



Veterans' Affairs Committee  
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## Veterans' Affairs Committee MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by C.M Stevens, Chairperson, on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., in the Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 255 W. Alameda St., Tucson, Arizona.

### 1. Call to Order/Establish a Quorum

Members Present:

Abel Moreno  
William Stein  
Norman Ross  
J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza  
Herbert Rogers  
Saul Stoltz  
C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson  
E. Wendell Hague

Representing:

American Legion Post #7  
DAV Auxiliary Cactus #2  
Korean War Veterans' Association  
So. AZ. VA Health Care System  
Spanish Trail Chapter NCOA  
Tucson Jewish War Veterans Post 201  
Veteran's Employment & Training  
VFW Post #549

Members Absent:

Ernest Minchella  
Paul R. Hetrick  
Roger Smith

Representing:

American Legion Post #36  
Vietnam Veterans of America, CH. 106  
DAV Cactus Chapter #2

Others Present:

John Zinck  
George Daniel Ross  
Cathi Starr

Representing:

Chaplain, Southern Arizona V. A. Health Care System  
Vietnam Veterans of America, CH. 106  
Arizona Department of Veterans Services

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by C. Martin Stevens.
- 3. Invocation**  
The invocation was given by Chaplain John Zinck.
- 4. Introduction of Guests**  
Guests Chaplain John Zinck of the Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System, George Daniel Ross of the Vietnam Veterans of America and Cathi Starr of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services were introduced to the committee.
- 5. Approval of New Members**  
It was moved, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 8 to 0 (Ernest Minchella, Paul R. Hetrick and Roger Smith absent) to approve the new members George Daniel Ross of the Vietnam Veterans of America and Cathi Starr of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services for submission to Mayor and Council.
- 6. Chairman's Report on Current Events**  
Chairman Stevens reported on the continuing military investigation of the military liaison for the airport lounge. He suggested if members were questioned about the investigation they please respond with "no comment".
- 7. Approval of Minutes – December 10, 2008**  
It was moved, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 8 to 0 (Ernest Minchella, Paul R. Hetrick and Roger Smith absent) to approve the December 10, 2008 minutes as presented.
- 8. Discussion / Action regarding the effort to bring a National Veterans Cemetery to the Tucson area**  
Item was continued to the February 10, 2009, meeting.
- 9. Discussion / Action regarding Operation Exodus 2008**  
Norman Ross reported Operation Exodus 2008 was very successful with approximately three thousand military members passing thorough the airport lounge. Mr. Ross also submitted a list of volunteers for the record.
- 10. Discussion /Action regarding the Four Chaplains Ceremony**  
Chaplain Zinck and Pepe Mendoza suggested seeking approval from the Director of the Southern Arizona Healthcare System to allow the Four Chaplains Ceremony to take place at the Veterans Affairs Hospital grounds. Norman Ross suggested the Ceremony be held at the Four Chaplains Memorial on Ajo Way, but other committee members including Chair Stevens agreed the Ceremony should take place at the Veterans Hospital as it was a gathering point for so many veterans. If approval was given by the director, the event would be scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and Pepe Mendoza would issue a press release.

It was moved, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 8 to 0 (Ernest Minchella, Paul R. Hetrick and Roger Smith absent) to approve Chaplain Zinck and Pepe Mendoza to seek approval of the Director of the Southern Arizona Healthcare System to allow the Four Chaplains Ceremony to take place at the Veterans Affairs Hospital grounds.

**11. Discussion / Action regarding mental health services at Southern Arizona Veterans Health Care**

The committee congratulated Pepe Mendoza and the Southern Arizona Healthcare system for being rated the number two poly-trauma center in the United States.

**12. Discussion / Action regarding possible changes to Committee By-laws**

The Committee discussed changing the By-laws Section 10.4.2 to allow the final written financial report to be submitted at the January meeting for audit. The committee agreed moving the audit from the December meeting to January of the following year would allow significant time to reconcile funding of December's Operation Exodus. Chair Stevens volunteered to speak with the Tucson City Clerk's Office regarding the change.

**13. Discussion / Action Department of Labor Notice of Grant for 55+ Workers**

No Discussion held. No action taken.

**14. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action**

**a. Airport Military Lounge**

It was reported that the Airport Military Lounge was temporarily closed. Chair Stevens would call Sargent Major Brown and the new Commander at Fort Huachuca to request a non - commissioned officer be assigned to the lounge.

**b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**

Cathi Starr from the Arizona Department of Veterans Services provided information on "Disney's Armed Forces Salute offer" regarding complimentary multi-day admission into Disney's U.S. theme parks.

**c. VA Hospital**

Pepe Mendoza from the Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System provided flyers regarding volunteering at the Veterans Hospital. He also shared information with the committee regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs offering health care to previously ineligible veterans.

**d. Arizona DES Employment Administration Veterans' Employment Services**

Chair Stevens reported the Arizona Veterans' employment services continued to help veterans with employment issues and with recruiting employers to hire veterans.

**e. Financial Report**

Wendell Hague, Treasurer submitted the Operation Exodus Report and the 2008 financial reports.

It was moved, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 8 to 0 (Ernest Minchella, Paul R. Hetrick and Roger Smith absent) to approve the reports as presented. An audit of the annual financial report was scheduled to take place after the meeting. The audit report would be submitted at the February meeting.

**15. Future Agenda Items**

- The National Veterans Cemetery.
- Possible committee By-laws.

**16. Salute to Colors**

Salute to Colors was led by Wendell Hague.

**17. Adjournment – 8:05 p.m.**