

Utah Veterans Advisory Council
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
August 19th, 2026

Place: Zoom online meeting

Members Present: Kent Anderson, Marti Bigbie, Joe Brusatto, Gary Harter, Jeff Jones, Bob Pagnani, Dave Phillips, Paula Stephenson, Tim VonBon, Angela Williams

Excused: Kim Albers

Secretary: Alan Ferner

Guests: Chris Brasted, Jennica Gruver, Jeff Hanson, Laurie Wynn

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM by Bob Pagnani. Bob introduced and welcomed those in attendance. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. The minutes of our 15 July meeting were reviewed and approved by the members of the Council.
3. VA Regional Office: Jeff Jones announced that Mike Crouse is relocating to DC, where he has advanced to the position of Medical Director for the Disabled Examination Office at the VA. Kim Albers will be the acting Director for the Salt Lake City VARO.
4. VA Medical Center: Angela Williams provided an update on the status of VA clinics in Utah. She then provided information for the upcoming virtual Town Halls. Angela also summarized a new program for filling prescriptions. Angela reported that the latest Trust Score for the VAMC is 94.7%.
5. Utah Dept. Veteran & Military Affairs: Gary Harter welcomed the new Utah Dept. Commanders to the Council: Kent Anderson (Am. Legion), Joe Brusatto (DAV), and Tim VonBon (VFW). Gary then reminded us that the Capitol Rotunda has been reserved for a special September 11th event.

Jeff Hanson summarized the status of the four Utah Veteran Nursing Homes. The four Homes are at 97 % occupancy, with 403 residents. Jeff advised that they anticipate selecting the contractor for the new SLC Home in early September; completion is planned for 2028. Jeff then summarized the scheduled cemetery construction projects. Jeff added that they expect to select a contractor for the Northern Utah Cemetery in September, with construction starting late this year.

Laurie Wynn provided information on the September 11th Memorial Event. It will be at the Capitol Rotunda and begin at 10:00 am. Also, they are finalizing plans for a “Mission Ready” event on 13 November. Laurie advised that Cory Pearson is attending a suicide prevention conference in Indiana.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM by Bob Pagnani. Our next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at 4:00 PM, via Zoom online.