

Utah Veterans Advisory Council
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
June 18th, 2025

Place: Zoom online meeting

Members Present: Marti Bigbie, Gary Harter, Bob Pagnani, Steve Prestwich, Paula Stephenson, Angela Williams

Excused: Joe Guimond, Chris Holly, Dave Phillips, James Sheppard

Secretary: Alan Ferner

Guests: David Busk, Jennica Gruver, James Patten, Cory Pearson, Taylor Ricks, Terry Schow

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Bob Pagnani. Bob introduced and welcomed those in attendance. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The minutes of our 16 April meeting were reviewed and approved by the members of the Council.
3. VA Regional Office: No report.
4. VA Medical Center: Angela Williams advised that the Elko clinic will be finished by the end of the year. Also flood restoration will be completed by the end of September. Angela clarified that the Food Hub provides both food and service. and that they recently won an award for excellence. To reach the Veterans Crisis Line, dial 988 and press option 1. Angela also provided Outreach information.
5. Utah Dept. Veterans & Military Affairs: Gary Harter provided a status report on the Veterans Nursing Homes and Veteran Cemeteries. The four Homes are at 95% occupancy. We are awaiting Federal funding for the new SLC Nursing Home and for the Northern Utah Cemetery. Gary also reviewed recently passed legislation affecting Veterans. Gary then thanked Bob Pagnani and the Utah Elks for putting on a great golf tournament.

Cory Pearson updated us on the Innovation Conference and the Suicide Prevention Program. There is an order in for 400 more gun safes. VSOs continue to be very busy with PACT Act claims. Cory reminded us of the 18 July event with the VA at the Larry Miller Campus.

Taylor Ricks announced That the video project which explains Veteran benefits will soon be going up on the Website. Taylor added that they expect a big turnout for the Veteran and Military Family expo on 18 July.

Jennica Gruver summarized the Memorial Day event at the State Capitol; stating that each year the crowds get bigger.

6. There was a discussion with regard to a request for Color Guards at the “Stadium of Fire” 4th of July celebration, as well as a system for handling future requests. Gary Harter and Terry Schow agreed to work on a procedure for such requests.
7. Bob Pagnani advised of an upcoming “Little Warriors” camp.
8. Paula Stephenson provided information on “Boys Nation.”
9. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 PM by Bob Pagnani. Our next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 16th at 4:00 PM, via Zoom online.