



CENTRAL NAVAJO VETERANS ORGANIZATION

Commander: Tim Johnson

Vice Commander: Dwayne Lake

Secretary:

Friday, December 19, 2025 @ 10:00 am

Chinle, Az

Agenda

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL:

Name:	Title:	Chapter	Present/Absent
* Tim Johnson	Commander	Hard Rock	
* Dwayne Lake	Vice-CDR	Forestlake	
*	Secretary	Chinle	
1. Richard Claw	Commander	Black Mesa	
2. Eddie Yazzie	Commander	Blue Gap/Tachee	
3. Pete Tsinnijinnie	Commander	Chinle	
4. Harrison Kee	Commander	Cottonwood/Tselani	
5. Dwayne Lake	Commander	Forest Lake	
6. Tim Johnson	Commander	Hard Rock	
7. Henry Nez	Commander	Lukachukai	
8. Melvin Harrison	Commander	Low Mountain	
9. Perry Slivers	Commander	Many Farms	
10. Dennis Dedman	Commander	Nazlini	
11. Barton Hosteen	Commander	Pinon	
12. Paul Jones	Commander	Rock Point	
13. Rex Redhair	Commander	Rough Rock	
14. Kenny James	Commander	Round Rock	
15. Willis Becenti	Commander	Tsaile/Wheatfields	
16. Allen Barlow	Commander	Whippoorwill Springs	

III. Introduction of Guests.

IV. Invocation:

V. Pledge of Allegiance- A Moment of Silence-

VI. Adopt and accept the agenda.

Motion:

Second:

Vote

Yeas:

Nays:

Abstained:

VII. Reading and accepting Previous Meeting Minutes (November 21, 2025 @ Catholic Hall Chinle, Az)

Motion:

Second:

Vote

Yeas:

Nays:

Abstained:

VIII. REPORTS (5 Minutes)

a. OP/VP NN President Buu V. Nygren

1. Delegate Carl Slater



2. Delegate G. Simonson
3. Delegate C. Curley
4. Delegate S. Claw
5. Office of the Speaker LSA – Arthur Hardy

- b. NNVA Executive Director-Bobbie Ann Balwin
- c. Housing Specialist /State VSO -Sylvia Preston
- d. Housing Manager – William Nez
- e. Veterans Service Officer – Paula Begay
- f. Deputy Director – Leanne Roy
- g. Veterans Liaison – Demetria Simms
- h. Wayne Claw NNHI CEO/David Nez Board
- i. David Nez/Barton Hosteen Pinon Wellness Center
- j. Saraphine Josley
- k. CNVO Women Rep – Santana Yazzen
- l. CNVO Commander – Tim Johnson
- m. CNVO Vice-Commander – Dwayne Lake
- n. Other

ACCEPT REPORTS:

MOTION:

SECOND:

Vote Yeas:

Nays:

Abstained:

IX. Old Business

- a. Legislation – Codification
- b. Legislation – VTF
- c. No Confidence (Resolution)

X. New Business

- a. Resolution- 1-26-01 Stipend increase
- b.

XI. Announcements

- a.

XII. Next Meeting- CNVO Meeting –

Jan 30, 2026 @ 10 am Manyfarm Chapter
 Feb 27,2026@10am Low Mountain Chapter
 March 27, 2026@10am Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter
 April 24,2026@10am Piñon Chapter

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION:

SECOND:

Vote

Yeas:

Nays:

Abstained:

CENTRAL NAVAJO VETERAN ORGANIZATION

Monthly Agency Meeting

Friday, December 19th, 2025

Catholic Center, Chinle, Arizona

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:** Commander Johnson
2. **Meeting called to order:** 1041 hours by Commander Tim Johnson
Note (Dave Nez appointed CNVO Secretary for the meeting by Vote 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained)
3. **Roll call/Introduction:** conducted by Commander Johnson
4. **Invocation:** Commander Paul Jones
5. **Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence:** Commander Pete Tsinniginnie
6. **Read and adopt agenda:**

Motion: Commander Henry Nez, seconded by Commander Pete, Vote; 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained to adopt agenda.

Note (Commander Harrison Kee made amendment to add work session on new housing project policy.

7. **Read and accept November CNVO monthly meeting minutes:** Minutes deferred to next meeting with motion by Pete and H. Kee. Vote 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

8. Reports:

No report from OPVP.

Report from Art Hardy, Staff Assistant Office of the Speaker:

Art reports the Navajo Nation Council recently passed legislation to recognize the Veteran Organizations, to solidify their status, allow them to adopt own Plan of Operations, plan own activities and advocate for chapter veterans. Kyle Lewis-Chair of Veteran Advisory Council is charged with handling the development of the Veterans Plan of Operations process. One concern is that surviving spouses are not fully recognized and are treated less importance by veteran organizations. Those surviving spouses are experiencing same traumatic hardship impact as the veteran. Veterans need to come together to share other needs to push legislative amendment to include them in new passed veteran legislation. A Plan of Operation format has been made available to interested veterans for finalization copy. NNC operates with 51% approval process on any initiatives, so work with Kyle on concerns.

Crystalyne Curley-Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council:



Speaker conducts greetings and introduced staff; Arthur Hardy-Legislative Assistant, Manual Rico-Chief of Staff, Jared Touchin-Deputy Chief of Staff, Gabriel Freeland -Staff Assistant. There are 6 staff that handles Navajo Nation concerns and issues from her office.

Speaker reports beginning January 2026, state and federal appropriation and budget sessions are scheduled for policy amendments and introduction of new laws.

Speaker warned that forecast indicates there are revenue declines in next three years annual budget. Analysis shows there will be general fund employee reductions, which means reduction in public services. We need to work on strategies on how to reduce costs in other areas of government spending and look for new revenue streams.

Speaker mentioned there are some chapter veteran organizations that have not updated their plan of operations since 1980. The VA policy now has authority to amend and establish regulations for all veteran and spouse memberships.

Navajo Nation has over \$8 Billion in investment. On the Veteran Trust Fund, the NN has been drawing down the interest of \$40 Million over 4 years to support veterans. The principle-fund held in trust withdrawal requires a population referendum vote.

Speaker responds to a question raised by a veteran on status of the President/Vice-President controversy. The NNC relies on its investigation and findings, which says NNC can act on removal with just cause. The court has its own proceedings on findings and removal. NNC will act on the court decision for removal.

Bobbi Ann Baldwin-NN Veteran Administration Director:

Baldwin reports that we, the veteran organizations have 180 days from the day of passage to respond to the VA policy enactment. All amendments or changes to the policies must be supported by formal resolutions. We need names of the purple heart recipients from CVO. There were 23 audit findings and 13 were corrected. There are some UUFB funds veterans can use outside its policy operation that we can use such as training, honor guard, color guard, veteran/spouse recognition, etc. She mentioned some veterans are not interested in applying for funding, and spouses are eligible for funding through marriage. NN VA can go to state/federal to request funding.

Bobbi reports that Acct Payable is going through process transition with new system, Therefore, all request for payment documents are pending distribution. Central agency has the most housing application completed and fund distribution shows higher amount for central. Others are asking for equal distribution, which counters the outstanding work done by central to serve its veterans. Housing policy does recognize serving the neediest, the homeless veterans, as priority. The next list are home renovations/home improvements. We also need policy on appeal procedure to assist veterans that fall in between service gaps. Ex. renting residency outside NN for medical reasons.

Paula Begaye-Central Agency VA Director:

Paula shares CVO approved budget, expenditure level and balance. She reports all agencies now have VSO officers.

Dave Nez-NNHI board member/Chair of PVWC Groups:

Nez highlights progress activities of the Pinon Veteran Wellness Center Project. That the land set aside for the wellness center survey has been completed and approved by the NN Land Department to begin construction. The PVWC Committee went before the HEHS Committee to request \$30 Million to build the wellness facility. HEHSC agreed to provide pre-construction first phase fund for a veteran feasibility study report from PVWC. PVWC is now writing a feasibility study scope of work and seeking a research team to conduct the study. Nez reports PVWC Committee learned that the veteran organizations is not recognized by the NN Government, committee decided to move toward 501c3 Incorporation to continue assignment to complete the project. The Committee has passed resolution to adopt the 501c3 Incorporation with approved by-laws and article of incorporation, prepared to file with the Arizona Corporation Commission. PVWC is working with the AZ Veteran Affairs and ASU Veteran Research Center to seek agreement for the feasibility study and analytical survey report.

Nez also reported that there is mention of support from the Legislative Branch, the Federal VA and HHHI leadership to move the Wellness center in with the proposed Veteran's Warrior Home project in Chinle, Az. However, Nez cautioned that the joint effort is pending.

Commander Barton Hosteen stressed the importance of support for the wellness center on the Navajo Nation. He emphasized the agony of having to travel distance places and cost to get veteran healthcare services, when we can bring the services here. He recounted his experience of repeatedly facing challenges, including contesting claim denials and being referred to various offices for additional justifications regarding his combat-related health issues. He said it took over 10 years to reach his 100 % disability status and benefit pay, but he also became unemployable. He reminded the audience why he is desperate to help other veterans in need.

No other reports. Motion to accept reports motioned by Pete, seconded by Willis with a vote 9-0-1.

Announcement: CNVO meetings

Jan 30 @ 1000 hrs. at Many Farms Chapter

Feb 27 @ 1000 hrs. at Low Mountain Chapter

March 27 @ 1000 hrs. at Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter

April 24 @ 1000 hrs. at Pinon Veteran Hogan

Work Sessions:

1. Request Stipend Increase Resolution work session
2. Request Veteran Housing Policy work session
3. Request Veteran Organization Codification legislation work session (Jan 7, 2026 Fort Def Agency)

9. Old Business: None

10. Next CNVO meeting at Many Farms Chapter Jan 30 @ 1000 hrs.

11. Adjournment: Motion by Pete, seconded by Eddie Yazzie vote 10-0-0.

**RESOLUTION OF THE
CHINLE CHAPTER VETERANS ORGANIZATION CCVO-02-2025**

Recognizing Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization as part of the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration, Office of the President and Vice-President Honor Guard and Color Guard.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to the Navajo Nation Veterans Act, Title II, Section One (E,I,M,N,O,R,T); SS 2023 (B-5,9,10). The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation; and
2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CMA-25-71; The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization is established and which also established the Department of Navajo Nation Veterans Affairs Department under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government; and
3. The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization is duly recognized by the Chinle Community Chapter with a Plan of Operation to address the issues, concerns and advocate for the Chinle Veterans; and
4. The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization recognizes and acknowledges that it is entrusted to strive toward unification of all Navajo Nation Veterans and Local Leadership to provide leadership and coordinate with the needs of the Veterans; and
5. In 1952, the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution to aid and defend the United States against all subversive and assisted in the United States Selective Services Board to draft the eligible Navajos to serve in the United States Armed Services and reaffirm allegiance to the United States and express patriotism; and
6. The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization understands, acknowledges, and recognizes the following resolution and/or document, as it will become official through the Navajo Nation Council and the President of the Navajo Nation; and
7. The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization will Participate in Honor Guard Duties at Funeral Services for a Deceased Veteran as requested by the family of the Deceased Veteran, the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration or other Official Government Entity.
8. The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization will represent themselves in a professional manner at all times while in the performance of services and shall not bring discredit upon himself, the Detail or the "Color".
9. The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization will participate in Color Guard Details as requested by the Navajo Nation Veterans Organization or other Official Government Entities at patriotic events or activities.



10. The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization identifies and acknowledges the following Veterans as members of the Honor Guard/Color Guard Detail;

1. Peterson Tsinnijinnie
2. Curt Mitchell
3. Michael Kee Toadlena
4. Billy Guy
5. Stanley Yazzie
6. Isiaih Honyumptewa
7. Deion Gonzalez
8. Wesley Yazzie

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Chinle Chapter Veterans Organization recognizes and acknowledges the aforementioned individuals as official members of the Honor Guards and Color Guards Detail.

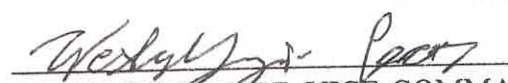
CERTIFICATION

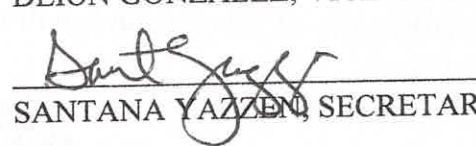
We, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was considered by the Chinle Chapter Veterans Organizations at a duly called regular meeting in Chinle, Navajo Nation, (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 47 in Favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstained this 14 day of November 2025.

Motion: Victor Martinez

Second: Nora Eskeets


PETERSON TSINNIJINNIE, COMMANDER


DEION GONZALEZ, VICE-COMMANDER


SANTANA YAZZIE, SECRETARY