



CENTRAL NAVAJO VETERANS ORGANIZATION

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

Friday, April 24, 2026 @ 10:00 am

Pinon Chapter, Pinon, AZ

Agenda



- I. Call Meeting to Order:
- II. Roll Call: Commander Melvin Harrison, Secretary
- III. Invocation:
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance- A Moment of Silence. Commanders and those in attendance.
- V. Introduction of Guests.
- VI. Adopt and accept the agenda.
Motion: Second: Vote Yeas: Nays: Abstained:
- VII. Reading and accepting Previous Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2026 @ Cottonwood Chapter, Cottonwood, AZ.
Motion: Second: Vote Yeas: Nays: Abstained:
- VIII. REPORTS (5 Minutes)
 - a. DAV – Carl Forker - CEO
 - b. 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 Baldwin
 - c. Housing Manager – William Nez
 - d. Veterans Service Officer – Paula Begay
 - e. Deputy Director – Leanne Roy
 - f. Veterans Liaison – Tim Johnson
 - g. Warriors Home - Wayne Claw NNHI CEO/David Nez Board
 - h. Pinon Veteran Wellness Center - David Nez/Barton Hosteen

- i. CNVO Women Rep – Santana Yazzen
- j. CNVO Commander – Harrison Kee
- k. CNVO Vice-Commander – Dwayne Lake
- l. Other: ANVA – Saraphine Josley

ACCEPT REPORTS:

MOTION:

SECOND:

Vote

Yeas:

Nays:

Abstained:

IX. Old Business - None

X. New Business

- a. Resolution: CNVO 2-26-1 Reaffirm, NNVTF Policy
- b. Discussion: Rescind Legislation
- c. Others

XI. Announcements

- a. Navajo Nation Primary Election – July 21, 2026, 6:00am to 7:00pm
- b. FY27 Veterans Registration begins on 4/1/26

XII. Next CNVO Meetings: 1. Nazlini Chapter, May 29, 2026 @ 10:00 Hours

2. Rock Point Chapter, June 26, 2026 @ 10:00 Hours

3. Forest Lake Chapter, July 31, 2026 @ 10:00 Hours

4. Tsaile/WF Chapter, August 28, 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, April 24, 2026

Pinon Veterans Hogan, Pinon, AZ

Meeting minutes

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:** Commander Harrison Kee called the meeting to order at 10:14 AM.
- II. **Roll Call:** Commander Melvin Harrison made roll call.
 - a. 11 Commanders present, there is a quorum to conduct the meeting.Commander Harrison Kee made request to appointed Commander Willis Becenti as the Protem Vice-Commander for this meeting. Motion by: Commander Edward Wagner, Jr., Second by: Commander Richard Claw.
VOTE: Yeas: 10 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1
- III. **Introduction of Guests.** Mr. Jace Lee Begay, Candidate for the Navajo Nation Council Delegate for Pinon, Forest Lake, Hardrock, Black Mesa and Tsech'izhi introduce himself stating he was there to introduce himself to the CNVO Commanders. CNVO commanders present introduce themselves. Dr. Carl Fortner, CEO AZ Dept of DAV, proud to be here and ask to be here, and Mr. Rodney Hage, DAV Dept of AZ Senior Vice Commander of DAV introduce themselves.
- IV. **Invocation:** Provided by Mr. Jack Lee Begay
- V. **Pledge of Allegiance- A Moment of Silence:** Recited by the Commanders and other attendees present.
- VI. **Adopt and accept the agenda.** Commander Harrison Kee read agenda onto the record.
Motion: Commander Dennis Dedman Second: Commander Barton Hosteen
Vote Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1
- VII. **Reading and accepting Previous Meeting Minutes: March 27, 2026, Cottonwood, AZ.**
Commander Melvin Harrison stated the minutes was emailed to all the commanders with instructions to read and if there are changes or addition to bring it today. Commander H. Kee ask for any changes or addition, there was none.
Motion: Commander Barton Hosteen Second: Commander Tilda Nez
Vote Yeas: 11 Nays: 0 Abstained: 2
- VIII. **REPORTS (5 Minutes)**
 - a. DAV – Carl Fortner – CEO

It's an honor to be asked to meet with you today. I'm a 28-year veteran in the Navy. Dr. Fortner gave out two awards; 1. Saraphine Josely – Behalf of the Commanders, Dept of AZ; Certificate of the accompany of the Commanders Award of Excellence also a coin with Dept of AZ logo on the front and on back Commanders Award of Excellence, with 6 stars inside.

2. Mr. Dave Nez and Commander Barton Hosteen – Behalf of Commanders, Disabled American Veterans, Dept of AZ, Honoring Veterans of the Navajo Nation Award Plaque and a similar coin that was present to Ms. Josley.

Commander Harrison Kee gave a huge gratitude to Dr. Carl Fortner and Vice-Commander Rodney Hage for the recognition of the two individuals.

b. OP/VP NN President Buu V. Nygren – Absent, no report.

1. Delegate Carl Slater – Absent, no report.

2. Delegate G. Simonson – Absent, no report.

3. NNC Speaker C. Curley – Absent, no report.

4. Delegate S. Claw – Absent, no report.

5. Office of the Speaker LDA – Arthur Hardy – Absent, no report.

b. NNVA Executive Director - Bobbie Ann Baldwin – Absent, no report.

c. NNVA Housing Manager – William Nez – Absent, no report.

d. Veterans Service Officer – Paula Begay – Absent, no report.

e. Deputy Director – Leanne Roy – Absent no report.

f. Veterans Liaison – Commander Tim Johnson –

Commander Tim Johnson who is also the Veteran Liasion with the OPVP Office. Commander Johnson stated that he was asked to work on getting the Warriors Home funding packet together and submit to Federal Veterans Department in Washington DC. He stated that when they were looking at the funding package, the package was not part of the original one that he and others had worked on. The big red flag was the increase in funding which surprise me and the team at the President's office. He continued stating that the funding package was not submitted due to these changes which included the original funding agreement and the drawdown of funding. Commander Johnson continued by stating he has been busy with getting assistance to veterans across the Navajo Nation. And that the office of the President has been busy getting these assistances forwarded to the Controller. He closed out his report saying he has been given quite a lot of tasks to do so have been traveling across the Navajo Nation.

g. Wayne Claw NNHI CEO/David Nez Board

Commander Barton Hosteen reported that Mr. Wayne Claw and Mr. Dave Nez are their NNHI Board meeting this morning.

h. David Nez/Barton Hosteen Pinon Wellness Center

Commander Barton Hosteen reported that Saraphine Josley and he were going to give the report. Commander Barton Hosteen reported they are busy preparing for the NABI meeting that Mr. Art Hardy is setting up for them. He continued stating that Well Center pre-construction cost is at \$2.5 million dollars and want to meet with the NABI Members. The total cost of the PVWC is now at \$30 million dollars with some little changes to the design. And that they continue to meet every Wednesday at the Pinon Hogan. Commander Hosteen continued stating that the project is moving forward fast with the help of DAV & Dr. Carl Fortner. With the supporting resolution Commander Hosteen states that they have received most of them except for two CVOs yet.



ANVA Director Ms. Josley added to the report indicating that the ANVA organization with oversee the four sites that Carl Fortner mention in his report. She also stated that DAV will be assisting the veteran families with Headstones. She went on to say that PVWC will be serving more veterans as an outpatient organization as the veterans coming in will be taking small steps in seeking benefit services. As the organization continues to be recognized ANVA/PVWC are doing more field work which also includes doing interviews for the book. Ms. Josley finished out by emphasizing their mission is Helping Veterans Helping Themselves.

i. CNVO Women Rep – Santana Yazzen – Absent, no report.

j. CNVO Commander – Commander Harrison Kee

Commander H. Kee reported the current NNVAC has faced some challenges with continuing what the previous council was working on. Commander Kee stated the communication within the current Advisory Council is better, however one huge issue has been the resolutions coming from Agency Veterans Organization stating No Confidence in the NNVA Director Ms. Bobbie Baldwin. Commander Kee continued stating that the advisory council is working on finalizing the NNVAC Plan of Operation before the May 6, 2026, due date. He stated that we at Chinle have amendments but needs some more, and Western has finalized theirs which I've ask Commander M. Harrison that we need on getting ours complete using westerns as a guide. Commander Kee continued to report that other areas the advisory council is working is the Code of Conduct Policy because the HEHSC has indicated that this policy needs to be a stand-alone policy. He continued stating after the May 6, 2026, deadline the NNC will work on getting all the amendments request from agencies together and try to get their amendments ready and present at the NNC Summer Session. Commander Kee expressed some concerns about his position on the Advisory Council because he did not serve 24 months. He stated he was informed that he can be commander with the agency veterans organization but not the NNVAC so we need to address this issue soon. Commander Kee closed out this report that the advisory council also discuss the qualification of Veteran Service Officers (VSO) at agency veterans offices. He also stated their question has been why VSOs are not receiving training on how to work with veterans organizations and veterans which include why agency veterans staff are not attending AVO meetings. Their response has been their no funding for these trainings. Commander Kee handed out some brochures on housing and the organization chart of the NNVA.

k. CNVO Vice-Commander – Dwayne Lake – Excused, text received that he is preparing for finals at NTU where he is attending class.

l. Other: ANVA Saraphine Josley – Ms. Josley provide most of her report with Commander Barton Hosteen.

ACCEPT REPORTS:

MOTION: Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie

SECOND: Commander Willis Becenti

Vote Yeas: 11

Nays: 0

Abstained: 1

IX. Old Business: None

X. New Business



- a. Resolution: CNVO 2-26-1 Reaffirm, NNVTF Policy – Commander Harrison Kee stated this resolution is the resolution we passed in February that pertains to the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Funds policy amendment. Before continuing any further Commander Kee requested for a motion and second to discuss this agenda item. Motion by Commander Willis Becenti and second by Commander Edward Wagner, Jr.

Commander Kee read the resolution heading to the commanders and explain it goes to HEHSC, OPVP, NNVAC and NN Veterans Administration. He explained the reason we want to rescind this resolution is if you look at the NNVTF Policy, at the end of the policy the previous NNAC Executive and President used that section to make amendments. Commander M. Harrison stated the policy we are talking about is the VTF policy we amended and asked you to bring. Commander Kee continued to explain we are talking about is Section IX. Amendments and read the section "This Policy may be amended by the NNVA after consultation with the Veterans Advisory Council and upon approval by the President of the Navajo Nation". He stated this section we did not mention in our resolution 2-26-1; insert the language, vote on it and give to NNVA Director Ms. Bobbie Baldwin and the NN President's office. Commander Willis Becenti indicated he is adamant about getting this done. He stated the reason he is adamant is because looking down the road in the future, budget this coming year and the years after that, I'm not worried about the rest of this year if we have to use it home improvements that's fine. I'm worried about when the budget goes up and I want to make sure I can help my veterans in need three, four times a year. He continued that if the budget projection is correct of a 6% increase for veterans, we have to find a way to spend the interest of these funds. He further talked about the budgets and funds that are allocated on an annual basis. He explains we (veterans) have money; they need to give to us so we can spend on our veterans. We can't continue to beg for money. Commander Becenti further explains how previous NNC Council members help in getting these funds at a higher percentage. He stated let's get this resolution approved and get it over there and if they need us there, I can be there.

Commander Harrison Kee asked if the commanders understood the resolution. There was a brief discussion on which resolution we were discussing right now. Commander M. Harrison explain that there are two resolutions, don't confused them. The first resolution is CNVO 2-26-1 which is one about the NNVTF amendments and the second one is the resolution to Ms. Bobbie Baldwin and HEHSC committee requesting for third quarter financial assistance. Commander M. Harrison explained that in discussing these resolutions with Commander Kee, I indicated the current NNVTF policy language we are referencing should be in both resolutions. Commander Kee also indicated we had previously sent a copy of the CNVO 3-26-2 resolution to Ms. Bobbie Baldwin and her response is it's not in the policy for 3rd quarter assistance, so she is aware of what we are asking for. With that response, what do want to do about amending the language in the NNVTF Policy. Commander M. Harrison brought up that at the work session on April 21, 2026, the commanders present and Mr. Dave Nez made a change to the VTF section VIII. Allowable Expenditures, A.1 that currently states "Hardship Assistance not to exceed \$800 per assistance. This assistance is limited to two times per fiscal year" we are recommending a language change in the second sentence which now will be "This assistance is not limited to two times per fiscal year, based on availability of funds". What this means is with the new language of "is not limited to two times per fiscal year, and based on availability of funds" this would take care of the current language of limited to two times per fiscal year. What do you all think about this language, commanders. Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie stated I could see why she (Ms. Baldwin) responded the way she did. In the heading of the resolution, it reads "Ms. Bobbie Baldwin and HEHSC to implement the Veterans Trust Fund and General Fund", when it should have read "Ms. Bobbie Baldwin and HEHSC to amend the Veterans

Trust Fund Policy and strike out General" Commander M. Harrison stated we overlooked this language when drafting the resolution with your help Commander Tsinnijinnie in Cottonwood, so this new language will be amended. Commander W. Becenti added with that new language what also needs to be added in the resolution is NNVTf section "IX. Amendments: This policy may be amended by the NNVA after consultation with the Veterans Advisory Council and upon approval by the President of the Navajo Nation." Commander M. Harrison continue saying this new language can be added as Whereas: #8 and change the language in the heading for resolution 3-26-1. Now looking at the VTF Policy itself, where we do make changes and insert this new section with the language? Commander W. Becenti suggested to insert it as "Whereas: #6" verbatim "NNVTf section IX. Amendments".

Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie motion Amendment #1 for this resolution that was discussed and agreed to, second by Commander Willis Becenti. Vote: Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1, passed.

Commander Harrison Kee mention going back to Main Motion held by Commander Willis Becenti and seconded by Commander Edward Wagner, Jr. and will include Amendment #1, and request for any more discussion? Vote: Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1, resolution passed.

Commander M. Harrison Commander Melvin Harrison indicated Resolution 3-26-2 needs to be added to the agenda so need motion & second to amend Agenda and add resolution 3-26-2.

Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie motion to amend agenda, second by Vice-Commander Kimberly Glover. Vote: Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

Commander Harrison Kee asked for additional discussion on Resolution 3-26-2 as this was discussed at length in Agenda a. Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie motion to change language on Resolution 3-26-2 that include changes in the heading and adding language in Whereas section, second by Commander Willis Becenti. Before the vote Commander Harrison Kee asked if the resolution # is to change, yes was response so Commander M. Harrison gave new # of 4-26-1 and not 3-26-2 and let's vote. Vote: Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

b. Discussion: Rescind Legislation – Commander Harrison Kee stated we need to go to this agenda item before we adjourn. Commander M. Harrison asked what the commanders want to do with this agenda item, as we were not sure if the discussion was going to be about possibly rescinding legislation CO-53-25. Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie stated we needed Dr. Andy Nez to give him an opportunity to clarify and give us information on where he got some of the information in the legislation. Commander Willis Becenti added the discussion with former NNC Delegate Eugene Tso was that this legislation may need to be rescinded because it is out of order in his opinion. Further discussion on how to go forward with either having Dr. Andy Nez present or going with a resolution if he not able to attend our meeting. Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie added we still need to convince the NN Veterans Advisory Council to support this too. Commander W. Becenti stated let's invite Dr. Andy Nez and discuss this with him at our next special meeting.

Commander P. Tsinnijinnie motion to work on the rescinding the legislation, second by Commander Willis Becenti. Vote: Yeas: 12 Nays: 0 Abstained: 1

Commander M. Harrison stated he will contact Dr. Nez and find out his schedule. Commanders agreed that we have a Special Meeting on May 5, 2026, at 9am at the Chinle Veterans Office.

- c. Others – Saraphine Josley announce met with DAV, who also provide financial assistance in amount of \$7,000. DAV will be providing us with a new financial assistance form, this assistance can be for



anything like burn out, flooding, etc., just need information on what you need it for. More information will be forth coming.

XI. Announcements

- a. Navajo Nation Primary Election – July 21, 2026, 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM.
- b. FY27 Veterans Registration begins on 4/1/26.

XII. Next CNVO Meetings: 1. Nazlini Chapter, May 29, 2026 @10:00 Hours

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XIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Commander Tim Johnson

SECOND: Commander Pete Tsinnijinnie

Vote Yeas: 11 Nays: 0

Abstained: 1

Meeting adjourned at: 4:05 PM

Prepared by: Commander Melvin Harrison

