



Veterans' Affairs Committee
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Veterans' Affairs Committee MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by Dr. Lester Potts, Chairperson, on Wednesday, December 13, 2006, 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:

Dr. Lester Potts, Chairperson
Donald Alff
Louis Romero
Bernard McCaffery
William Burks
J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza
Herbert Rogers
Aaron Possien
E. Wendell Hague
C.M. Stevens
Paul R. Hetrick

Representing:

American Legion Post #36
American Legion Post #7
American Legion Post #59
American Legion Post #73
DAV Cactus Chapter #2
DVA S. AZ. VA Health Care System
Spanish Trail Chapter NCOA
The Order of the Silver Rose
VFW Post #549
Veteran's Employment & Training
Vietnam Veterans of America, CH. 106

Members Absent:

Norman Ross
Ralph Armijo (non-voting member)
Joseph McLeese

Representing:

Tucson Jewish War Vets Post #201
AZ. Dept. of Veterans' Services
Fleet Reserve Assoc. Branch #176

Others Present:

Karen Alff, guest
Rose Anderson, of the Order of the Silver Rose
Sergeant Puglia, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Military Lounge

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Paul Hetrick.

3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Chairperson Potts.

- 4. Introduction of Guests**
Chairperson Potts introduced guests in attendance, Karen Alff, Rose Anderson from the Order of the Silver Rose and Sergeant Puglia from the Military Lounge.

- 5. Approval of New Members**
There were no new members.

- 6. Chairperson's Report on Current Events: For the Good of the Order**
No Report was given.

- 7. Approval of Minutes – November 8, 2006**
It was moved by Dan Alff, duly seconded and passed by a voice vote of 11 to 0 (Norman Ross, Joseph McLeese absent/excused) to approve the minutes of November 13, 2006 with the addition of the Operation Exodus dates of December 17 through December 22 added to Item 8 and the correction of the spelling of Salute in Item 13.

- 8. Operation Exodus 2006 Planning/Action Update**
Chairperson Potts reported things were being finalized for Operation Exodus. Kalil Bottling had donated soda for the troops, and a pick up time needed to be scheduled. Sergeant Puglia announced the first arrival of personnel was expected to be at 3:00 a.m. the morning of December 17, 2006.

- 9. Four Chaplains Ceremony Planning/Update**
Marty Stevens and Pepe Mendoza volunteered to begin gathering information to be presented at the January 10, 2007 Committee meeting regarding the Four Chaplains Ceremony.

- 10. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action**
 - a. Airport Military Lounge**
No official report given, just a reminder that Operation Exodus would take place from December 17 through December 22, 2006.

 - b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**
Marty Stevens announced that the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services was undergoing reorganization.

 - c. V A Hospital**
Pepe Mendoza of the Southern Arizona Veterans' Affairs Health Care System reported on services available for returning combat veterans. He announced the Hospital would host a train show by the Tucson Garden Railroad Society over the holiday. He also informed the Committee that the Arizona Veteran's Service Advisory Commission would hold a veterans town hall meeting in Green Valley in January.

 - d. Financial Report**
Wendell Hague presented the financial report for the period of November 11, 2006 to December 13, 2006. He said he would provide a reconciliation of Operation Exodus funds at the January 10, 2007 meeting.

11. Future Agenda Items

- Operation Exodus Reconciliation
- Planning/action for the Four Chaplains Ceremony
- Recruitment of Organizations

12. Nomination and Election of Officers

Nominations of Officers for the year 2007 were accepted. They were: Marty Stevens for Chairperson; Norman Ross for Senior Vice Chairperson; Aaron Possien for Junior Vice Chairperson; Wendell Hague for Treasurer; and Lester Potts for Judge Advocate. It was moved, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 11 to 0 (Norman Ross and Joseph McLeese absent/excused) to elect those nominated.

13. Salute to Colors

The Salute to Colors was led by Marty Stevens

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.