



THOREAU CHAPTER VETERANS ORGANIZATION

PO BOX 136

THOREAU, NEW MEXICO 87323

505-948-6737

Commander Lester Emerson

Vice-Commander Willie Brown

Secretary Rosemary Gibson

MEETING AGENDA – Sunday Nov 2, 2025

0800 HOURS

Thoreau Chapter Veterans Center

Call meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for all Comrades

Chaplain's corner – message/invocation

Recognition of Guests and/or Officials



Review and adopt agenda

Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___

Review and adopt Oct 5, 2025 meeting minutes

Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___

Presentation:

Financial Report:

1. Veterans Trust Funds

a. Thoreau Chapter Funds

2. Motion to accept Financial Report

a. Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___

3. Fundraising

Birthdays:

Old Business:

1. Thoreau Veterans Service Center Project Update

2. Discussion: Grand Opening of Thoreau Veterans Center?

3. Reports: ENVO, TCVO, TLAC Officers, Chapter Officials & Council Delegate

4. Concerns – comments



New Business:

1. Resolution TCVO-FY26-0003: Requesting Chapter Coordinator to issue a check to Medicine Man from the Chapter TCVO General Activities Account in the amount of \$500.00
Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___
2. Resolution TCVO-FY26-0004: Requesting Chapter Coordinator to issue a check to TCVO Chaplain from the Chapter TCVO General Activities Account in the amount of \$150.00
Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___
3. Resolution TCVO-FY26-0005: Requesting Chapter Coordinator to issue a check to Stella Rockbridge from the Fund 16-Veterans Fund Account in the amount of \$800.00
Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___
4. Amend the Fund Management Plan of the Thoreau Chapter Veterans Organization and Thoreau Chapter for FY26.
5. Resolution TCVO-FY26-0006: Approving Thoreau Chapter Veterans Organization Fund Management Plan for Funds Generated
Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___
6. Resolution TCVO-FY26-0007: OPEN
7. NN Veterans Trust Fund Financial Assistance Requests
Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___
8. Approve stipend payments for TCVO Officers (Oct 5, 2025 and Nov 2, 2025), Approve stipend for ENVO meeting for Commander on Oct 8 and Nov 19, 2025.
Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___

Set next meeting date _____ 2025

Announcements: Nov 2, Thoreau Chapter Planning meeting at 1 pm
Nov 4, Election Day
Nov 8, Grand Opening/Early Veterans Day Celebration
Nov 10, United States Marine Corps 250th Birthday
Nov 11, Veterans Day
Nov 18, Thoreau Chapter Regular Meeting at 530 pm
Nov 27, Thanksgiving Day

Adjournment @ _____

Motion _____ 2nd _____ Yea ___ Nay ___ Abstain ___



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(Eastern Navajo Agency)
Post Office Box 136
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Lester Emerson, Commander

Willie Brown, Vice-Commander

Rosemary Gibson, Secretary

THOREAU CHAPTER VETERANS ORGANIZATION
November 2, 2025 – Thoreau Veterans Center

Call Meeting to Order – by Commander Emerson at 8:34am

Pledge of Allegiance – was recited by all; lead by Commander Emerson

Moment of Silence – To all Comrades, families, and extended families who have passed on.

Chaplain's Corner (Message & Invocation) Chaplain Long read and interpreted from Psalm 18 Verse 24. He began by thanking God for being here today and thankful for the veterans building and that it is the Lord's Day. Told the attendees to rejoice in the Lord and to think of yourself, family and friends. Chaplain Long recalled that back in the 50s, there were lots of stuff but overcame all the obstacles by praying to God. It's no different today and thankful for the military. He stated we are saddened by the POWs and MIAs and grateful for those who made it home and expressed his gratitude and commented to everyone who served "Welcome Home!" Chaplain Long stated that one of his son's was in an accident in Durango and the reason for him not being able to be at the building blessing yesterday but his family needed him so he had to be with his son and family members. Chaplain Long ended his message with a strong prayer and once again thanked those who served and are home.

Commander Emerson thanked Chaplain Long for his inspiring message and his prayer. He began by explaining the colors of the emblems that are displayed on the floor and advised that anyone, whoever comes into the building, whatever their nationality regardless how they pray or belong to whatever religion, they are welcome to come in.

Recognition of Guests and/or Officials: Commander acknowledged his fellow officers and thanked everyone who are here with us for the meeting and thanked Chapter President Anita Benally for attending. He commented that he invited former State Representative Harry Garia who showed up a little later and announced he came "on Marine time". As is his usual contribution, Representative Garcia brought boxes of donuts. Council Delegate Arviso was also requested to attend but he's a no show.

Review and Adopt Agenda: Commander read the agenda; Copies were also available at the entrance. Motion by Anita Benally, 2nd by Udall Gibson, Sr., to accept the agenda: **Yea 17 Nay 0; Abstain 8**. Commander asked if there were any questions or changes to the agenda. He requested to add to amend TCVO policy's Plan of Operation and will be put under **Old Business** as item 1 and amend TCVO Resolution TCVO-2026-002 in the FY 26 allocation. The request was approved by the motioning party. Chaplain Long commented that the building is finally opened and he understands it belongs to the Chapter. Chapter Secretary-Treasurer Judy Platero explained that some actions taken needs to be ratified which are ratifying expenses for Johnny Henry, the medicine man hired to conduct a traditional blessing in the amount of \$500 for the new veterans building, and in addition ratifying expenses for Ms. Stella Rockbridge for her catering services for \$800. Two resolutions were requested to meet her Chapter Secretary-Treasurer responsibilities.



Ms. Platero repeated that the resolutions to be submitted are to ratify Johnny Henry for traditional blessing and Stella Rockbridge for catering services while making reference to her Chapter position in case there is an audit. Regarding the amendment to TCVO Policy's Plan of Operation, she stated that TCVO cannot amend Thoreau Chapter policies when discussion was on amending TCVO resolution for FY 26 allocation. This created confusion to her statement since it was TCVO's FY 26 resolution and amendment of TCVO's Plan of Operation being discussed. For clarification, Secretary Gibson asked her again to E-mail her the correct wording to insert into the resolutions.

Review and adopt October 5, 2025 meeting minutes: Commander asked if we should adopt meeting minutes as is or have it read: Motion by Charley Long, 2nd by Jimmy Yazzie: **Yea, 18; Nay, 0; Abstain, 8** to adopt as is.

Presentation: Commander explained he scheduled someone for a presentation but didn't show up; therefore, the floor was given to Mr. Garcia, former State Representative for District 69. Mr. Garcia stated that he is on "Marine Time" for being a little late. He greeted the audience and thanked Commander for considering him the floor. He stated that he noticed the tribe is not doing a very good job for the veterans and that state funding might get called back. It is a good time to request state funding also. He wanted us to know that he'll be running for his old position again and would appreciate the veterans support and the community. He was happy to know that the veterans kept working on having the veterans center open up for them and to keep attending meetings. It is up to the veterans to make use of the building and care for it and not let it go by the way side like the one at Smith Lake. There is still lots of work to be done and he feels he will be able to move projects along like he did when he was in office. There is so much need for the veterans and he'll be willing to help veterans as much as he can.

It is noted that Mr. Garcia received a warm welcome from the attendees and stood and clapped for him as he walked in. After his announcement that he's running for State Representative, a position he held before, Secretary Gibson stated that it was Mr. Garcia's support in seeking funds to have the veterans building built; it was him who gave the initial funds by calling on his colleagues like Patty Lundstrom, George Munoz, Wanda Johnson and others to help fund the construction of a veterans building. He'll help our community again like he's done before.

Financial Report: 1. Veterans Trust Funds: Commander reported that there's no information forthcoming as there's not a functioning tribal government. We haven't received the \$5,000 or the Chapter hasn't received it for the veterans yet which the council had approved. Again, TCVO had 98 veterans but 67 got purged due to Agency folders not updated so we're down to 31 veterans on the listing here for TCVO. Barbara Jim, a volunteer and Shirley Lee, donated 6 boxes of paper: 3 color and 3 of white. Barbara Jim offered her help in however way she could and to contact her if she can assist. She commented she has an organization that helps community members and veterans; her husband used to be part of TCVO and she also attended and helped with the Ladies Auxiliary Committee. Commander didn't accept Barbara's offer but welcomed her back to the TCVO meeting. a. Thoreau Chapter Funds: \$300 taken out of phone into food purchases; \$150 from water into professional fees and 01 Chapter funds, \$690 and \$800 into food purchases and \$81.17 transferred into food purchases. Commander read these transfers and stated these transfers were made because we haven't received the \$5,000. Roast beef, high grade is \$400 and grocery is \$100. He called for 80 pounds of meat and not enough funds. After explaining that there's not enough funds to cover the food cost, Mr. Garcia offered to give \$500 towards food purchase. Immediately, Secretary Gibson objected to accepting the \$500. She explained that the opening of the veterans building and serving food is to honor the veterans and we don't expect you, Mr. Garcia to be paying for feeding the meal. Chapter President said there is enough money to pay for these purchases.

Commander read a letter he sent to the Chapter on money transfer but Chapter Secretary kept insisting she needs resolutions instead. The carry over of fundraising account from FY 25 to FY 26 for utility bills are running out. We haven't done any fundraising lately and telephone payment is due. There was a lengthy discussion on having or not having enough money to pay for food for Veterans Day celebration in conjunction with opening the Veterans Center. Commander than stated he'll take the \$500 just in case there's not enough money but Secretary Gibson disagreed to take the money. Motion by Udall Gibson, Sr., 2nd by Charley Long: **Yea, 13; Nay, 0; Abstain, 7** to accept Financial Report.

At this point, Udall Gibson mentioned that at the grassroot level, we need to study the candidates and their platforms. He was glad to know that Mr. Garcia is here to let us know he is running for State Representative and we need to get him back in office. He has done a lot for us veterans and the community plus the other chapters he represents. It's a shame that the other representative hasn't been to any of our meetings although he understood that she was invited; what's her name, the Abeyta lady. Window Rock is in chaos and getting worse by the day. There is nothing coming out of there that's benefitting the people, especially here at the local level. It's such an embarrassment and even veterans' office, we don't hear anything. They were quick to down size us but no plans for anything. Make sure you study your candidates. Let's open up our veterans building before something else gets in the way!

Birthdays: There were no birthdays this month but group sang happy birthday anyway to whoever is having a birthday!

Old Business: Earlier, Commander asked the motioning party to insert TCVO Plan of Operation as item 1. under Old Business and agreed to by the motioning party. This topic will change the resolution numbers and the agenda topic numbers. The TCVO Plan of Operation needs to be amended to include several factors to coincide with how the veterans center will be utilized. It took a while before the words to reflect why the Plan of Operation will be amended and the magic words were "Bylaws". Commander mentioned that he was asked about "quorum" and what constitutes a quorum. Tom Long made a motion that 3 officers and 10 veterans make a quorum. There was no second to his motion and additional discussion took place. Comment was made that the Chapter barely make quorum most of the time and they wait until they get the 25; we don't want to wait for opening a meeting because of lack of quorum. It was decided that since we have veterans who attend the meeting regularly, we know that if we change it to 2 officers and 8 veterans, we will make quorum and start the meeting. It is relatively better to keep the level of attendees low since we need to open a meeting while others come in later. The number for a quorum is agreed to with 2 officers present and 8 veterans. Motion agreed by Tom Long to change the numbers and 2nd by Leslie Albert: **Yea, 17; Nay, 0; Abstain, 4** for quorum.

Thoreau Veterans Service Center Project Update: Commander stated he doesn't have any update but the Chapter President commented she had an update. She attended a meeting on October 31st and there is no operation cost for the veterans building. There is \$198,000 left to buy additional furnishing so please make sure you submit your list so we can work with Butlers to get things the building is lacking. We had some furnishings delivered like tables and chairs. She advised TCVO officers to submit a list as soon as possible for additional supplies. Also, she met on funds and there is \$1,072 balance. This will satisfy quotes on roast beef so it's best to get the three quotes. She stated that she supports veterans matters and tries to help as much as her position allows her in her ongoing support for the veterans and their building. The building belongs to the veterans and no one alone should be making decisions for activities related to the veterans' center. TCVO needs to draw up plans, policy and procedures for the use of the building by others who want to use the building. In order to help pay for utilities, establish fees for its use. We all worked hard to have it open so it needs to be taken care of appropriately. The building has no operational funds to pay for utilities.

Discussion: Grand Opening of Thoreau Veterans Center: Commander mentioned he went to Safeway and cost was \$10 a pound for roast. He was advised to check with other vendors like Lowe's and Udall mentioned T&R for the three quotes. Motion by Udall Gibson, Sr, 2nd by Gloria Becenti: **Yea, 17; Nay, 0; Abstain, 4** for additional quotes for beef meat. Secretary Gibson offered to get a quote also to make the three quotes. Commander stated ratifying resolutions will be submitted to Chapter Secretary. He also explained the building blessing went well and are pleased that it took place. Senator Munoz donated \$250 for the opening and the \$150 of check voided will be totaled to give to the lady color guards coming from Farmington to present the colors. Stella Rockridge was selected as vendor to cater the roast beef dinner. Secretary Gibson said Lance Gibson purchased the Pendleton blankets to give to those who supported and found funding to have the veterans building become reality. We wouldn't have done this without Mr. Garcia who surrounded himself with other legislators like Patty Lundstrom, Wanda Johnson, George Munoz, and the late Alicio Alcone plus others. We sincerely appreciate the Chapter Officers who were involved at the beginning and still supporting the veterans.

Reports: Commander reported he attended the ENVO meeting and read from his notes on topics discussed and stated that throughout the discussions today, TCVO is covered. TLAC was overlooked; Chapter Officials. Chapter President and

Chapter Secretary attended and throughout the meeting, Chapter President reported on activities the Chapter is involved in. Council Delegate was invited but no show.

New Business: 1. Ratify Resolution TCVO-FY26-0003 for Johnny Henry on traditional blessing for \$500; Motion by Udall Gibson, Sr., 2nd by Frances Brown: **Yea, 16; Nay, 0; Abstain, 6** to submit resolution.

2. Eliminate Resolution TCVO-FY26-0004. NOTE: Resolution numbers changed upon eliminating item 2 from original agenda. Requested to eliminate resolution by Chaplain Long as he didn't attend function.

2. Ratify Resolution TCVO-FY26-004 for Stella Rockbridge for catering services; Motion by Charley Long, 2nd by Tom Long: **Yea, 18; Nay, 0; Abstain, 3**. This became TCVO-FY26-0004 and item 2 on original agenda.

3. Item 3 to amend the Fund Management Plan and item 4 approving TCVO Resolution TCVO-FY26-005 will be taken up again. Note: Confusion caused by Chapter Secretary after stating TCVO cannot change Chapter policy....

Concerns – Comments: Secretary Gibson requested to receive a key to the veterans building for herself as TCVO Secretary and to Willie Brown, Vice Commander. Commander responded that the building is under the Chapter and will be requested to them.

She also will be ordering additional supplies and equipment with the funds reported that is available to purchase furnishing, office supplies, janitorial supplies, kitchen supplies and computer and printing equipment.

Secretary Gibson also requested to have tables and chairs with TCVO stencil and asked if Chapter has the stenciling equipment that the Chapter can use to label TCVO new tables and chairs.

In addition, she requested to have pictures hung for veterans' pictures as a wall was reserved to have veterans' pictures displayed.

Approve stipend payments for TCVO Officers: October 5, 2025 and November 2, 2025; approve stipend for ENVO meeting for Commander on October 8, 2025 and November 12, 2025. Motion by Charley Long, 2nd by Udall Gibson, Sr., **Yea, 18, Nay 0; Abstain 3**.

Set next meeting date: December 7, 2025, 8-1:00.

Announcements: Thoreau Chapter Planning Meeting at, 1:00pm; Chapter meeting on November 18, 5:30pm
Veterans Day Celebration on November 8 in conjunction with opening Veterans Center; 10am
Marine Corps 250th birthday, November 10
Veterans Day, November 11
Thanksgiving Day, November 27

Adjournment: Motion by Udall Gibson, Sr., 2nd by Tom Long: Consensus **Yea, 14, Nay 0; Abstain 2**.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Rosemary Gibson

Rosemary Gibson, Secretary

cc: Barbara Swimmer-Jim (requested meeting notes transcription)

cc: Fleurette Brown (requested meeting notes transcription)