



Veterans' Affairs Committee
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson, Arizona 85726-7210
(520) 791-4213
(520) 791-2639 (TDD)
(520) 791-4017 (FAX)

Veterans' Affairs Committee MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by C.Martin Stevens, Chairperson, on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, 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
Donald Alff
Bernard McCaffery
William Burks
J.L. "Pepe" Mendoza
Herbert Rogers
Aaron Possien
E. Wendell Hague
C. Martin Stevens, Chairperson
Paul R. Hetrick

Members Absent:

Louis Romero
Norman Ross

Others Present:

Karen Alff, guest

Representing:

American Legion Post #36
American Legion Post #7
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

Representing:

American Legion Post #59
Tucson Jewish War Vets Post #201

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Donald Alff.

3. Invocation

The invocation was given by Chairperson Stevens.

4. Introduction of Guests

Chairperson Stevens introduced guest in attendance, Karen Alff.

5. Approval of New Members

Chairman Stevens distributed a copy of a letter from Luella Emmons, Asst. Deputy Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, nominating Joan Shadwick, Southern Arizona Area Manager of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services.

It was moved, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Norman Ross, Louis Romero absent/excused) to approve new member, Joan Shadwick. She was not able to attend the meeting, as she was busy performing duties of her new position. She did express her regrets for not being able to attend and plans to attend future meetings. Dr. Potts pointed out the attendance policy. Chairman Stevens stated he would inform her.

6. Chairperson's Report on Current Events: For the Good of the Order

Chairman Stevens spoke about the successful "Operation Exodus" held in December 2006 at Tucson International Airport (TIA). Other members commented and shared personal observations and experiences with soldiers they had met at TIA.

Chairman Stevens shared his vision to expand their horizons; that they reach out to the county and the various incorporated communities (i.e., Marana, Vail, Oro Valley, Sahuarita, etc.) to discuss the possibility of working synergistically for area Veterans.

Chairman Stevens reminded the Committee that February's meeting would fall on Valentine's Day. It was moved, duly seconded and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Norman Ross, Louis Romero absent/excused), to move the meeting to Tuesday, February 13, 2007.

7. Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2006

It was moved, duly seconded and carried by a voice vote of 10 to 0 (Norman Ross, Louis Romero absent/excused) to approve the minutes of December 13, 2006.

8. Operation Exodus Reconciliation

Chairman Stevens stated he would contact Mr. Norman Ross to get the checks and receipts related to Operation Exodus 2006. This item would be continued to the next meeting on February 13, 2007.

9. Four Chaplains Ceremony Planning/Update

Mr. "Pepe" Mendoza reported the ceremony was in the planning stages. He thanked C. Martin Stevens for referring a retired USAF Chaplain (Merle Gathers, Arizona Department of Economic Security) to participate in the ceremony. Mr. Gathers would coordinate and work with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Chaplain in charge of the event.

10. Committee Reports – Discussion/Action

a. Airport Military Lounge

All members that had participated agreed the Lounge has been improved considerably and was now a place which the City (Mayor and Council) and the VAC could be proud to have service members enjoy their stay at Tucson International Airport (TIA). Items left over from Operation Exodus were donated to the lounge for service-members coming through TIA.

b. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

No report given. Chairman Stevens stated that Joan Shadwick, Arizona Department of Veteran's Services, would be attending future meetings.

c. V A Hospital

Mr. "Pepe" Mendoza reported on new equipment at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Tucson, which continues to be one of the best VAMC facilities in the country. He reminded VAC members of VAMC's "Salute to Hospitalized Veterans", scheduled for February 14 and 15, 2007; he asked for individuals to call the Volunteer Office at 629-1822 to coordinate visits to patients. The deadline was February 9, 2007.

d. Financial Report

Mr. Don Alff would prepare a complete report when the Operation Exodus expenses and contributions from several organizations and receipts from businesses are provided for action. Chairperson Stevens stated he would contact Norman Ross to coordinate the delivery of receipts and checks to VAC for the Financial Report.

11. Future Agenda Items

No items were discussed at this meeting.

12. Salute to Colors

Conducted as required before adjournment.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.