

**Disabled American Veterans Minneapolis Chapter One
Chapter Meeting Minutes**

Date: April 5, 2022

1. OPENING CEREMONY BY THE COMMANDER:

- Call to Order: Meeting Declared Open at 6:55pm
- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Single Purpose Message:

"Empowering veterans to lead high quality lives with respect & dignity. This is accomplished by ensuring the following:

- I. That veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them.*
- II. Fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill.*
- III. Educating the public about the sacrifice and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.*

2. ROLL CALL BY THE ADJUTANT:

Role	Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Board Members				
Commander	Schilling	X		
Sr Vice	Johnson	X		
1st Jr Vice	Carlson	X		
2nd Jr Vice	Campero	X		
3rd Jr Vice	Herold	X		
Adjutant/Treasurer	Turbett	X		
Chaplain	Hunt	X		
Staff Members				
CSO	Campero	X		
Legislative Advisor	Campero	X		
Fundraising Advisor	Hentz	X		
IT	Wytonick	X		
Transition Advisor	McKenna		X	
Outreach	LeTourneau	X		
NSO/Benefits Advisor	Velardi		X	

3. VISITORS/GUESTS/NEW MEMBERS:

- Visitors: C. Crosby, E. Turbett & J. Ostby
- Guest Speakers: Current Dept. Commander DAV MN R. Haugen & Deputy Adjutant/Dir of Ops DAV MN J. Vrtanik
- Member's First Meeting: S. Brahn & R. Ostby
- New Member's to be sworn in: S. Brahn & R. Ostby

4. ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

- March 3, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
- Motion to approve by Campero, Seconded by Hunt, Carried.

5. MEMBER ILLNESS OR IN DISTRESS REPORT BY CHAPLAIN:

- Illness: None
- Deceased: Allen J. Morford, James J. Schinke & Charles A. White
- Moment of Silence for the Departed Comrades – Members please stand & salute.

6. UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

a. Future Membership Meetings

- April 25, 2022 **100th Anniversary**
- April 27, 2022 Executive Board Meeting
- May 3, 2022 Chapter Meeting
- May 25, 2022 No Executive Board Meeting
- May 31, 2022 No Chapter Meeting
- June 29, 2022 No Executive Board Meeting
- **Due to COVID all dates and meeting arrangements are subject to change**

b. DAV Mid-Winter Conference 2022

- February 27 - March 2, 2022 Washington, D.C.
- G. Hunt After Action Report: 1st time going to Washington, D.C. via DAV.
Met with others who represented DAV statewide & nationally. Very thankful for this opportunity & was able to watch how legislation is changed.

c. DAV Minneapolis Chapter 1 100th Anniversary Plans

- April 5, 2022 Chapter Meeting
Read: Proclamation from State of MN

State of Minnesota Proclamation

Whereas: Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #1 Minneapolis has been a staunch advocate for veterans and their families since 1922; and

Whereas: Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #1 was founded April 1922 by a group of 13 men and a woman who endured the hardship of World War I and joined together to advance the cause of disabled veterans; and

Whereas: Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #1 has for 100 years is the 1st and largest Disabled American Chapter within the state of Minnesota, with over 3,000 current members; and

Whereas: Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #1 for 100 years has been empowering veterans to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity; and

Whereas: Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #1 for 100 years has been empowering veterans to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity; and

Whereas: Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #1 has ensured that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; and

Whereas: Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #1 for a century has educated the public about the sacrifice and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life after war time and military service; and

Whereas: Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #1 has been instrumental in informing elected official of the unique challenges of injured veterans; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2022 as:

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #1, Minneapolis MN Day

Comments from Dept Commander R. Haugen

Comments from Deputy Adjutant/Dir of Ops DAV MN J. Vrtanik

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- April 13, 2022 Saint Paul Saints Game
100th Anniversary shout out – Schilling
- April 23, 2022 MN Twins Game
Plan to distribute tickets & updated game time
- April 29, 2022 100th Anniversary at DAV MN Spring Convention
Anniversary recognition from DAV National

d. DAV MN Spring Convention

- April 28th – April 30th, 2022 @ Kelly Inn St. Cloud, MN
- Room rates \$104 per night
- Currently plan to attend: Schilling, Wytonick & Guest, Hunt, Jaruszewski & Guest, Campero & Hamann

e. Nominations for Chapter Officers

Commander	Nomination: Bill Johnson
Sr. Vice Commander	Nomination: George Hunt
1st Junior Vice Commander	Nomination: Bob Cargill
2nd Junior Vice Commander	Nomination: Louis Campero
3rd Junior Vice Commander	Nomination: Elston Johnson
Treasurer	Nomination: Stephenie Turbett
Chaplain	Nomination: Mark Tessmer

- Motion to approve all candidates at once by Jaruszewski, Seconded by Hamann, Carried.
- Chapter members in attendance voted in favor of all nominees and were sworn in by Department Commander DAV MN R. Haugen
- 2022-2023 DAV Chapter #1 Commander appointed Joel Schilling for Adjutant

f. Spring Forget Me Nots

- Friday April 1, 2022 & Saturday April 2, 2022
- Friday April 29, 2022 & Saturday April 30, 2022

7. NEW BUSINESS & GENERAL INFORMATION:

a. QuickBooks

- Wytonick: Current plan to keep operation system as is & use in conjunction with excel spreadsheet from MN Dept for Annual Fiscal Report

b. Annual DAV MN Golf Classic

- Tuesday July 26, 2022 at Crystal Lake Golf Course in Lakeville, MN
- \$2,500 – 1 Foursome
- Motion to approve by Jaruszewski, Seconded by LeTourneau, Carried.

c. Veterans Day on the Hill

- Wednesday April 20, 2022 – transportation provided by American Legion Bloomington @ 9:15am Address: 311 W 84th St, Bloomington, MN 55420
- Pre-Rally at St. Paul Armory: 600 Cedar St, St. Paul, MN 55101
- Doors Open at 10:00am with Lunch at 11:00am
- March to the Rally at State Veterans Services Building: 20 West 12th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
- Veterans March to the Rally at 12:45pm & Rally at the Capitol 1-2pm

d. Request for funding from Normandale Community College

- Scholarship request for \$3,000 – Tabled for Next Board & Chapter Meeting

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Legislative Committee:

- Shared the *Minnesota Commander's Task Force 2022 Legislative Priorities* <https://mnctf.org/legislative/>
- *Increase the state grant give to veteran service organizations*
 - The annual grant for veteran service organizations has been decreasing over the past several years and has not been updated since 2009. We urge lawmakers to increase it to \$1 million for the sake of bolstering our nonprofit and effective efforts to help veterans in our communities statewide.
- *Pay a bonus to post-9/11 veterans, much like Minnesota did for veterans of other wars*
 - The state of Minnesota has paid bonuses to veterans of previous wars but has not yet paid veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We feel 2022 would be within the same after-action timeframe the other bonuses to other veterans were paid. We propose paying combat veterans \$1,000, era veterans \$500, and next of kin of servicemembers who died as a result of military action

\$1,500 to show our state's appreciation for their service over the preceding 20 years of war.

- *Give property-tax relief for post homes*
 - State and county tax entities claim different interpretations of the property tax laws. Meanwhile, posts are closing as a result of heavy property tax burdens. Zero tax would remove any confusion. Post homes for the American Legion, VFW, and other veteran service organizations donate so much time, money, and building space in their communities while at the same time they struggle to remain open. The CTF would like the state to give 100 percent property-tax relief to posts who own buildings available to their communities.
- *Reduce the cost of hunting, trapping and fishing licenses for disabled veterans*
 - We are working hand-in-hand with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to reduce the cost of hunting, trapping and fishing licenses for serve-connected disabled veterans. We advocate for the Minnesota Legislature to approve the result of this proposal, as it would likely increase net license revenue for the DNR and give Veterans the health benefits that come from the great outdoors.
- *Modify the definition of a veteran*
 - This proposal modifies existing language to include former service personnel of the Armed Forces of the United States who were granted service-connected disabilities by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs but, under current language, do not qualify for Minnesota state-level veterans benefits.
- *Require county recorders to document discharge papers for all branches of the military*
 - As it stands, state law requires county recorders only to document discharge papers for servicemembers who left the Army, Navy and Marines. This corrective legislation would add Coast Guard, Air Force and Space Force.
- *Eliminate 2-year rule for DIC recipients*
 - The current exclusion reads that the application for exclusion must be made by the surviving spouse within two years of the death of the veteran. This limited language doesn't allow for cases where the VA may take more than two years to make the proper decision for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). It also excludes the vast majority of surviving spouses made eligible by the recent changes to Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans who may have passed away while being denied all benefits.
- *Provide a percentage-based change to Homestead Market Value Exclusion*
 - This proposal is a two-part initiative to improve the current benefit for those receiving it and to expand the benefit to more of our service-connected disabled veterans in Minnesota. Part one is to make the benefit based on the percentage of the rated service-connected disability proportionate to the

maximum benefit. Example a 70% service-connected would receive 70% of the maximum exclusion, so \$210,000 of the maximum \$300,000. The second part is to expand the benefit to all veterans 50% service-connected or greater.

- b. Membership & Meeting Attendance Committee: Sr. Vice
 - Review monthly report:
 - Current total members 3076, (-9) from goal (3085)
 - New Member \$100/Chapter \$100/Department Match \$100
- c. Treasurer

9. OPEN DISCUSSION BY COMMANDER:

- a. Questions/Discussion topics:
 - Wytonick – Twins Tickets

10. GOOD OF THE ORDER ACTIVITIES:

- a. Winners: G. Hunt, J. Johns, I. Afwerke, R. Kopischke, J. Kopischke & V. Hentz

11. CLOSING CEREMONIES:

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|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| a. Single Purpose Reminder | Commander | |
| b. Purpose of Gathering | Commander | |
| c. Salute to the Flag | Commander | |
| d. Prayer | Chaplain | |
| e. Date of Next Board Meeting | Commander | <u>April 27, 2022</u> |
| f. Date of Next Chapter Meeting | Commander | <u>May 3, 2022</u> |
| g. Declaration of Adjournment | Commander | |

12. ADJOURN:

Motioned by Campero, Seconded by Hunt, Carried.
Meeting Adjourned at: 8:05pm