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Monthly Newsletter  
June 2020

North Central MN Chapter #7  
PO Box 564  
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**NEXT MEETING:**

**DAV Headquarters at  
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN  
Monday, June 15th 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 - (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:	<i>to be appointed</i>
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

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

June 1st - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours\*\*  
June 4th - Battle of Midway began in 1942  
June 6th - D-Day 1944  
June 14th - Flag Day  
June 15th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours\*\*  
June 21st - Father's Day  
June 22nd - GI Bill Signed in 1944  
June 25th - Start of the Korean War in 1950  
July 4th - Independence Day  
July 6th - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours\*\*  
July 20th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours\*\*  
July 26th - Americans with Disabilities Act signed in 1990  
July 27th - End of the Korean War in 1953  
Aug 3rd - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours\*\*  
Aug 7th - Purple Heart Day  
Aug 17th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours\*\*  
Sept 2nd - Victory in Japan (VJ) Day 1945  
Sept 7th - Labor Day  
Sept 11th - Patriot Day  
Sept 18th - POW/MIA Recognition Day  
Sept 19th - Rosh Hashanah  
Sept 27th - Gold Star Mother's Day  
Sept 28th - Yom Kippur



# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA

## CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON MAY 18TH 2020 AT 1805.

- 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	Excused
Adjutant	David Myers	Present
Treasurer	Scotty Allison	Excused
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Excused
Judge Advocate	Jeri Harvey	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Present
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: Mrs. Eslinger
2. Prospective new members: None
3. Transfers in: Doug Eslinger

### D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of March 16 2020 were read.

1. Motion to approve made by Andy Staudt, 2nd Randy Hanevold. Motion Carried.

### E. Financial Report: No report was made, due to Treasurer being absent.

### F. New Member Obligation: None

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

1. Various donations
2. Thank you notes.
3. All are stored in the February 2020 folder, if anyone wishes to read them.

### H. Committee Reports:

1. Membership Report: 1 New Members; Doug Eslinger
2. Service Officer Report: Nothing to report
3. Legislative Report: No report given
4. Hospital Chaplain Report (Includes Sickness and Distress): No report given
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 25th.
8. Medical Equipment: No report given.

### J. Old Business

1. 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 if we can help, under those circumstances.  
  
i) After the adjutant spoke to the national commander regarding this issue, it was determined that we ARE able to assist Mr. Beckstrom with medical bills incurred because of his son's illness. Randy Hanevold made the motion that we pay \$1500.00 of the medical bills (when they are provided by Mr. Beckstrom). Jack Young 2nd. Motion carried

### K. New Business:

1. Ms. Jeri Harvey has been appointed Judge Advocate, replacing Bruce Holden.
2. Because we are unable to ship our donations for the present, it was necessary to pull our bins from their various locations. We are unsure exactly when they will be able to go back.
3. Beltrami County is setting up a rapid response team. Volunteers are requested
4. Tom Annonson requests assistance in setting out veterans' flags at Greenwood Cemetery. Work begins at 0900, Saturday the 23rd with a ceremony taking place at 1000 on Monday the 25th.

### L. Executive Committee Action Items

1. We received a letter from the Silver Bay Veterans Home requesting assistance to purchase a new cart to transport veterans from one location to another. The current cart is completely worn out. A new cart will cost \$14,300.00. Randy Hanevold made the motion to donate \$1000.00, 2nd by Jack Young. Motion carried.

### M. Good of the Order: None

Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Andy Staudt, 2nd by Randy Hanevold. Motion carried.

1. The meeting was adjourned at 1840 hours.
2. The next meeting will be held on 15 June 2020 at 1800 at the Chapter Headquarters.

## GREETINGS DAV MEMBERS

Greetings Chapter 7,

After careful consideration, the DAV MN Executive Committee has voted to cancel the 2020 Department Convention, which was to be held in St. Cloud, MN. This decision was not made lightly, we hold the safety of our members as our highest priority. I was asked to provide you with a little more insight into the decision-making process, and I am happy to provide what I can.

Here are some of the things that went into our consideration:

- While many areas are thankfully experiencing low infection rates, that is not the case everywhere in Minnesota and many of our members would have been traveling from lower risk infection areas to one of the highest in the nation in Stearns County.
- A large majority of our members are also considered “highest risk” categories as many of our Veterans have diabetes, high blood pressure, age over 65, lung conditions, etc... that means their potential exposure could lead to a very negative outcome including increased risk of death.
- The Federal Guidance from the Whitehouse Task Force and CDC has not removed the recommendation of no group larger than 50 people.
- The Minnesota Department of Health continues to have a level of no more than 10, socially distanced, people in place. There is no set time on when this will be lifted so even if we didn't cancel there was the potential that we couldn't legally hold this. The upside to doing it now is none of our members have passed the point of getting refunds for reservations, and the Department has \$0 that it will lose in cancelling.

There were many other concerns that went into this decision, but ultimately your Executive Committee made the best decision it could after considering all the currently available information.

In the coming days and weeks, the Executive Committee will be meeting to continue to map out a clear path forward for the next year and continue preparing for the challenges we will face as an organization. I do not have a lot of specifics on the way forward, as we are in uncharted waters, but I will be sure to share everything I can as the details emerge.

As you are all aware these are trying times for our Organization, but I remain confident that we have an amazing team of leaders in the Executive Committee, the benefit of great knowledge from the Past Department Commanders Network, the best full-time staff in the Country, and the passionate and dedicated members we need to weather any storm (or pandemic).

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions, concern, or input as we move forward.

Trent Dilks  
Department Adjutant  
Trent@davmn.org





## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Everyone,

Hopefully, everyone is doing well and in good health.

Last month was an extremely hard month for our Chapter. We lost a very dedicated veteran. Bruce Holden passed away unexpectedly on the 28th of April. The family had a drive thru memorial on May 2nd and held a graveside service on May 24th. We will miss him badly.

I appointed Jeri Harvey as our new Judge Advocate to fill his position for the rest of the term.

Clothing Program Update.

We pulled our bins in from Bemidji and Blackduck due to not knowing when we can get a semi-trailer from Savers. The Dept has been keeping us informed and it sounds like it will be mid to late June before we may see another trailer for them. We loaded a trailer on May 19th for our other source of clothing sales because we had so much to get rid of. We have our elevator, but it was put on hold for getting it ready until we get the clothing program up and running again.

Our State Convention has been cancelled for this year. We are still hoping to have the Fall Conference.

We have talked about having our float in the 4th of July Parade, but we will have to see if they even have the parade.

Medical Equipment is still being accepted and dispersed. We are trying not to go into people's homes if possible.

Please, everyone, stay safe and give me a call if you need anything.


Sincerely,  
Mike Zimmerman



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FREE  
RIDES

### January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

There is a lot of discussions and views regarding this pandemic, some of these discussions and views are helpful, while many are not. Our discussion for this month will be hard, but compassionate, and hopefully helpful. We hope you are all doing well, staying safe and healthy (spiritually, mentally, and physically). Let us take a look at the impact this is having upon us. The hope we have in Jesus Christ as we navigate through this pandemic time together, those who know Jesus Christ and those who need to know Jesus Christ. We continue to experience Governor Walz's Executive Orders relating to the Covid-19 virus pandemic, although his orders are changing over the course of time, life is still different for all of us. As veterans and family members we certainly are no stranger to life's challenges, regardless of the way this pandemic is affecting us. Many of us are experiencing challenges from this pandemic on top of our already stressful lives. Yet there are discussions and views that seems to add unnecessary stress to our already stressful lives, here are just a few examples of some very personal stories:

Some people suggest the Covid-19 virus situation is "the worst thing in the world," for everyone here in the United States (and the world). Yet, the scriptures help us to understand the reality of this phrase by recording two incidences that were thought to be "the worst thing in the world" during Jesus' time. Jesus view of the incident during his day offers another perspective on the "worst thing in the world" (Luke 13:1-4). Jesus took the incidences of The Tower of Siloam and Pilate's actions as examples to make it very personal for the people listening to Him, if they did not change the direction of their lives and turn to God, then His listeners would also perish. In other words, hell is the absolute worst thing that could happen to a person, especially when Christ gave them an opportunity to turn back to God with a meaningful relationship and live forever.

Some people suggest God is out to get them, especially when life's plans are interrupted due to bad things happening to good people, sound familiar? This is very real to many people who are grieving, hurting, and blaming God for the very situation they are experiencing, because if God is all love and all powerful, how could these bad things happen to me? There are so many dynamics of our perfect God interacting with Satan in an imperfect world made of imperfect people (all of us having the freedom of choice / consequences) and issues relating to people who trust in Jesus as well as those who don't. There is a wonderful interview of a person name Mandy Harvey with a pastor and a deaf sign language interpreter. Mandy personally describes the tragedy of becoming deaf and blends in so many of the issues in this paragraph with a very real faith in God and love for Jesus Christ. Mandy shares her experiences with genuine Christians who did pray for her total healing, only for her to become totally deaf. Just as some views and discussions about the Covid-19 virus are not helpful, so were some of the statements made by Christians back in 2017, who really did not understand God when it comes to healing. The question becomes, can God miraculously heal? The answer is yes, but what happens when He does not heal? In some cases Christians told Mandy, "You don't have enough faith." This means they didn't understand why she was not healed (like many of us). So instead they simply blame Mandy for not having enough faith. Why would Christians blame Mandy? The reason is God did not act according to their expectations. This does not help. Mandy discusses so many other issues as well and her interview can be seen on You Tube, entitled 'Mandy Harvey - Stories 2017' at <https://youtu.be/gIFoB87U104> This interview is so helpful and full of real hope when hurting. Mike & Julie Gutz

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## AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER

Thank you to all the men and women that have served and are no longer with us, I hope you were able to honor them in some way on Memorial Day. I also hope and pray you have all been safe and staying healthy.

We are planning to have a meeting on June 15th at 6:00 pm outside the building to observe the social distancing policy. In the event that it is raining the meeting will not be held. During this meeting we will elect our officers. Please bring a mask if you have one or there will be some available.

The convention this year in St. Cloud has been official cancelled, all current State DAV Auxiliary officer will remain the same at this time.

Sara Gast

### 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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