

St. Michaels Veterans Organization (SMVO) Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2026

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 6:10 pm
- II. Invocation: Given by Lita Sam
- III. Review and Adopt Agenda
1st Motion: Tammy Peshlakai 2nd Motion: Jerry Hoskie
Vote: Yes 10 No 0 Abstain 1
- IV. Roll Call of VA Official
Commander Jeffrey Kirk Present
Vice Commander Ronnie Peshlakai Present
Secretary Lita Sam Present
- V. Announcement:
 - a. 2/2/2026 Groundhog Day
 - b. 2/14/2026 Valentine's Day
 - c. 2/16/2026 Presidents' Day
 - d. 2/17/2026 Lunar New Year
 - e. 2/18/2026 Ash Wednesday
 - f. Check and update your registration documents at Fort Defiance Veterans Office. Remind the Veterans on their Registration Form to be done every year.
- VI. Recognition of Guest and Official(s):
Council Delegate Brenda Jesus will try to attend as she is in Forest Lake.
- VII. Commander/Vice Commander Report:
 - AZ Veterans Hall of Fame Society 2026 Scholarship Program is offering to support veterans, families and National Guard/Reserve members pursuing higher education in Arizona. Eligibility: Honorably discharged veterans, family members of honorably discharged veterans, or currently serving members in good standing with a Reserve or Guard unit. Must be participating in a program leading to an Associates, Baccalaureate, or Post Graduate Degree and attending a accredited institution within Arizona. Scholarship amounts range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Application Period: Applications are accepted from November 1, 2025, to February 15, 2026. Application Process must submit an online application form and provide necessary documentation, including proof of relationship to a veteran, academic transcripts and a recommendation letter. Additional Scholarships in partnership with the Military Order of the Purple Heart, an additional \$5,000 scholarship is awarded annually to one veteran.
 - Additional General Fund pulls from other funds to make more funds available.
 - Plan of Operation to be more leave way in regard to a department recognition, to be part of Navajo Nation department. Amendment to the policy is now being reviewed. Amounts of 1,000 for home improvement, 400 for Hardship and 400 for Energy to keep the same amounts. There will be Agency meeting to discuss more in depth. Navajo Advisory on what to change. Funding source from 6% to 8% which is Council Delegate Andy Nez is working on. Will update once more information is available.
 - Every Chapter House/Veteran Organization is considering voting on not giving the Exxon Gas Station located in Chamber, Arizona from getting a liquor license, which from experience has caused alcoholism to rise and create family problems/situation. We can vote on this if everyone decides on this issue.
 - There has been new construction of 38 Modular units, there's been 12 has been process and 6 have been completed. If you have a new home, you're not eligible for home improvement.



- Agency meeting to be held: Mexican Springs on April 3 at 9:00 am, Tohatchi on July 10 @ 9:00 am and Houck on October 2 at 9:00 am.
- Talking Circle on February 19, every Thursday. Talk about anything which starts at 10:00 am, lunch is provided. The last time there were 2 and it increased to 10.
- Talking Circle also is giving out winter gear, if you need it attend their meeting.
- 90% of the Veteran Trust Funds have been used for the months of October, November and December, which is the 1st quarter.
- Veteran registration has gone up, but St. Michaels Veteran Organization from last year was 184 actives. 309 counted, new Veteran 6, 163 Active, 131 Surviving Spouse and no Gold Star Mother. 98.26% spent by the St Michaels Veteran Organization. There's 5,000 from the St Michael Chapter – what do you all want to do with it? We can discuss awards, picnics, etc.
- President Buu Van Nygren proclamation declaring November 2025 as the Purple Heart Nation and did a legislation. Honoring Navajo warriors and Purple Heart recipients. The Navajo Nation will remember their bravery and sacrifice through ceremony, education, and community gatherings in the spirit of Hozho.
- Bobbie Baldwin Veteran Administration is out of money, need paper, toners, pens, Woman Recognition might put off this year.
- More funds for home improvement, if you can spare time to help, give boards, plumbing work, etc.
- Chinle Veteran home care runs out of funds, trying to bring up to date to provide service.
- Fallyn Begay can help with the disability claim. Ask for an appointment with Anna.
- New Plan of Operation will be given out copies once it is available.
- There will be another wood drive again in Leupp, Arizona.
- Rainbow Bridge help Native if they are getting harass by the ICE in Phoenix, Arizona they will help.
- 2/3 votes on Veterans Officers have no incompetence for removal, if Veteran Organization Officers do not show up at a Veteran meeting.
- Robert Begay in Shiprock, New Mexico has a Sweat Lodge every Sunday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. If you would like to participate.

VIII. New Business:

- a. No new business.

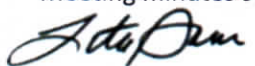
IX. Financial Assistance:

- a. Kirk reported to submit for a few funds for Hardship/Energy request. As for Home Improvement there's no more funds available.

X. Adjournment: At 6:51 pm

- a. Next meeting March 3, 2026 Tuesday @ 6:00 pm at St Michaels Chapter House.

Meeting minutes submitted by:

 2/24/2026

Lita Sam, Secretary

Attachment:

Agenda, General Claim Forms/W9 JKirk, & LSam, Veterans Sign In sheet & Guest Sign In sheet.

