

Sawmill Veterans' Organization

Commander Lenora Dez

Vice Commander Tanya Dooline

Secretary Christine Jesus-Begay

Sawmill Chapter

Sawmill, AZ

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 10, 2025 (1300 hours)

1. **Meeting Called to Order** by Commander Lenora Dez @ 1:33pm
2. **Invocation by:** Mary Francisco
3. **Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence:** All
4. **Review and Adopt Agenda:** Motion to approve Agenda by Leona Laughing, 2nd by Juantina Yazzie with a vote of 8-0-1
5. **Welcome and Opening Remarks:**
 - A. Guests- Navajo Nation Veterans Administration
 - Gilbertina Jackson- AMS
 - Taryn Nofchissey- Housing Specialists
 - o New Construction- Homesite lease and or Homeless Veteran
 - o Honorable Discharge- 180 days or more Veteran name on homesite.
 - o Home Improvement- Surviving spouses may apply.
 - o Homesite lease is done through Navajo Land Department and NNVA does not assist with that.
6. **Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes for November 13, 2025- TABLED

Motion by Elvina Carl 2nd by Christine Begay with a vote of 6-0-1
7. **Officers Reports:**
 - A. Commander:
 - FY2026 Budget shell Sawmill CVO: \$35,855 with the following breakdown:
 - o Male Veterans: 12
 - o Woman Veterans: 4
 - o Surviving Spouse: 6
 - o Gold Star Parents: 0
 - o TOTAL: 22 @ \$1,478.00 each
 - Budget Transfer to be discussed: \$2,700.00
 - o Hardship: \$2,475.00 /22= \$112.50 each
 - o Energy: \$0
 - o Self Help: \$0
 - o Stipends: \$225.00

Motioned by: Elvina Carl 2nd by: Christine Begay with a vote of 6-0-1

 - Be respectful to NNVA staff in attendance.



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- Beginning **January 1, 2025**, all CVO members shall have their **2nd Hardship** and **2nd Energy Assistance** available, **based on CVO budget available funds.**
 - When a **105 Financial Assistance Form** is submitted and approved, please allow **2 weeks to 1 month** for payment to arrive by mail. With the continued integration of the ERP system, processing times are currently longer than usual. (Per Navajo Nation Office of the Controller)
 - Donations from: Fishers of Men for Veterans, items located in Veterans Building.
 - Toys for Tot's donations pick on Saturday 12/13 from Show low, AZ.
 - Sawmill Chapter Christmas Dinner December 21, 2025, at 1 pm.
 - Food baskets remaining: 19. 35 baskets total were bought. We had the turkeys at the Sawmill Store because the Chapter did not have their cooler working.
 - Pellets distributed: 12 Veterans totaling 15 bags each. 180 wood pellet bags, second distribution date. December 21, 2025, at 1 pm during the Community Christmas Dinner.
 - Veteran Direct Care Program- For older Veterans, Elderly, who don't say they need help. Will post the contact info on bulletin board. Contact the coordinator to ask about the program work.
 - **Sawmill Chapter 16 Funds- \$6,616.76 as of 12/8/25**
 - o Office Supplies- \$500 (ink, paper, folders)
 - o Ink and paper for two HP Printers:
 1. #65 Black and tricolor ink
 2. #63 Black and tricolor ink
 3. 1 box of paper
 4. 1 box of pens- gel
 - Operating Supplies- \$500 (Mop, Brooms, cleaning supplies)
 5. 1 broom
 6. 1 Dustpan
 7. 1 Mop with mop bucket
 8. 1 Trash Can and bags
 9. Cleaning supplies- windows and floors
 - Food Purchases- \$ 1,306.28 (Veterans Meeting, Holidays etc.)
 - Catering- \$1000
 - Gifts and Awards- \$3,310.48
- B. Vice Commander:
- We have T-shirts and a few caps left that are reserved for Veterans only.
 - Gifts and awards- what to get for Veterans

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- Coal tickets here at the Chapter house. Did ask Ron if they can deliver for those who do not have transportation.
- The Veterans Day Dinner from Dickey's was paid for by the chapter house because last years supplemental funding was restricted.
- Will look into purchasing wood and propane from TnR.

C. Secretary:

- Concerned about Lamar Williams. He needs his pellet stove fixed or needs a new one.
- Tanya asked the Chapter and they don't assist with cleanings or repairs. Just information on how to maintain the stove. May need only cleaning.
- Be careful of how you maintain the pellet stove. Do not put trash or overfill.

8. Open Floor / Member Feedback

- A. Leona Laughing- display cases, what are we doing with?
 - i. Tanya will be displayed in the Veterans building with Sawmill Veterans memorabilia.
- B. Mary Francisco- Will the Christmas dinner be catered and everything provided for? Donate 2 food baskets?
- C. Lamar Williams- needs items.

9. Action Items and Assignments

- A. NNVA is requesting a list of Veterans who are in need of any gear (thermal underwear, undershirts, rain pants, snow pants, camo DI duffel bags, bed padding, gloves, neck warmers, scarves, blankets/woobies, extreme cold weather jackets and trousers, small side bags, camo backpacks, grid fleece pullovers, GORE-TEX socks, etc.). All gear will be **distributed together as a combined set**. Distribution will be prioritized for Veterans **demonstrating the greatest level of need as we are limited on sets**.
- B. **TALKING CIRCLE:** Dec. 18th, 2025, from 10am-12pm. No one showed up last month.
- C. We also congratulate the **Oak Springs Chapter** on their **Grand Opening held November 11, 2025**.
- D. We also congratulate the **St. Micheals Chapter** on their **Grand Opening held November 14, 2025**.

10. Closing Remarks and Next Meeting Date:

- A. Next Sawmill Veterans Meeting: January 14, 2026, at 1pm.

B. Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans' Meetings:

- January 09, 2026, 9 AM Oak Springs Chapter House

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- April 03, 2026, 9 AM Mexican Springs Chapter House
- July 10, 2026, 9 AM Tohatchi Chapter House
- October 02, 2026, 9 AM Houck Chapter House

11. **Motion for Adjournment** by Elvina Carl 2nd by Shannon Carl

Vote: 8-0-1