

DAV ...from Page 1A

enough to spread the hope around, to find a new facility and to go out into the community and present yourselves as a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

"For that, the state of Georgia thanks you, and I, as the Northwest District Commander, thank you. You folks have done an excellent job."

All newly appointed officers lined the front of the room, shoulder to shoulder, with the soon to be instated commanding officer placing his left hand on the American flag, as each member repeated the DAV Oath of Office, promising to uphold and respect their individual positions.

Each new officer avowed the following:

"Upon my word and honor, as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, in the presence of Almighty God, and my comrades, and before the flag of my country, accept the office to which I have been elected or appointed. I promise to perform the duties of such office to the best of my ability.

"I pledge to act and conduct myself, in such a manner, at all times and places, as will only affect the good of the order. I promise to enforce and sustain the constitution and bylaws of this organization.

"When my successor has been duly elected or appointed, and installed, I promise to surrender to him or her, all the property of the order, in my possession. All of which, I now affirm."

The 2017 slate of officers for the DAV are as follows:

Mike Ruback, Commander; George Fischbach, Senior Vice Commander; Art Patchin, Junior Vice Commander; Jack Dugger, Chaplain; Roy Hamby, JAG; Art McCann, Adjutant; Bryan Sandberg, Treasurer; Bob Spaulding, Service Officer; and Gene Lawrence, Sergeant at Arms.



DAV Commander Mike Ruback

Ruback, who helped found Union County's chapter of the organization, shared his gratitude for all the members' continuous support and dedication, and for allowing him to serve another term as the chapter's commander.

"It was a great year that we had last year, again," said Ruback. "I am commander again this year, and we have a great group of senior vice and junior vice that I know it is going to be great this year. They're going to support me and help me to make sure we have a great year this year as well."

After the ceremony, the members adjourned the meeting to have dinner at Rib Country for good food and good fellowship with friends as the group looks forward to another year of community success.

The Disabled American Veterans organization is a nonprofit charity that assists in providing lifelong support

and comradery for veterans and their families. Each year, the organization helps more than a million veterans and their families by way of transportation to medical appointments to assisting veterans with benefit claims.

As of today, the DAV has extended to close to 1,300 chapters and 1.3 million members nationwide. According to the organization's website, the DAV "empowers our nation's heroes and their families by helping to provide the resources they need and ensuring our nation keeps the promises made to them."

For those interested in joining the DAV, the group meets on the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Maj. Leon Davenport Veterans Center.

Annual membership fees vary, depending on the age of the individual. For more information, visit www.dav.org.

Williams...from Page 1A

said Dr. Williams. "I have been immensely blessed by the support and opportunities in Union County and will continue to be an advocate for all children.

"The people of Union County are very special to my family through the friendships along the way. As we anticipate the move to Gainesville, we thank the community for their continued support."

Williams has been with Union County Schools since July of 2012, following the departure of former Assistant Superintendent Ronnie Byers, who retired in November of 2011.

Prior to his move to Union, Williams served as director of evaluation and assessment for Pioneer RESA, after which he came to Union County to work with former Union County Schools Superintendent Gary Steppe.

At the time of his hire here, Williams received praise and recommendations from respected educators across the region, for his professionalism and work ethic.

And since his arrival in Union County in 2012,

Williams has been a strong advocate for the children of the county.

When construction of the Union County Schools Fine Arts Center finally neared completion in 2015, after years of delays between two voter-approved SPLOST referendums amid tough to improving economic times, Williams showcased a philosophy of student and community involvement in a statement to the North Georgia News.

"First of all, it's going to be able to propel opportunities for our students," said Williams of the Fine Arts Center. "But then, it's also going to provide the community a place to come and see the work our kids have done, to possibly have other events as well that don't just benefit the schools, but that benefit the community."

Between now and May 1, Williams will be busy finalizing the full terms of his contract with Gainesville City Schools, as well as setting a date for his transition to Gainesville.

Williams is familiar with Gainesville City Schools through his work

with the Pioneer RESA, and he also underwent an eight-week teaching practicum at Gainesville Middle School before moving on to full student teaching at Brookwood High School in Gwinnett County at the start of his teaching career.

He will replace Gainesville City Schools Superintendent Wanda Creel, who has held the position since July of 2014.

"The Gainesville City School Board of Education unanimously voted to name Dr. Jeremy Williams as the sole finalist for the position of Superintendent for the Gainesville City School System that is being vacated by Dr. Wanda Creel," according to a statement available at the system's website, <http://www.gcssk12.net>.

The April regular meeting of the Union County Board of Education has been changed to Thursday, April 20, with a work session to begin at 6 p.m. and the meeting to start at 7 p.m.

Spring Break was last week, giving faculty, staff and students a weeklong break from school.

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