



UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS
THE VOICE OF ARIZONA'S VETERANS

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UAV MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 5, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.–10:10 a.m.

Location: Google Meet

Presiding: Chair Glenn Hohman

Recorder: Secretary Carl Forkner

Attendees (28 via Google Meets): Chair Hohman, IPC Burns, Director Baker, Director Milem, Director Simon, Director Yates, Chaplain Seago, Secretary Forkner. Bruce Hayes, Carol Rundell, Caroleen Culbertson, Chris Gahan, Clarice Graham (SAVAHCS), Gene Crego, Jeanne Blaes, John Scott II (ADVS), Julie Kurtz (PVAHCS), Lynn Burnett, Karen Craig, Kathy Upchurch, Steve Sample (NAVAHCS), NMCA, Phil Hanson, Randy Meyer, Ravyn Crescent, Sonia Vasquez (ACMF), Vic Peterson, William Jarvis; (2 by phone)

1. Call to Order and Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order, welcomed members to the organization's new Google Meet platform, and noted that the change from Zoom is expected to improve quality and reduce costs. The Chaplain delivered the invocation, recognizing Arizona veterans' organizations, members experiencing illness or bereavement, caregivers, service members, and preparations for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes previously distributed by email. With no corrections or discussion, the motion carried without opposition.

3. Officer Reports

Treasurer's Report

The composite report for June 30 through August 31 reflected a beginning balance of approximately \$97,393.26 and an ending reconciled balance of \$104,034.54. An outstanding check relates to a scholarship matter that remains under resolution. No questions were raised.

Chaplain's Report

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Judy Bashel, who had supported the organization's history-book work with the American Legion. A get-well card was sent to Barbara Jeddah following a fall. Members were encouraged to submit additional sickness or distress notifications to the Chaplain, Secretary, or Chair.

4. Agency and Partner Updates

Phoenix VA Health Care System

- Received Arizona State University's Outstanding Community Partner Award for its educational partnership and support of future recreational therapists.
- Reopened the second floor of the Community Living Center and recognized the retirement of Deputy Medical Center Director Michael Welsh.
- Added another da Vinci 5 robotic surgical system to expand advanced surgical capacity.
- Highlighted veteran recognition, recreation, arts, Golden Age Games participation, rural and community outreach, and Independence Day programming.
- Upcoming events include the Phoenix Public Library bookmobile on September 8, Veggies for Veterans on September 10, a veterans service organization mixer on September 15, telehealth education on September 22, and a major family-oriented veteran event in November.

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System

- Announced commemorative, outreach, suicide-prevention, homeless-services, POW/MIA, Hispanic Heritage Month, and telehealth events throughout September.
- Reported continuing expansion of Building 80 and the emergency department, including new clinical, mental-health, radiology, and CT capacity.
- Recognized DAV and other community partners for transportation equipment, volunteer service, and significant donations, including support for Fisher House and voluntary-service programs.
- Reported successful outreach in Douglas, where veterans could complete medical examinations, benefits enrollment, and health-care enrollment in one visit.
- Highlighted implementation of the VA's 30-day hiring model and a large new-employee orientation class.

Northern Arizona VA Health Care System

- Explained the VA's national reorganization from 18 Veterans Integrated Service Networks to five regions and the creation of health service areas; Arizona's service-area boundaries remain substantially unchanged.
- Launched two advanced-life-support ambulances for interfacility and on-campus transport, with expected long-term savings and potential future expansion toward 24/7 staffing.
- Reported expanded laboratory hours, electronic medication information, rural and Tribal outreach, mobile medical services, monthly Veterans Benefits Administration assistance, and on-campus Arizona Department of Veterans' Services appointments.
- Promoted September and October events, including creative arts, suicide-prevention activities, POW/MIA observances, stand-downs, recovery-month programming, and rural-health outreach.
- Agreed to coordinate with DAV regarding remote service offices and outreach to Native American communities.

National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona

The cemetery will host a National Day of Service on September 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in observance of the 25th anniversary of September 11, with John Carroll of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation as keynote speaker. On September 16, the Missing in America Project will provide dignified burials with military honors for 10 previously unidentified veterans.

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

- Major cemetery expansion projects are underway in Marana and Sierra Vista; all three state-operated veterans cemeteries hold operational excellence recognition.
- The Yuma veterans home will mark its fourth anniversary, and the Flagstaff home has begun admitting residents following VA recognition.
- A new in-person veterans benefit counseling location opened in Surprise, with virtual appointments still offering the fastest access.
- Veterans benefit counselors are securing approximately \$115 million per month in benefits.
- Upcoming stand-downs include Williams on September 11, Yavapai on September 25, Twin Arrows on October 2, and Lake Havasu City on October 17.

Arizona Coalition for Military Families

- Reviewed Be Connected and the Arizona Roadmap to Better Employment, which links military-connected job seekers, employers, training providers, and workforce partners.
- Highlighted veteran-supportive employers, employment service providers, ASU employer certification, low-cost résumé assistance, and SkillBridge coordination.
- Reported on the Military Veteran Transition Policy Academy, which addresses gaps in transition support and supports the Governor’s Challenge to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and families.
- Announced an Employment Service Provider Convening on October 9 and encouraged participation in the Welcome to Be Connected webinar.

5. Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony

- The 26th annual ceremony is scheduled for Friday, October 23, 2026, at Talking Stick Resort. The anticipated class size is approximately 18–19 inductees, pending final approval by the Governor’s Office.
- Early-bird registration runs through September 27 at \$69 per person or \$680 for a table of 10. Standard registration is \$79 per person or \$780 for a table of 10.
- A special hotel room rate is available but lodging reservations do not constitute event registration.
- Registration will use Zeffy. Attendees wishing to sit together must purchase tickets in the same transaction; organizations and sponsors purchasing tables will be seated together. Special seating options related to inductees will be available after names are announced.
- No paper tickets will be issued. Registrants will receive confirmation and check in by name. Any optional Zeffy contribution supports Zeffy, not United Arizona Veterans.
- Capacity is expected to be reached, and members were urged to register promptly.

6. New and Unfinished Business

No new business or unfinished business was presented.

7. Good of the Order

- The USS Phoenix Cold War Memorial Foundation project broke ground on August 1. A city construction schedule is not yet available; updates will be provided as the project advances.
- The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society’s “Our Success Is Your Success” grant application period closes September 30. Fifteen organizations will receive awards from the prior cycle, selected from 24 applicants.

8. Action Items

- Hall of Fame committee: finalize the inductee list after Governor's Office approval, notify nominees, publish the announcement, and continue registration and seating preparations.
- Northern Arizona VA and DAV representatives: coordinate outreach and remote service support for Native American communities.
- Members: submit sickness or distress information to organizational leadership as appropriate.
- Interested organizations: submit Hall of Fame Society grant applications by September 30.

9. Closing and Adjournment

Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chaplain offered the benediction. The Chair reminded members that the next meeting will be held October 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. via Google Meet, thanked attendees, and adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl B. Forkner PhD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "C" and "F".

Carl B. Forkner
Secretary
AVHOF Class of 2025