

Sawmill Veterans' Organization

Commander Lenora Dez

Vice Commander Tanya Dooline

Secretary Christine Jesus-Begay

Sawmill Chapter

Sawmill, AZ

Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 12, 2026, 3 pm



1. **Meeting Called to Order:** at 3:23 pm by Commander Lenora Dez
2. **Invocation:** By Christine Jesus-Begay
3. **Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence:** All
4. **Review and Adopt Agenda:** Motioned by Eugene Laughing Sr. 2nd by Elvina Carl

Vote: 7-0-1

- Tanya Dooline- Does anyone want to add anything to the agenda?

5. Welcome and Opening Remarks:

- Dean Morgan-Talked about his friends and the war that is going on, his health and the meetings that he has attended and the ones who are being deployed. Respect for Veterans. Keep them in your thoughts.

A. Officers Reports:

- i. Commander- Agency Meeting on January 30, 2026, in Tse Bonito, NM. Explained how the meeting works, chain of command, NN President, NN Veterans Liaison, Central office, the NNVA, Advisory Council then the Chapter Veterans Organizations. Our Ft. Defiance Agency Commander is Kyle Lewis from Dilkon Chapter. The meeting was about Resolutions that are needed for support from other chapters and for the Agency Veterans. If anyone would like us to submit a resolution on your behalf we can help with that. Our Chapter Secretary Timothy Begay is working on a resolution for us to get more flag poles for the front of the Chapter House. One for POW/MIA. We can ask Timothy for more details. We have no money at the NNVA office currently. We do have \$6,616.76 at the Chapter House in Sawmill for gifts and awards, food, catering and operating supplies. We have received a template Resolution to go by. The Crystal Chapter has sweat lodges every Sunday, call chapter for more information. There are talking circles every month and for Veterans only. If anyone is interested in CPR/ First Aid training let her know.

1. Dean Morgan- Suggested that we put up notification of Veterans meetings at the Sawmill Store for more advertisement of meetings.
2. Dean Morgan asking about services for Lamar Williams funeral which will be on Friday March 13, 2026, at 10 am. Gravesite and

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burial services will be at the Fort Defiance Veteran Cemetery and reception will be at the chapter house. Dean also mentioned that Patrick Martinez still has no plans for a burial site in Sawmill and is concerned about it.

Commander would also like to put out there that we know that it is a hard topic to plan for situations like this and it is something that we do need to plan for. VA does have forms for that. Lawyers also help but they will need to be paid.

- ii. Vice- Commander- Is working on the updated Veterans list for Sawmill Chapter and we have 36 Veterans and 7 Surviving Spouses and no Gold Star Parents. There will be a Housing Education seminar at the Whitecone Chapter House on Friday March 13, 2026, from 10 am to 3 pm if you want to know any more information about housing with the NNVA. There are resources available out there and if you need help, we can, such as Goodwill, they help with childcare, VA Benefits, resumes and even clothing to help with job interviews.
- iii. Secretary- No reports.

B. Open for discussion:

- i. Code of Conduct: NN Veterans, Surviving Spouses, and Gold Star Parents- please look over and if you have any comments or questions let us know.
- ii. Question from John Tsosie about changing the NNVA housing program for Veterans who rent and are not eligible for a new home. Mr. Tsosie could not make it in today but would like this discussion to be discussed and move forward with our assistance.

C. Resolutions:

- i. Sample Resolution
- ii. (Resolution no. SCVO 2026-03) Resolution Opposing the Issuance of Liquor Licenses within the Boundaries of the 26 Fort Defiance Agency CVO Communities

Motioned to support Resolution by Elvina Carl 2nd by Juantina Yazzie Vote 8-0-1

- iii. (Resolution no. SCVO 2026-01) The Sawmill Chapter Veterans Organization requests the Fort Defiance Agency Veterans Organization to support and advocate for an increase in compensation payments for Honor Guard and Color Guard Detail.

Motioned to support Resolution by Elvina Carl 2nd by Dean Morgan Vote 8-0-1

- iv. (Resolution no. SCVO 2026-02) The Sawmill Chapter Veterans Organization requests the Navajo Nation Council to amend 12 N.N.C §1171(B) to increase the Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) annual set-aside from

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4% to 8% to ensure comprehensive and flexible services for all Navajo Veterans.

Motioned to support Resolution by Tanya Dooline 2nd by Christine Jesus-Begay
Vote 8-0-1.

6. Announcements:

- A. Navajo Women Warriors Day of Recognition- Thursday March 19, 2026, Twin Arrows Navajo Casino-Resort (Registration needed)
- B. Veterans Housing Education- Whitecone, AZ March 13, 2026, Taryn Nofchissey
- C. Sawmill Chapter Meeting March 12, 2026, at 6 pm.

7. Closing Remarks and Next Meeting Date:

- A. Next Sawmill Veterans Meeting: April 09, 2026, at 4pm. (Suggestions for next meeting's luncheon.)

B. Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans' Meetings:

- 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

8. Motion for Adjournment at 4:35 pm by Juantina Yazzie 2nd by Dean Morgan

Vote: 8-0-1