

Family Council Matters Newsletter

MVH-Minneapolis



December 2025

December Events

On Wednesday, December 3rd, from 9:00am until 3:00pm, and Thursday, December 4th, from 9:00am until 12:00 Noon, in keeping with a longstanding tradition, the American Legion Auxiliary will be sponsoring a Gift Shop in the Building 6 Craft Room. At the Gift Shop, our Veterans who live at the MVH-Minneapolis will be invited to choose up to two gifts; one for themselves, and another for a loved one or caregiver. Gifts are labeled and wrapped at no cost, then given to our loved ones to open during an upcoming visit. They are welcome to visit the gift shop on the day and time that works best for their schedule. If he or she cannot go to the Gift Shop on their own, the social worker will bring them, or shop for them. Watch for more details about the Gift Shop to be posted around campus.

Written by Jeanine Arneberg, Dietary Director.

On Wednesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve, we are excited to host our Holiday Party from 9:00am to 12:00 Noon on each resident unit. Families and visitors are warmly invited to join us for this festive celebration. Families will be able to eat with their loved ones on the unit so they can enjoy the music and gift opening as well, but space will be limited. Brunch will be served in the Building 22 first-floor Community Room starting at 10:30am. Families and staff are welcome to enjoy the meal at no cost. The menu will include a variety of delicious options such as fresh fruit, waffles, omelets, and hashbrown bake. We encourage you to arrive early to secure convenient parking, as this event is usually well-attended. If you plan to bring more than four guests, please inform your loved one's Recreation Therapist at least one week in advance. We look forward to celebrating the holiday season together!

Our loved ones will receive an additional gift during the Holiday Party. And here is the backstory on that ... the extra gifts are possible because of the MVH-Minneapolis Adopt-a-Vet Program, which began in 2003. This program consists of organizations, and also individuals, who Adopt a Veteran at Christmas. This "adoption" process involves purchasing a gift for our loved ones from a wish list that is created by his or her Recreation Therapist, who consults with nursing staff about it,

Please Join Us for the
Monthly Family Council Meeting

In Person

And Online (Listen Only)

Building 21, Theater Room

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Come Early for the Social Half-Hour

11:45am till 12:15pm

**Topic: Election of 2026 Family
Council Officers**



**Then it's time for our
Holiday Party!**

as well as has conversations with our loved ones, and in some cases asks family members for gift ideas. Based on all this information, the adopting groups take it from there. It is a "feel good" program that feels as good to give, as it does to get!

Also on Tuesday, December 24th, a Worship Service is scheduled at 1:30pm in the Building 19 Community Room. Everyone is welcome!

Holidays, Gifts, and Staff

Just a friendly reminder, per Minneapolis Vets Home Policy, employees are not permitted to accept gifts from residents and/or their families. However, treats or snacks can be given to the staff of an entire floor or team to be shared by all, such as a sheet cake or basket of fruit.





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

2026 Meeting Dates

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

January 10

February 14

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 13

July 11

August 8

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12

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
Email: anna.solowiej@state.mn.us
Website: <https://mn.gov/ooltc/>

Thank You's

A heartfelt thank you to The Adamski Family Fund for making a generous donation to the Family Council in memory of Paul Carl Nagel, Junior.

Another heartfelt thank you to Wells Fargo BBGF for making a generous donation to the Family Council.

One last heartfelt thank you to the Hugo American Legion for making another generous donation to the Family Council.

Family Council Officer Elections

At the December Family Council, we will elect officers for 2026. If you currently have a loved one living at the Vets Home, and are interested in volunteering to serve as an officer, please let us know. Thank you for thinking about it!

Family Council Officer Contact Information

Co-Chairs

Kirk Larson, 612-708-8483

kirkisatwin@gmail.com

Diane Windham, 763-657-1443

diane@dwindham.net

Secretary

Jane Hanzalik

Treasurers

Kirk Larson/Diane Windham

Members-at-Large

Sandy Gibson

Cindy Hauwiller

Amy Schall

Website: <http://mn.gov/mdva/homes/minneapolis/>

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