

Family Council Matters Newsletter

MVH-Minneapolis



September 2025

Picnic Highlights

After a one-year hiatus due to COVID, the Annual Family Council Potluck Picnic was held this year on Sunday, August 10th. About 150 family members, friends, and their loved ones who live at the Vets Home, gathered in the Building 22 Community Room to eat, play games, have manicures, smile, and laugh lots! We had picnic-perfect weather too!

There was a delicious assortment of main/side dishes and desserts that families provided. White Castle hamburgers and cheeseburgers were provided by the Family Council. Plus, root beer floats were provided and served by the Vettes for Vets Club of Shakopee.

A special thank you to Vets Home staff, as well as members of the Vettes for Vets Club of Shakopee, who truly went all out to make sure this year's picnic goes had way too much fun! The positive energy was palpable throughout the day!

Five folks won the drawing, each receiving a \$25 Target Gift Card. Families from Building 22 won the "Are you Smarter than a Fifth Grader" competition. After that, we situated ourselves along the sidewalk at the Main Entrance to watch the parade of vintage Corvettes, with revving engines and honking horns, drive by. Then it was time for more food, so we lined up in the Building 19 Atrium for root beer floats.

One last thing, before the meal, Chaplain Brandon said a prayer, then shared this inspiring story.

Consider the redwood trees. You know, the ones you can drive your car through in California because they grow so big? How tall do you think they get to be? Some can grow as tall as 300 feet! Just imagine. Trees typically have root systems that grow as deep as they are tall. So, how deep do you think a redwood tree's roots go? It turns out that,

Please Join Us for the
Monthly Family Council Meeting
In Person
And Online (Listen Only)
Building 21, Theater Room
Saturday, September 13, 2025
Come Early for the Social Half-Hour
11:45am till 12:15pm
Followed by the Meeting
12:15pm till 2:00pm
Speaker:
Andrew Weir
Pharmacy Director
Minneapolis Vets Home

because they grow in rocky, mountainous soil, a redwood tree root system typically goes 6-12 feet underground. How in the world can a tree that grows 300 feet tall, not blow over in wind or fall over in rain, with roots that only go six feet down?!!

This is the beauty of the trees — their roots grow out and intertwine with the roots of other redwood trees. When the winds blow, the trees literally help hold each other up by their root systems. This is exactly what happens among the families who participate in the Family Council. We get to hold each other up! On the bad days when the winds feel like they are really blowing, we hold each other up so no one falls. On the really good days when all is well, we share this joy with others around us.



Our condolences go out to the families and friends whose loved one recently passed away.

2025 Meeting Dates

**Second Saturday of
Each Month at 12:15pm
In-Person and
Online (Listen Only)**

**September 13
October 11
November 8
December 13**

Events In September

The Family Council is sponsoring the following river boat trips, reenactment, and concert. Families and their loved ones living at the Vets Home are invited to attend!

River Boat Trip Departs Dock: Noon

Building 19

19-3, Sept 5, Olena Miller, 612.548.5757

Building 21

21-3, Sept 12, Linnea Gunard, 612.548.5761



Reenactment: Soldiers of the American Revolution

Friday, September 19, 1:30pm
Building 19 Community Room



Castaways Concert

Monday, September 22, 2:00pm
Building 19 Community Room



Thank You's

A heartfelt thank you to Leslie Erickson, for making a generous donation to the Family Council in memory of Gerald Johnson.

Another heartfelt thank you to Judith Costello, for making a generous donations to the Family Council in memory of Mike Costello.

One more heartfelt thank you to BBGF Best Buy Payments, for making a generous donation to the Family Council.

Officer of the Day (OD)

MVH-Minneapolis

612-221-6389 or 612-210-6295

Call at Night and on Weekends

At Other Times,

Please Call Unit or Building Manager

Ombudsman for MVH-Minneapolis

Anna Solowiej

651-703-6290

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Family Council Officers Contact Information

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Secretary

Jane Hanzalik

Treasurers

Kirk Larson/Diane Windham

Members-at-Large

Sandy Gibson

Cindy Hauwiler

Amy Schall

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The MVH-Minneapolis Family Council is a volunteer not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.