for the ceremony.

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

7. VAC Social Media Presence – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron reminded the committee to utilize their VAC Facebook page to share events and information.

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

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

Commissioner Obregon informed the committee that Mayor Romero will be attending our December VAC meeting, which will start at 5 p.m.

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

9. VAC Fundraising Strategies – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron advised the committee they are running low on funds and need donations to help continue to cover expenses for events.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

10. Veteran's Day Parade – Update/Discussion

Commissioner Byron stated she has two vehicle stickers left for anyone from the VAC who may like to participate in the parade and reminded the committee that the registration ends October 31, 2026.

Discussion was held, and no formal action was taken.

11. Memorials – Update/Discussion

No update to provide, the item will be removed from the agenda moving forward.

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

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

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

13. Future Agenda Items

November Meeting – Because the VAC's November meeting lands on Veteran' Day the committee voted to reschedule the November 11, 2026, meeting to November 17, 2026, at 6 p.m. passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (**Commissioner Curtis absent**).

December Meeting – The City Clerk's office reminded the committee that Mayor Romero will be attending the December VAC meeting, and the meeting will start at 5 p.m.

Commissioner Obregon would like to add "Request for funding" as an item topic for future VAC meetings.

14. Consideration / Approval of Members – Update / Discussion

Appointment of Nancy Hairston recommended by the Disabled Veteran's Auxiliary (DAVA) Cactus Unit #2 - The motion was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (**Commissioner Curtis absent**).

Reappointment of Lorraine Obregon recommended by Disabled Veteran's Auxiliary (DAVA) Cactus Unit #2 - The motion was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (**Commissioner Curtis absent**).

Reappointment of Bruce Hayes recommended by the American Legion Post 109 - The motion was moved by Commissioner Byron, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (**Commissioner Curtis absent**).

15. Election of Officers

- Chairperson – The committee moved the nominations for Chairperson to November, when the yearly election of officers is done for the VAC; Commissioner Obregon will remain as interim chairperson.
- Vice Chairperson – The committee moved the nominations of Vice Chairperson to November, when the yearly election of officers is done.

16. Benediction

The benediction was provided by Commissioner Obregon.

17. Adjournment –

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

**Next Veterans' Affairs Committee Meeting:
Tuesday, November 17, 2026**