



UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS
THE VOICE OF ARIZONA'S VETERANS

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UAV MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JUNE 6, 2026 – 9:00am

Date: June 6, 2026

Presiding: Jennifer Harris, Vice Chair

Recorder: Carl Forkner, Secretary

Attendees (26 by Zoom): Vice Chair Jennifer Harris, IPB Travis Burns, Treasurer Jerry Bernard, Secretary Carl Forkner, Chaplain Lea Seago, Director Reggie Yates (VFW), Director Michelle Jameson (US Vets), Elijah Ditter, (PVAHCS), Steve Sample (NAVAHCS), Brad Bridwell (Axiom), Marcia Scott (Axiom), Meredith Doyle (Axiom), Barbara Jeter, Carol Rundell, Chris Gahan, Deidre Person (ACMF), George Campbell (Axiom), Lynn Burnett (DAV Ch 8), Karen Craig (AVHOFS), Kathy Upchurch, Odin Shapiro, Rayvn Crescent, Ryan Lindberg, Vic Peterson, [Phillip's iPad], [Colleen's iPad],

Call to Order and Opening Observances

The meeting was called to order by the presiding officer. An opening prayer was offered recognizing the D-Day anniversary, the service and sacrifice of veterans, and the needs of currently serving military members, veterans, and their families. The assembly then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introductions and Featured Presentation

The chair welcomed Marsha Scott and the Axiom Care team, who presented on the recently opened John McCain Veterans Center and related programming. The presenters outlined Axiom Care's mission, services, and locations, including substance use treatment, integrated behavioral health, detoxification, residential treatment, outpatient services, medication-assisted treatment, and supportive and transitional housing.

The presentation highlighted the John McCain Veterans Center as a veteran-focused transitional housing and treatment program designed to support veterans experiencing substance use disorders, mental health conditions, trauma, and homelessness. Presenters explained that the center offers a structured environment for up to 90 days, with flexibility for extensions based on progress and need. The team also described coordination with outpatient services, workforce development, therapy, recovery supports, and transition planning.

Victory Place was presented as a longstanding veteran community in Arizona that provides supportive housing and a pathway to greater independence. The presenters emphasized the partnership between Axiom Care and Victory Place as a continuum of care intended to move veterans from crisis or instability toward treatment, stabilization, employment, and long-term housing.

Additional remarks addressed broader veteran needs in Arizona, including homelessness, opioid-related deaths, and the importance of rapid access to treatment. The presenters also discussed outreach efforts, referral processes, and the availability of future presentations for interested organizations.

Questions and Discussion Following Presentation

Members requested contact information and clarification on referral procedures. George Campbell was identified as a direct contact for veteran programming, and the presenters indicated that the admissions line and supporting materials would be shared. A question was also raised regarding opioid-related trends in Arizona, and the presenters noted concern about continued increases in opioid-related deaths locally despite broader national declines. The Axiom team expressed willingness to provide information for publication in newsletters and to participate in upcoming veterans service organization conventions if invited.

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the May 2 meeting as published. A second was received. Following a call for discussion and corrections, no changes were requested. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer presented the May report, stating that the organization began the month with a balance of approximately \$112,030. The report noted that expenses exceeded income primarily because of three scholarship grants totaling \$15,000. The month-end balance was reported at approximately \$97,933, with reconciliation to the bank balance after adjustment for one outstanding scholarship check. The books were reported to reconcile with the bank records.

A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report as published. A second was received, and the report was approved by unanimous vote.

Sickness and Distress

The chaplain reported the passing of Chief Petty Officer James “Jim” Katzenberger, a Navy veteran and past chair of the organization in 2018. He was recognized for distinguished service as a veteran service officer with the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Phoenix and as a Southwest regional president of the Fleet Reserve Association. The chaplain noted that condolences had been sent to the family and shared tentative information regarding interment at the National Memorial Cemetery.

Agency and Organizational Reports

Reports were received from participating organizations and agencies.

The Phoenix VA reported ongoing hiring efforts, updates to leadership assignments, the return and expansion of its mobile medical unit program, and recognition for receiving a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Additional updates included caregiver outreach, centenarian recognition activities, creative arts programming, Memorial Day observances, work related to a future Fisher House, and upcoming events for women veterans, adaptive sports, and other outreach activities.

The Northern Arizona VA also reported receiving a five-star rating and provided updates on leadership transitions, the addition of dermatology services, anticipated expansion of pulmonology services, nurses week recognition, outreach events, rural and tribal community engagements, and upcoming public events and clinic activities.

The Arizona Coalition for Military Families, operating the Be Connected program, reported on statewide support trends, including high levels of need related to finances, housing instability, food insecurity, employment, legal services, mental health, and other social determinants of health. The report emphasized the importance of coordinated referrals and sustained support through community partnerships.

Board of Directors Update and Proposed 2026 Budget

The board reviewed the proposed budget for 2026, including projected income and expenses. Discussion noted anticipated revenue from corporate contributions, public support, and membership-related sources, along with estimated costs for facilities, operations, awards, and scholarship grants. It was also explained that some income reflected in 2025 included funding attributable to 2024, creating an apparent duplication in the current year’s totals. Despite that accounting anomaly, the expense projections for 2026 were described as reliable and repeatable.

A motion was made to accept the proposed 2026 budget. A second was received, and the budget was approved by unanimous vote.

New Business

No new business was introduced other than the 2026 budget discussion and approval.

Good of the Order

The chair noted that the meeting date marked the 82nd anniversary of D-Day. Members were reminded that this was the final meeting before the summer break and that the next meeting would be held on September 5. It was also announced that future meetings would transition to Google Meet, and members would receive updated meeting information in advance.

Additional remarks for the good of the order included an update that a member's spouse had successfully completed radiation treatment (Sue Crego), notice of an upcoming Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Veterans Advisory Commission meeting in Flagstaff, and an announcement regarding the 2026 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame induction ceremony scheduled for October 23 at Talking Stick Resort.

Benediction and Adjournment

The Chaplain delivered a closing benediction honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice during D-Day and encouraging continued service to the nation and to Arizona communities. The meeting was then adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl B. Forkner" with "PhD" written in smaller letters to the right.

Carl B. Forkner
AVHOF Class of 2025
Secretary