



**Agenda      Regular Meeting of the Veterans  
Advisory Board  
January 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM  
Virtual Meeting**

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**Procedures for Veterans Advisory Board Meeting**

**Join on Zoom:** [https://santafenm-  
gov.zoom.us/j/84030088562?pwd=ajZRV2pEMjM0SUlucmJCNk40U3FPQT09](https://santafenm.gov.zoom.us/j/84030088562?pwd=ajZRV2pEMjM0SUlucmJCNk40U3FPQT09)

**Meeting ID:** 840 3008 8562

**Passcode:** 586934

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Public Comment
6. New Business
  - a. VOTE on Approval to recommend Ari Jonty as new committee member. (Gary Donato, Chairperson)
  - b. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Veteran Military Day at the Roundhouse on February 3, 2026. Discussion will include Table Management by committee.
  - c. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Items to be brought before the meeting on February 21, 2026 between the Mayor and Chairperson Gary Donato. (Gary Donato, Chairperson)
7. Old Business
  - a. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 4th Quater Report of the Veterans Advisory Board (Jim Williams)
  - b. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Recommended changes from the board members on the Strategic Plan (Gary Donato, Chairperson)
8. Presentations

- a. Presentation from a representative of the Veteran Integration Center
9. Matters from the Committee
10. Matters from Staff
11. Next Meeting:
12. Adjourn

Closed captions are provided for this meeting. Persons with disabilities in need of additional accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 505-955-6521, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.



I would be honored to serve on the Santa Fe Veterans Advisory Board. Supporting veterans after military service matters deeply to me, especially in the day-to-day realities of civilian life. In Santa Fe, many veterans are navigating both the transition out of service and retirement, often on fixed incomes, while facing rising living costs and social isolation. I speak to these issues not only as an advocate, but as a veteran myself. I served as a sergeant in Unit 846 of the IDF, a combat intelligence unit responsible for frontline operational support, and experienced combat firsthand. Having served in a society where military service is compulsory and tightly woven into civilian life, I bring a perspective shaped by systems where the responsibility of caring for veterans is understood as a shared, societal obligation. Like many veterans, I faced real challenges adjusting to civilian life and spent years doing the work required to regain balance and clarity through therapy and personal growth. Over more than a decade, I have built practical experience, strong relationships, and connections to veteran resources across New Mexico, and I currently lead a nonprofit focused on community-based support for veterans. I chose to make Santa Fe my home after living in many places because of its diverse, interconnected community and the way different cultures coexist and support one another. I would welcome the opportunity to share that experience, help identify practical solutions, and contribute to recognizing the meaningful contributions local veterans have made to this community.

**Ari Jontry** | Executive Director, Argos Academy  
484.467.7633 | [ari@argosacademy.org](mailto:ari@argosacademy.org)



## ARI JONTRY

Executive Director, Argos Academy  
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### Summary

Veteran and nonprofit executive focused on veteran reintegration, leadership development, and community-based training. Executive Director of Argos Academy, a Santa Fe-based organization founded in 2023 that supports veterans through structured dog-training and peer-led programming.

### Leadership Experience

#### **Executive Director**, Argos Academy — Santa Fe, NM (2023 – Present)

Founder and Executive Director of a veteran-focused training organization using dog training as a practical framework for rebuilding structure, responsibility, and confidence. Design and lead hands-on programs that develop leadership, emotional regulation, and clear communication. Provide direct instruction and mentorship to veterans in both group and one-on-one settings. Oversee program development, partnerships, and overall organizational direction.

### Community Partnerships & Outreach

Active partnerships with the Santa Fe Vet Center and coordination with VA systems serving Northern New Mexico, including the New Mexico VA Health Care System in Albuquerque.

### Military Service

#### **Sergeant (NCO), Infantry Reconnaissance Unit (Sayeret Givati)**

Israel Defense Forces (1995 – 1999). Served as a noncommissioned officer in an elite infantry reconnaissance unit. Led small teams in training and operational environments. Developed deep experience in leadership, discipline, accountability, and decision-making under pressure.

### Education

**Bachelor of Arts**, St. John's College — Santa Fe, NM (2003)

### Core Focus Areas

Veteran mentorship • Leadership development • Program design • Community-based training • Nonprofit leadership