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Monthly Newsletter  
February 2020

North Central MN Chapter #7  
PO Box 564  
Bemidji, MN 56619



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**DAV Headquarters at**  
**5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN**  
**Monday, February 17th at 6pm**

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## CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER:	Mike Zimmerman - (218) 556-4633
SENIOR VICE:	Joe Vene - (218) 556-5478
JUNIOR VICE:	Gene Schwantes
ADJUTANT:	David Myers
SERVICE OFFICERS:	Scotty Allison
TREASURER:	Scotty Allison
CHAPLAIN:	Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015
CHAPLAIN (ALT.):	Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Aagard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Mike Gutz, Tom Annonson

## ATTENTION CHAPTER #7 MEMBERS!

The General membership meetings are now being  
"Called to Order" at 1800 Hrs. (6 P.M.)  
instead of 1900 Hrs. (7 P.M.).

## CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Feb 14th - Valentine's Day

Feb 17th - President's Day

Feb 17th - Election of Chapter Officers at the General  
membership meeting @ 1800 Hours

Feb 22nd-26th DAV Nation Mid-Winter Conference

Mar 3rd - Super Tuesday  
(primary elections and caucuses)



Mar 16th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours

Apr 20th - Veterans on the Hill Day held at the Capitol  
in St Paul, MN

Apr 27th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours

May 7th-9th - DAV MN Convention in Saint Cloud, MN

<https://davmn.org/Events/dav-mn-annual-convention-2/>

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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON JANUARY 20 2020 AT 1800.

- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance

## A. Roll Call of Officers to determine if quorum is present:

Commander	Mike Zimmerman	Present
Senior Vice Commander	Joe Vene	Excused
Junior Vice Commander	Gene Schwantes	Present
Adjutant	David Myers	Excused
Treasurer	Scotty Allison	Present
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Present
Judge Advocate	Bruce Holden	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Present
Officer of the Day	Glen Agard	Excused
Historian	Vacant	N/A

## B. Members present: 15

## C. Introduction of guests or visitors, prospective new members, and transfers to Chapter #7.

1. Guests/Visitors: None
2. Prospective new members: None
3. Transfers in: None

## D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of November 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 were read. Motion to approve made by Andy Staudt, *seconded by Randy Hanevold. Motion Carried.*

## E. Financial Reports given by Treasurer Scotty Allison:

1. 1 - 30 November 2019, Motion to approve by Darrel Baltzell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bruce Tiegen. *Motion Carried.*
2. 1 - 31 December 2019: Motion to approve by Steve Siats, 2<sup>nd</sup> Randy Hanevold. *Motion Carried.*

## F. New Member Obligation: None

## G. Communications: The following communications were received:

1. Various donations, as well as thank you notes.
2. All are stored in the November/December 2019 folder or the January 2020.

## H. Committee Reports:

1. Membership Report: No report
2. Service Officer Report: No report
3. Legislative Report: Discussed Bluewater veterans processing
4. Hospital Chaplain Report (Includes Sickness and Distress): One hospital visit made
5. Entertainment: After action report on the Christmas party. There were 88 in attendance.
6. Fundraising committee: Nothing new to report.
7. Newsletter Committee: All articles and submissions need to be in by Friday 26 January.
8. Medical Equipment:
  - i) Distributed: 8
  - ii) Received: 19

## I. Old Business:

1. Report from the nominating committee, the following nominees are:  
Commander: Mike Zimmerman  
Sr. Vice Commander: Joe Vene  
Jr. Vice Commander: Gene Schwantes  
Executive Committee: Tom Annonson, Andy Staudt, Mike Gutz, Henry Hammerback, Bruce Tiegen, Ward Sutton, Darrel Baltzell.

## J. New Business:

1. We have 5 people who are interested in running for a seat on the executive board. Our constitution and bylaws currently limit membership to three members at large. Tom Annonson proposes that we raise the number to 5. Before this can happen, we need to draft a proposal, have it read at two meetings, send it to the department and then, once approved, to National. This will take almost a year.

The consensus was, however, that we need to do something immediately. So a motion was made by Commander Zimmerman that we recommend that 2 alternates be elected, in addition to the three at large members. Theses alternates would not have a vote UNLESS another member of the E-board was absent. If one was absent, then the first alternate would have a vote. If two were absent, then both would have a vote. *Bruce Tiegen 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion was carried.* This will be taken to the general membership at the next regular meeting.

Motion to change the structure of the executive board was made by Darrel Baltzell. Seconded by Ward Sutton. Motion Carried.

2. The following proposed changes to the chapter constitution and bylaws was read for the first time:

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATION

Currently Reads as follows (amended):

Section 2: The Chapter Executive Committee (See articles 3: page 2 these bylaws) shall be composed of: The Commander, Senior Vice Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Judge Advocate and three (3) other elected Committee members from two-thirds (2/3) of members present. Adjutant for record keeping only, in case of a tie Executive Chairman will vote only to break tie.

#### Proposed change:

Section 2: The Chapter Executive Committee (See articles 3: page 2 these bylaws) shall be composed of: The Commander, Senior Vice Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Judge Advocate and three to five other elected Committee members from two-thirds (2/3) of members present. Adjutant for record keeping only, in case of a tie Executive Chairman will vote only to break tie.

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONT.)

Currently reads as follows (Amended):

Section 2: The executive committee shall be composed of eight members (8). Commander, Senior Vice Commander Junior Vice Commander, the Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Adjutant (for record keeping only) and three (3) chapter Executive Committee members, the latter to be elected from Chapter members in good standing, as above provided, and in accordance with "Nominations and Election" and three such committee members shall be elected thereafter at each annual Chapter election. The committee shall elect its own chairman from the membership, who shall not be the commander. None of the three (3) Chapter Executive Committee members shall hold other elective office in this Chapter. The Chairman only votes to break a tie. (This chairman will always assure Chapter Commander is aware of all Executive Committee activity and actions should the commander not be present at a meeting).

#### Proposed Changes:

Section 2: The executive committee shall be composed of a minimum of eight (8) members. Commander, Senior Vice Commander Junior Vice Commander, the Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Adjutant (for record keeping only) and three to five (3-5) chapter Executive Committee members, the latter to be elected from Chapter members in good standing, as above provided, and in accordance with "Nominations and Election" and three such committee members shall be elected thereafter at each annual Chapter election. The committee shall elect its own chairman from the membership, who shall not be the commander. None of the three to five (3-5) Chapter Executive Committee members shall hold other elective office in this Chapter. The Chairman only votes to break a tie. (This chairman will always assure Chapter Commander is aware of all Executive Committee activity and actions should the commander not be present at a meeting).

Currently reads as follows (Amended):

Section 10: Any one or more of the three (3) Chapters appointed Executive Committeemen may be removed from office if they miss three unexcused meetings in a row.

Proposed changes: *This is poorly worded, and needs to be changed, both to reflect our proposed executive committee makeup, and because it is vague grammatically incorrect.*

Section 10: Any one or more of the at-large Executive Committeemen may be removed from office if they miss three meetings in a row. The absences that count towards being removed are unexcused absences.

## K. Executive Committee Action Items

1. 2014 Dodge Ram Pickup. We just spent \$1100.00 getting the vehicle repaired, and it sounds worse now than when we took it in. Commander Zimmerman took it in for diagnostic testing. The estimate for repair is another \$5800.00. Commander Zimmerman went to the Chrysler Center, and priced 2019 vehicles. The vehicle he recommends is a 2019 Dodge 3500 Extended Cab 1 Ton Pickup, for \$31,500.00. This is AFTER a \$13,000.00 trade in. Tom Annonson made the motion that we recommend purchasing the new vehicle.

*Bruce Tiegen 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Carried. THIS NEEDS TO DO BEFORE THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.*

After much discussion, the following actions were proposed:



- The executive committee has been tasked with investigating the possibility of raising the amount of money kept in the transportation fund. Currently, the chapter takes 5% of each semi load and places it into the transportation fund.
    - Darrel Baltzell made the motion to rescind this policy immediately. *Randy Hanevold seconded the motion. Carried.*
    - Darrel Baltzell made the motion to bring the transportation fund up to \$30,000.00. *Steve Siats seconded the motion. Carried.*
    - Darrel Baltzell made the motion to purchase the truck for \$31,500.00 *Randy Hanevold seconded. Motion carried.* The funds for the purchase will come from the general fund rather than the transportation fund.
  - 2. The \$75/\$75 matching program has been terminated by the department. It simply cost too much. They have returned to a match of \$50.00. While this is certainly understandable, the adjutant proposed that the chapter could certainly afford to keep our part at \$75, or even increase it, even though it would only be matched at \$50.00. Bruce Tiegen made the motion that we recommend that we raise our part of the program to \$100.00. *Bruce Holden 2nd. Carried.* This will go to the general membership at the next regular meeting.
  - Andy Staudt made the motion that we raise our portion of membership mating funds from \$75.00 to \$100.00. *Randy Hanevold seconded the motion. Carried.*
  - 3. Tom Annonson intends to attend the mid-winter conference. The Department recommends that the chapter provide \$600.00 to help defray his expenses, which they will match. It will cost approximately \$1900.00 to cover expenses, so this grant will certainly help. Scotty made the motion that we recommend paying \$600.00, 2nd by Bruce Holden. Tom recused himself from the vote. Motion carried. This needs to go to the floor for the upcoming regular meeting.
  - Andy Staudt made the motion that we follow our current guidelines, which limit the chapter to a \$250.00 contribution. *Randy Hanevold seconded. Motion carried.*
  - 4. Discussed Veterans day on the Hill. The date has been set for Monday, April 20. This is the same day as our regular meeting. Scotty Allison made the motion that we push our meeting from the 20th to the 27th for the month of April. *Mike Gutz 2nd. Carried.*
  - 5. Scotty Allison made the motion that we pay for 1 bus, and lunch. We aren't sure what the Bus will cost. Tom will find out, and this motion will be amended to specify the amount to be spent. The motion also authorizes Tom to raise \$500.00 to help defray the cost. *Seconded by Mike Gutz. Motion carried.* This needs to go to the floor for the upcoming regular meeting.
  - Andy Staudt made the motion to have the chapter pay for 1 bus, and lunch for the attendees. Additionally, Tom Annonson is authorized to raise \$500.00 to help defray the cost. *Darrel Baltzell seconded the motion. Carried.*
  - 6. Discussed the need for an elevator to help load the Semi's. One has been found, and the purchase price is \$950.00. Scotty Allison made the motion that we pay up to \$1000.00. He further recommended that we carry this to the general member ship for approval. *Mike Gutz seconded. Motion carried.* This needs to go to the floor for the upcoming regular meeting.
  - Andy Staudt made the motion to purchase the elevator. *Darrel Baltzell seconded. Motion carried.*
  - L. Good of the Order:
    - 1) Everyone is asked to send out prayer for Joe Vene, who is scheduled for a surgical procedure on the 6th of February.
  - M. Motion to adjourn made by Steve Siats, 2nd by Darrel Baltzell. *Motion Carried.*
- The meeting was adjourned at 1933 hours.  
The next meeting will be held on 17 February 2020 at 1730 at the Chapter Headquarters.

## UPCOMING DAV MN OUTDOOR EVENTS

The Minnesota DAV Department's Outdoor program has scheduled their upcoming events and posted them on their website. Check them out at:

<https://davmn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/>



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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hope, it really helps in so many ways. Regardless of the veteran's or family's situation, hope is such a wonderful sense of true relief. 'When hope is crushed, the heart is crushed, but a wish come true fills you with joy' (Proverbs 13:12 - Good News Translation). It would be wonderful to write about hope during the upcoming months. There are so many different considerations when it comes to hope. This month writing about hope in its' proper context (true vs. false) would be a great way to start.

As members, our veteran organization was founded on September 25, 1920, due to the disabilities incurred by veterans in World War I, to help veterans and their families, hence our motto, "Fulfilling our promises to the men and women who served" As a result there are three scriptures to explore in the proper context regarding hope and healing (Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 Peter 2:24-25, Mark 1:32-39), whereas 1 Peter 2:24-25, refers back to Isaiah 53:5-6, with an application of this seen by Jesus in Mark 1:32-39.

You may recall in December 2019, we were discussing an article written in the National Disabled American Veteran Magazine for July/August 2019, by National Chaplain Michael Dover. In the Chaplain Corner, December 2019, it was written, "His [Chaplain Dover's] article was about being careful in the words we say regarding common expressions of faith often used in conversations with other people...There are so many instances when people use God's word in a manner it was never intended to be used." This alone can be a source of false hope and a misrepresentation of The Bible.

Having reflected upon this for quite some time (see the third paragraph for a timeline), there has been many interpretations and applications of this verse within historical events of faith healings here in the United States. Some of these physical healings have been genuine and true, while others have been fabricated or false, yet in either case, people who had genuine hope were not healed (Proverbs 13:12). This is the issue of this article, what about those not healed? Do these scriptures (Isaiah 53:5-6 and 1 Peter 2:24-25) refer only to God's promise of physical healing as some would suggest, or is there a deeper meaning for this issue and those who have not been healed? Let's take a look.

The context of Isaiah 53 and 1 Peter 2 specifically have to do with several issues at the same time, such as the Messiah (Jesus Christ), the suffering He would experience, the view people would have of Jesus suffering in contrast with God's view. Yet, the most important issue, as it applies to everyone, is the spiritual healing of our condition that allows us to be drawn back to God. This determination is based on going back into the Hebrew and Greek Language. The reason for this healing, and the kind of healing it is, comes after the statement '...by his stripes you were healed...' The Hebrew (Isaiah 53:6) begins, 'all we like sheep...', while the Greek (1 Peter 2:26) begins, 'for you were as sheep...' As a result, it actually reflects on our spiritual inability to come back to God if it wasn't for the stripes on Jesus as part of his crucifixion. Clearly this is spiritual healing.

So, how does this help a disabled veteran and their family who are not healed and lost hope. The answer can be found in the purpose for Jesus' coming to earth as seen in the application of this specific issue in Mark 1:32-39. Due to the amount of space for writing, we will be exploring this next month. We will be looking at issues like, what about veterans who were not healed, does God care about us? Where is the hope (Job 42:11)? Do the people in our life matter? What are some of the misunderstandings out there that can hurt, and cause mistrust in our faith? I hope this discussion will help next month.

If you have a need or would like to talk, give us a call at (218) 308-3927  
Mike and Julie Gutz

### The Minnesota Armed Forces Hockey Tournament will be held on 20-22 March 2020 at the Dakotah Sports Arena in Prior Lake, MN

*The DAV is welcome to come anytime but they would like to have a couple members attend the Social on Saturday and maybe another 4 to do the puck drop during our Championship Games on Sunday. The time schedule for the events will be announced after the tournament events have been finalized.*



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## DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

FREE  
RIDES

### January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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### June

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### July

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### August

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### September

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### October

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### November

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### December

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# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH WEST MINNESOTA CHAPTER #41

## REGULAR SUPPER & MEETING • 1800 HOURS SUPPER • 1900 HOURS MEETING AT ROSEAU MASONIC LODGE CALLED TO ORDER

Members present: 6. Of which 3 are officers and 2 are County Veteran Service Officers. The Minutes of the Middle River 17 December meeting were read by Adjutant Elizabeth Knutson.

The Financial report for December 2019 was given by Elizabeth Knutson.

### Old Business:

1. Transportation Account is set up.
2. Our chapter has 5 qualified and trained volunteer drivers. Thank you to everyone who stepped up in November and December to volunteer and give 2 days to attend volunteer training at the Fargo VA Medical Center.
3. Chapter #41 now has an office computer.
4. Medical Equipment and Trailer: Adjutant Knutson wrote a grant to Roseau Electric Coop's Operation Round Up grant program to acquire an enclosed trailer to transport medical equipment. The committee was very generous and awarded \$3200 of the \$3800 needed to purchase a new trailer. We have received some medical equipment to include 2 electric wheelchairs, a Heister man lift and walkers.
5. Update by Brett Brandon on veteran whose apartment home was destroyed by fire in Hallock. Our chapter voted at the November meeting to use Forget Me Not Funds to assist.

### New Business:

1. Vehicles. In January our chapter acquired 2 vehicles as follows.

- a. A handicap van was generously donated by one of our chapter's members, Ross J. Taggart. He is also one of our volunteer drivers.
  - b. A 2013 Ford Flex from the MN State DAV. Wrapped red white and blue, grabbing the attention of the local community. A big thank you to Marvin Windows who donated a seat on one of their flights to Commander Knutson so he could fly down and drive the Flex North.
2. MN DAV headquarters, St Paul meeting with State adjutant Trent Dilks and Josh. Both were very generous with their time and knowledge, and we had 3 hours with them. Commander Knutson, Adjutant Knutson and Ross Taggart made the trip.

### DISCUSSION:

1. Grants to write for. Sea Container to store medical equipment. Office set up.
2. Town Hall Meeting. We are going to put together a town hall meeting that fits with our legislator's schedules. The start of legislative session is just around the corner. February.
3. Advertising. We need to start advertising. Lots of good suggestions.
4. Mid-Winter Conference. The need is urgent to send at least 2 from the chapter to attend. Adding Voices from the area concerning Community care and billing.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Made by Doug Pomplun, second by Brett Brandon.

The meeting was adjourned at 2055 hours. The next meeting will be held on 18 February 2020 at the Middle River American Legion at 1900 hours following a supper at 1800 hours.

## SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN/DEPENDENCY INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (SBP/DIC) OFFSET

On Tuesday, December 17, the United States Senate passed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) with a vote of 86-8. This measure contains a provision that will eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset by January 2023. The bill now goes to the White House where the President is expected to sign it into law.

Currently, purchased SBP annuities are offset by the amount of any benefit payable under the VA DIC program. SBP is not a government gratuity benefit; rather, it is a type of insurance purchased out-of-pocket by military retirees for their survivors while DIC is a VA benefit intended to provide spouses of veterans who died from a service-connected condition some semblance of financial security.

Upon the retiree's death, the SBP annuity is paid monthly to eligible beneficiaries; however, if a surviving spouse is also entitled to DIC, the SBP benefit is reduced by the amount of the DIC benefit. When DIC benefits are payable but the monthly rate is equal to, or greater than, the monthly SBP payment amount, beneficiaries lose the entire SBP payment. Thousands of survivors of military retirees are adversely affected by this unfair offset between SBP and DIC benefits.

The bill will remove the offset incrementally by one-third in January 2021, a second third in January 2022, and the final third in January 2023, thereby allowing surviving spouses to receive both the purchased SBP annuities and their earned DIC benefits. The law will not be retroactive-therefore, recoupment of offsets from previous years will not be provided.

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## AUXILIARY COMMANDER' CORNER

I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season with family and friends.

We will not have a meeting in February, but if you have any volunteer hours to turn in please give Linda Engesether a call at 218-308-1041, as she will be working on the report to send into the State. We will resume our meetings in March on the 16th and look forward to seeing you all there.

Stay warm and try to enjoy the winter wonderland when possible.

Sara Gast

### VETERANS ON THE HILL DAY

Veterans on the Hill day (VoH) will take place on the 20th of April at the Capitol in St Paul, MN. I know it is a bit of a ways off yet, so mark it on your calendars and plan to join us for the free bus trip down to this event. This is a great opportunity to talk with our representatives about issues and upcoming legislature affecting us as Veterans and our families.

We have a charter bus with seating available for 50 people and seating will fill up quickly, so sign up early to get your seat(s) reserved!

Please Email me your information before the 5th of April so that I can add your names to my list. Your information must contain the following:

- Name(s) of everyone planning to join us.
- Email address of participant(s) for ease of passing on additional info.
- Cell phone number of each participating individual, we don't want anyone getting left behind.
- Which pick up point you want to meet the bus(s) at; Bemidji, Akeley, or Motley.

More info on the bus schedule will be provided in the next couple of newsletters.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call / text me at (218) 251-3025 or Email at [torgor@lightspeed.net](mailto:torgor@lightspeed.net). Thank you for supporting our Veterans!

Sincerely, Tom Annonson, Trip coordinator



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