

St. Michaels Veterans Organization (SMVO) Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 2025



- I. Meeting Call to Order at 6:16 pm
- II. Invocation: Given by Terry Todachine
- III. Review and Adopt Agenda
1st Motion: George Skeet 2nd Motion: Ernestine Reeder
Vote: Yes 24 No: 0 Abstain: 2
- IV. Roll Call of VA Official
Commander Jeffrey Kirk Present
Vice Commander Ronnie Peshlakai Present
Secretary Lita Sam Present
- V. Announcement:
 - a. 10/9-12-2025 Gather of Veterans at Wide Ruin Chapter House, Federal Veteran Administration will provide resources on Saturday at 1:00 pm. There will be a NAC meeting in the evening.
 - b. 10/14/2025 Indigenous Peoples' Day / Columbus Day
 - c. 10/31/2025 Halloween
 - d. Check and update your registration documents at Fort Defiance Veterans Office. Remind the Veterans on their Registration Form to be done every year.
 - e. 11/8/2025 Marine Corp Ball at Route 66 Casino. \$30.00 Single, \$60.00 Couple
 - f. 10/9-12/2025 Gather of Veterans at Wide Ruins Chapter, Federal VA Resource will be onsite on Saturday at 1:00 pm. NAC meeting in the evening at this event.
- VI. Recognition of Guest and Official(s):
Brenda Jesus Council Delegate
- VII. Commander/Vice Commander Report:
 - Brenda Jesus Council Delegate updates: Meeting with NABI on Thursday, Andy Nez is sponsor on the Plan of Operation Advisor Veteran Organization. Veteran Administration – what are the request/wants and not clear what is needed on behalf of the Veterans. Veteran Commander regarding the Plan of Operation – St Michaels Chapter passed. During the Quarterly Reporting Chapter Plan of Operation Council Delegate Vince James gave a report to the Council, if miss 3 meeting 2/3 members to be removed. 4-year term of the Veteran Official. An amendment will be sent to Kirk to receive your comment(s) on the amendment. October 1, 2025, Budget special NABI this (Thursday meeting) to pass the comprehensive budget. Budget and Finance to work on the budget before 10/1/2025. On October 1, 2025, there's \$5,000 for the Chapter Veterans, having the wording to include catering. President Nygren asks \$6.9 million for OPVP about 3.5 million more to provide services. President Nygren might not approve the budget. President Nygren might not approve 2.93 million for the Council Delegates. President Nygren has been meeting with Chapter across the Navajo reservation but has not schedule one for St. Michaels Chapter. President Nygren requests 14 to 16 position and asking for \$100,000 for his staff. The three Chief Branch – Justice Eleanor Shirley, President Nygren and Speaker Curly will be getting together on the budget. President Nygren took \$2 million away from the Navajo Nation Chapters. 2080 hours fringe benefit funds took away for operating. Permanent Trust Funds of \$55 million to let it accrue interest. The interest accrues Income for funding the Navajo Nation positions.
 - Jeffrey Kirk Commander updates: Marine Corps Ball is on November 8, 2025, at the Route 66 Casine. \$30.00 for singles and \$60.00 for couple. VA Clinic in Phoenix is not giving out COVID 19 shots, only the Flu shots. Fort Defiance Hospital is out of giving COVID shots until November 18 and 25 to be given out. Make sure your registration is updated at the Fort Defiance Veteran

Office in Window Rock, Arizona in order to be eligible to receive you Financial Assistance, which you also will be requesting this month. The budget received for Financial Assistance is for 77 Veterans from the count roster from the Fort Defiance Veteran Office. Make sure you sign in when attending the St Michaels Veteran Meeting. Attended the October 3, 2025, Fort Defiance Agency Meeting at Kinlichee, Arizona. Patricia Begay is not assigned to the St Michael Chapter House. No report from President Nygren. Dr. Lewis gave a hospital report. The \$5,000 given to the St Michaels Veteran from the St Michaels Chapter House – we can use for catering or purchase hoodie (\$2,500 to be used to purchase the hoodie), but fund can't be given directly to the Veterans. The new St Michaels Chapter will be open in November. Plans to have a grand opening celebration for this event. There will be a monument of Veterans to be display at the newly St Michaels Chapter House. St Michaels Veteran count is 52 Male, 15 Female and 10 Surviving Spouse. Current count is 77 for St Michaels Veteran. Last year we've provided funds for 48 Veterans and 52 Veterans were unfunded due to no more funds being available. Resolution # 0168-25 to recognize our Veteran Organization. Fort Defiance Veteran Office is helping the Shiprock Veteran Office as this has been busy for them. Housing update: 29 New housing constructions, 17 pending and 31 for housing improvements. New homes with no structure on the homesite lease. Improvement on roofs, doors, furnace, cooling, washer/dryer and refrigerator. Taking applications for housing assistance. During the Kelsey Begaye Administration, they gave out certificate to build a house, the Veteran Office will honor it. Take it to the Veteran Office to get home, there were 88 certifications given out during that time. Agency Vice Commander Tom White is enjoying his retirement. Patricia Burnside from Oak Spring is also the VSO for Shiprock Veteran Office. Legislative 126-25 on the navajo-nsn.gov to log into the website – if you support it or not. Streaming our Veteran meeting, we can watch the meeting & participate. Better communication, people can watch, we can do zoom meetings. Free only 20 people to participate, upload to UTube, we'll figure it out. October 11, 2025, Giving out woods at Leupp Chapter starts at 9:00 am. Load your own woods for Veteran only. You put the wood in or load it yourself. Reiterate the Veteran budgets and the breakdown of the amounts for each category. Discussion on using the St Michaels Chapter Veteran funds to purchase turkeys and hams to be given out to the St Michaels Veterans on November 20, 2025. 1st Motion: Gabriel Haskie, 2nd Motion: Francine King Votes: YES: 32, NO: 0, Abstain: 3 Approved to purchase the turkeys and hams for the St Michaels Veteran Organization. Other consideration was a food box and catering but did not get enough votes.

VIII. New Business:

a. No new business.

IX. Financial Assistance:

- Hardship, Energy and Home Improvement monies are being process, if you have turn in your financial assistance form and if all your registration have been updated.

X. Adjournment: At 8:09 pm

a. Next meeting November 5, 2025 Wednesday @ 6:00 pm at St Michaels Senior Center.

Meeting minutes submitted by:

 10/13/2025

Lita Sam, Secretary

Attachment:

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