



Veterans' Affairs Committee
Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 6:00 pm
City Manager's Conference Room – 1st Floor
City Hall, 255 W. Alameda, Tucson, Arizona

Summary Minutes
Approved October 09, 2019

1. Call to Order / Establish a Quorum

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Bruce Hamilton at 6:00 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Gary Ochoa
Carol Rundell

C.W. Hall
William Burks
Phyllis Russell
Terry Byron
William Wojciechowski

Robert "Bob" Slocum
Joel Stoltz
Mark Levine
Bruce Hamilton
Martin Belden
Melvin Morgan
Luke Johnson
Shaun Pfund **(arrived at 6:35)**

Peter Kane (Advisory Member)

Representing:

Arizona Department of Veteran's Services
Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary,
Cactus Chapter 2
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 4
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26
Esperanza En Escalante
Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72
Military Officers Association of America,
Tucson Chapter
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Tucson Jewish War Veterans Post 201
Tucson Jewish War Veterans Post 201
Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
Tucson Veterans Cemetery Group

Tucson Airport Authority

Absent:

Lester Craig
Henry Johnson

Representing:

Korean War and Korea Service Veterans
Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72
and Post 81 Scottish American Military Society
of Southern Arizona

Staff Member Present:

Delma Sanchez
Jaime Corrales

City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary
City Clerk's Office, Recording Secretary

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Committee Member G. Ochoa.

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4. Introduction of Guests

Mayor J. Rothschild
Steve Aguirre

American Legion

5. Appreciation for Mayor Rothschild-Update/discussion on Hats Off to Heroes

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Mayor Rothschild by Chair B. Hamilton, for his continued support of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Mayor Rothschild accepted his award and thanked the Committee. He spoke on Hats Off to Heroes and informed the Board that Rocky Dichristofano had made a generous donation of \$15,000.00, to assist with the Hats off to Heroes event. The mayor was invited to attend the Hats off to Heroes event, to which he agreed. Mayor Rothschild also spoke on the Veterans Day Parade. He was invited to attend and ride in the parade. Mayor Rothschild agreed and asked if possible to move the VAC's spot in the parade to closer to the front. Chair B. Hamilton said he would try and arrange this. He spoke on various other organizations that needed support; Boots to Business, the Veterans Resource Fair, Veterans Corp, Camel Card and ending homelessness. He thanked the Committee for their efforts in making Tucson a welcoming destination for other service members.

6. Approval of Legal Action Report and Summary Minutes from May 8, 2019 meeting

No discussion was held. It was moved by Committee Member C.W. Hall, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 14 to 0 (Committee Members L. Craig, H. Johnson absent), to approve the Legal Action Report and Summary Minutes from the May 8, 2019 meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report

Report was given by Committee Member M. Belden, and the financial report was distributed. A discussion was held. It was moved by Committee Member C.W. Hall, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 14 to 0 (Committee Members L. Craig, H. Johnson absent), to accept the Financial Report.

***8. Consideration/Approval of Members**

Appointment of Henry G. Johnson, recommended by Post 81 of the Scottish American Military Society of Southern Arizona

No discussion was held. It was moved by Committee Member C.W. Hall, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 14 to 0 (Committee Members L. Craig, H. Johnson absent), to approve the appointment of Henry Johnson to represent Post 81 of the Scottish American Military Society of Southern Arizona. **In addition to his new appointment, Committee Member H. Johnson will continue to represent Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72.**

8. Committee Reports

a. Southern Arizona VA (Veterans' Affairs) Health Care System

Committee Member L. Johnson reported on upcoming events within the VA Hospital. He reported that on September 18, 2019 there would be a Veterans Job Fair and September 20, 2019 there would be a Suicide Prevention Resource Fair. He also stated that on October 1, 2019 all VA healthcare facilities would become smoke free. This includes all exterior designated smoking areas. Committee Member C. Rundell asked about the cafeteria closure. Mr. Johnson responded that nothing has been set in stone. There is a plan to temporarily close Building 3 (Canteen/Dining Area) for necessary

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remodeling. Food trucks will be allowed to provide services for the facility. Committee Member Johnson will have more information for the Committee at a later meeting.

b. Tucson Veterans Cemetery

Committee Member G. Ochoa reported that October 26, 2019 the Marana MIA Project will have its next event. He stated that there are currently 40 service members on that list.

c. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Committee Member G. Ochoa reported that ground had been broken on two new Veterans Homes; these are 80 bed, skilled nursing facilities in Yuma and in Flagstaff. This will bring the total to four facilities in Arizona. He also reported that Senate Bill 1338 was recently signed. This bill allows for the production of additional license plates in Arizona. The current production of plate is limited to the American Flag, the Veteran Plate and the Marine Seal. There were none representing the Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard. In addition the production of a Native American Code Talker Plate and Woman's Veteran plates will now be included. This will allow for six new plates in total.

9. Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony Update/Discussion

No report was given.

10. Military Lounge Update/Discussion

Committee Member T. Stoltz reported that he had recently been to the lounge. He reported that there was plenty of water. He also reported that early this summer there had been a problem with the cooler in the lounge, but since had been repaired. Chair B. Hamilton asked the committee if anyone had received an email regarding donations for remodeling of the lounge. Peter Kane, Tucson Airport Authority, replied that he was not sure who had been contacted. Chair B. Hamilton said he would distribute the email he received to the Committee and revisit this item later. The question of donating reading materials for lounge was also brought up, Peter Kane said he would ask and follow up with the Committee.

11. Operation Exodus Update/Discussion

Committee Member M. Belden stated that last year's configuration was very good. He reported that the only major change needed was to change the selection of refreshments for the upcoming event. He stated he will bring it to the board as the events draws closer. Peter Kane said he would provide a volunteer sign up list for those wishing to assist.

12. Hats Off to Heroes Update/Discussion

Committee Member L. Johnson briefed the committee on the planned festivities. He stated that there are bands scheduled to play, a fireworks display and possibly a BBQ competition to raise money for Hats off to Heroes.

Committee Member G. Ochoa passed out a flier. He informed the committee that there were two scheduled bands for the event. He stated that there were three scheduled slots available for other bands. Committee Member T. Byron stated that she had a list

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of potential bands and could provide it. Committee Member G. Ochoa listed potential donors who had yet to reply.

13. Military Officers Association of America partnering - Scholarship Funds Update/Discussion

Committee Member W. Wojciechowski stated that a donation of \$2100.00 was made to his organization; to be divided equally among Army, Navy and Air Force University of Arizona ROTC. He asked if any of the Organizations present at the meeting were interested in participating to please see him after the meeting. Chair B. Hamilton suggested that committee members reach out to their respective organization and this item would be discussed next month.

15. Veterans' Affairs Committee Fundraising/Raffle tickets for sale Update/Discussion

Committee Member T. Byron informed the Committee that the VAC had been awarded two round trip tickets within the Continental United States, from Southwest Airlines. She stated she had printed the tickets; and were in groups of six tickets per book. The price (as decided) was \$10.00 each or 6 for \$50.00, and that the drawing would be held on November 10, 2019, during the Hats off to Heroes Celebration.

16. Veterans' Day Parade Update/Discussion

No report given

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

Reports regarding various upcoming events were provided by Committee Members M. Morgan, M. Belden, T. Byron, P. Russell, S. Pfund, M. Levine, J. Stoltz, L. Johnson, G. Ochoa, Chair B. Hamilton, Advisory Member P. Kane

18. Future Agenda Items:

- **Military Lounge Remodeling**
- **Veterans Parade**
- **Quick Trip Gift Cards**
- **Military Officers Association of America partnering with other organizations in combining scholarship programs**

19. Salute to Colors

20. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.