



Tohatchi Veterans Organization
P.O. Box 287
Tohatchi, NM 87325
Phone#: (505) 733-2845 Fax#: (505) 733-2847



Commander: Manuel Shirleson

Vice-Commander: Laris Manuelito

Secretary: Rosie Deschiney

Sergeant of Arms: Franklin Sandoval

MINUTES

Friday: January 9, 2026 at 9:00 am
Tohatchi Chapter House

1. Meeting Called to Order by: Vice Commander Laris Manuelito @ 10:15 am

A. Roll Call: Commander

Commander – Manuel Shirleson ____
Secretary/Treasurer: Rosie Deschiney ✓
(NCO) ✓
Sergeant of Arms: Franklin Sandoval ____

Vice-Commander – Laris Manuelito ✓
Non-Commission Officer, Paul Begay
Chaplin: Milton Shirleson ✓

B. Invocation: Given by Evelyn Pinto

C. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence for 'MIA-POW-KIA': Recited by all.

2. Review/Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Phillip James, second by Gerald Bia with a vote of 10 in favor, 0 opposing and 2 abstention.
3. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes for December: Provided copies to the attendees.
4. Introduction of Guest(s): President Elvin Bitsilly, Maria Allison, Chapter Coordinator and Vice-President Lee Rodgers, the two officials greeted everyone wishing them a good year.
5. Old Business: Plaques for the Navajo Code Talker

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that we honor the following original "Navajo Code Talker", James T. Nahkai and other members: Roy Becenti, Senator John Pinto, Thomas Sandoval, Frank Willetto, Jr. and Pahe Yazzie. The plaque for James T. Nahkai has been purchased and the quotes for the additional plaques will be obtained.

It was agreed that we will locate the families and invite them during the award presentation on the "Navajo Code Talkers Day" which is on August 14, 2026. We would like to get the following information: date of service and rank.

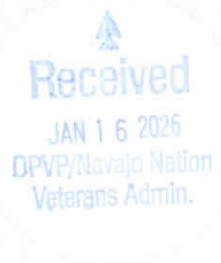
6. New Business:

Maria Allison, Chapter Coordinator is here to assist the organization to include a couple new budget line items for this Fiscal Year. We presently have only two line items which includes Gift/Awards and Food. She informed our organization that we are now allowed to have operating supplies and catering.

Present budget Fund 16 account has a balance of \$14,360.62: This includes the food in the amount of \$6,085.64 and Gift/Awards with \$8,274.98.

We are requesting to modify the following:

Food	\$ 1,800.62
Operating Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
Gift/Awards	\$ 3,560.00
Catering	\$ 6,000.00
Total Adjustment:	\$14,360.62



Motion by: Phillip James, seconded by Cecil Pinto, vote 13 in favor, 0 opposing and 1 abstention.

7. Honor/Color Guards Reports: One completed according to Laris Manuelito. We are still experiencing communication problems. In the future Laris will be taking all request and following up with the honor guards.

8. Officers Reports:

Rosie Deschney reported the current balances on the budget provided by the Ft. Defiance Office. She also reported that officers and some applying members have not been paid. I also requested Manuel Shirleson to inquire and get a report of our current spending; as of to date nothing. I will try to maintain our spending through the chapter. She also requested that all resolution(s) be completed by the Commander and Vice-Commander.

Milt Shirleson noted the organization has communication problems, please communicate with one another, in sharing all pertinent information and your phone numbers. He reported his involvement with the organization for a long time and is considering retirement.

9. Next TVO Meeting; February 6, 2026

A request was made to getting a new home for Roger Begay, who served the Marine Corp, but this request requires a resolution. Motion was made by Phillip James, second by Ernest Leslie with a vote of 17 in favor, 0 opposing and 1 abstention.

10. Ft. Defiance Agency Meeting: Charles Arviso reported that he went to Oak Springs and was informed that the meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

A request was made to getting a new home for Roger Begay, who served the Marine Corp, but this request requires a resolution. Motion was made by Phillip James, second by Ernest Leslie with a vote of 17 in favor, 0 opposing and 1 abstention.

11. Announcement(s): Items posted on the Veteran's bulletin board

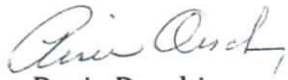
Caring for Native Veterans & Families on February 13-20, 2026 at Per[dot] AZ
HAC Seeks Proposals for its 2026 Affordable Housing for Rural Veterans (AHRV) Initiative

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January 9, 2026 Meeting

Talking Circle, January 15, 2026 at Ft. Defiance Veterans Administration Conference Room

12. Adjournment at 1:05 pm

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rosie Deschiney".

Rosie Deschiney
Secretary Treasurer