



DAV MN COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS 2026-2027

DAV MN Executive Committee

COMMANDER:	Mike Medhaug
SR VICE CDR:	Sandi Braunstein
1 ST JR VICE CDR:	Rich Batcho
2 nd JR VICE CDR:	Ken "Trapper" Olson
3 rd JR VICE CDR:	Bill Gordon
4 th JR VICE CDR:	Jeff Lubarski
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Debra Petersen
CHAPLAIN:	Eusebia "Chappy" Rios
TREASURER:	Scott Berndt
PDC:	John Walker
INSPECTOR GENERAL	Joe Litzinger
ADJUTANT (secretary):	Stephen Whitehead

DAV OF MN Foundation Board of Directors

DIRECTORS:	Mike McLaughlin
	Joel Schilling
	Paul Pederson
	Curt Cannon
	Anthony Schnellbach
	Sandi Braunstein
	Scott Berndt (Treas)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	John Carson
EX-OFFICIO:	Mike Medhaug (CDR)
	Josh Vrtacnik
ADVISOR	Stephen Whitehead
	Lauri Brooke

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	Mike Medhaug
APPOINTED:	Jo Miller – Ch 10
	Jerry Bjerke – Ch 38
	Jeraldine Harvey – Ch 7

EX-OFFICIO:

Josh Vrtacnik
Sandi Braunstein
Stephen Whitehead

SECRETARY:

DAV MN Volunteerism/VAVS Committee

The committee shall be chaired by the 2nd 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

Ken "Trapper" Olson 2nd Jr Vice
Dan Welsand -Ch 6
Wilson Spence - PDC
Stephanie Zeimetz
Bob Heinz – Ch 2
Matthew Chambers Ch 28
Jeff Tessman Ch 31

DAV MN Membership Committee

The committee shall be chaired by the Senior Vice Commander and members shall include the 4th 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.

Sandi Braunstein– CHAIR
Jeff Lubarski– 4th Jr
Al Holton - PDC
Mike Chepa – Ch 32
Charles Burns – NSO
Joslyn Jensen – Ch 2

DAV MN Transportation Committee

The committee shall be chaired by the Department Transportation Director and members shall include the 3RD 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.

William Gordon -3rd Jr. Vice
Stephanie Zeimetz
Mike Medhaug - CDR
Scott Berndt - Treas
Van Karg - PDC
Dawn Batcho – Ch 38
Dan Welsand – Ch 6
Greg Peterson – Ch 15

DAV MN Outdoors Committee

The committee shall be chaired by the 1st 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.

Rich Batcho (C)
Tony Tengwall (COORD)
Dave Valtinson PDC
Kim Waln Ch 12
Brooke Colby Ch 32
Darren Brooke – Ch 38
Tony Christensen – Ch 31
Rebecca Llotak Ch 25
Billy Ayers Ch 38

ADVISORS

Mike Medhaug (CDR)
Stephen W (ADJ)
Oather Martin

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

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
Sandi Braunstein
Ellsworth Fields - PDC
Jon Kolstad – Ch 22
Natalie Petersen – Ch 22
George Hunt – Ch 1
Ashely Hesse Ch 38
Jeff Lubarski – 4th Jr

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.

Women Veterans Committee

Diane Keith Ch 1
Dawn Batcho Ch 38
Becky Killinger – Ch 39
Kerrie Klovstad – Ch 23
Melissa Franz – Ch 2

COMMANDER'S ADVISORY committee

Van Karg PDC

V4V TRUST FUND – DAV APPOINTEES:

Ellsworth Fields – 2 YR
John Walker – 1 YR

DAV MN Department Scholarship

Ken "Trapper" Olson
John Walker
Jeff Kronback

DAV MN Constitution and Bylaws

Debra Petersen _ JA
Josh Vrtacnik – Deputy Ad
Ellsworth Fields -PDC
Jim O'Brien Ch 28
Kerrie Klovstad Ch 23
Kevin Burns Ch 38
Roxanne Twistol Ch 39
Rebecca Lhotak Ch 25

Nominating Committee

John Walker - Chair
Scott Berndt
Oather Martin
Jo Miller – Ch 10
Jerry Bjerke – Ch 38
John Carson - Advisor

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