



CENTRAL NAVAJO VETERANS ORGANIZATION

Commander: Harrison Kee Vice Commander: Dwayne Lake Secretary: Melvin Harrison

Friday, January 30, 2026 @ 10:00 am
Many Farms Chapter, Many Farms, AZ

Agenda

- I. Call Meeting to Order: 1015
- II. Roll Call:
- III. Introduction of Guests.
- IV. Invocation:
- V. Pledge of Allegiance- A Moment of Silence.
- VI. VI. Adopt and accept the agenda.
Motion: Second: Vote Yeas: Nays: Abstained:
- VII. Reading and accepting Previous Meeting Minutes: December 19, 2025 @ Catholic Hall, Chinle, AZ
and Special Meeting: January 14, 2026 @ Agency Office, 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 Manager – William Nez
 - d. Veterans Service Officer – Paula Begay
 - e. Deputy Director – Leanne Roy
 - f. Veterans Liaison – ~~Demetria Simms~~ Tim Johnson
 - g. Wayne Claw NNHI CEO/David Nez Board
 - h. David Nez/Barton Hosteen Pinon Wellness Center
 - i. CNVO Women Rep – Santana Yazzen



- j. CNVO Commander – ~~Tim Johnson~~ *Harrison Kee*
- k. CNVO Vice-Commander –
- l. Other:

ACCEPT REPORTS:

MOTION:

SECOND:

Vote Yeas: Nays: Abstained:

IX. Old Business

- a.
- b.

X. New Business

- a. Codification Update
- b. VTF Policies
- c. Housing Policies
- d. Honorable Speaker C. Curley – Recommendation to oppose other agencies taking housing list From Chinle Agency.
- e. Resolution by Many Farms Chapter Veterans Organization.
- f. Resolution: *01-06-01 Select Commander Harrison Kee to represent CNVO at NNVAS as male veteran representative*

XI. Announcements

- a. The Wall Visitation – April 4 – 12, 2026

- XII. Next CNVO Meetings:**
- 1. Low Mountain Chapter, February 27, 2026 @ 10:00 Hours
 - 2. Cottonwood/Tselani Chapter, March 27, 2026 @ 10:00 Hours
 - 3. Pinon Chapter, April 24, 2026 @ 10:00 Hours

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION:

SECOND:

Vote Yeas: Nays: Abstained:





CENTRAL NAVAJO VETERANS ORGANIZATION

Commander: Harrison Kee Vice Commander: Dwayne Lake Secretary: Melvin Harrison

Friday, January 30, 2026
Many Farms Chapter, Many Farms, AZ

Meeting minutes

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:** Commander Harrison Kee called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commander Harrison Kee made roll call.
 - a. 13 Commanders present, there is a quorum to conduct the meeting.
 - b. Commander Kee reported that CNVO Secretary Melvin Harrison was still on his way and recommended the Commanders select a Protem Secretary until Secretary Harrison arrives.
 - c. Motion by Commander Rex Redhair to nominate Commander Willis Becenti to be Protem Secretary until Commander Harrison arrives. Motion seconded by Commander Paul Jones.
 - d. VOTE: Yeas: 11 Nays: 0 Abstained: 2
- III. **Introduction of Guests.** Many Farms Chapter President Charlotte Begay gave opening remarks before getting into the full agenda.

Jackie Burbank introduced himself and some encouraging comments for the commanders. Sara Josely introduced herself and provided information on how and when she got involve with the veteran's organization. She indicated she is the secretary for the Pinon Wellness Center Committee. Ms. Emma Elliott brought some concerns. Commander Harrison Kee informed her she needs to work with her local veteran's organization, then it could come to CNVO to be placed the agenda.
- IV. **Invocation:** Provided by Commander Edward Wagner
- V. **Pledge of Allegiance- A Moment of Silence:** Recited by the Commanders and other attendees present.
- VI. **VI. Adopt and accept the agenda.** Commander Melvin Harrison read agenda into the record.

Motion: Commander Henry Nez Second: Commander Paul Jones

Before the final vote, Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie made a requested to move Agenda Item IX. Announcement after Agenda Item VII. Commander Harrison Kee asked Commanders Henry Nez and Paul Jones as the primary motion & second carriers if they would be okay to move Agenda Item IX. Announcements after Item VII Reading and accepting Previous Meeting Minutes. The Commanders agreed to move Item IX as part of their motion and second.

Vote Yeas: 13 Nays: 0 Abstained: 2

VII. Reading and accepting Previous Meeting Minutes: December 19, 2025 @ Catholic Hall, Chinle, AZ and Special Meeting: January 14, 2026 @ Agency Office, Chinle, AZ.

Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie motion to accept both the December 19, 2025, and January 14, 2026, minutes, Commander Willis Becenti seconded the motion. There was not discussion.

Vote Yeas: 13 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

VIII. Announcements

- a. The Wall Visitation – April 4 – 12, 2026. Commander Harrison Kee deferred to next meeting.
- b. David Nez – With Pinon Wellness Center we have a feast ability Survey that we are passing out to you. We need your help in getting these surveys done, it's for the Pinon Wellness Center and Warriors Home Project. To get these filled out today, go to Sara Josely if you need help plus, she will check if you have sufficient information on them. Commander Dennis Dedman asked if these forms were only for us today, or can we take them back to our chapter veterans. Mr. Nez responded with; no this is for all veterans in your communities.
- c. Sara Josely – First, I have two loads of wood if any of your veterans need firewood. I expect another two loads within the next week. Also, this Sunday, I was asked to inform you that there are firewood available in Leupp, AZ too. Second, ANBA had been helping veterans and surviving spouses with benefits under the Disability American Veterans. On March 16, 2026, the CCC Program will be in Pinon, AZ to help disable veterans and getting updates to veterans. If you need to contact me here is my phone number. Third, we are almost done with the book The Forgotten. We are still interviewing veterans plus we need nine more veterans to be interviewed to complete all the interviews for the book. This book primarily is for the veterans to be heard, telling their stories on the difficulties they are going through.
- d. Richard Claw – Announce that we have an Appreciation Dinner for Comrade Harrison Honie in Black Mese community on March 15, 2026. To recognize the work, he put into starting an organization that is still function today. The organization that helps veterans and their families. You are all invited.
- e. Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie- The Ira Hayes parade and activities is on February 21, 2026. The Chinle Veterans Organization we are taking 11 comrades down for the activities. You can join us if you want. He asked how many of the Commanders were taking some of their comrades down. Most of the response was they need to discuss this at their meeting. Commander Willis Becenti stated if they are planning on going, they need to get their applications in now or they might not get in. The Commanders will need their own organization funds.

IX. REPORTS (5 Minutes)

- a. OP/VP NN President Buu V. Nygren - Absent
 - 1. Delegate Carl Slater - Absent
 - 2. Delegate G. Simonson - Absent
 - 3. NNC Speaker C. Curley - Absent
 - 4. Delegate S. Claw - Absent
 - 5. Office of the Speaker LDA – Arthur Hardy - Absent
- b. NNVA Executive Director - Bobbie Ann Baldwin – Absent, no report provided.
- c. NNVA Housing Manager – William Nez – Absent, no report provided.
- d. Veterans Service Officer – Paula Begay – Absent, no report provided.
- e. Deputy Director – Leanne Roy

Deputy Director Roy introduce herself and was there on behalf of the NNVA. She stated she has been at NNVA for one year and has learned a lot. She reported that the NNVA is looking at all the policies and revamping where its necessary. The programs within NNVA that we are looking at are Veterans Trust Funds (VTF), Home Improvement, Housing Program, Loan Program. She reported that for the loan program its primarily a Personal Loan. A veteran can get a loan up to \$4,000 currently, however we want to increase it to \$5,000 to \$7,000. These loans also considered on your credit. Another area we are looking at is the Standard Operation Procedures. This primarily is for inhouse staff. We want all staff to know other staff's duties should they are not in the office. We want staff to be helping one another. With the VTF currently we are taking applications for the second round, you probably are aware of this. Make sure all your veterans are aware of this financial assistance. Recently, we found out that some veterans have not been paid for the first round so we are following on the that. On the Housing Program, there are new construction application that we have received. In Central there are 11 males and 4 females. In the program there have some issues with housing for veterans have not had their utilities hooked and we are working this out with NTUA. There are other data on other housing for veterans that I will share with the CNVO Commander. If you need assistance on anything, give us a call or email us. We'll get back to you.

f. Veterans Liaison – Commander Tim Johnson

Commander Johnson gave a detailed report about the position that is new to him. Early on he realized this position involved lots of politics where I try to stay neutral. In meeting leaders, he sees there are huge differences between the older and younger one. The older leaders' approach is with kinship while younger ones it seems they want you to bow down to them. In his introduction to the NNC, there was a different vibe. It was like you are the new Veterans Liaison for OPVP administration. It was different on how they looked at me. He indicated that President Nygren was very busy and is constantly on the go. He didn't realize this until I got into this job, before I was like what does the President do. He is there for the Navajo people. He told me to take care of myself and told all his directors you are going to work, even on the weekends, we have lots to do for our Navajo people. President gave me a huge responsibility that I must do in this position. He stated the President is willing to meeting with the veterans, but they need to schedule a date and time.

Commander Willis Becenti asked if the President had a scheduler? Commander Johnson said yes. Commander Becenti stated I've been trying to meet with him for a long time and I think many veterans' organization have waiting for that too. Commander Johnson stated he has been telling the President he needs to meet with the veterans and their organizations and must be a priority. Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie encouraged the commanders and veterans to set up meeting with the President and other leaders. He also asked Commander Johnson if he could set up a meeting with President Nygren and said to the commanders when there are meetings with leaders like President Nygren, write down your questions to bring up. He said ask questions, don't just sit there quietly. This seems to happen all the time; we need your help. Commander Becenti pointed out that the meetings notices need to be a couple days in advance, not last

minute. Commander Johnson finished out saying he is working his tail off and asking the President to make meeting with veterans, surveying spouses, and families a priority.

g. Wayne Claw NNHI CEO/David Nez Board

On the Warriors home, the team has met with leaders in Window Rock a couple of times. They are aware of the situation. The application that was dropped last year is being prepared again this year and is due on April 15, 2026. The Navajo Nation's funding stake is around 35% with the remaining to be federal and others. We are currently on getting resolutions together from key organization and people. We heard from the federal funding source that indicated there are certain things in funding policies that are not allowable such as gymnasium. With that information there is a new design and a reduced cost of construction of about 10 million dollars. The Pinon Wellness Center's primary services will be counseling, physical therapy, and mental stability. With these current discussions, the key decision is to combine the Pinon Wellness Center and Warriors Home. The funding proposal is being prepared to support that idea.

h. David Nez/Barton Hosteen Pinon Wellness Center – This report is combined with the above section.

i. CNVO Women Rep – Santana Yazzen

Ms. Yazzen reported on her participation with the Navajo Nation Advisory Council (NNAV). She stated they are working on the NNAC Plan of Operation only and not the plan of operation for any other veteran organization. Once it is completed it will be emailed out she stated.

Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie raised a concern with a recent Advisory Council (AC) meeting. He asked Ms. Yazzen if the agenda for the AC was approved. He heard that it was not approve so if it was not, then all actions taken during that meeting is void. Ms. Yazzen stated on record that the agenda was approved for the meeting. Next Commander Tsinnijinnie asked how her vote was concerning NNVA Director Bobbie Baldwin, where Ms. Yazzen stated she vote for the resolution. There Commander Tsinnijinnie said to Ms. Yazzen you represent the CNVO veterans and should have asked for our recommendation. Ms. Yazzen state I thought I represented the veterans and said there is no protocol on what I should report, etc. Other reports she made were on the NNVA Budget Increase, Transition Team to assist young veterans coming home and help them, and VTF Budget Increase.

There was further discussion on this, however it was agreed that we selected Ms. Yazzen to represent CNVO and veterans.

j. CNVO Commander – Harrison Kee

Commander Kee reported he was voted in at a CNVO meeting on January 14, 2026. This is because our former CNVO Commander Tim Johnson resigned to be the administration's Veterans Liaison. Commander Kee stressed the importance of being on time for our meetings. He also talked about the VTF from last year, which was based on Per Capita on veterans at your chapter organization. This year its different which really helped assisting more our veterans. He stated that in the pass, our leaders didn't speak much English but were good leaders and did their jobs, while today young leaders are more educated, working a million-dollar projects, but most only speak English. This year

is election year, let's look at who is running and vote for those that will support veterans. In closing he stress the need to talk about PTSD and the suicides that is happening among our veterans, when there should be more education this topic. We need to bring this to our local level at our chapter veterans' organization. We also need to discuss the third round of the VTF assistance with leadership.

k. CNVO Vice-Commander – Dwayne Lake - Not Present today.

l. Other: CNVO Secretary - Commander Melvin Harrison

Commander Harrison reported that he was also voted in as CNVO Secretary at the January 14, 2026, meeting at the Agency Veterans Office, Chinle, AZ. He stated he will work with the commanders on getting the information to them that is passed down from leadership.

ACCEPT REPORTS:

MOTION: Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie

SECOND: Commander Tim Johnson

Vote Yeas: 13 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

X. Old Business: None

XI. New Business

a. Codification Update – The CNVO and other agencies have 180 days for comments on revision and is due on May 6, 2026. Deferred to work session for further discussion.

b. VTF Policies – Deferred to work session.

There was a motion by Commander Willis Becenti and seconded by Commander Tsinnijinnie to have a work session on February 13, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Agency Veterans Office, Chinle, AZ. Commanders agreed this would be a potluck meeting. Commander Tsinnijinnie will provide copies Of Codification and VTF policies.

Vote Yeas: 13 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

c. Housing Policies – This policy has not been worked on in Window Rock so we'll wait until this is established.

d. Honorable Speaker C. Curley – Recommendation to oppose other agencies taking housing list From Chinle Agency.

Motion by Commander Willis Becenti and seconded by Rex Redhair to table this item.

Vote Yeas: 13 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

e. Resolution by Many Farms Chapter Veterans Organization.

Commander Edward Wagner was given the floor to present this resolution. He stressed the need to pass this resolution to help the veterans and veterans' organizations.

Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie motion to table this resolution, there was not second so it fails.

Additional discussion and comments on the resolution for support and non-support.

Commander Willis Becenti motion to vote on this resolution.

Vote Yeas: 7 Nays: 2 Abstained: 3

f. Resolution CNVO 01-26-1: Supporting Commander Harrison B. Kee, selected as the Interim Central Navajo Agency Veterans' Organization Commander and to represent the Central Navajo Agency Veterans' Organization as male designed representative to serve on the Navajo Nation Veterans' Advisory Council.

Vote Yeas: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

- XII. Next CNVO Meetings:** 1. **Low Mountain Chapter**, February 27, 2026 @ 10:00 Hours
2. **Cottonwood/Tselani Chapter**, March 27, 2026 @ 10:00 Hours
3. **Pinon Chapter**, April 24, 2026 @ 10:00 Hours

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie SECOND: Commander Willis Becenti

Vote Yeas: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

Meeting adjourned at: 2:44 PM



CENTRAL NAVAJO VETERANS ORGANIZATION

Commander: Harrison B. Kee Vice Commander: Dwayne Lake Secretary: Melvin Harrison

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RESOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL NAVAJO VETERANS' ORGANIZATION (CNVO 01-26-1)

SUPPORTING COMMANDER HARRISON B. KEE, SELECTED AS THE INTERIM CENTRAL NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION COMMANDER AND TO REPRESENT THE CENTRAL NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION AS MALE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON NAVAJO NATION VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL.

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to the Navajo Nation Act; and Title II, Section one (E,M,N,O,R,T) & 1032 (B-S,9,10) The Central Navajo Agency Veterans Organization (CNAVO) is duly authorized by the ACT to Address Veterans Health issues and health concerns, respond to veteran's needs, to advocate for all eligible Navajo Veterans and their families, and
2. The Central Navajo Agency Veterans Organization (CNAVO) is comprised of 16 Central Navajo Veterans Organization, and
3. The Central Navajo Agency Veterans' Organization abides by their Plan of Operation thereby under section IX RESIGNATION when any Officers he/she shall submit a letter of resignation. Upon the acceptance of such Officer's action, it shall be recorded in official meeting minutes, and
4. The former Central Navajo Agency Veterans' Organization Commander, Commander Tim Johnson formally resigned from his post with a written resignation letter through email dated January 14, 2026, during Central Navajo Agency Organization Special meeting held at Chinle Agency Veterans Administration, Exhibit (a), and
5. The Central Navajo Agency Veterans' Organization accepted his resignation and took action to elect Commander Harrison B. Kee as the new interim Commander for Central Navajo Agency Veterans' Organization. Commander Harrison B. Kee accepted the Nominee and will serve the remaining 12 months of former Commander Tim Johnson, and

6. Commander Harrison B. Kee will serve as a male designated representative to Navajo Nation Veterans' Advisory Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

SUPPORTING COMMANDER HARRISON B. KEE, SELECTED AS THE INTERIM CENTRAL NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION COMMANDER AND TO REPRESENT THE CENTRAL NAVAJO AGENCY VETERANS' ORGANIZATION AS A MALE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE TO SERVE ON THE NAVAJO NATION VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Central Navajo Agency Veterans' Organization at a duly called meeting in Many Farms, Many Farms, Arizona at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained on this 30th day of January 2026. CNVA Resolution CNVO 01-26-1 was approved.

Motion by Commander Willis Becenti, Tsaile/Wheatfields

Second by Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie, Chinle



Harrison B. Kee, CNAVO Commander

Dwayne Lake, CNAVO Vice-Commander



Melvin Harrison, CNAVO Secretary

