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Monthly Newsletter  
April 2020

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

**NEXT MEETING:**

**DAV Headquarters at  
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN  
Monday, April 20th at 6pm**



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- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
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| JUNIOR VICE:         | Gene Schwantes - (218) 759-1823  |
| ADJUTANT:            | David Myers - (218) 308-0841   |
| SERVICE OFFICERS:    | David Myers, Bruce Holden,<br>Scotty Allison   |
| TREASURER:           | Scotty Allison - (218) 333-4178  |
| CHAPLAIN:            | Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015   |
| CHAPLAIN (ALT.):     | Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591  |
| JUDGE ADVOCATE:      | Bruce Holden   |
| SERGEANT AT ARMS:    | Bruce Tiegen   |
| OFFICER OF THE DAY:  | Glenn Aagard   |
| LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: | Joe Vene   |
| HISTORIAN:           | Vacant   |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE:     | Bruce Tiegen, Darrel Baltzell,<br>Mike Gutz, First Alternate Andy Staudt,<br>Second Alternate Tom Annonson |

**CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS**

- Apr 6th - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours
- Apr 10th - Good Friday
- Apr 12th - Easter Sunday
- Apr 27th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
- May 4th - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours
- May 18th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
- May 25th - Memorial Day
- June 1st - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours
- June 14th - Flag Day
- June 15th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
- June 21st - Father's Day
- June 26th - DAV MN Convention
- July 4th - Independence Day
- July 6th - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours
- July 20th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours



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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA

## CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON MARCH 16TH 2020 AT 1800 HOURS.

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

### B. Members present: 17

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

1. Guests/Visitors:
  - a. Ron Haugen, Department of MN Sr. Vice Commander
  - b. Mr. Robert Beckstrom, Air Force Veteran.
2. Prospective new members: None
3. Transfers in: None

### D. Installation of Officers:

The Commander asked "If there are no objections, we will dispense with all business except the installation of Officers. Hearing none, it is so ordered." At this point, Commander Zimmerman introduced The Department of Minnesota Sr. Vice Commander, Mr. Ron Haugen, who will serve as the installing officer. The Following Officers were installed for the remainder 2020 through the 2021 installation of officers.

- Commander: Mike Zimmerman
- Senior Vice Commander: Joe Vene
- Junior Vice Commander: Gene Schwantes
- Adjutant: David Myers
- Treasurer: Scotty Allison
- Chaplain: Mike Gutz
- Judge Advocate: Bruce Holden
- Sergeant- at-Arms: Bruce Tiegen
- Officer of the Day: Glen Aagard
- Historian: Vacant
- Chapter Service Officers: David Myers, Bruce Holden
- Executive Committee At Large members: Bruce Tiegen, Steve Hauschildt, Mike Gutz.
- Andy Staudt and Tom Annonson as alternate executive committee members.

After the installation was completed, Department Sr. Vice Commander Haugen returned the gavel to Commander Zimmerman. Commander Zimmerman reopened the meeting.

### D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of February 17, 2020 were read. *Motion to approve made by Darrel Baltzell, seconded by Jeff Meyer. Motion Carried.*

### E. Financial Report for 1-29 February 2020: Report given by Treasurer (See enclosure). *Motion to approve report made by Steve Siats, seconded by Geri Harvey. Motion carried.*

### F. New Member Obligation: None

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

- Various donations, as well as thank you notes.
- All are stored in the February 2020 folder, if anyone wishes to read them.

### H. Committee Reports:

1. Membership Report: 3 New Members.
  - i) John R. Larson
  - ii) Leo Talevson
  - iii) Warren McKenzie
2. Service Officer Report: Nothing to report
3. Legislative Report: Nothing to report
4. Hospital Chaplain Report (Includes Sickness and Distress): The chaplain reports that the hospital is shut down to visitors for the time being. 1 assisted living visit was made, 1 death reported (Mr. Roy Norby), and 5 people in distress were assisted.
5. Entertainment: Nothing to report
6. Fundraising committee: Because of the virus, fundraising efforts are on hold.
7. Newsletter Committee: Articles need to be in by Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
8. Medical Equipment:
  - i) Distributed: 7
  - ii) Received: 9

### J. Old Business:

1. We have read the proposed changes three times. Is there a motion to approve the proposed changes? *Motion made by Darrel Baltzell, seconded by Geri Harvey. Motion Carried*

### K. New Business:

1. Need to nominate four officers to attend the Department Convention held May 7-9 in St Cloud. We can send as many delegates as wish to go, but we will only pay housing for four. If you wish to attend, there is a sign-up sheet that we will pass around. Please note: If the chapter pays your registration, you are expected to attend all session in full. Nominees are:
  - a. Mike Zimmerman
  - b. Joe Vene
  - c. Bruce Holden
  - d. David Myers*Motion made by Geri Harvey, Seconded by Randy Hanevold. Motion Carried*
2. Because the Veterans day on the hill event has been cancelled, the April meeting has been moved back to its regularly scheduled date (20 April 2020).
3. David Myers and Tom Annonson are each submitting themselves for department offices for the 2020-2021 term. Tom for "higher office", and David for Chaplain. It is appropriate that the Chapter submit resolution in support of these endeavors. *Darrel Baltzell made the motion, Randy Hanevold seconded. Motion carried.*
4. Mr. Roger "Bob" Beckstrom, a veteran of the US Air Force, came to ask us for help with medical bills for his son. His son has Castleman's syndrome, and it has progressed to the point where he cannot walk, and is wheelchair bound. His son is not a veteran or a dependent. The adjutant has been charged with calling the department to ask is we can help, under those circumstances.

### L. Executive Committee Action Items:

1. Middle river goose hunt. We have budgeted \$1000.00. They are requesting an additional \$2000.00. *Steve Siats made the motion that we donate an additional 2k. Jeri Harvey Seconded. Motion carried.*
2. Info item: The executive board approved \$500.00 to improve the website.

### M. Good of the Order: Nothing was brought forward.

### N. Motion to adjourn:

1. *Motion made by Jeri Harvey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ward Sutton. Motion carried.*
2. The meeting was adjourned at 1900 hours.
3. The next meeting will be held on 20 April 2020 at 1800 at the Chapter Headquarters.

**Dear DAV MN Members: UPDATED 3/19/20**

I want to briefly provide you with an updated on how your Department Headquarters is working to address the concerns arising from the current situation with COVID-19. We are receiving regular communication from DAV National, and monitoring all of the advice from the CDC and Minnesota Department of Health. We will make the best decisions possible, with the available information.

Below are specific updates:

**DAV MN Convention 2020:**

Convention 2020 has been POSTPONED. As of now, we are planning a 1-day event on Friday June 26th. This will be to conduct mandatory business only. Members seeking higher office, the application is available on our website and details on meeting with the Nominating Committee PRIOR to June 26 will be shared at a later date. For those members that made hotel reservations UNDER our DAV Block for May, these reservations will be cancelled by the hotel. Please do not call the hotel at this time as their staff is overloaded.

**Chapter Meetings/Elections:**

I have been getting more questions about holding Chapter meetings. There is guidance from CDC discouraging groups of 10 or more from gathering, especially if the space will not allow for the proper “social distancing”. It is ok to cancel/postpone meetings. These are uncharted waters for all of us and we all have to make the best decision we can with the best interest of our families, community, and members in the forefront of our mind. I know many chapters are looking at upcoming elections, please know we will work with you when things settle down to resolve any and all issues. Currently, the guidance is if you cannot safely hold a scheduled election, your current line will continue until you can meet again.

Please know we will keep you posted as things change and your Dept. Staff and Executive Committee continue to work for you and to navigate these trying times. I encourage you to reach out if you need anything.

**Clothing Collection Operations:**

As of today (3/16/2020), we are not aware of any specific changes to our clothing program fundraiser due to the COVID 19 situation. However, as new information comes available conditions seem to be changing quickly. We are working on contingency plans for several different scenarios (just in case) and we will keep Chapter and Department Leadership updated with any changes to the best of our abilities.

**DAV MN Donor Connect Program:**

Effective immediately, we have decided to suspend the MN DAV Donor Connect Program until further notice. This means we will not accept Durable Medical Equipment donations nor will we assist in the disbursement of medical equipment we have on our current inventory dated Feb 24, 2020.

**DAV MN Hog Hunt POSTPONED**

**Disabled Veteran Turkey Hunt at Camp Ripley CANCELLED**

**DAV MN HQ Office:**

At this time, the DAV MN HQ office located in the State Veterans Service Building is open with minimal staff. Please do not visit the office if there isn't an immediate need. Alex the Department Service officer and the National Service office are only available thru phone calls. They are not seeing veterans in their offices at this time.

**Veterans Day on the Hill 2020:**

The COVID-19 virus has caused disruptions that limit gatherings throughout the state and nation. Current federal and state guidance requires that the scheduled “Veterans Day On The Hill 2020” pre-event lunch, march and capitol rotunda rally will not convene in-person as scheduled on April 20, 2020.

I strongly encourage you to immediately contact transportation companies you may have made arrangements with to let them know the event has been cancelled.

**Parting Message;**

The Disabled Americans Veterans of Minnesota has an important mission, and it is entirely possible that at a time like this we may be called on to help our Disabled Veterans in new ways. During this time please keep in mind the Veterans who may be struggling in your communities as schools close, workplaces shut down, and elderly Veterans face possible shortages. Our Chapters are the best positioned to help these Veterans immediately, as new challenges arise.

Regards,

-----

Trent C Dilks

Department Adjutant Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of Minnesota



# COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Everyone,

I hope that everyone is staying in and staying healthy.

The DAV State Department in conjunction with the Nation HQ has been doing a lot of cancelling and postponing due to the Corona Virus. With that in the forefront, the following decisions have been implemented:

- > Veterans Day on the Hill has been cancelled for 2020.
- > The DAV State Conference scheduled for May 7-9 has been postponed until June 26, 2020 and will only be a one-day event. At this time it is still planned to be held in Saint Cloud.
- > The Medical Equipment Program will not be accepting any new donations or issue any of the equipment that we currently have on hand until further notice.
- > Our clothing program will keep going for now unless otherwise ordered by the Department.
- > The DAV Turkey Hunt at Camp Ripley has been cancelled and the DAV MN Hog Hunt has been postponed.
- > The DAV MN HQ Office is operating at a minimal staffing level in house and would prefer phone calls or emails to conduct any business for the time being.
- > Our National Service Officers (NSO's) ask that you contact them by phone calls only

Our meetings are still on, but we will address the issue as time goes on. If you don't feel good stay home and you can call me, and I will let you know what's going on.

Department SR Vice Commander Ron Haugen was at our last meeting. He did the swearing in of our newly elected and appointed Officers and provided information from the Mid-Winter Conference as well as updating us on items happening at the State level.

Sincerely,

Mike Zimmerman



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January							February							March							April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30							

  

May							June							July							August								
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31																					30	31							

  

September							October							November							December								
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27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	27	28	29	30	31												

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Last month we were looking at the practical issues of hope, healing, eternal destiny and the manner in which Jesus balances all three of these considerations together (Mark 32-39). We were showing Jesus' compassion for all, while at the same time focusing on eternal issues. When we are suffering and lose hope, it's terrible. Especially with no answers to our questions and there seems no way out of the situation. The scriptures reflect the enormous challenges God's people faced in Hebrews Chapters 11 and 12. Paul writes 'all things work together for those who love God ...' Romans 8:28. This is not saying all things working together are good things (events, injuries, sickness, etc), some of these things are not good at all, especially when we are experiencing life altering events (Job, Joseph, Jeremiah etc). This is the time to lean on Jesus' compassion, trusting in the Holy Spirit as well as others around us who can help us through this time. Just as Job had three friends who were not helpful and said things wrong about God, so there are people today who do the same thing - the subject of this article.

One common example, "God is not giving you more than you can handle." This statement can be disheartening, although the person offering this statement is speaking out of good intentions. The person (veteran or family member) experiencing the situation are often times overwhelmed, hurting and grieving. Perhaps reassuring the person of your support and just being with them is the best thing to do.

Another common expression that conveys a tremendous amount of misunderstanding is "Everything happens for a reason." Quoting from our National Chaplain Michael Dover on page 31 of DAV Magazine July - August 2019, "Even if this is theologically and technically true, it can be deeply offensive to people who are experiencing a tragic moment in their lives. Sometimes things are senseless, like the death of a child, the diagnosis of a terminal illness, or the sudden loss of employment. Bad things happen [to good people] it's true, but the mark of a true friend can be to simply sit in the presence of a person who is hurting and listen without offering any words of wisdom."

One last example of a common expression, "God helps those who help themselves" I recall hearing this expression from a very popular television movie by an actor playing the role of a pastor giving a sermon, just before a cruise ship capsizes due to a large tsunami. It is my understanding this particular phrase is said in error. My God is always showing me He loves, has compassion and gives grace to those who are humble, hurting, broken, suffering and beaten-up from adversaries and life here on earth - those who cannot help themselves. God is willing to help anyone who needs and receives His assistance and support.

There are instances in all of our lives (to include my own) when we said things that were not in the best interest of the person listening. As a result, the next time we come across a veteran, family member, or anyone going through a hard time or hurting and wants to share a conversation; we want to choose our words to bring direction, healing, wholeness, and a breath of fresh air.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. It is our desire you find the refreshing hope in God and the support you need from others who can help in whatever difficult situation you face. If you have a need, or would just like to talk, give us a call. Be safe in the historic challenging times we now live.

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# NORTHWEST MINNESOTA CHAPTER #41 DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS MARCH 17TH, 2020 MEETING

On behalf of MN DAV Chapter 41's Commander and Adjutant we would like to thank all those who did not attend the March meeting and we thank those who chose to attend.

A no charge meal is shared at 1800 hours before every monthly meeting of Chapter 41. In keeping with the meeting falling on St. Patrick's Day the meal was Boiled Dinner and Irish Soda Bread.

The following items were discussed and anyone wishing to weigh in on them is encouraged to contact Commander Knutson.

A request was made of the Chapter to become an event sponsor of the DAV Golf Classic scheduled to be held at Crystal Lake Golf Course on June 11, 2020. The DAV of MN Foundation presents an annual Golf Classic to raise funds for the DAV MN Transportation Program.

Veterans Day on the Hill has been cancelled. Let's plan for next year.

Treasurers report for February and March will be presented at the next chapter meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. Hope to see as many of you at the next meeting. April's meeting is tentatively scheduled for the third Tuesday in April at the Middle River American Legion. Please contact Jerald or me as the meeting draws closer. This is an uncertain time regarding meetings and groups of people. We are thinking of our veterans and our members during this time. Let us know how we can help. Feel free to contact the Commander or myself.

Commander Jerald Knutson (218) 469-2093

Adjutant Elizabeth Knutson (218) 469-2083 [elizabeth.knutson@outlook.com](mailto:elizabeth.knutson@outlook.com)

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# Disabled American Veterans

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