



CENTRAL NAVAJO VETERANS ORGANIZATION

Commander: Tim Johnson Vice Commander: Secretary:

Friday, October 31, 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	
*Jayne Mitchell	Secretary	Chinle	
1. Richard Claw	Commander	Black Mesa	
2. Kirk Etsitty	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. Lillie Buckhorse	Commander	Whippoowill 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 (September 29, 2025 @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
- 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
- k. CNVO Vice-Commander –
- l. Other

ACCEPT REPORTS:

MOTION:

SECOND:

Vote Yeas: Nays: Abstained:

IX. Old Business

- a. Legislation – Codification
- b. Legislation – VTF Increase
- c. No Confidence (Resolution)
- d. Resolution – schedule fly 26 CNVO monthly meetings

X. New Business

- a.
- b.

XI. Announcements

- a. 250th Annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at the Route 66 Casino Hotel in Albuquerque, NM. For more information on tickets contact Gunny Pete at (928) 206-0962. Tickets range from \$50 per couple to \$30 per person.

XII. Next Meeting- CNVO Meeting –

Whippoorwill Chapter House, Nov 28, 2025 @ 10 am

Low Mountain Chapter House, Dec 19, 2025 @ 10 am

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION:

SECOND:

Vote Yeas: Nays: Abstained:

Central Navajo Veterans Organization
Chinle Catholic Hall
October 31, 2025



Meeting Minutes

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Commander Tim Johnson called meeting to order at 10:23 AM.

II. ROLL CALL: Commander Tim Johnson made roll call.

a. 12 Commanders present.

b. Commander Johnson reported that CNVO Secretary Jayne Mitchell has resigned so will need to appoint or nominate one for today.

b. Motion by Commander Harrison Kee to nominate Commander Melvin Harrison to be Protom Secretary for this meeting. Motion seconded by Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie.

a. VOTE: Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: No guest present for this meeting.

IV. INVOCATION: Melvin Harrison

V. PLEDGE OF ALLGIANCE-A MOMENT OF SILENCE: Recited by the Commanders and attendees.

VI. ADOPT AND ACCEPT THE AGENDA: Commander Tim Johnson read agenda into the record.

Motion: Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie Second: Commander Henry Nez

Vote: Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

VII. READING AND ACCEPTING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

(September 30, 2025 @ Agency Office Chinle, AZ)

Motion: Commander Dwayne Lake Second: Commander Henry Nez

Vote: Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

Commander Tim Johnson requested email addresses from Comrades to get minutes out to everyone faster.

VIII. REPORTS (5 Minutes)

a. OP/VP NN President Buu V. Nygren – absent

1. Delegate Carl Slater – absent

2. Delegate G. Simonson – absent

3. Delegate C. Curley – absent

4. Delegate S. Claw – absent

5. Office of the Speaker LSA – Arthur Hardy – absent

b. NNVA Executive Director – Bobbie Ann Baldwin – No report provided.

c. Housing Manager – William Nez – No report provided.

d. Veterans Service Officer – Paula Begay – Hand out provided

Ms. Begay provided a report on; On-going Projects, Current Focus includes 1. Updating veteran files and records 2. Registering Navajo Veterans and their Surviving Spouses with required documents 3. Educating veterans on Trust Funds Policies and Procedures including VA Benefits and Claims, and 4. Data on the number of requests made by veterans and surviving spouses in the new fiscal year 2026.

e. Deputy Director – Leanne Roy – No report provided.

f. Veterans Liaison – Demetria Simms – No report provided.

g. Wayne Claw NNHI CEO/David Nez Board – Mr. Nez provided an update on the status of the Warrior Home project. Mr. Nez indicated a new grant application to fund the Warrior Home could begin in February or March 2026.

h. David Nez/Barton Hosteen Pinon Wellness Center – David Nez, Commander Barton Hosteen and Commander Harrison Kee provided a detailed report on the status of the project. Mr. Nez stated the commanders there with him that are working on this project are doing this on their own time. It shows how dedicated they are in getting this project done. Mr. Nez reported that the group has established itself as a Steering Committee. The committee received various presentations on the options the group could consider becoming a formal organization. In the end, the committee voted to established as a Non-profit organization. Their next objectives to complete the non-profit is develop the By-laws, Article of Incorporation and submit to the AZ Corporation Commission.

Once the organization is established, they plan to conduct some studies to compile data that would support their goals for funding. In conducting these studies, they plan to bring on some professional that would provide assistance to conduct these data gathering activities.

Commander Hosteen reported he is appreciative of the commanders and comrades and community members that are working on the project with them. He talked about how the project began and how far they have gone since then. He stated this is for everyone, you included and any veteran on the Navajo Nation.

Commander Kee reported that he supports with what Mr. Nez and Commander Hosteen reported and appreciate all the help they get. He stated about a year ago, we ask for supporting resolutions, but so far only 4 have been brought in. We requested one resolution from your Chapter and one from your veteran organization. We are still accepting them.

i. CNVO Women Rep. – Santana Yazzen – Ms. Yazzen reported she needed updated contact information such as email addresses, phone numbers and so forth so she can get information coming down from the Executive Director, Veterans Office and other NN programs to the commanders as soon as possible. She also indicated that if there are veterans who owe funds to the NN Veterans Loan Programs and are in default to contact the veterans program.

j. CNVO Commander – Tim Johnson – Commander Johnson gave a detail report on the activities and events he attended this month. He reported on his priority list that included:

1. Warriors Home, like to see it get done and make it happen. Has been involve with the project since the beginning so would like it to get done so he could step down once it's up. States feels the same with the Pinon Well Center.

2. Multi-purpose build for the Chinle Agency Office. They need a new office building as the current one is pretty old trailer.

3. Housing Program. When there are changes that are being made to these types of policies the veterans need to be informed. They need input from the veterans as they know what fits their needs.

4. Personnel – The vacancies, hearing the same old stuff. President Buu Ngren told us at the Forest Lake meeting that he would talk with his personnel and get to the bottom of this and let them know what he expects of them to work with the veterans. Yet nothing has happened to this point. We've spoken about reinforcement to the NN Advisory Committee and the duties of the director. Central has been at the forefront saying let get together and move forward.

5. Veterans Cemetery moving forward with Central at the forefront wanting to look into this and we still want to look into this. We know Chinle indicated there might be a site and Many Farms saying they may have a space as well.

6. Veterans Trust Fund – there is still talk about an increase this trust fund. One main thing is educating the Council Delegates, so they understand what we're trying to say and why we're saying that while taking into context how the economy is today.

7. VA Hospitals – Two being considered, one in Chinle and one in Tuba City.

8. Starlink Equipment – Have any you got those starlink equipment. This is a deal with the State to get everyone involve so you could get zoom for meetings and their big thing is getting the talking circle for veterans out there, getting people talking with each other.

9. Veteran Trust Fund Policy – They want to bring it to Central on November 18, 2025, either at Junction Restaurant or somewhere here. So with many of you really involve I don't mind you sitting in with me, join me there. There are a number of things they overlook such the 180 days and others so we need to be there.

10. NN Veteran Code of Conduct and Ethics – you can take a look at this and see what you think of it, it's a working document.

In closing, Commander Johnson stated his biggest concern is around the Housing for Veterans as winter months are coming.

Commander Johnson reported about the No Confidence resolution. He stated some people are saying this is getting old and every time something comes up, there is March. Are they laughing about us? However, Central was the first one to bring up No Confidence and get something done. Now with all the things happening in Window Rock, they are coming up with all these things and even chapters passing resolutions on resignation.

k. CNVO Vice-Commander – No report at this time. Commander Lake stressed the importance of working together.

ACCEPT REPORTS:

MOTION: Commander Dennis Dedman SECOND: Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie

Vote: Yeas: 16 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0

IX. Old Business

a. Legislation – Codification – Commander Johnson reported this legislation was passed. It is a legislation now which is good. We now can utilize it and not just a Special Interest Group

anymore. Of all the Delegates, Delegate Andy Nez has been at the forefront and has been our champion. I will inform my group out here of that and we thank him for that.

b. Legislation – VTF – Commander Johnson stated this will be worked on at our November 18th meeting in Chinle.

c. No Confidence (Resolution) – Commander Johnson stated let just see how this all plays out with what is happening in Window Rock.

X. New Business

a. None

b. None

XI. Announcements

a. 250th Annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at the Route 66 Casino Hotel in Albuquerque, NM. For mor information on tickets contact Gunny Pete at (928) 206-0962. Tickets range from \$50 per couple to \$30 per person.

XII. Next Meeting – CNVO Meeting:

Whippoorwill Chapter House, November 21, 2025, at 10 AM.

Rough Rock Chapter House, December 19, 2025, at 10 AM.

Commander Johnson thanked Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie for renting the space for the meeting and thanked the volunteers who prepared and provided the lunch.

Commander Johnson read out the CNVO Meeting Schedule:

1. November 21, 2025, Whippoorwill Chapter 2. December 19, 2025, Rough Rock Chapter
3. January 30, 2026, Many Farm Chapter 4. February 27, 2025, Low Mountain Chapter
5. March 27, 2026, Cottonwood Chapter 6. April 24, 2026, Pinon Chapter
7. May 29, 2026, Nazlini Chapter 8. June 26, 2026, Rock Point Chapter 9. July 31, 2026, Forest Lake Chapter 10. August 28, 2026, Tsaille/Wheatfield Chapter 11. September 25, 2026 Blue Gap/Tachee Chapter 12. October 30, 2026, Hardrock Chapter 13. November 20, 2026 Round Rock 14. December 18, 2026, Lukachukai Chapter

Approval of Meeting Schedule: Motion: Commander Peter Tsinnijinnie Second: Commander Kenny James

Vote: Yeas: 16 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0

XIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 01:14 PM:

Motion: Commander Henry Nez Second: Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie

Vote: Yeas: 16 Nays: 0 Abstained: 0

Meeting minutes completed by: Melvin Harrison, Commander Tim Johnson