

FULFILLING OUR PROMISES

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

www.davchapter7.org

Support the advertisers in this newsletter, it's their sponsorship that makes this newsletter possible!

Monthly Newsletter May 2020

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

NEXT MEETING:

DAV Headquarters at 5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN Monday, May 18th at 6pm







CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER: Mike Zimmerman - (218) 556-4633

SENIOR VICE: Joe Vene - (218) 556-5478

JUNIOR VICE: Gene Schwantes - (218) 759-1823

ADJUTANT: David Myers - (218) 308-0841

SERVICE OFFICERS: David Myers, Scotty Allison
TREASURER: Scotty Allison - (218) 333-4178

CHAPLAIN: Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015

JUDGE ADVOCATE: to be appointed SERGEANT AT ARMS: Bruce Tiegen OFFICER OF THE DAY: Glenn Aagard

LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: Joe Vene
HISTORIAN: Vacant

EXEC. COMMITTEE: Bruce Tiegen, Darrel Baltzell,

Mike Gutz, First Alternate Andy Staudt, Second Alternate Tom Annonson

The Memory of Bruce Holden

CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

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





UPDATED INFORMATION FROM THE FARGO VA MEDICAL CENTER

https://www.fargo.va.gov/FARGO/features/Coronavirus precautions at Fargo VA.asp

Last updated April 20, 2020 – NOTE: This page is updated regularly with new COVID-19 information and guidance for the Fargo VA Health Care System's medical center and community based outpatient clinics across North Dakota and northwest Minnesota.

Thank you to every patient, visitor, and employee of the Fargo VA Health Care System for your support of our Veterans as we navigate COVID-19 (coronavirus). Your support is vital as we move forward.

Information continues to rapidly change, but the Fargo VA HCS is prepared for COVID-19 and strong community support is helpful in this effort. We continue in our efforts to provide well-coordinated, safe patient care and we're efficiently screening all patients, visitors, and staff while maintaining our commitment to prevent the spread of infection.

If you're a Veteran seeking medical care, call before visiting (701-239-3700) even if you already have an appointment. You can also sign in to My HealtheVet (www.myhealth.va.gov) and send a secure message to your Primary Care Team. You may be able to get diagnosed and receive care through VA telehealth without having to come in at all.

If you're a Veteran coming in for an appointment, plan to leave home earlier than usual to allow time for the screening. Please do not bring any additional personnel to your outpatient medical appointments unless they are required to assist with your transportation or medical care.

The Fargo VA HCS has postponed all routine face-to-face visits. Every effort will be made to see patients through a virtual modality such as VA Video Connect, so you can connect with your VA care teams from anywhere, without traveling and exposing yourself, your family, and other Veterans to COVID-19. Learn to use VA Video Connect, available from the VA mobile app store, or by contacting your VA care team, before urgent problems arise: https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect

The Fargo VA HCS has initiated a COVID-19 Call Center to help field calls related to COVID-19 symptoms, testing, and general questions. The number is (701) 239-3700 extension 2319. The Call Center will be staffed seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Everyone who enters the Fargo VA Medical Center, or a VA outpatient clinic will be screened. As mentioned, please call ahead even if you have an appointment and especially if you have traveled recently or you have a fever or worsening cough or shortness of breath. It's important to keep in mind, per CDC guidance and VA protocols, individuals known to be at risk for a COVID-19 infection will be immediately isolated to prevent potential spread to others.

There are two screening locations at the Fargo VA Medical Center – the north main entrance and the south corridor that connects the Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office and the medical center. All VA community-based outpatient clinics have one entrance (their main entrance) where individuals will be screened.

Screening currently consists of the following questions: What is the purpose of your visit today? Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19 (Coronavirus)? Are you currently awaiting the results of a COVID-19 (coronavirus) test? Do you have any of the following – fever, fatigue, new onset of diarrhea, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, body aches? We will also take the temperature of all who enter.

Beginning Monday, April 20, all staff, patients, visitors, and anyone else entering Fargo VA Health Care System facilities – to include our community based outpatient clinics – are required to wear a face covering, mask, or face shield. Everyone who enters a Fargo VA Health Care System facility will be provided a mask or face shield, if they do not already have one, at the entrances when they are screened. If you are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, you will be provided a face shield. If you currently have your own face covering, we encourage you to wear it when entering one of our facilities.

The Fargo VA HCS is also updating COVID-19 (Coronavirus) visitor precautions. Only one visitor/companion per Veteran is allowed in our facilities for Veterans

who require assistance for outpatient visits. Also, the Fargo VA HCS is not allowing visitors into any inpatient units to include the Community Living Center. No outside visitors will be permitted to see inpatient Veterans. The only exceptions will be in compassionate cases when Veterans are in their last stages of life on hospice units. In those cases, visitors will be limited to a specific Veteran's room only.

We are very sensitive to the separation this restriction causes our patients and their loved ones, but this measure of protection is essential at this time to keep people safe. In the rare cases where visitors are allowed, only visitors without COVID-19 (Coronavirus) symptoms will be permitted to enter our facilities. No visitors under the age of 18 are permitted, including infants. We know this restriction may be difficult for some, but we thank all of our visitors and Veterans for helping us protect the safety of everyone within our facilities. It's important to keep in mind that while there are currently several visitor restrictions, access will be determined on a case-by-case decision where the visitor is critical to the care of the Veteran.

Everyone is encouraged to take every day preventative actions to avoid being exposed to the virus: Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Stay home if you are sick or becoming sick. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. If you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with symptoms, call the VA before going to the facility.

The Fargo VA is also asking everyone who sews to make and donate surgical masks to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Instructions on how to sew the masks can be found here: https://buttoncounter.com/2018/01/14/facemask-a-picture-tutorial/. Donations can be sent to the Fargo VA (2101 Elm St. N, Fargo, ND 58102) attn. Voluntary Service. If you have any questions, call the Fargo VA Voluntary Service Department at 701-239-3700 extension 3395.

To keep yourself up-to-date on current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) information in the Fargo VA Health Care System, visit our website at www.fargo.va.gov or follow us on Facebook and lnstagram.

For more information about COVID-19 (Coronavirus), visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

We appreciate everyone's patience and support as we prepare for and respond to the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

More information about online tools for Veterans:

Through VA's virtual care tools, we're able to leverage available technology to make sure our patients and staff are as safe as possible during this time. To help us address our Veterans' most-urgent needs first, the ask that Veterans use our online tools for routine or non-urgent questions. Here are some examples: Telephone or Video Appointments – Veterans can receive care at home – either over the phone or via video using VA Video Connect on their computers, smartphones, or tablets. To set up telephone or video appointments, Veterans can send their provider a secure message on My HealtheVet by visiting myhealth.va.gov. Veterans may also call, but VA is requesting that Veterans only call with urgent needs at this time. To learn more about VA Video Connect, visit mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect.

Prescription Refills – Veterans can request prescription refills and order and ship medications to their homes using My HealtheVet or the Rx Refill mobile app. Download the app at mobile.va.gov/app/rx-refill.

Text Message Reminders – Veterans can use Annie's Coronavirus Precautions protocol to send automated text messages with information about COVID-19. This application helps Veterans monitor for symptoms and can assist if they need to contact their VA facility for care. Enroll at mobile.va.gov/annie.

Secure Messaging – With My HealtheVet, VA's online patient portal, Veterans can send online secure messages to your VA health care team to ask them nonurgent health questions. Register at www.myhealth.va.gov.

For more information about VA's Connected Care technologies, visit <u>connectedcare.va.gov</u>.

Hello Members,

We wanted to send a reminder that DAV is currently accepting applications for aid through our COVID-19 Unemployment Relief program.

If you are a veteran who has lost employment due to COVID-19, you can learn more and apply at <u>dav.org/covidrelief</u>.

Our COVID-19 Unemployment Relief program was established to provide assistance to service-connected disabled veterans who have lost employment as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including veterans who are self-employed as contractors or small business owners. This critical aid is meant to help veterans pay bills, obtain food and provide for their families during this challenging time.

Please help us **spread the word** to any veterans you know who may be eligible. We are hoping to help as many veterans in need as possible, and this relief will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

DAV will also continue to sponsor virtual job fairs to connect veterans with employers on a local and national level — learn more at <u>jobs.dav.org</u>. And if you need assistance with VA claims or any other information about your veterans benefits, please visit <u>benefitsquestions.org</u> to get in touch with a DAV benefits counselor. You can also speak to a service officer Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST by calling 1-888-604-0234.

Sincerely,

J. Marc Burgess

DAV National Adjutant/CEO

JMari Baga

P.S. Our goal is to raise \$2.5 million to help veterans in urgent need due to this crisis. If you'd like to support DAV's COVID-19 Relief Fund, please make a special gift today.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Greetings DAV MN,

I wanted to provide you with a quick update on your Department.

- The Staff continues to operate on a daily basis with staff members rotating through the Headquarters as needed.
- Our Transportation Program is operating to provide "critical need" transportation for things like blood testing, dialysis, etc..
- We continue to monitor the situation and latest health guidance as we evaluate upcoming Convention, meetings, etc..
- The Dept. continues to look for ways to expand our efforts to help Minnesota's Veterans.

Thank you to all of the Chapters who are sharing their local efforts during the pandemic. If your Chapter is contributing to local efforts, please let us know so we can share the good works.

We will continue to provide you with information as quickly as we can, I just ask that you be patient as so much of this is out our control.

Thanks, Trent C Dilks Trent@davmn.org





COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Everyone,

I hope everyone is staying healthy.

Not much for this month. We are still waiting to hear from Savers when they are going to start up again. Bruce Tiegen and I have been taking care of the bins.

I am planning on having the May General Membership meeting on the 18th. If something changes, we will get the word out.

Sincerely,

Mike Zimmerman

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:







2618 Paul Bunyan Dr. NW Bemidji, MN 56601 bauto@paulbunyan.net

Phone # (218) 444-9444 Fax # (218) 444-1248

one # (218) 444-9444

BEMIDJI CHRYSLER CENTER

Toll Free 877-755-JEEP Local 218-751-8006 www.bemidjichrysler.com Toll Free 877-82-HONDA Local 218-444-HONDA www.hondaofbemidji.com

HONDA

755 Paul Bunyan Drive N.W • Bemidji, Minnesota 56601 Fax 218-751-8901









2020 - BEMIDJI VAN - 2020



FREE	S				D#	۱V	NO	R	TI	Н۱	NE	S	T	TR	ANS	SP	OI	RT	A٦		NC	DA	TE	S				RIDE
January								Fe	bru	ary	/		March								April							
S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S		3	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
			1	2	3	4								1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
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	1	0	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21		23	24	25	16	5 1	7	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	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
May								June								July							August					
S	М	Т	W	T	F	S	5	3	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	s	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
					1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	l 1	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19		21	22	23	21	2	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	3 2	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29
31																												
September								October							November							December						
S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	5	3	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	1	1	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	1	8	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28		30				2	25	26	27	28			31	29	30						27	28	29				
					_	-		_					- 4						_								,	

Free Rides To All Veterans and Caregiver (if needed)!

Northwest Transportation MN DAV Bemidji-Fargo Trips • Pick-up Points:

Bemidji National Guard Armory • Solway in front of bar • Shevlin in front of bar • Bagley Tesoro Station west end of town Fosston at LaPiere's on the east end of town • Mahnomen Cenex park south of propane tank • Ada Country Store

TO SCHEDULE RIDES FOR HIGHLIGHTED BLUE AREAS:

Call **1-855-277-9787** and follow voice prompts to leave a message. If you have problems leaving a message call Saddoris at 218-209-1863 (cell). **Volunteer Drivers Needed!** Call Saddoris for info.

Additional Sponsors

Cease Funeral **Grimes Realty Lifequest Chiropractic Nei Bottling Zetah Construction**









CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

At the time of this writing, we are still under Governor Walz's "Stay at home" executive order due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic. This is certainly affecting each of us in different ways based on our individual and family dynamics. The last two months we have been looking at hope and healing, it seems appropriate to extend our discussion of hope during this time in our nation's history.

My wife Julie, Auxiliary Assistant Chaplain, wrote our article for this month, being very relational she writes about hope from God's word.

Julie writes:

I (Julie) am a child of the King of Kings, and the Lord of Lords. That means I am a princess of the living God, not one who is dead, or made of stone. I am bought by the blood of Jesus, who died on a cross to save me from my sins. So, I am a new creature in Christ. I have a new identity in Christ Jesus. All things have become new, the past is behind me. So, I can look forward to what God has for me each day, and into the future. (Hebrews 11: 1 - 12: 2). Now I can press forward and onward towards the goal set before me, that is to know Christ and spend eternity with Him. I have the promise of the Holy Spirit living in me to produce every good work that will be rewarded in eternity, by following the instructions in Titus 2:11-12. I do this by having a forgiving heart, being grateful and thereby practicing Philippians 4:4-7: "rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again. Rejoice! Let your gentleness be obvious to everyone. The Lord is with me. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and requesting, with thanksgiving, present my requests to God. And God's peace will guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus" (NIV).

God loves me, he may not love my words, actions, or behavior, but He loves me. This means I do not let myself be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good, that is, intentionally do good which is not part of our nature. I may not behave like a Christian according to some people, but I am still developing my faith and growing. Just like a photo in a camera must be developed to see a real clear image, so God is constantly developing me into the image of Jesus Christ.

Concluding this article, I (Mike) would like to express to everyone that having hope allows us to see each day with a sense of peace and purpose is so wonderful. Especially in the times we are now facing. Speaking of the times we are experiencing, just as a reminder, you may have seen our clothing bins (malls, grocery stores, parking lots, etc) reflecting the DAV is currently not accepting any donations because the Covid-19 virus, because it spreads by means of droplets (cough, sneeze, saliva, etc) that may be on the clothing. As a result, we have suspended donations for now and into the future (however long this may be). Yet, we are still busy helping veterans and their families. I understand our Commander, Mike Zimmerman and others have been exceptionally busy during this time. Currently we are not accepting or issuing medical equipment, not making hospital and assisted living facility visits (health regulations), but we are still remarkably busy helping veterans and their families who need assistance. Just want to remind you we are still with you.

We continue to pray for all of you as members of DAV / Auxiliary, to include all veterans and their families. We pray for our leaders to make the best possible decisions in our difficult and historic time. We hope and pray everyone is doing well. If you are in need or want to talk please give any of us a call at the DAV.

Blessings to you all,

Mike and Julie Gutz



Law Offices of FULLER, WALLNER, CAYKO, PEDERSON & HUSEBY, LTD. 514 America Ave., P.O. Box 880 Bemidji, MN 56619-0880

Office Phone: Fax Number: 218-751-2221 218-751-2285

800-552-6881 www.lawofficemn.com

Land * Lakeshore
WE KNOW
REAL ESTATE
Residential * Commercial

BEMIDJI, MN 751-2538

1106 Paul Bunyan Drive South
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 751-2538

WWW.lakenwoods.com



DAV MN FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There may be a global pandemic, but it is important that the Veterans community, and the public, knows that DAV Minnesota is open for business. We are here to support Veterans, and I am proud to announce that the DAV Minnesota Foundation recently donated \$15,000 to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV). During these difficult times, Veterans are struggling to pay next month's rent or mortgage payment. Through MACV, these funds will directly assist 17 Veterans from across the state. We are honored and proud to partner with MACV in the goal of ending Veteran homelessness in Minnesota.

Stephen "Butch" Whitehead National Commander DAV MN Foundation Executive Director Stephen@davmn.org

FROM THE MN DAV DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

This ongoing Covid-19 situation places the DAV MN in the odd position that a good number of folks throughout the state are looking for places to donate their second hand items that they have inventoried during the stay at home order but we have no place to go with the items until retail consumption resumes with our partner organizations. Please do your best to relay to your area donors that the DAV MN can gladly accept their donations once things get a little closer to normal. If any Chapters or Units are struggling to find solutions to any issues you might be experiencing regarding your clothing collection program, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at <code>josh@davmn.org</code> and we can work on identifying potential solutions.

Best wishes to all during these unfortunate times. Joshua Vrtacnik Deputy Adjutant













Bemidji Chapter 7

Disabled American Veterans

North Central Minnesota Chapter #7 P.O. BOX 564 BEMIDJI, MN 56619-0564 NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 56601 PERMIT NO. 71

Printed by Arrow Printing Inc. • Bemidji, MN

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please send your email address to the organization at mndavchapter7@gmail.com or call or text Tom Annonson @ 218-251-3025







