

Black Mesa Chapter Veterans Organization (BMVO)
Veterans Monthly Meeting Talking Circle Minutes
December 08, 2025
10:00 a.m. (1000 hours)

- I. MEETING CALL TO ORDER:
 - a. By Richard Claw, Commander at 10:46 a.m. (1046 hours)
- II. INVOCATION & MOMENT OF SILENCE
Invocation by: Jason Yazzie followed by moment of silence.
- III. ADOPTION OF THE LAST MEETING MINUTES:
Read by Delphina Tsosie, Liaison Officer
Motion: Wilson Honie Secounded: Don Sage
Vote: Yeas: 14 Nays: 00 Abstained: 01
- IV. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA
Read by Wilson Honie, Vice Commander
Delphina Tsosie motioned to accept meeting agenda with the following corrections:
 - 1.) Remove "Previous BMVO Meeting (November 2025) from Section 1V.
 - 2.) Liaison Officer Vacant under Section V/d.
Second: Howard Yazzie

Vote: Yeas: 14 Nays: 00 Abstained: 01
- V. ANNOUNCEMENT:
 - a. Black Mesa Chapter Meeting, December 14, 2025, with a Christmas dinner @ 9:00 a.m.
 - b. Talking Circle by Televeda, Chinle Veterans Office for month of December 2025. Schedule is pending.
 - c. Central Navajo Veterans Organization (CNVO), 16 Chapter Commanders next meeting:
 - Rough Rock Chapter House, December 19, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.
 - Many Farms Chapter House, January 30, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.
- VI. REPORTS: Reports will be brief.
 - a. Germaine Simenson, Council Delegate/Legislative Assistant, Tia Silver: It was suggested that we remove going forward due to never showing up. This shows verification that they never showed up to any of the meetings we have set thus far.
 - b. Commander, Richard Claw: Is our organization important? When Mr. Harrison Honie started the Black Mesa Chapter Veterans Organization, the way he thought of the organization, he started the process to get it up and run as an organization. When he stepped down, he told the organization to never let anyone, or anything, disperse from the organization. The organization remains to this day. The request for funding of \$500,000, for the veterans building has moved to Mr. Browns desk. Commander suggested that he and CLUP-C (Dorothy Yazzie) go in person to see Mr. Myron Tsosie or Mr. Brown regarding the proposal. Those requesting the Chapter Housing Discretionary funds need to come before the Chapter Officials during official Chapter Meeting to request the funding. Some families within the community have requested a family plot due to no more space within their current burial grounds. Edbert Little has now been approved to be a check signor for Black Mesa Chapter. Princess pageant was a success with Don, Ray, Candace, Clark, Freddie, and Richard Claw in attendance to post colors. ARPA Funds need to be used up within 13 months. There is \$370 million still available. Currently there are 425,042 registered Navajos within the Navajo Nation. President Nygren suggested to issue hardship checks. Controller Sean McCable suggested halting all projects and getting more funding for hardships. President Nygren and

Speaker Curley are still in court proceedings. Judge may say Nygren has the authority to fire the Controller or not. Black Mesa Veterans Organization has turned in all budget, Plan of Operation and approved Officers. President Nygren has been signing Proclamation for Purple Heart Community for various chapter houses. Community members suggested that ARPA Hardship funding should have all veterans included.

- c. Vice-Commander, Wilson Honie: Family honored Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day with a dinner and family get together. A tradition that Mr. Honie's mother started and to this day the event continues. Advised fellow comrades to prepare for winter. Updated CLUP-C progress with the rural road addressing. Road signs have arrived and are currently stored at Black Mesa Chapters warehouse. CLUP-C ordered equipment and tools that will be needed to put up the road signs. Projected date to start will be when weather warms up due to road conditions. They still need to hire and have in-service safety training with the employees.

Richard Claw, Commander, motioned to have scheduled veterans meeting at 10 a.m. during daylight savings times. Summer hours meeting can be scheduled at 2:00 p.m. Also add to Section 8/d to purchase turkeys or ham.

Seconded: Wilson Honie

Vote: Yeas: 16 Nays: 00 Abstained: 01

- d. Liaison Officer: Delphina Tsosie: Meeting minutes will be turned into CNVO office Wednesday, December 10, 2025.
- e. Representative, Don Sage: Suggested assigning events under new business to an individual to plan event.
- f. Sergeant-At-Arms, Harrison Honie: attendance via Televeda
- g. Introduction of Guest:

ACCEPT REPORTS:

Motion: Ray Yazzie Seconded: Kyle Begay

Vote: Yeas: 16 Nays: 00 Abstained: 01

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Update of Veterans Facility: proposal requesting funding is on Browns desk. Myron Tsosie is waiting on Margaret who works with budget. Dorothy followed up last week with no response.
- b. Update of Veterans Trust:
FY 2026 Allocation: \$47,263.00
Spend: \$21,838.00
Balance: \$25,425.00
Percentage used: 46%
- c. Chapter Permanent Veterans Fund current total balance: \$8,679.63.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Continue to plan Appreciation Dinner for Harrison Honie, former BMVO Commander. Estimated dinner to be held in April 2026. Mr. Honie's wife wants to add suggestions before final decision is made. Suggestion was to host where there is handicapped accessibility. Another suggestion was to involve the community. Award recognition was suggested for Pendleton robe or plaque, jacket. Another suggestion was to have the chapter involved. Awaiting to see what family suggest due to health issues regarding Mr. Honie.

b. Plan for 2026 event.

- Ira Hayes flag raising in Sacaton, AZ, February 2026
- Navajo Nation Women Veterans Day, March 20, 2026
- National Women Veterans Day, June 12, 2026
- Nation Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29, 2026. *Vietnam was disestablished and the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam.*
- Armed Forces Day, 3rd Saturday of May 16, 2026
- Memorial Day, May 25, 2026
- Flag Day, June 14, 2026. *In 1777, a banner of red, white, and blue was woven.*
- Navajo Code Talker Day, August 14, 2026
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2026
- Find a good camping spot to camp out.
- Suggestion open to all

Suggest was made to have all the Dzil'Yi'Jiin region to come together to plan some of the events such as Navajo Nation Women Veterans Day, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, and Veterans Day. It was suggested that family members should be one to plan these events. Another suggestion was to have a parade from Black Mesa Jct. to Black Mesa Chapter. Maybe invite other chapters to come together to show appreciation to veterans. Should have Veterans Day as a big event, which can be held at Pinon Unified School District Gym. Next meeting, bring family members to help plan these events.

c. Accepting financial assistance Form 105 and W9. Next month will be in the second quarter.
d. Purchase 33 Ham utilizing the Chapter Permanent Veterans Fund.

Motioned: Jason Yazzie

Second: Howard Yazzie

Vote: Yeas: 19 Nays: 00 Abstained: 01

IX. NEXT MEETING AND TIME: January 12, 2026 @ 10:00 a.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT: adjourned 1:18 p.m. (1318 hours)

Motion: Jason Yazzie Seconded: Howard Yazzie

Vote: Yeas: 19 Nays: 00 Abstained: 01