



UAV MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2026 – 0905-1025

Location: Zoom videoconference

Presiding: Chair Glenn Hohman

Secretary: Carl Forkner

Attendees

- Via Zoom (33): Chair Hohman, IPC Burns, Vice Chair Harris, Secretary Forkner, Treasurer Bernard, Director (VFW) Yates, Chaplain Seago, Barbara Jeter, Caroleen Culbertson, Chris Gahan, Colleen Heck, Dorn Farrell, Lynn Burnett, Jenny Wasielewski (SAVAHCS), John Ramirez, John Scott (ADVS), Karen Craig (AVHOFS), Kathy Upchurch, Michael Welsh (PVAHCS), Director Jameson (US Vets), Nancy Fassbender, Director Baker, Jeanne Blaes, Randy Heard (NCA), Randy Meyer, Ravyn Crescent, Steve Sample (NAVAHCS), Thomas Winkel (ACMF), Vic Peterson, William Jarvis, “Bill,” “Jerry,” “Mike”

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am after resolving initial technical difficulties.

2. Opening

Invocation/Prayer: An opening prayer was offered, including gratitude for freedom of religion, recognition of military service, and a request for guidance as the group supports veterans and selects honorees for the 2026 Hall of Fame.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Announcements

- **Patriotic Awards Luncheon:** Reminder that the Patriotic Awards Luncheon is **May 1** and is reported as **sold out**.

4. Featured Presentation – US Vets Update

Presenter: Michelle Jamieson (Board Director; US Vets)

Highlights:

- **New site/location:** US Vets provided an overview of its new multi-story facility near I-17 (approx. **185 units** across **four stories**), including lobby and resident spaces.
- **Homes for Heroes grant:** Prescott received funding; appreciation expressed for partners involved in planning and interviews with veterans experiencing homelessness.
- **Resident rooms:** Includes single rooms (approx. **60**) with kitchenette and secure storage; double-occupancy rooms used especially for shorter stays.

- **Women's wing:** Dedicated women's area (approx. **15 rooms**) with controlled access and lounge/class space.
- **Programming:** Veterans are expected to "program," with approximately **60 classes per week** (substance abuse, mental health, finance, life skills, benefits), offered seven days/week including evenings.
- **Support services:** Telehealth/interview rooms; community-partner "drop-by" rooms; gym/yoga; workforce rooms with on-site employment support (DOL grant); on-site therapist; safe rooms for residents needing additional support.
- **Health services:** On-site medical support includes Circle the City and a VA mobile medical unit.
- **Community support & donations:** Ongoing partner support (e.g., Arizona Pet Project vet care; pet corner/pet spa; clothing closet; haircut services; coffee drive support).
- **Upcoming volunteer event:** Home Depot scheduled to bring **~300 volunteers** on **April 28** to build outdoor amenities (BBQ area, dog park), decorate hallways, and assemble **~100 bikes**.
- **2025 impact (reported):** **51,841** veterans served; **116,000+** meals; **551** moved into permanent housing; **276** job placements; returns to homelessness reported as **<12%** over two years.

Q&A: Members asked about donation drop-off and volunteering. US Vets advised donations may be brought directly to the site; volunteering available via the website or by contacting Michelle.

5. Approval of Prior Minutes

The Secretary noted minutes from the previous meeting were distributed. A minor adjustment was made as requested.

Motion: Approve minutes as amended.

Result: Approved (no objections noted).

6. Treasurer's Report (March)

Presenter: Jerry Bernard

- **Beginning balance:** \ \$116,719 (and change)
- **Receipts:** \ \$308 (and change)
- **Disbursements:** \ \$394 (and change)
- **Ending balance:** \ \$116,633 (and change)
- **Reconciliation:** Reported as reconciled to the bank.

7. Board action noted: Board of Directors approved a \ \$5,000 down payment for the **2026 Hall of Fame induction**.

- **Save the date: October 23, 2026**
- **Applications:** Closing date referenced as **March 31**; process moving into the next phase.

8. Chaplain Report – Sickness and Distress

No new reports this month. Members noted attendance at funeral services for Eldor Ingrid; remarks included participation by Travis (song) and motorcycles at the cemetery.

9. Reports

8.1 Congressional Representatives

No congressional representatives were noted as present.

8.2 VA Medical Centers

Phoenix VA Update (Michael Welsh)

- **Fisher House:** No major financing/site-prep movement; exploring options/partners for property demo and other approaches.
- **Bookmobile:** Scheduled **April 7**.
- **BSO meeting:** Date updated to **April 21** (at 32nd Street Clinic).
- **Sustainability Fair:** **April 16** at Phoenix VA Medical Center.
- **Creative Arts Festival:** **May 7** at Phoenix VA Healthcare Center.
- **Haysen Coffee Talk:** Held **March 30**; VBA participation noted; ~**95** veterans attended.
- **MST luncheon:** **April 22**, 11:00–2:00 at American Legion Post 1, recognizing Military Sexual Trauma Month; statistics cited (3.5% of male veterans; >43% of female veterans).

Note: A quarterly Fisher House Foundation conference call was referenced for **April 8**.

Tucson VA Update (Jenny Wasielewski)

- **Joint Commission survey:** Strong results; home health had **zero findings**. Behavioral health had one low-risk requirement (screening question update) reportedly addressed. No high-risk or widespread findings hospital-wide.
- **Women Veterans Tele-Town Hall:** **April 16**.
- **Domestic violence conference:** **April 17**.
- **Quarterly congressional/VSO stakeholder meeting:** **April 30** (Teams).
- **Scam alert:** Reminder that VA does not request up-front payments for visits; encourage validation of suspicious letters.
- **My HealthVet support:** New coordinator available to assist veterans with setup and secure messaging.
- **Volunteers needed:** Volunteer drivers (DAV vans) and volunteer visitors to reduce loneliness/social isolation.
- **Construction:** Building 80 and ED expansion progressing; ED expansion handoff targeted around **August**, followed by renovation of current ED.
- **Events:** Fisher House 10th anniversary car show/resource fair; ALA visit to hospice/recreation therapy/blind rehab; adaptive sports clinic; veteran engagement resource fair at El Pueblo Activities Center.

Northern Arizona VA Update (Steve Sample)

- **Specialty care:** New dermatology clinic opened with Dr. Hadid.
- **Sergeant Fox Grant:** Reminder to share program information (application window open).
- **Community engagement:** Early Kanesu Clinic outreach; DAV ribbon cutting for donated vehicle (for Flagstaff transport); Vietnam War Veterans Day recognition (March 27); Doctor Day (March 30).
- **Stand downs/outreach:** Bullhead City Stand Down (61 veterans); Verde Valley Stand Down/Camp Verde (67 veterans); rural outreach with mobile medical unit including enrollments, IDs, and same-day appointments in multiple locations.
- **Upcoming:** Virtual Veterans Town Hall **April 15** (5–6 p.m.); Page regional stand down **April 24**; Hopi mobile health services events **April 7–9** at multiple community sites.

8.3 National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona (Randy Heard)

- **Green burial:** First green burial completed; NMCA is one of three NCA sites offering green burial sections.
- **Quarterly group honors ceremony:** Held **April 1** for veterans interred without honors during the quarter (reported: 28 at NMCA; 17 at [Preston/Prescott—verify]).
- **Customer satisfaction:** National Cemetery Administration reported ACSI score of **98/100** for 2025 (eighth consecutive #1 ranking; prior high 97 in 2019 and 2022).
- **Korean War veteran service:** Service noted for a veteran killed Dec. 12, 1950; remains identified and returned to Arizona.
- **Missing America program:** Held March 18 (reported: 14 veterans honored).
- **Silent Heroes event:** Scheduled **April 10** with Herberger Young Scholars Academy (theme: untold USMC stories from WWII).
- **Memorial Day services:** Planning underway; ceremonies noted for **8:00 a.m.** (NMCA) and **11:00 a.m.** ([Preston/Prescott—verify]).

9. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS)

Presenter: Director John Scott

ADVS reported that for March, VBA provided approximately **\$113 million** in benefits to Arizona veterans, described as a new record (continuing a pattern of month-over-month increases).

10. Action Items / Follow-ups

- **All members:** Share Sergeant Fox Grant information with networks (Northern AZ update).
- **Members/partners:** Consider volunteer and donation support for US Vets (donations can be delivered directly to the site).

- **Leadership/attendees:** Track Hall of Fame 2026 planning milestones; note save-the-date **Oct 23, 2026**.
- **Secretary:** Confirm/insert meeting date/time, attendee list, and verify place names for the cemetery locations referenced (Preston vs. Prescott).

11. Key Dates Mentioned

- **April 7:** Phoenix VA bookmobile; Hopi mobile health services at Moenkopi Senior Center
- **April 8:** Fisher House Foundation quarterly conference call; Hopi Healthcare Center mobile services
- **April 9:** Mobile services at community center (Hopi)
- **April 10:** Silent Heroes event (NMCA)
- **April 15:** Virtual Veterans Town Hall (Northern AZ)
- **April 16:** Phoenix VA Sustainability Fair; Tucson Women Veterans Tele-Town Hall
- **April 17:** Domestic violence conference
- **April 21:** Phoenix BSO meeting (32nd Street Clinic)
- **April 22:** MST luncheon (American Legion Post 1)
- **April 24:** Page regional stand down
- **April 28:** US Vets/Home Depot volunteer day; clothing closet expansion opening
- **April 30:** Tucson quarterly congressional/VSO stakeholder meeting
- **May 1:** Patriotic Awards Luncheon (sold out)
- **May 7:** Phoenix Creative Arts Festival
- **Oct 23, 2026:** Hall of Fame induction (save the date)

12. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:25am.
- Next Meeting is on May 2, 2026, at 9:00am

Respectfully,



Dr. Carl B. Forkner
AVHOF Class of 2025
Secretary