

Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization AGENDA
Regular Meeting
March 08, 2026@1pm

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation
- IV. Approval stipend \$75 each CVO Officers, Commander Patrick L. Tom, Vice Commander Valeria Robinson, Secretary Treasurer Madame Pat Jane Arthur
- V. Budget Transfer FY2026
- VI. Financial Assistance
- VII. Clean and Beautiful
- VIII. Announcements
- VI. Adjournment



Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
March 08, 2026@1pm



I. Meeting Call to Order - 1311pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance- Everyone

III. Invocation - Commander Patrick Tom.

IV. Approval stipend \$75 each CVO Officers, Commander Patrick L. Tom, Vice Commander Valeria Robinson, Secretary Treasurer Madame Pat Jane Arthur.

a. Motion by: Lilly Shorty 2nd by: Richard Chee

b. Votes: Favored 19- Opposed- 0 Abstained - 1 Motion Passed

V. Budget Transfer FY2026

The Vice Commander started the meeting and stated the balance of \$3, 985.00 in the general funds. Patrick Tom talked about speaking to the veterans service officer and account maintenance specialist in Crownpoint. They are only allowed to have two budget transfers per year and we already did one in January and the next one is next month. Vanderver said that there was a balance of \$2250.00 for stipends, VA transportation \$1500.00 and workshop \$610.00. If you 4350.00 total. Stipends were voted on for CVO officers with a new balance of \$3985.00. Account maintenance specialists did say the surviving spouses are eligible the veterans did exhaust the Trust Fund. Patrick stated that he doesn't know who is eligible, that they didn't provide us with a list. The budget transfer last year stipends were held April, May, June and July but the Eastern Agency never paid September and August. This year he doesn't want to deal with that and deplete the stipend and have a zero balance and give it to the surviving spouse. Transfer all money out. May I have a motion to pass. The Vice Commander spoke up stating we shouldn't budget the whole amount from stipends because gas costs money and we have to print our own things and things we need and think we need enough to cover our meetings up to July and your Eastern Meeting due to gas being so expensive, and travel far. I think we should leave enough meetings and one meeting a month and eastern agency veterans meeting and whatever is left to transfer that and VA transportation and the workshop transfer that over. No one has applied for almost six months letting everyone know funds are available. The funds are almost depleted as for the General Funds. We shouldn't have to push everyone to apply for the funds without being told. Lilly Shorty spoke up speaking for her daughter and her daughter applied twice and was denied. It isn't fair the way they are choosing, her daughter lives in the city, pays for property tax and was denied. Lilly was upset and told her daughter it was unfair she needs to eat too. Not fair to veterans who live in metropolitan areas, just like here some travel ways to do things for our veterans. Patrick Tom spoke up and he's been helping those who live in the cities and when doing registration forms he talked about the maps and the veteran who lives outside the state and using the navajo nation address here and when applying for the application. He apologized, she got denied twice and she has gotten assistance once. Valeria stated months ago with Lori and needed a document stating she has a home in her name like rental agreement and mortgage. Lilly said her daughter turned that in with

her application. Commander Tom said there were veterans who got assistance and some approved without their residence. Damon Charley spoke when he lived in Yuma was also denied stating he wasn't a registered voter and asked what was the difference. Patrick said just register with Chapter and required documents, and once you got your voter registration for general funds and trust fund. Johnny Begaye asked about the budget for VA transportation. Commander Tom encouraged him to apply with Form 105 and future scheduled appointments. Darrell Alexis said he tried to use the services and got denied. The Vice Commander asked who needed transportation and three raised their hands, she explained how to fill out the forms and had to be out of Gallup with a copy of future scheduled appointments. Commander Tom will allocate for transportation that would be \$600 for the four who will apply. For Lilly Shorty's daughter who has been denied twice she should apply again and not give up. Leave the budget transfer as it is and was told to deplete but since we would like to keep stipends he would like to talk with the veterans service officer with Shelby about residential address verification. Hold budget transfer as it is and not do anything with it, encouraging those who got denied to talk with Commander Tom. Eastern Agency is not allowed to give personal information because the privacy was violated with the surviving spouse and it sounds like mass punishment and was told to have a meeting and everyone needs to apply. Elizabeth Morgan spoke up and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She said her daughter has applied and gets denied and her daughter said others need it more than me. She said there are a lot of veterans out there like my brother who is in a wheelchair, who says I don't know what they're doing out there, all the money they take it all. He doesn't care to apply and there may be others out there like that. Commander Tom asked her if there were anything to report and she said she was waiting on our report but a comment on the trash cleanup. Commander Tom said words come around to him that they only help certain people and he said that is not true and treat everyone equal, and those who attend the meetings deserve assistance. He doesn't like when this comes to his attention and it's not true and not right and will call it out because we need to have veterans to take advantage of the funds and does everything he can for veterans. When he hears this he asks where this was said and who from and Harvey Williams also said that, and Commander Tom told him it's not true, as a chapter official you should vouch for us. He also said he thinks what is happening is not knowing how to fill out forms correctly, but will still remain humble and have humility. His phone, email and door are always open. I am a commander who will work with you and equally come together and go forward. The Vice Commander stated that she had also heard that these veterans who got homes that we favored them. She said that they did their own paperwork and they did it and you got to do it for you if you want it. Elizabeth Morgan again said that there was a lot of talk going around, take it in, think about it and go forward with it. Just told us to be strong whatever is said, don't take it hard just keep going. She went to the Eastern Agency and there's always a veteran from Manuelito. Mr. Smith speaks on behalf of us veterans, he made some resolutions supporting the veterans. She said I know you guys got 500 from Navajo Nation, there's really no plan but a request to eat. The money should be used to help veterans and plan. The trash day we took over that and shouldn't be like that and should be everyone like us officials. It should be chapter administration and take it upon ourselves and spend money, instead of using

on Cousins Road and in the morning we will use the Chapter as a command center. Damon Charley said there has been trash dumped at bean farm road and the dogs get into the trash, and it needs to stop, it happens almost everyday. We would like to get water, fruits, just something simple to get on the cleanup. Johnny and Shirley were a big help with their truck and flatbed to help get the trash. Next month's meeting will figure out what we will give out for lunch, just anything a grab and go. Around 215 and 230 will be the cutoff to stop getting trash, he wants to give incentives out and said we have money in our account. Talking about Elizabeth Morgan, Commander Tom said it was not like other chapters taking their Veterans out to eat at places and have their meetings. But for us we save it for important events. Spread the word for Earth Day from 8am to 3pm and had designed a flyer to share with everyone.

VIII. Announcements

ENAVO Regular Meeting 3/11/2026 @ Chichiltah Chapter

Thirty one commanders, crownpoint office, will be included. We need to serve breakfast, refreshments and lunch. We need to be careful on how we use funds with Rosalyn. Last year we did beef stew which was fast and convenient, which we can go down that route. March 11 is in a couple days. Pat Jane Arthur mentioned getting sub sandwiches, so we don't have to cook. Commander Tom motioned to go with T&R to vote, complete the agenda and minutes so we can get to T&R. Vice Commander Valeria did speak up that it had to go to a planning meeting and Chapter Meeting to get approved and that was a conflict. So cold cuts we agreed on with chips and sides and everyone will donate what they can. Come out to help us in the kitchen during the meeting, we could use the help.

Our next Veterans meeting will be on April 12th at 1pm.

VI. **Adjournment** – All in favor of adjourning the meeting say Yay! All in agreement. Adjourned at 257pm.

Submitted by Secretary/ Treasurer Madame Pat Jane Arthur _0800am_. Date _03/20/2026_.
File/ Distribution/ ENVA/ Chichiltah Chapter House/ CVO Officers

it for the veterans. So we need to take a look at that. Like last year we did a walk and we got tshirt for the walkers. It was nice but these veterans needed the money. During code talkers day they did a walk and here our code talker got a basket and the veterans just got a mug the shirt should have gone to the veterans instead. We've been wanting to talk about this but we will at our staff meeting. Put the money to veterans and trash pickup as the officials to help, maybe we can plan and they can help and don't take things upon yourself and spend a lot of money on that. Commander Tom said we put things together and not a lot of chapters have it and we do fundraising. When Lula Boyd passed we issued a check it was worth it. From account one and sixteen it comes to our chapter 5000 last and this year. When we have a veteran event like veterans day, memorial day, navajo code talker day when memorial day comes last year we do have the 5000 dollars to use program, catering and supplies this is how it is designed not allowed to give to anyone for assistance. We only spent 260 dollars last year and made beef stew that fed 150 people. On Veterans Day I enjoyed the event and learned my lessons when giving out gifts, when the \$5000 wasn't coming in at all and we were still fundraising. Now it seems like there is an issue with our money. We are not wasting the money like the tshirts that were given. We support our navajo businesses over other businesses. Valeria had a navajo business and wanted to support her but Harvey stood up and said wait a minute conflict of interest and left Valeria alone and went with sports world which was more and Valeria could have saved us 300 because the Chapter wouldn't support it. Clean and beautiful last year tshirts were given and i noticed something in our community we have to pull teeth out of people to care. Letters were sent to school for clean and beautiful. When we come to chapter meetings it starts late due to no one attending. Lilly spoke up that Harvey Williams is nice he attends but the thing is he tries to take over the meetings. He interrupts and it's disrespectful. Commander Tom said it has been brought up many times but did no action, but has a list of those that he has interrupted. Elizabeth Morgan said that it was between Rosalyn and Harvey's decision and had no idea that they denied Valeria to do the shirts. If you don't know Harvey he cuts others off and he's just that kind of guy and hard to work with, everything his way. I don't want to say this but I'm going to say this. I tell Harvey so many times to have respect for people and he doesn't do it. She told him to let people talk and that he's just like that and as CVO commanders to tell him. It's really hard to work with and wants everything his way. Don't let him interfere with your meetings. Valeria said that every meeting is to have respect for everyone who speaks and not to interrupt.

VI. Financial Assistance Since no assistance we will skip this portion.

VII. Clean and Beautiful

This will take place on April 22, 2026 the trash bin will be delivered on the 22nd and picked up the same day in the morning at 8am. People asked why the trash bin wasn't left longer and Commander Tom said that locals bring their trash and it fills up. Commander day thanked Mr. Richard Chee for always picking up trash. Commander Tom will write letters to the police department, fire station and schools. A week before he wanted to let people know they can pick up trash and leave on the road. We need help with transportation to get the trash bags when full. We aren't allowed to pick up trash on 602 due to it being a state road. This year he wanted to focus

Formal Statement Regarding Missing Sign-In Sheet

Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization

March 25, 2026

To: Lori John

Veteran Service Officer

Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Administration

Crownpoint, New Mexico

Subject: Missing Sign-In Sheet for March 08, 2026 Meeting

Dear Ms. John,

As Commander of the Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization, and on behalf of the Chichiltah CVO Officers—Commander Patrick Tom, Vice Commander Valeria Robinson, and Secretary Treasurer Madame Pat Jane Arthur—I am writing to formally notify you regarding the status of the sign-in sheet for our duly called meeting held on March 08, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

After thorough efforts by our officers and myself, we regret to inform you that the sign-in sheet for the aforementioned meeting has been lost or misplaced. Despite our attempts to locate it, we have been unable to recover the document.

I have previously spoken with you, Veteran Service Officer Lori John, at the Eastern Navajo Agency Veterans Administration, and as discussed, we are submitting the meeting minutes and agenda for the March 08, 2026 meeting without the sign-in sheet. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

Should you require any additional information or documentation, please let us know. We are committed to maintaining transparency and compliance with agency procedures.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Patrick Tom

Commander, Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization

Valeria Robinson

Vice Commander, Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization

Madame Pat Jane Arthur

Secretary Treasurer, Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization

