

Utah Veterans Advisory Council  
Minutes of Monthly Meeting  
October 15th, 2025

**Place:** Zoom online meeting

**Members Present:** Gary Harter, Bob Pagnani, John Robertson, Paula Stephenson, Angela Williams

**Excused:** Marti Bigbie, Laurie Charry, Dave Phillips, Steve Prestwich, Kerrie Witty

**Secretary:** Alan Ferner

**Guests:** Randy Edwards, Nancy Espinosa, Jennica Gruver, Jeff Hanson, Cory Pearson, Kayle Smith

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by Bob Pagnani. Bob introduced and welcomed those in attendance. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The minutes of our 17 September meeting were reviewed and approved by the members of the Council.
3. VA Regional Office: No report. Contact number is 1-800-827-1000.
4. VA Medical Center: Angela Williams advised that all metrics are good and they have not been significantly impacted by the Federal shutdown. Angela reported donations of turkey dinners for Thanksgiving. She added that the new Elko clinic should be opening in December. Angela also announced several upcoming Town Halls. They are now giving flu vaccines.
5. Utah Dept. Veterans & Military Affairs: Gary Harter congratulated the Nursing Homes for the recent excellent inspection report. Gary advised of the UVMA Commission meeting on 20 October and advised of the next meeting on 17 November. Gary then provided information on the new attack submarine, the USS Utah.

Jeff Hanson summarized the status of the four Utah Veteran Nursing Homes. The four Homes are at 94% occupancy, with 394 residents. He then stated that the recent National Cemetery inspection went very well, with a 100% rating in critical areas. The Southern Utah National Cemetery is now open. Federal funding for the new SLC Home is probably a few years out.

Cory Pearson updated us on the Governor's Suicide Prevention Program. The semi-annual VSO training a few weeks ago went very well. Cory reminded us of several upcoming events, such as the Centenarian Recognition on 6 November, the Southern Utah Business Conference on 7 November, and the 10 November event celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the U.S. Marines.

Jennica Gruver asked to be notified of any special Veterans Day events.

6. Randy Edwards spoke about community partnerships with Veterans in Utah County, and emphasized the active participation in such Veteran/Community Council meetings. Randy asked that State Dept. Commanders consider attending or appointing someone to attend these meetings throughout the State.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM by Bob Pagnani. Our next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19th at 4:00 PM, via Zoom online.