



Manuelito Veterans Organization
 HC 57 Box 9069
 Gallup, New Mexico 87301

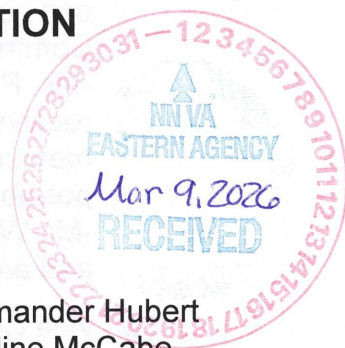
MANUELITO VETERANS ORGANIZATION
 MEETING AGENDA
 Friday, February 13, 2026



- I. Call Meeting to Order at: 6:15pm
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Invocation:
 - C. Moment of Silence for our Comrades in Arms who passed on!
 - D. Roll Call of Officers & Recognition of Guests
- II. Review and Approve of Agenda: (Changes or addition to Agenda)
- III. Reading and Approval of Minutes of
- IV. Presentation:
 - A. Reagan Hawthorne, Manuelito Chapter Coordinator
- V. New Business:
 - A.
 - B.
- VI. Reports – if any:
 - C. Verbal Reports – Commander: **UPDATE** on Resolution – for expenditure of the remaining \$1,200 per eligible Veteran and Surviving Spouse support. Amount changed to \$400.
 - D. Verbal Reports – Vice Commander
 - E. Verbal Reports – Secretary/Treasurer
 - 1. Appropriated from Navajo Nation Comprehensive Budget - \$5,000
 - 2. Trust Funds – FY2026 VTF: \$2,250 (for Stipend)
 - 3. Fund 16: \$10,789
 - 4. General Funds: FY2026 – Allocated \$32,595, Spent \$30,345, **BALANCE** \$2,250
 - 5. Gourd Dance Funds – (\$1)
- VII. Announcements(s):
 - A. Manuelito CLUPC Meeting – February 20, 2026
 - B. Manuelito Chapter Planning Meeting – February 15, 2026 @ 1:00pm
 - C. Manuelito Chapter Community Meeting – February 22, 2026 @ 1:00pm
 - D. Heart Health Fair 2/27/26 11:30a - 2:30p
 - E. Voter Registration Drive 2/27/26
- VIII. Next Meeting Date: 4/10/26
- IX. Adjournment:

MANUELITO CHAPTER VETERAN ORGANIZATION

MEETING MINUTES, Friday, February 13, 2026



1. Call meeting to order at 1815 by Commander Ricardo Spencer
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commander Spencer
3. Invocation was made by Commander Spencer
4. Roll call of officers: Commander Spencer is present, Vice Commander Hubert Smith is present, Secretary/Elsie Ciccarello is absent. Ms. Pauline McCabe motioned to have Marlene Spencer as Secretary/Treasurer for this meeting, seconded by Willie Haley. Vote count: 4 in favor, 0 oppose and 1 abstain.
5. Review and Approve of Agenda –
 - a. Motioned made by Pauline McCabe, Seconded by Chancy Brown. Vote count: 5 in favor, 0 oppose and 2 abstain.
6. Reading and Approval of Minutes –
 - a. Motioned made by Pauline McCabe, Seconded by Willie Haley. Vote count: 5 in favor, 0 oppose and 2 abstain.
7. Presentation:
 - a. Reagan Hawthorne, Manuelito Chapter CSC – provided an introduction of himself and plans/ideas with chapter MVO:
 - Build monuments/Pillars on stone foundation with Manuelito Service Members names from every branch of service and time served, along the driveway coming up to the chapter house.
 - MOA between chapter and Veterans Organization for a Weekend Arts Market– within the Agreement MVO would run the Market with chapter requiring 5% of revenue and MVO would charge for spaces and recoup everything above that.
 - Manuelito Chapter is now able to register voters, with Registration Drive on the same day as Heart Health Fair.
 - Vice Commander Smith and I were in Window Rock, did a Bid opening on work on the Veterans Center.
 - Motto that I brought to the office: “There’s Nothing more Hawthorne than Winning”, focusing on all the projects that could be done. Chapter has a lot of potential.
 - Beginning next month (March), initiating “First Fridays” will be available to public for any questions, complaint, compliments. First Friday of every month.
 - Also in March, chapter will be open for access at lunch time with staff rotation to cover office.
8. New Business – no report
9. Old Business – no report
10. Reports –
 - a. Commander Spencer - provided explanation on recent resolution for MVO members applying for \$1200 but received \$400. ENVO stated we did not have enough funding available in the category but using General Funds they

can assist with \$400 per veteran, instead of the requested \$1200.

Commander Spencer asked MVO of their thoughts in this:

-Ms. Pauline McCabe mentioned she was thankful for any assistance received, and that as previous Commander it was a challenge in getting members to the meetings to increase participation and had recommended possible option of having MVO members to call in lieu of physical attendance.

-Mr. Willie Haley and Mr. Elijah Watchman also said they received their \$400 and are thankful for what was received.

b. Vice Commander Smith –

- Vietnam Veterans walk, starting March 24th to 28th, reaching Waters Park in Farmington, NM. Recommend walking with them. Arrangements have been made for their food.

- Report at Agency Meeting – we have \$4139.14 in General Funds (was extra). Veterans Trust Fund, balance of \$57,169.66 funding for stipend, VA transportation, and VA workshop. General Funds for Color Guard or Honor Guard we have \$1,139. Burial Assistance account balance is \$3,000.

-At beginning of Fiscal Year we received funding for only 726 Veterans. Some members did not have updated identification, were not included in the 726. Since they've updated their information, we are now at 1,449 Veterans for ENAVO. In the last few months Manuelito Veterans added 4 new members but did not receive financial assistance.

- Passed a Resolution ENAVO-26-006, requesting extra funds from Council Delegates for 2 million dollars. At beginning of October when we were short-changed, they knew about our situation and said, let us know if you run out of funds, so we can allocate more funding for Eastern Agency. We are almost out of funds now, the Resolution passed will include the Veterans who were not included.

- Some hinderance to payments for Veterans are Identification cards / Drivers Licenses expired, Address Change, AB #s (Identifies you as a member to receive payments). The 4 individuals recently added did not get funding, are not here this evening to follow up with.

-For MVO we get a stipend at the beginning of the year for 6 meetings per Fiscal Year. The ENAVO wants to go to 4 meetings per year to decrease redundancy. For new Fiscal Year, beginning October 2026.

- New Veteran's Liaison is Tim Johnson working for President's office, was previously Chinle Agency Commander.

- Beginning of April is our deadline to do any transfer of funds to different line items, if needed. Currently we have almost depleted our funds. We'll establish legislation to request more funding for our Veterans and Surviving Spouse.

-On Wednesday the Agency Office had a Housing Workshop for any Veterans requesting new Constructed Home or Renovation of an existing home. We can have the Housing Supervisor provide a presentation here, especially for renovations on our homes. Our new Veterans may be needing a home and the process with documents required. Pauline McCabe as previous Commander said she worked with the chapter to set aside funding to help Veterans with Homesite or Residential Lease, but no one showed up. The possibility of working with the new Manuelito CSC for same idea.

- Mr. Hawthorne and I went to Window Rock for an RFP (Request for Proposal), there were 2 construction companies that put in a bid to replace doors in the Headstart building. Thereafter, it is to work on the interior, the HVAC system and ensure the restrooms have adult size toilets, urinals and everything else. To have all doors ADA compliant. Currently we have \$800,000 for that.

- Made trip to Santa Fe last week met with State Legislators requesting more funds. Met with Senator George Munoz who said he can help us with the Veteran Building; amount is still in discussion. Our request is \$500,000 to fix up interior and exterior.

- Zuni Veterans have a pillar that is about 6 feet made of limestone, with flags of all branches with names of Veterans. If the \$500,000 does get approved for the Veterans Building, 5% of that can go to the Arts Fund and use that towards the pillars.

- This same report of our projects was given to the State Legislators for them to discuss and make their decisions.

c. Secretary / Treasurer – Marlene Spencer

- \$5,000 General Funds for Catering, Gifts, etc. was available, but according to Vice Commander Smith, majority of the \$5,000 has been spent on last year's Veterans Day catering and Christmas basket items for Christmas giveaways.

- Attended the Veteran Housing Workshop this morning in Standing Rock. Received information that Vice Commander previously covered. CSC Hawthorne inquired about funding for renovations, which was part of the presentation and funding is available with its own process. Vice Commander Smith explained that funding for Renovations has 40 million dollars but only one contractor from Trust Fund and not collecting interest and is still available. Previously under AARPA funding, there were only 2 contractors hired, Bitco and Swift. Swift had very limited workforce and could only deliver within 60-mile radius. Swift was then fired, due to not making homes timely. Bitco was delivering mobile homes from South Dakota. Willie Nez, Program Director can be invited for a presentation, a lot of our Veterans need renovation. 505-371-8471

- Fundraising update: On Sunday, February 22nd at the Chapter Meeting, menu: Chili Beans, Frybread, Navajo Tacos, Beef Stew and drinks. Members signed up to donate items. Will set up road signs.

(Vice Commander added there are food boxes available in the chapter, open to the public).

11. Announcements:

CLUPC Meeting:	02/20/2026
Planning Meeting:	02/15/2026 1pm
Community Chapter Meeting:	02/22/2026 1pm
Hearts Health Fair:	02/27/2026 11:30am – 2:30pm
Voter's Registration Drive:	02/27/2026 11:30am – 2:30pm
Next MVO Meeting:	04/10/2026 6pm

12. Adjournment – 7:02pm

Motioned by Willie Haley, Seconded by Pauline McCabe. Vote count: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Spencer

MVO sub-Secretary/Treasurer for Elsie Ciccarello