



Hardrock Chapter Veterans Organization
P.O. Box 20
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039
Phone: (928)725-3732
Fax: (928)725-3731
hardrock@navajochapters.org

Commander, Timothy Johnson
Vice Commander, Tom Burbank
Secretary, Jay Begay Jr.

HARDROCK CHAPTER VETERANS' ORGANIZATION

Agenda

April 12, 2026 @ 11:00 am

Hardrock, AZ

I. Roll Call:

- a) Commander: Tim Johnson
- b) Vice-Commander: Tom Burbank
- c) Secretary: Jay Begay Jr.

II. Call Mtg to Order:

III. Invocation:

IV. Pledge Allegiance/Moment of Silence:

V. Review and Adopt Agenda:

VI. Motion: 2nd; Vote F: O: A:

VII. Read previous minutes and accept: March 1st, 2026

Motion: 2nd; Vote F: O: A:

VIII. Announcements:

- a)
- b)
- c)

IX. Call to the Public:

- a)

X. Old Business

- a) Purchase t-shirts, caps
- b) Purchase food
- c) Claim assistance work session

XI. New Business:

- a) Hardrock Veterans Organization supports Pinon Veterans Wellness Center

XII. Reports

- a) Council Delegate Germaine Simonson
- b) Housing specialist/ state VSO Sylvia Preston
- c) VA Executive Director – Bobbie A. Baldwin
- d) AVA – Sara Josely
- e) Navajo County Supervisor - Fern Benally
- f) VSO – Paula Begay
- g) Tim Johnson – OPVP Veteran Liaison
- h) Commander
- i) Tom Burbank - Vice Commander:
- j) Jay Begay Jr. - Secretary:





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- XIII. Accept Reports, 1st Motion 2nd F: O: A:
- XIV. Next Meeting May 9th, 2026 @ 1 p.m.
- XV. Meeting Adjourned 1st Motion 2nd Vote F: O: A:





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HARDROCK CHAPTER VETERANS' ORGANIZATION

MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2026 @ 11:00 am

Hardrock, AZ



I. Roll Call:

- a) Commander: Tim Johnson *PRESENT*
- b) Vice-Commander: Tom Burbank *PRESENT*
- c) Secretary: Jay Begay Jr. *PRESENT*

II. Call Mtg to Order: 11:10AM by Commander Tim Johnson

III. Invocation: Varian Altsihi

IV. Pledge Allegiance/Moment of Silence: Ernest Smith

V. Review and Adopt Agenda:

Motion: Jay Begay Sr 2nd: Serah Holder Votes In Favor: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 2

VI. Read previous minutes and accept: March 8th, 2026 *Motion by: Varian Altsihi Second by: Ernest Smith*

Votes In Favor: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 1 meeting minutes were attached to agenda

VII. Announcements:

- a) April 15, 2026 – Veterans Talking Circle 10am-12pm Tuba City Veterans Office
- b) April 15, 2026 – Black Mesa Chapter House Veterans Housing Workshop 10a-12p
- c) April 15, 2026 – Hardrock Chapter Meeting 5pm
- c) April 15th – 25th 2026 Earth Week Hardrock Community Clean up
- d) April 17th – Foot and Body massage Hardrock Chapter House
- d) April 18, 2026 – NN Baby shower Shiprock NM
- e) April 28, 2026 – DNR Conference Twin Arrows Casino

VIII. Call to the Public:

- a) None

IX. Old Business

- a) Purchase t-shirts, caps: *Jay gave update on t-shirt purchase, given out to all veterans at last meeting. Will order more. Order for sweater is in the works, will need update on balance from Hardrock Chapter Secretary/Treasurer*
- b) Food Purchase: *Tim, Fern and Sylvia thanked Tee'o and his family for preparing lunch. Last meeting Veterans voted to have catered lunch for veterans and families.*
- c) Claim assistance work session; *Several veterans submitted claims for attending Housing Education Workshop here in Hardrock on March 11, 2026. NOTE: Tim noted that there has been confusion about 3rd round of hardship. There is no 3rd round but rather Veterans organizations are encouraged to expend Veterans Funds. Motion by Varian Altsihi Second by: Tamala Little-Groves 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained*

X. New Business:

- A) Approve and Support Pinon Veterans Wellness Center *Motion by Tommy Burbank, Second by Tamala Little-Groves Votes: 17 in favor 0 opposed 1 abstained*

XI. Reports

- a) Council Delegate Germaine Simonson *absent*



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- b) Housing specialist/ state VSO Sylvia Preston – went over housing within Chinle Agency for Veterans. Report is attached. Sylvia went over some of policies within Veterans housing. Sylvia said there had to be denials due to veterans already being on homesite leases. They can go to Land Department and have it corrected. Contractor is out and about for home improvement for veterans that applied. There is one veteran from Hardrock that is awaiting delivery. The road needs to be widened to site and it is said that trees need to be removed to widen but neighbors are opposing. Sylvia says she has no communication with the contractors. Tommy asked why the contractors started the project and just stopped without any communication. Sylvia said the electric will be the first to get started, lack of technician, work load has been NTUA's biggest obstacle. Sylvia said she started work doing claims, housing assessments. In 2022 she got certified to do Veterans claims. She is a housing specialist under tribe, she can only do veteran claims on Wednesday's. Jan 15 she has done about 900 claims. She was able to get \$964,000.00 in compensation for veterans. She does appeals when veterans are denied. She helped several veterans from within Hardrock and she was successful in getting them claims. NN is one of the tribes that get little veterans benefits. Claims for paperwork are available at the Chinle Veterans Office. Tim thanked Sylvia for being here, she is very valuable and knowledgeable in her reports. Contractors are supposed to include leveling area for new house and also the road leading to site. For some reason they are depending on chapter houses to do this work.
- c) VA Executive Director – Bobbie A. Baldwin absent
- d) AVA – Sara Josely absent
- e) Navajo County Supervisor - Fern Benally thanked all those in attendance. Her report mainly focused on road projects, Mosquito Drive. Dził Yijíiin officials met in reference to roads however Tom Platero was absent. Ms. Benally said she was disappointed. Fern made contact with Hopi Department of Transportation (HDOT) in reference to Mosquito Drive in reference to gravel since it is on Hopi. She also spoke with HDOT about road from Rocky Ridge school to Highway 264. 9.5 miles to possibly get blacktop. Deer Pasture Lane got a culvert, not new but culvert was installed. NDOT maintains 2.5 miles of N8027 South of Rocky Ridge School and the rest she will look into. Navajo Board of Supervisor will be meeting Tuesday April 24, 2026. Main topic of discussion is to interview and elect new recorder for Navajo County. Primary election is to be held July 21st.
- f) VSO – Paula Begay absent
- g) Tim Johnson – OPVP Veteran Liaison/HVO Commander: updated on some of the events taking place. His boss Dr Nygren is running again for Navajo Nation President. Tim says this administration has given the most homes and funds to Veterans. Also Bobbie Baldwin has been the longest Veterans Director for the NN. Tim says he would like to see this continue. He believes the results and things under this administration has exceeded expectations. OPVP Is looking for a Chinle Agency representative, similar to Tim's job as a Veterans liaison. Tim also stated that Monday – Veterans Administration will go before the HEHSC Committee. Tim says he has been approached to run for Council Delegate. He is still thinking about it.
- h) Tom Burbank - Vice Commander: thanked all those attendance and thanked caterers.
- i) Jay Begay Jr. - Secretary: no report.

XII. Accept Reports: Motion by: Donald Howard Sr. Second by: Perlinda Cordero Votes: 23 In Favor
Opposed: 0 Abstained: 2

XIII. Next Meeting: May 9, 2026 @ 1 p.m.

XIV. Meeting Adjourned: at 1:48pm Motion by: Mike Chase Second by: Larry Shepherd





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Votes: 17 In Favor Opposed: 0 Abstained: 2

Meeting minutes submitted 4/12/2026 by Jay Begay Jr HCVO Secretary

