

Sawmill Veterans' Organization

Commander Lenora Dez

Vice Commander Tanya Dooline

Secretary Christine Jesus-Begay

Sawmill Chapter

Sawmill, AZ

Agenda

Thursday April 09, 2026, 4 pm

1. **Meeting Called to Order:**

2. **Invocation:**

3. **Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence:** All

4. **Review and Adopt Agenda:** Motioned By 2nd by

Vote:

5. **Welcome and Opening Remarks:**

A. Officers Reports:

i. Commander- NNVA Financial Report and Funding Updates

- a. - Fund Expenditure: All funds (\$73,000, primarily in stipends) must be expended by August 1, 2026.
- b. - Stipends: There will be no stipends in August or September for all CVOs.
- c. - CVO Funding: All CVO funding must be expended by June 1, 2026. Per Fallyn, unused funds will be reallocated to hardship and energy assistance.
- d. - Proposals for 3rd Quarter: Fallyn suggested holding two meetings in July, moving all stipends to hardship and energy, or forfeiting the remaining funds.
- e. - Home Improvement Requirements: For veterans in rental apartments, the lease agreement must explicitly state that maintenance can be performed by the lessor (the veteran). Applications lacking this documentation will be denied.
- f. - Sawmill CVO Status: There are currently 58 active and 6 inactive participants (64 total), pending up-to-date documentation with NNVA.
- g. - Registration Drive: NNVA has requested a Registration Drive for the second week of May at Sawmill Chapter.

ii. Meeting Highlights

- a. - Commander Sandoval (Twin Lakes): Discussed "Opinionated Law" regarding the legalization of Peyote for ceremonial use. This topic will be part of the Council's Summer Session. A "Gathering of Tribes" is scheduled for July 7, 2026, at the UNM Gallup campus featuring guest speaker Greg Smith.
- b. - Dr. Andy Nez: A reminder that the deadline for the Veteran Agency Plan of Operations is May 6, 2026.



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- c. - Commander Kyle (Dilkon): The Code of Conduct is currently under legal review. Proposed additions include policies on endangering others, religious beliefs, and a Navajo translation. Note that 3rd Quarter Assistance does not apply to the Fort Defiance Agency unless you are a newly registered member.

iii. Budget and Legislation

- a. - Budget: \$73,000 for Fort Defiance Agency; \$3.1 million projected for the 2027 Veterans Trust Fund.
- b. - Legislation: Key focus areas include the VTF increase, opposing the US Senate's proposed disability rating reduction, and advocating for a 2-year housing warranty extension.
- c. - Elections: The Tribal Election is scheduled for July 2, 2026.

iv. Resolutions Passed

- a. - Color Guard and Honor Guard funds increase (19/0/1)
- b. - Chapter 16 Expenditure of funds "Recognition" (15/0/1)
- c. - 2-year Housing Warranty Extension (15/0/1)
- d. - Housing Transparency (15/0/1)
- e. - Opposing the Disability rating reduction (15/0/1)
- v. Vice- Commander-
- vi. Secretary-

6. Open for discussion:

- i. Code of Conduct: NN Veterans, Surviving Spouses, and Gold Star Parents. Code of Conduct and prepare any opinions or suggestions to be forwarded to Klye.

7. Announcements:

- A. - April 19, 10:30 AM: Fort Defiance Chapter House - Celebration of Fort Defiance CVO becoming a Purple Heart Community.
- B. - April 26, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Coyote Canyon Chapter House - Chili Cookoff.

8. Closing Remarks and Next Meeting Date:

- A. Next Sawmill Veterans Meeting: May ___, 2026, at ___ am/pm

B. Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans' Meetings:

- July 10, 2026, 9 AM Tohatchi Chapter House
- October 02, 2026, 9 AM Houck Chapter House

9. Motion for Adjournment by

2nd by

Vote: