



## **DAV MN COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS 2025-2026**

### **DAV MN Executive Committee**

COMMANDER:	John Walker
SR VICE CDR:	Mike Medhaug
1 <sup>ST</sup> JR VICE CDR:	Sandi Braunstein
2 <sup>nd</sup> JR VICE CDR:	Rich Batcho
3 <sup>rd</sup> JR VICE CDR:	Bill Gordon
4 <sup>th</sup> JR VICE CDR:	Ken "Trapper" Olson
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Debra Petersen
CHAPLAIN:	Bob Heinz
TREASURER:	Scott Berndt
PDC:	Oather Martin
INSPECTOR GENERAL	Joe Litzinger
ADJUTANT (secretary):	Stephen Whitehead

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### **DAV OF MN Foundation Board of Directors**

<b>DIRECTORS:</b>	Mike McLaughlin
	Joel Schilling
	Paul Pederson
	Chris Magnusson
	Tony Tengwall
	Michael Medhaug
	Scott Berndt (Treas)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Lauri Brooke
<b>EX-OFFICIO:</b>	John Walker (CDR)
	Josh Vrtacnik
<b>ADVISOR</b>	Stephen Whitehead

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### **Finance Committee**

The Department Treasurer shall serve as chair of the Finance Committee. This appointment is for one (1) year or until removed by a majority vote of the Department Executive Committee. The remaining members of the Finance Committee shall include the Department Commander and three additional appointed members. The three appointed members shall serve as the Audit Committee in accordance with DAV National Constitution and Bylaws Section 9-3 para 1. The Department Senior Vice Commander and the Director of Operations shall be ex-officio members of said committee without vote, and the Department Adjutant shall be secretary of said committee without vote.

TREASURER	Scott Berndt
COMMANDER	John Walker
<b>APPOINTED:</b>	Jo Miller – Ch 10
	Jerry Bjerke – Ch 38
	Jeff Lubarski – Ch 2

**EX-OFFICIO:**

Josh Vrtacnik  
Michael Medhaug  
Stephen Whitehead

**SECRETARY:**

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**DAV MN Volunteerism/VAVS Committee**

**The** committee shall be chaired by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Vice Commander and members shall include MN Department VAWS **chair**, HSCs and LVAP Coordinator, a Past Department Commander (PDC) and two additional DAV MN community volunteers. **The** focus of the committee is the development and coordination of volunteer programs for VAMCs, CBOCs, Veterans Homes, and communities. Example activities include, but are not limited to: recruitment of VAWS and LVAP volunteers, coordination of volunteer recognition when appropriate (via Department Headquarters) and promoting/engaging in volunteerism (membership, auxiliary, youth, community members, etc

Rich Batcho – 2<sup>nd</sup> Jr Vice  
Dan Welsand -Ch 6  
John Carlson – Ch 1  
Ashley Hesse – Ch 39  
Rebecca Lhotak – Ch 25  
Cory Fouquette – Ch 37

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**DAV MN Membership Committee**

**The** committee shall be chaired by the Senior Vice Commander and members shall include the 4<sup>th</sup> Junior Vice Commander, a National Service Officer (NSO), a Past Department Commander (PDC) and two additional appointees. **The** focus of the committee is the development and coordination of an annual Department membership recruitment plan, assist with organization and recruitment for new Chapters, assist with Chapter restructuring and vitality where necessary and coordination of leadership development/education efforts.

Mike Medhaug – CHAIR  
Ken “Trapper” Olson – 4<sup>th</sup> Jr  
Josi Jensen Ch 2  
Wilson Spence - PDC  
Mike Chepa – Ch 32  
Charles Burns - NSO

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**DAV MN Transportation Committee**

**The** committee shall be chaired by the Department Transportation Director and members shall include the 3<sup>RD</sup> Jr. Jr vice, Department Treasurer, one Past Department Commander (PDC), and two additional appointees. **The** focus of the committee is the oversight of all aspects of the DAV MN transportation program to ensure it continually meets the needs of veterans in an efficient manner. The committee is also charged with establishing and maintaining optimal relations with any entities necessary to maintain an effective transportation program.

Stephanie Zeimetz  
John Walker - CDR  
Scott Berndt - Trea  
Ellsworth Fields - PDC  
Bill Gordon - Ch 39  
Tom Annonson – Ch 7  
Dan Welsand – Ch 6

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## DAV MN Outdoors Committee

**The** committee shall be chaired by the 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander and members shall include the Department Adjutant as an ex-officio member, Event Coordinator, a Past Department Commander (PDC) and three additional appointed members to represent the interests of veterans in various regions of Minnesota. **The** focus of the committee is the development and coordination of therapeutic outdoors recreational events for disabled veterans. The committee is tasked with developing relationships with businesses, outfitters and other organizations involved in outdoor activities to expand and enhance MN DAV Outdoors events.

Sandi Braunstein (C)  
John Carson (COORD)  
Kim Waln Ch 12  
Roland Mammenga Ch 12  
Darren Brooke – Ch 38  
Oather Martin - PDC

### ADVISORS

John Walker (CDR)  
Stephen W (ADJ)

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## DAV MN Time and Place Committee

**The** committee shall be chaired by the Department Adjutant (or designee) and members shall include the NSO Supervisor, DAV MN Administrative Specialist, Judge Advocate and a Past Department Commander (PDC). **The** focus of this committee is the annual review of the upcoming Spring Convention and Fall Conference sites to ensure readiness and capacity. The committee is tasked with solicitation for information, reviews and recommendations of sites for the open dates for future Conventions and Conferences (normally two years in advance).

Stephen W -CHAIR  
Charles Burns  
Debra Petersen  
Scott Berndt

### ADVISORS:

Gina Lindell

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## DAV MN Legislative Committee

**The** committee shall be chaired by the Department Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL) and members shall include Department Senior Vice Commander, a Past Department Commander (PDC) and three additional Chapter Benefits Protection Team members. **The** focus of the committee is to develop and coordinate legislative initiatives that will benefit disabled veterans, their dependents and/or survivors.

### DEPT BPTL

Trent Dilks BPTL  
Mike Medhaug  
Bill Wroolie - PDC  
Ross LaCourt – Ch 40  
Natalie Petersen – Ch 22  
George Hunt – Ch 1  
Josi Jensen – Ch 2

## Interim and Convention Committees

**The** DAV of MN Convention Committees will be in session at the annual convention and members will be appointed from the ranks of the attending convention delegates. The core members of these committees are

appointed by the Department Commander/Adjutant. Additional members can attend the committee meetings as non-voting members.

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**Women Veterans Committee**

Diane Keith Ch 1  
Roxanne Twistol Ch 39  
Dawn Batcho Ch 38  
Melissa Franz Ch 2  
Lori Belschner Ch 40

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**COMMANDER'S ADVISORY committee**

Oather Martin  
Dean Ascheman  
Ellsworth Fields

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**V4V TRUST FUND – DAV APPOINTEES:**

Ellsworth Fields – 1 YR  
Reggie Worlds – 2 YR

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**DAV MN Department Scholarship**

Joel Schilling  
Sandi Braunstein  
Oather Martin  
Bob Heinz

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**DAV MN Constitution and Bylaws**

Debra Petersen \_ JA  
Josh Vrtacnik – Deputy Ad  
Jim Storlie – Ch 12  
Angelica Reincke – Ch 28  
Tom Annonson – Ch7

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**Nominating Committee**

Greg Remus  
Rick Jarvis  
Oather Martin  
Joel Schilling  
Stan Heuer

**Additional Committees** - The DAV of MN Department Commander has the authority to appoint any additional interim committees he/she deems necessary.

**DAV MN APPOINTMENTS**

CHIEF OF STAFF

Ellsworth Fields

**AIDE TO STATE COMMANDER**

NEWSPAPER EDITOR

FTS EMPLOYEE

WEBMASTER

Ryan Emerson

STATE VAVS CHAIR

Bill Johnson

MPLS VAVS

John Carlson  
Jerry Botcher  
Diane Keith

ST. CLOUD VAVS

Zach Johnson  
Brandon Rogers

VAVS FARGO

Rich Batcho

VAVS SIOUX FALLS

Darwin Sietsema

FT. SNELLING NATL CEMETERY

Ken Gibson

SERVICEMENS CENTER REP

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COMMANDERS TASKFORCE

John Walker

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### AMBASSADORS

MN DVA

Stephen Whitehead

DAV MN Auxiliary

Scott Berndt

MN COUNCIL FOR VETERANS (MAC-V)

Stephen Whitehead

HASTINGS VETERANS HOME

Bob Heinz

SILVER BAY VETERANS HOME

Pat Shaw

FERGUS FALLS VETERANS HOME

Rebecca Lhotak

MPLS VETERANS HOME

Joel Schilling

LUVERNE VETERANS HOME

Mike Chepa

Montevideo Veterans Home

Ken "Trapper" Olson

Preston Veterans Home

Amy Smith

Bemidji Veterans Home

Ward Sutton

CVSO ASS'N

Jerry Bjerke

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### NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

AIDE TO NATIONAL COMMANDER

Bob Heinz

NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

Mike McElhiney