



Department of Arizona
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June 13, 2026

Meeting Minutes: DAV Third Business Session

Organization: Disabled American Veterans, Department of Arizona

Meeting: Department Convention Business Session

Date/Time: June 12, 2026; 1330

Location: Crowne Plaza Phoenix-Chandler Golf Resort, Chandler, Arizona

Presiding Officer: Commander Bruce Nogar

Recorder: Adjutant Carl Forkner

1. Call to Order and Opening Ceremonies

The afternoon business session of the Department Convention was called to order. Members and guests participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by opening prayer and customary honors.

2. Rules of Participation

The Chair reminded attendees that anyone wishing to speak must come to the microphone, be recognized by the Chair, and limit remarks to five minutes.

3. Chapter Presentation

Chapter One made a presentation of \$20,000 to the Department. The Chair thanked Chapter One and expressed appreciation for the presentation.

4. Credentials Committee Report

The Credentials Committee presented the afternoon credentials report. The report referenced Department population data obtained from National on June 7, 2026. Reported figures included Department population, chapter voting population, registered chapter votes, registered Department officer votes, and total voting strength. The report was received by the convention.

5. Resolutions

5.1 Resolution AZ CDL 010: Department Convention Committee

The Judge Advocate conducted the second reading of Resolution AZ CDL 010, proposing amendments to Department governing provisions related to the Department Convention Committee. The resolution described committee composition, responsibilities for evaluating convention venues, accessibility and cost considerations, bid review, future convention planning, contract review, and membership approval requirements.

The committee moved adoption of the resolution. A second was received. The Chair called for discussion. No substantive discussion was recorded in the transcript.

5.2 Resolution AZ 0000: Support for Glenn Hohman as National Candidate for Higher Office

The second resolution read into the record expressed support for Glennie Homan as a national candidate for higher office. The resolution cited Homan's service-connected disabled combat veteran status, more than 20 years of Army service, advocacy for disabled veterans and families, service at chapter, state, and national levels, and work with congressional members and staffers.

The Resolutions Committee moved approval of the resolution. A second was received. The Chair called for discussion and, hearing none, called for a vote. The resolution was approved by the convention as reflected in the transcript.

The Chair of the Resolutions Committee requested that the committee be dismissed with the thanks of the convention. The committee was dismissed with appreciation.

6. Commander's Report

The Commander presented a progress report covering the prior six months and emphasized the Department's mission of serving veterans, their families, caregivers, survivors, and communities.

- Department leaders attended the DAV Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C., and met with Arizona congressional offices to advocate for veterans' benefits, service access, and legislative priorities.
- The Department worked with other veterans organizations to oppose legislation viewed as harmful to veterans seeking claims assistance.
- A vehicle donation from Ford was received and assigned to the Flagstaff VA satellite dispatch office to improve transportation capacity for veterans.

- A wheelchair-capable golf cart was designed for the Tucson VA campus, with plans to expand the concept to other campuses.
- The transportation program continued to be managed, including vehicle inventory, excess vehicle disposition, title management, and recruitment needs for northern Arizona transportation coordination.
- A briefing on VA disability claims was presented to approximately 65 Arizona National Guard service members in Marana.
- The Department participated in the Arizona Coalition for Military Families symposium and other veteran-service events.
- Efforts continued to expand claims services for homeless veterans, including coordination with the Tucson VA homeless clinic.
- The Department advanced service access for Native American veterans, including work on remote claims support and reservation outreach.
- The Commander noted national interest in Arizona's reservation-service initiatives.
- The Commander addressed the closure of certain chapter lounge operations as directed by National Headquarters due to non-compliance with governing regulations.
- The Commander stressed the importance of reading, understanding, and complying with National, Department, and chapter governing documents.
- The Commander emphasized improved communication between the Department and chapters, timely responses to Department and National deadlines, and the need for chapters to designate alternates when officers are unavailable.

The Commander concluded by thanking members, volunteers, officers, partners, and chapter leaders for their work and reaffirmed the Department's commitment to defending the benefits, rights, and welfare of Arizona veterans.

7. Adjutant/CEO Report

The CEO report highlighted major Department of Arizona activities and initiatives during the second half of fiscal year 2026, including chapter boundary realignment, expanded remote claims access, support for Native American veterans, officer resources, advocacy efforts, membership recognition, compliance matters, and priorities for improved communication and collaboration.

Chapter Boundaries and Organizational Changes

- Department leaders met with chapter commanders in January to realign chapter boundaries because the previous map dated back to 2015 and no longer reflected current chapter structure.

- The revised boundaries were presented to and approved by the Department Executive Committee at the Department Midterm Conference.
- Chapter and Unit 28 in Tucson surrendered their charters on April 3, requiring another review of chapter boundaries in the Tucson area.
- A proposed Tucson-area boundary change will be presented at the post-convention DEC meeting.

Remote Claims Stations and Rural Service Expansion

- A remote claims station became operational in Globe, Arizona, in February. The station supports veterans in the Globe-Miami area and is hosted by the Globe VFW post, which provides equipment security and free internet access.
- The Globe project cost approximately \$1,012.
- The Department, working with Chapter 1 leadership and the president of the All Navajo Veterans Auxiliary, launched remote video-conferencing VA claims services for the Navajo Nation in Pinon.
- The Pinon remote claims program began in March 2026 and is actively used two days per week, with one day for appointments and one day for walk-ins.
- The Pinon project cost approximately \$7,770 over two years.
- The report noted that 30,221 veterans live in the Navajo Nation, compared with 22,794 DAV members in Arizona, underscoring the scale of the service need.

Planned Remote Service Sites

- A second remote service site is scheduled for installation in Kayenta at the township office building to better serve veterans in the northern Navajo Nation.
- A third site is planned for Ganado in August to serve veterans in the southern part of the Navajo Nation.
- A similar remote claims capability is planned for Peach Springs on the Hualapai Reservation near Parker, south of the Grand Canyon, in September. Estimated cost is up to \$5,370 over two years.
- Another remote site is planned for October at the Veterans Memorial Center near Shongopovi on Second Mesa in the Hopi Reservation area.
- The broader goal is to establish new DAV chapters that can better serve rural communities.

New Chapter Development

- New chapters are being explored or developed in Globe, Bullhead City, Payson, and eventually Show Low.
- The proposed Bullhead City chapter would serve the western Arizona area and include specialized equipment for veterans with sight disabilities.

Tablet Kits for Service Officers

- The Department procured tablet kits for CSOs and DSOs so claims services can be conducted outside chapter buildings and directly in the community.
- Each kit includes either a Windows 11 tablet or an iPad, a detachable case with keyboard, a stylus, flash drives, and USB-A to USB-C adapters.
- Kits become chapter property once issued, but they are intended specifically for certified service officers rather than general administrative use.
- Chapter orders must include the name and member number of the CSO or DSO so certification can be verified against the NSO list.
- The project had an initial cost of up to \$50,000 and includes kits for current and newly trained service officers from the January and June 2026 classes.

Advocacy and Training

- In February, Arizona officers and representatives attended the annual Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Two teams visited the offices of Arizona senators and members of Congress to advocate for DAV priorities in the 119th Congress.
- National organization leaders presented seminars in Arlington, Virginia, covering new initiatives, planned programs and events, and online safety, particularly for senior members.

Community Programs and Support

- The Department donated 10 MacBook Pro computers, valued at \$7,949.25, to support the new Arizona Veterans Resource Center. The computers will help provide classes, job search assistance, resume writing, education, and appointment services.
- A Veterans Honor Tour program was announced to recognize veterans who continue serving the veteran community and their local communities.
- The first Veterans Honor Tour is a five-day program in Branson, Missouri, scheduled for November and provided free to selected veterans. Caregivers or spouses may accompany participants for \$1,300.
- When airline costs increased after the original agreement changed, the Finance Committee and DEC approved \$10,000 to cover increased ticket costs and preserve the trip.

National Commander Testimonial Weekend

- Department representatives participated in the National Commander's testimonial weekend in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

- Members served lunch to approximately 60 veterans who regularly receive services from the local food bank and had the opportunity to hear their stories.
- The testimonial dinner included remarks from government officials, senior military leaders, the National Auxiliary Commander, and the National Commander, who emphasized gratitude for the welcome received throughout his term and praised members' commitment to service.

Navajo Nation Outreach

- On April 24, the Senior Vice Commander participated in a council meeting of 16 chapters of the Central Navajo Veterans Agency at the Pinon Veterans Association Hogan.
- Twelve of the 16 chapters were represented at the council meeting.
- The Department presented information on DAV efforts to bring services to more than 30,000 Navajo Nation veterans.
- The meeting also included discussion of work to transfer \$30 million to the Pinon chapter of the All Navajo Veterans Auxiliary to build a Warriors Rest housing facility and associated resource center for Navajo veterans.
- Across 2026 and 2027, the Department plans to provide expanded access to service officers and resources throughout Arizona through approximately a dozen remote claims stations in underserved areas.

Chapter Leadership and Communication

- The report recognized newly elected and appointed chapter officers and emphasized that chapter adjutants serve as chief administrative officers responsible for helping chapter operations run effectively.
- Chapter leaders were urged to seek help before issues reach a crisis level.
- The Department Adjutant stated that supporting chapters remains a primary responsibility and encouraged chapters to request assistance whenever needed.
- The Department's communication goal for the year was to improve the flow of information to chapters through adjutant memoranda and timely sharing of important Department and national updates.
- The Department hopes to improve responses back from chapters, especially regarding assistance needs, meeting institutes, and upcoming events.

Camp Corral Donation Collection

- Chapter 39 conducted a Camp Corral donation collection at Golden Corral in April and May.
- The effort raised \$15,290 to help send children of disabled veterans and Gold Star families to camp.

- All proceeds support youth participation in the Camp Corral experience.

Memorial Day Ceremony at the Navajo Nation

- On May 31, the speaker served as keynote speaker for the Navajo Nation Memorial Day ceremony, titled “Our Heroes Are Never Forgotten.”
- The ceremony included a flag-raising by Navajo veterans in uniforms representing their service eras.
- The keynote address recognized Navajo veterans’ historical contributions, including the Navajo Code Talkers and Native American soldiers of the Army’s 45th Division in World War II.
- The ceremony included remarks by the Navajo Nation president and a flag-folding ceremony honoring veterans and their families.
- After the ceremony, the Navajo Nation president thanked DAV for taking initiative to serve Native American veterans.

Membership Recognition

- The Department of Arizona reached 101.3% of its membership quota for 2026.
- Recognized chapters included Chapter 4, East Valley Chapter 8, Fry Chapter 14, Star Chapter 24, Green Valley Chapter 38, and Barrow Valley Chapter 39.
- The Department of Arizona Auxiliary reached 100.17%.
- Recognized auxiliary units included East Valley Unit 8, Unit 11 in Yuma, Unit 14, Renegade Unit 18, San Pedro Valley Unit 26, and Penelope Unit 36.

Compliance and Governance

- Department officers were required to shut down lounge operations at three chapters as ordered by the National Commander due to non-compliance with regulations.
- One chapter and its associated unit surrendered their charters after determining they could not continue without lounge operations.
- Chapter officers and members were encouraged to re-read, study, and understand national, Department, and chapter governing documents, including bylaws and regulations.
- The report emphasized that members must understand chapter governance in order to participate effectively.

DAV and Auxiliary Collaboration

- The Department intends to work with new Department Auxiliary leadership to improve cooperation and collaboration between DAV chapters and DAV Auxiliary units.

- The report noted that chapters and units have often operated in separate silos over the past decade.
- Improved collaboration will first be fostered at the Department level, then shared as best practices with chapters and units.
- Working together respectfully and collaboratively was identified as essential to better serving the veteran community.

Closing Remarks

- The report closed by reminding members of the obligation taken upon joining DAV, including support for the Constitution and laws of the United States, respect for the flag, assistance to disabled comrades, and adherence to organizational constitutions and bylaws.
- The speaker emphasized that the DAV mission is not fulfilled until wartime disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors are adequately cared for.
- The report encouraged members to draw on combined talents, strengthen partnerships with organizations such as the VFW and American Legion, remain active in unified veterans organizations, and collaborate with auxiliary units.
- The report concluded with a blessing for DAV, Veterans and their families, and the United States of America.

New Business

Debbie Roberts reminded attendees that the day was National Women Veterans Day and acknowledged the women veterans who made service possible for those who followed.

Announcements

- The Nominations Committee was scheduled to meet immediately following the session from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Members wishing to run for elected department office were instructed to meet outside the designated meeting area.
- Candidates for department office were asked to attend the caucuses, introduce themselves, state the office they were seeking, and share their experience and qualifications.
- The Northern District Caucus was scheduled for 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the La Ventana Room.
- The Southern District Caucus was scheduled for 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Palomino Room.
- The banquet cash bar was scheduled to open at 5:00 p.m.

- Attendees were reminded not to enter the banquet room before 6:00 p.m. so staff could complete setup.
- The Credentials Committee was scheduled to meet the following morning at 8:30 a.m. in the same room.

Motion to Recess

A motion was made and seconded to recess the meeting. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried by voice vote.

Closing Prayer and Honors

The chaplain offered a closing prayer. Following the prayer, members rendered honors to the flag of the country.

Recess

The meeting was formally recessed following the motion, closing prayer, and honors.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Carl B. Forkner
AVHOF Class of 2025
Adjutant & CEO
Department of Arizona
Disabled American Veterans