

## Coppermine Veterans Organization Meeting Minutes

**Commander:** Laverne Tsosie, lavetsoisie74@yahoo.com, 623-237-2108

**Vice Commander:** Alfred Long

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Fern Bigman-Green

**Date:** 22 March 2024

*\*\*Notice is given to Coppermine Veterans Organization and the public that the Coppermine Veterans in District 1 will hold a regular meeting that is open to the public given this date above.\*\**

A. Roll Call- **See attached Log Sheet**

B. Meeting call to order: 5:22 MST

Quorum: 7

C. Formalities:

1. Invocation: Didi Sands

2. Guests Introductions: Harley's wife, Lavern's daughter,

D. Review and approve agenda:

Motion: Alex Whitehair & Allen Rock:                      YES: 5    NO: 0                      Abstain: 1

E. Review and approval of CVO meeting minutes for: February 15, 2024

Motion: Alex Whitehair 2<sup>nd</sup>: Harley Tsingine    YES: 6    NO: 0                      Abstain: 1

F. Guests/Reports:

**Commander:**

1. Veterans Assistance form is in the process of updating again for this next fiscal year. While the Policies also in the works, there have been word that they may take off the emergency assistance and home improvement to make it simpler to fill out.

2. Secretary position may be removed. This is also the year for re-election on secretary. Per Coppermine Veterans policy, each office shall be a two-year term with an unlimited number of re-election.

3. Assistance may be \$500.0 for the year.

4. Honorable discharge will be the only one accepted for FA etc.

5. Active duty, meaning if they are still serving, are not eligible for benefits.

6. These will be the changes by next fiscal year if the policies get approved and signed.

7. Current Veterans Trust Policy also does not state that a veteran does not need to be a registered voter to receive funding if the funds are coming out of the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund. It may be different if it's a supplemental fund coming from the Chapter. But it shouldn't differ.

8. Housing specialist resigned, and this is now an open position. Executive Director reported that there was 195 new home paperwork with completed applications and with Biological and Surveys completed in their applications.

9. VSO position is also still vacant. Open until filled.

10. Homes will be stick ADA homes meaning with rails, ramps, accessibility and uniformity.

11. Direct deposit is available on the NN website for future deposits of funds. There was only 1 person that turned it in from our chapter, which was turned in and processed to payroll.

12. Home loan program is available through Navajo Nation. Laverne has applications if needed or you can visit [www.nnoc.org](http://www.nnoc.org) website. Get an application if needed.

We may have a new member, Joslin Secody. However, contact numbers are also unavailable at WNVA office. A possible Navy veteran.

2. **Vice Commander:** Nothing to report currently. He is not available the first part of April.

3. **Secretary/Treasurer:** Nothing to report currently.

G. Old Business:

1. NNVTF: Re-budget/Update with Ferlin in June. We currently have \$3000 stipends available.
2. \$5K Jacket Awards Update: Alex Whitehair is spearheading this subject. 3 estimates were received:

1<sup>st</sup> Vendor: Bitahni Boutique, Page, AZ \$3046.43

2<sup>nd</sup> Vendor: Flag town Prints, Flagstaff, AZ \$2241.66

3<sup>rd</sup> Vendor: Signature T's, Farmington, NM \$3545.65.

Total order of 15 Veterans Jackets.

We are unable to get Leather men jackets with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, only fleece material. 1<sup>st</sup> Vendor has the Leather men Jackets that we can order. Companies cannot match the jackets.

Bitahni Boutique Company of Page already has the designs and digitized emblem for Coppermine Chapter, since they have already done jackets and prints in the past for veterans. Also to keep uniformity and originality from older jackets that have been already made in the past by Bitahni Boutique. The company also knows the color scheme. Keep business local. He can deliver a lot quicker. If there may be a deficiency, we can go less than 30 miles for corrections. Bitahni Boutique is a local Native Owned Business that we should support.

Motion to vote: 1<sup>st</sup>: Alex Whitehair 2<sup>nd</sup>: Alfred Long

Vote for 1<sup>st</sup> Vendor Bitahni Boutique: 7-0-1

Vote for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vendor Flag Town Prints: 0

Vote for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vendor Signature T's: 0

Resolution for the jackets will be presented at the next Chapter planning and regular meetings in April. If we have money left over, we can vote on blankets? To be discussed until the jackets are completed. 19 Veterans never received blankets. Or we can hold off on the blankets until we complete the jacket orders.

H. New Business:

1. \$4600.00 Chapter Veterans funds from a supplemental funding that was carried over more than 7 years ago. There are guidelines to using the money \$4600. We could designate into a different budget. Maybe from home improvement to awards. Since the NN VTF may go down to \$500.00. Leave the \$4600, until next month when there is more participation. Lavern, suggested designating this money for emergency assistance, such as burial, appoint travels, etc. At this time the subject of \$4600.00 is differed to next month.

2. New election for Commander: Laverne was re-elected by unanimous vote. Alex Whitehair second. Alex declined. Alex Whitehair suggested Alfred Long move up position from Vice commander to commander. Laverne made the choice to step down and let Alfred Long take the commander position.

Motion: Alex Whitehair, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Harley Tsingine Vote: 7 yes. 0 no. 1 abstain.

Alfred Long is the new commander starting next month.

J. Announcements:

1. Next Coppermine planning and regular meeting: April 2<sup>nd</sup> @2pm DST (planning). 5pm DST (Regular).
2. Next WNVA Commanders Meeting: April 16, 2024 @TBA
3. Next CVO meeting: Coppermine Chapter house 18 April @5pm MST (Page Time).
4. March 30, 2024, San Juan College, Farmington, NM: Women's Veterans Conference.

**\*\* Any questions, comments, concerns before we adjourn? \*\***

K. Adjournment: 6:35 MST