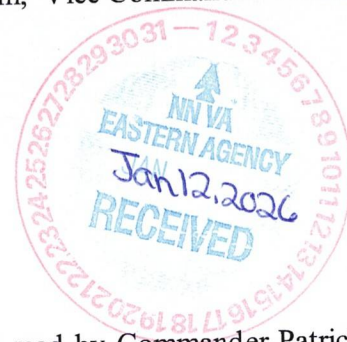


Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization AGENDA
 Regular Meeting
 January 11, 2026, 10am

- I. **Meeting Call to Order-** Commander Patrick Tom.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** –Everyone.
- III. **Invocation** –
- IV. **Honorable Council Delegate Lester Yazzie/ Chichiltah Chapter Officials.**
- V. **Approval Stipend \$75, Chichiltah CVO Officers,** Commander Patrick Tom, Vice Commander Valeria Robinson, Secretary Treasurer Pat Jane Arthur.
 - a. Motion by: 2nd by:
 - b. Votes: Favored - Opposed - Abstained -
- VI. **Reading last Regular Meeting December 7, 2025.**
 - a. Motion by: 2nd by:
 - b. Votes: Favored - Opposed - Abstained -
- VII. **Review/Adopt Agenda Regular Meeting January 11, 2025.**
 - i. Motion by . 2nd by
 - ii. Votes: Favored – Opposed – Abstained.
- VIII. **Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization FY2026 Plan Of Operation** read by Commander Patrick Tom verbatim.
 - a. Motion by: 2nd by:
 - i. Secretary Treasurer Madame Pat Jane Arthur Records Open for Comments.
 - b. Votes: Favored - Opposed - Abstained -
 - c. Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization Plan Of Operation Forward to Chichiltah CSC, Roselyn John, submission Navajo Nation DOJ. Shared with ENVA, ENAVO, NNVA.
- IX. **Budget/ Reports**
 - a. Chichiltah Chapter House Veterans Account budget, account 16, FY2026, gifts and awards \$2,500.00, food purchase \$2,500.00 = \$5,000.00.
 - b. Carryover account 16 from FY2025, gifts and awards \$2507.32, food purchase \$3,478.04 = \$5,985.36.
 - c. Carryover account 1, burial assistance \$2,500.00, gifts and awards \$204.67 = \$2704.67.
 - d. Veterans Princess Report. Crown retired, returned to Commander Patrick Tom. Needs repairs.
- X. **Announcements**
 - a. Veterans received new Veterans Homes in our communities Chichiltah CVO, date?
 - b. Flag Retirement inservice for public, Local schools asking, David Skeet Elementary. Breadspring Community School, Chichiltah Jones Ranch Community School. Date?
 - c. Chichiltah Chapter Planning Meeting – January 07, 9am.
 - d. Chichiltah Chapter Regular Meeting –
 - e. Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization Regular Meeting February 2026 TBA.
 - f. “Clean And Beautiful “ Community Cleanup April 2026. Dates?
- XI. **Adjournment** –
 Submitted by Secretary/ Treasurer Madame Pat Jane Arthur _____. Date _____.



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Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting

January 11, 2026, 10am



- I. **Meeting Call to Order** – Commander Patrick Tom called the meeting to order at 10:08am and again at 10:12am, welcomed attendees, verified sign-ins, and distributed the agenda. Due to limited printing capacity, he requested mobile numbers to share documents electronically. Commander Tom reminded Chichiltah CVO members, veterans, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Mothers about the by-laws and emphasized the importance of understanding the 2026 Plan of Operation.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance – Everyone.**
- III. **Invocation** – by Harvey Williams.
- IV. **Honorable Council Delegate Lester Yazzie/ Chichiltah Chapter Officials.**
 - a. Commander Patrick Tom informed Council Delegate Lester Yazzie that three Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization members will receive new veteran homes from the NNVA. Honorable Council delegate Lester Yazzie introduced himself, shared his clans, and informed Chichiltah CVO Members, veterans, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Mother that Fiscal Year 2026 Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Funds have been used, so funding has shifted to General Funds. ENVA received \$600,000.00 from General Funds, but this may not be enough, and advocacy for additional veteran funding will continue. The General Funds is available for those members who are inactive and may have not yet received financial assistance. Now the opportunity fiscal year 2026, second quarter, January 2026, opening forward to new financial assistance. Honorable Council Delegate Lester Yazzie mentioned, VSO Lori John has reported and updated regarding NNVTF and General Funds. Reported \$40 million dollars is just sitting there in the NNVTF, it is not drawing interest.
 - b. Council Delegate Lester Yazzie raised concerns about why Chichiltah CVO veterans lack utilities. He asked members if they had received these services, to which veteran Daryl Alexis replied that he now has utilities in his new home and has received the keys.
 - c. Council Delegate Lester Yazzie reported from Window Rock, Arizona that the Navajo Nation's FMIS has been replaced by a more advanced ERP system. ERP enables tracking of individual entities, such as veterans, across all departments regardless of address or information changes. AB# is created and enables transfer. Systems updates have been delayed for about two or three months.
 - d. Commander Patrick Tom thanked Honorable Council Delegate Lester Yazzie for his reports and updates. Any questions?
 - i. Veteran Damon Charley reported submitting his home site lease paperwork to Crownpoint, NM, but the ENVA office lost it. He was frustrated with the lack of tracking and communication from the ENVA housing specialist Ronda Lewis after multiple visits and delays.
 1. Commander Patrick Tom informed Veteran Damon Charley that all homesite leases are managed under Chapter CSC, and for replacements, he should contact Land Board official Mr. Paul Houston.
 2. The Honorable Council Delegate informed Veteran Damon Charley that assistance would be provided in obtaining his paperwork and reviewing the status of his homesite lease. An email will be sent to NNVA Housing Manager William Nez, with Commander Patrick Tom copied, to inquire about the status of his housing application.
 3. Surviving spouse Lillie Shortey reported delays and difficulty contacting ENVA Housing specialist Ronda Lewis, and described the information provided by ENVA as poor and unacceptable. Council Delegate Lester Yazzie stated that, as of July 2025, NNVA and ENVA reports have finished the 164 process and are proceeding

with the home improvement phase. Honorable Council Delegate Lester Yazzie stated that no updates have been reported by the Housing Specialist on Home Improvement since July 2025 and requested a current update.

4. Vice Commander Valeria Robinson recently visited ENVA with her mother, Betty Nelson, who is listed for home improvement. They asked Ms. Ronda Lewis at the Crownpoint Office about the status and were told contractors will begin work in spring 2026. Valeria Robinson requests that any Chichiltah CVO members who have applied for home improvement or renovation with ENVA notify her so she can coordinate updates with an ENVA Housing Specialist.
 - a. Commander Patrick Tom advised veterans, surviving spouses, and gold star mothers: If you have applied for home improvements or renovations and the assessment is complete, please inform us if ENVA and contractors visit in spring 2026 without notifying CVO Officers. This will help ensure accountability. At this time, neither the ENVA Housing Specialist nor the NNVA Housing Manager has communicated with me as Commander, or with CVO Officers, regarding updates for our veterans receiving new homes. We were not informed about when Veteran Daryl Alexis received the keys to his home, nor did we receive any updates on our Veteran Pat Jane Arthur's new home.
5. Commander Patrick Tom mentioned that NNVA and ENVA may have done some administrative practices that were wrong. Such as, other agencies on the Navajo Nation, they do not have accredited VSO. As Commander at grassroot levels, to my members, veterans, surviving spouses, if you need services from VSO, please make sure he or she accredited by the state, right now, Navajo Nation, only has one accredited VSO Lori John with ENVA, we are lucky to have her, but as Commander, VSO on the Navajo Nation is not highly recommended.
- e. Commander Patrick Tom mentioned ERP system has affected everyone in our members who have applied for NNVTf fiscal year 2026. Delays of financial assistance payments.
- f. Chichiltah Chapter House President Harvey Williams gave reports and announced he would leave the veterans' meeting respectfully. He noted that tomorrow, the chapter house will hold an emergency planning meeting to address natural disasters such as wildfires.

V. Approval Stipend \$75, Chichiltah CVO Officers, Commander Patrick Tom, Vice Commander Valeria Robinson, Secretary Treasurer Pat Jane Arthur.

- a. Motion by: Damon Charley. 2nd by: Harvey Williams.
- b. Votes: Favored - 22. Opposed - 0. Abstained - 1. *Motion Passed.*

VI. Review/Adopt Agenda Regular Meeting January 11, 2025.

- i. Motion by Richard Chee. 2nd by Ambrose David.
- ii. Votes: Favored – 22. Opposed – 0. Abstained – 1. *Motion Passed.*

VII. Reading last Meeting Minutes, Special Meeting, December 18, 2025.

- a. Motion by Damon. 2nd by Lillie Shortey.
- b. Votes: Favored - 22. Opposed - 0. Abstained - 1. *Motion Passed.*

VIII. Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization FY2026 Plan of Operation read by Commander Patrick Tom verbatim.

- a. Motion by Nelson Francisco. 2nd by Wacey Zilth. Secretary Treasurer Madame Pat Jane Arthur Records Open for Comments.

1. Surviving spouse Grace Nelson inquired about the status of the veteran princess crown and whether it is still being managed by pageant coordinator Naomi Sandoval.
 - a. Commander Patrick Tom responded that he has possession of the crown.
2. Surviving spouse Grace Nelson stated you did not answer my question, according to the plan of operation, is the crown princess managed by the Naomi Sandoval or you? Who continues to handle the Princess Crown?
 - a. Commander Patrick Tom confirmed that Naomi Sandoval remains the pageant coordinator. For fiscal year 2026 and beyond, a new coordinator may be chosen if needed, but currently Naomi holds the position. Commander Tom also stated he has the crown and outlined the coordinator's responsibilities, which include hosting the pageant, selecting the committee and judges, and establishing the application process for the veteran princess pageant.
3. Vice Commander Valeria Robinson stated we do not have princess currently, we don't know when the crown will be repaired, and we really don't get any updates from the coordinator, and asked plan of operation of the whole princess stuff, maybe we can wait until the crown is fix or what does the organization do?
 - a. Commander Patrick Tom responded if it is up to the veteran's organization to have a veteran princess or not. Just be advise, if we chose to take the veteran princess portion out of the plan of operation, which is approved by the Navajo Nation DOJ, we will delaying the new adopted Plan of Operation.
 - b. Vice Commander suggests that to get in contact with Naomi Sandoval and ask her if she want to continue to be pageant coordinator, and if so, as pageant coordinator, she must be here at the duly called meetings to give us updates and status.
4. Surviving Spouse Lillie Shortey stated, if we take the princess portion out, and then change our mind later, it is going to take a lot of time and work to get Veteran princess added to your plan of operation, it is best to keep them in there, but if we choose to pursue a veteran princess in the future, the organization will already have them in the plan of operation and just state at this time you do not have a veteran princess and look into the pageant coordinator?
5. Vice Commander Valeria Robinson supports having a pageant, as it's challenging to find a princess to sing the National Anthem at veterans events. A pageant coordinator should be active in the veteran organization, keep us informed, help plan for a new princess, and support her throughout her role. Please contact Naomi Sandoval to see if she would like to continue as a coordinator.
 - a. Commander Patrick Tom has agreed to have the pageant coordinator actively present for our veterans' organization meetings.
6. Veteran Nelson Francisco raised questions about the pageant coordinator, does it have to be pageant coordinator all the time, how about the CVO Officers?

- a. Commander Patrick Tom stated he will add to the plan of operation pageant coordinator slash Chichiltah CVO Officers, Commander, Vice Commander, and Secretary Treasurer.
- 7. Mae Nelson asked about the Compostion Part consisting of five members, yet her late husband Phillip Nelson name is still on there.
 - a. Commander Patrick Tom selected two veterans and add them to the Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization fiscal year 2026 plan of operation.
 - i. Nelson Francisco – Veteran.
 - ii. Patrick Arthur – Veteran.
 - b. Votes: Favored – 21. Opposed - 0. Abstained - 1. *Motion Passed.*
 - c. Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization Plan of Operation Forward to Chichiltah CSC, Roselyn John, submission Navajo Nation DOJ. Shared with ENVA, ENAVO, NNVA.

IX. **Budget/ Reports**

- a. Chichiltah Chapter House Veterans Account budget, account 16, FY2026, gifts and awards \$2,500.00, food purchase \$2,500.00 = \$5,000.00.
- b. Carryover accounts 16 from FY2025, gifts and awards \$2507.32; food purchase \$3,478.04 = \$5,985.36.
- c. Carryover account 1, burial assistance \$2,500.00, gifts and awards \$204.67 = \$2704.67.
- d. Veterans Princess Report. Crown retired, returned to Commander Patrick Tom. Needs repairs.

X. **Announcements**

- a. Chichiltah Chapter Planning Meeting – January 07, 9am.
- b. CLUPC Meeting – January 14, 2026 at 9am.
- c. Chichiltah Chapter Regular Meeting – January 14, 2026, at 1pm.
- d. Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization Regular Meeting February 2026 TBA.
- e. Flag retirement Inservice for Public, date?
 - i. Vice Commander Valeria Robinson reported that chapters, local schools, have United States of America flag that must be retired? Anyone knows how to do the retirement of flag? It is folded in a certain way, and burn it, or fold them a certain way and you can bury them, or you may take them to certain places to collect flags, not sure if Gallup has any?
 - ii. Veteran Ambrose David stated that one time at the Chichiltah Jones Ranch Community School hosted a retirement event for flags with the Chichiltah Fire Department.
 - iii. Commander Patrick Tom mentioned we need Color Guards to do the retirement. It is up to us, Chichiltah Navajo Veterans Organization to learn about retirement ceremonies of U.S. flags. Where? We must have a burning place? We have a Veteran Park, we have to ask our Veteran brother Patrick Arthur to select a location for flag retirement Inservice for the public.
 - 1. Veteran Patrick Arthur volunteered to use Chichiltah Veterans Park to do an flag retirement Inservice for public. Veteran Patrick Arthur stated that the Chichiltah Veteran Park belongs to the Veterans Organization.
 - iv. Commander Patrick Tom indicated that this will be a new action to get Color Guards and all flags delivered to Veterans Center secured and then do the retirement ceremony US flags.
- f. Veterans received new Veterans Homes in our communities Chichiltah CVO, date? The surviving spouse suggested that new veteran homeowners receive a plaque for their homes and that our organization celebrates being part of this milestone. Proposed housewarming party for our veterans who received a new home. 1. Daryl Alexis. 2. Chuck Thomas. 3. Pat Jane Arthur. Next meeting to get the new plagues and have a simple cake and punch housewarming party to celebrate and donate housewarming gifts, and we are accepting donations for the plagues and giving the money

to Secretary Treasurer Pat Jane Arthur. You may bring gifts and door prizes to our next veteran meeting next month.

- XI. **Adjournment** – Commander Patrick Tom asked everyone to say, “Yay” to adjourn the meeting, everyone responded, “yay, Commander Patrick Tom asked everyone to say “nay”, to oppose, no one responded, Commander Patrick Tom adjourned the meeting at 1209pm.

Submitted by Commander Patrick L. Tom _____. Date _____.

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