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Monthly Newsletter  
September 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, September 21st at 6pm



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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:	Jeri Harvey
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**

Sept 2nd - Victory in Japan (VJ) Day 1945  
 Sept 7th - Labor Day  
 Sept 14th - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours  
 Sept 11th - Patriot Day  
 Sept 18th - POW/MIA Recognition Day  
 Sept 19th - Rosh Hashanah  
 Sept 21st - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours  
 Sept 27th - Gold Star Mother's Day  
 Sept 28th - Yom Kippur  
 Oct 5th - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours  
 Oct 12th - Columbus Day  
 Oct 14th - Cuban Missile Crisis Began in 1962  
 Oct 19th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours  
 Oct 23 - Beirut Barracks Bombing in 1983  
 Oct 25th - US Invasion of Granada in 1983  
 Oct 31st - Halloween  
 Nov 1st - Daylight Savings time ends  
 Nov 2nd - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours  
 Nov 3rd - Election Day  
 Nov 11th - Veterans Day  
 Nov 16th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours  
 Nov 26th - Thanksgiving



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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON AUGUST 17TH, 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	Present
Junior Vice Commander	Gene Schwantes	Present
Adjutant	David Myers	Present
Treasurer	Scotty Allison	Present
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Present
Judge Advocate	Jeri Harvey	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Present
Officer of the Day	Glen Aagard	Absent
Historian	Vacant	N/A

## B. Members present: 14

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

- Guests/Visitors: None
- Prospective new members: None
- Transfers in: None

## D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of July 20, 2020 were read. Motion to approve by Andy Staudt, 2nd by Randy Hanevold. Motion Carried.

## E. Financial Report: Financial Report for 1 – 30 July 2020 given by chapter treasurer Scotty Allison. Motion to accept by Jeff Meyer, 2nd by Jack Young. 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 July 2020 folder, if anyone wishes to read them.

## H. Committee Reports:

1. Membership Report: No Report was given
2. Service Officer Report: No Report was given
3. Legislative Report: No Report was given
4. Hospital Chaplain Report (Includes Sickness and Distress): No Report was given
5. Entertainment: No Report was given
6. Fundraising committee: No Report was given
7. Newsletter Committee: No Report was given
8. Medical Equipment:
  - i) 4 donations were received.
  - ii) 2 distributions were made.

## 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.

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

The adjutant has been tasked with attempting to contact Mr. Beckstrom. Tabled until August, Adjutant on leave

This item is removed from the agenda due to the inability to get in touch with Mr. Beckstrom.

## K. New Business:

1. Gene Schwantes has resigned as Jr. Vice Commander. The Commander has appointed Darrel Baltzell as the new Jr. Vice Commander. Gene Schwantes made the motion to accept this appointment. Andy Staudt 2nd the motion. Carried.
2. Commander Zimmerman will take a leave of absence, effective immediately. This is expected to run through November 2020. Senior Vice Commander Joe Vene will serve as Deputy, effective immediately.
3. The treasurer needs three members to form the audit committee. Jeff Meyer, Andy Staudt, and Bruce Tiegen are hereby appointed.
4. Gene Schwantes made the motion to rescind the direction that we pay the drivers \$150.00 to carry loads to Duluth. Jack Young 2nd. Carried.

## L. Executive Committee Action Items:

The conveyor system needs to be troubleshooted to see if it can be repaired. If it can be, the parts to fix it should be no more than 1000.00. Andy Staudt made the motion to send this to the floor at the next general meeting for approval. Bruce Tiegen seconded the motion. Carried.

Jeff Meyer made the motion to spend up to 1000.00 to repair the conveyor. Ward Sutton 2nd. Carried.

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

## N. Motion to adjourn made by Andy Staudt, 2nd by Ward Sutton. Motion carried.

1. The meeting was adjourned at 1824 hours.
2. The next meeting will be held on 21 September 2020 at 1800 at the Chapter Headquarters.

## ATTENTION VAN USERS

The Fargo VA has indefinitely suspended the use of the DAV van for transporting patients to and from the Medical Center due to the Covid19 virus. We will post the information and schedule here when they let us know the van service will be able to resume transporting patients again.

### 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

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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Everyone,

I hope everyone is staying healthy in these troublesome times.

Not much new at the Headquarters.

We get weekly updates from the Department on the clothing program. Savers is back up and running over their projected amount of processing per week, so it is looking better for everyone. We are only going to receive one semi-trailer a month. Savers has a backlog of semi-trailers at their storage facility that need to be processed first.

At this time, while things have slowed down some, I'm going to step back for a little while and let Joe Vene run the chapter. I need a little break to catch my breath, relax, and unwind.

Sincerely,  
Mike Zimmerman

## GREETINGS FELLOW DAV MN MEMBERS:

In the previous newsletter it was noted that the Fall Conference was cancelled, and that the Department was looking at doing some form of a virtual format. The Department leadership would rather be putting together the Fall Conference together for a in person meeting, (we miss seeing you all), the Department leadership feels that it is important that we communicate with the members.

What we are planning on doing is videos of different Department Programs and services that we will send out to Chapter leadership asking/encouraging all the Chapter leaders to share these videos with the membership. The plan is to record these videos during the month of September and have them all out to the Chapters no later than the first part of October. These videos will also be going on the DAV MN website so they can be accessed in the future as well.

Here is a "sample" list of what some of the videos will be:

- Commander's Report
- Year-in-review report
- Membership report
- LVAP report
- AFR (Annual Financial Report) demo
- Transportation report
- Legislation update
- Household donation/Enterprise update
- Service Officer report
- Foundation report

Again, this is all still being put together this is not final. The department will also host follow up Online Zoom meetings on a variety of topics for all chapter leaders to ask questions. Dates will be communicated once finalized.



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# ENSURING SURVIVORS BENEFITS DURING COVID-19 ACT

Dear Friends,

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 150,000 Americans have died, many of them veterans. It is feared that some of the survivors of these veterans will be denied benefits because of a death certificate that lists the cause of death as COVID-19 and does not mention the service-connected conditions that may have contributed to their cause of death.

On July 2, 2020, Senators Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Senator Thom Tillis (NC) introduced S. 4166, the Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act, which would address this issue by requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs seek a medical opinion in the case of any veteran who has a service-connected condition and who passes away due to the coronavirus. This medical opinion could be crucial in obtaining survivors' benefits.

DAV continues to support legislation that would ensure adequate compensation to the survivors of veterans whose deaths are held to be service connected.

Please help us support this important legislation by asking your Senators to cosponsor S. 4166, to ensure that no surviving family members are denied entitlement to their benefits during this pandemic.

Thank you for participating in the Commander's Action Network.

Stephan "Butch" Whitehead  
National Commander

[Take Action!](#)



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# A JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE DAV AND DAV AUXILIARY

We wanted to update you with new information from VA about when newly eligible veterans will be able to apply for caregiver benefits. As previously reported, VA recently published new regulations to expand the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) to pre-9/11 veterans, beginning with those from World War II, the Korean and Vietnam war eras whose injuries or illnesses occurred on or before May 7, 1975. The second expansion phase will cover veterans whose injuries or illnesses occurred between May 8, 1975 and September 10, 2001.

According to VA, this expansion will not occur and become official until the Secretary certifies a new caregiver IT system and it is fully implemented. VA also notes that it will not approve any new applications for caregiver benefits based on this expanded eligibility prior to that date, which is expected to be October 1st (the same day the new regulations take effect). Only new applications received by VA on or after the IT certification date (also expected to be October 1st) will be considered or approved based on the new expanded eligibility for World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans in phase one.

It is important to remember that having a service-connected injury or illness—regardless of the level of disability compensation—does not automatically qualify a veteran for PCAFC benefits. VA must first make a clinical assessment of each individual's caregiving needs and approve both the veteran and their designated caregiver into the program before VA will begin to provide benefits.

According to VA's new regulation, a phase one veteran's effective date for caregiver benefits, including stipends, would be:

“...the latest of the following dates:

- (1) The date the joint application that resulted in approval and designation of the Family Caregiver is received by VA.
- (2) The date the eligible veteran begins receiving care at home.
- (3) The date the Family Caregiver begins providing personal care services to the eligible veteran at home.”

Therefore, if you are a World War II, Korean War or Vietnam era veteran who currently has a family caregiver providing you with caregiving services in your home, you may become eligible on the date your application is received by VA as long as it is on or after the IT certification date, (expected to be October 1st) and VA has determined that both you and your caregiver meet the clinical criteria for the program.

To reiterate—if your application for benefits is approved, and your designated caregiver is approved into the program, your benefits may be payable back to the date the application was received (on or after October 1st) if your caregiver was already providing personal care services at your home. If you do not currently have a caregiver but you are found to be eligible for the program, and your application is approved and clinical need is determined, the effective date would be the date the designated caregiver begins providing personal care services to the eligible veteran.

VA is expected to provide further information later this month about the IT certification date and will make an official announcement when applications will be accepted. We will keep you updated once we receive this information. You can also find VA's latest announcements about the program and the expansion to pre-9/11 veterans here. <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers/>

## 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://davn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/>



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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It is September already! Summer is almost over and we are starting to enter the fall season for this year. It is amazing so many changes taking place in such a short amount of time over this last summer. Several veteran organizations have made so many changes to their activities and calendars due to the current status of our nation, yet we are going to get through all of this together. There has been a lot of things happening within our personal families as well. This is definitely a time of change, while making the best decisions we can under the circumstances we all face. Past generations have done the same, yet there is one thing we all can do right now, and that is to not let speculations run amok. It seems under times of stress we all want to know the end result, in so doing, we often resort to speculation and misinformation.

Jesus spoke about times of stress while being cautious about speculation and misinformation (Matthew 24). Times of stress will come, but Jesus cautions us not to be alarmed nor give into speculation and misinformation. There are many instances everyone involves themselves in this kind of response during times of stress, yet in doing so can be problematic. Let's look at some instances of past speculations and misinformation.

Remember Y2K? It was believed computers throughout the world would crash because once the '99 turned into '00, all computer would consider the date to mean 1900 and therefore the computers would stop functioning. As a result, all electrical power would cease as well as anything else that depended upon a computer. I recall while still in the military, there was an emergency task force and call-in center for any computer issues on the night of 31 December 2000. The projected scare never took place to the extent some people were advocating. There is always the consistent seasons of election speculations, remember 2016? I am amazed at the amount of speculation occurs. Yet in the end, the election is done, and so are the speculations.

The return of Christ. It is amazing there has been so many date predictions of Christ's returning. Literally hundreds of people from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries have predicted Jesus return by now. Yet, people have been expecting Jesus to return ever since the First Century. Yet, the scriptures definitively state Christ's return date will never be known by anyone (Matthew 24:3 - 42). Many of the recent prediction dates constantly coming and going results in hurting the trust and integrity of the people who follow this kind of speculation, while disappointing many people with misinformation.

No doubt we are closer to the time of Jesus returning, but to set a date or range of dates does not help anyone. This brings us to the main point, Jesus did not want us to be speculating, He simply wanted us to be busy with our own business in our own lives as we witness Christ to others. This can take many different forms, such as quietly living our lives for Christ with integrity, forgiveness, and an expectation of His return. Another way to witness Christ is to share our faith and what God has done in our lives with others. Being with others who are hurting and supporting their needs as we are moved to do so through God's grace. This is done through following the direction of the Holy Spirit through what is commonly known as a hunch or intuition. This hunch or intuition is the sense we have knowing without a doubt, deep down inside, doing the right thing, at the right moment and at the right place. Let us all stay healthy, be safe, and look forward to helping the needs of our veterans and their families.

Blessing,

Mike and Julie Gutz



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# JUDGE ROBERT S. MARX AWARD FOR 19-20

I am pleased to announce our Department of Minnesota has been named the recipient of the Judge Robert S. Marx Award for 19-20. This award is presented to the Department with the “highest percentage increase of life members over goal for the membership year”.

I was given an opportunity to record a 1-2min acceptance speech to be a part of the virtual content taking the place of National Convention. Here is a transcript of my remarks;

*“Thank you, National Commander Whitehead, I am honored to accept this award on behalf of the Dept. of Minnesota.*

*A special thanks goes to our Sr. Vice Commander Ron Haugen and Commander Scott Berndt, under their leadership we were able to try new ways of recruitment, and getting the word out about the Dept. of MN.*

*I would like to give the credit for this award where it is due, to our Chapter Members and Volunteers across the great state of Minnesota.*

*It is one thing to tell a potential member who we are but it is something completely different, and more effective, to have our amazing members and volunteers show them who we are as an organization.*

*These amazing people are out in their communities every single day truly living our mission, whether it is helping a Veteran as a CSO, providing free transportation, assisting on an outdoors trip, or one of the other numerous ways our Department and Chapters are actively providing serviced in Minnesota.*

*Their actions serve as a far more effective recruiting tool than anything else we can come up with. So, thank you to all of our members and volunteers, our success in recruiting new members is a reflection of your dedication to service.*

*Thank you again to the National Commander and DAV National for the opportunity to accept this award.”*

I would add my thanks to our NSO’s, all members who recruited even one new member, and the support Chapter leaders have given to recruiting efforts.

Regards,  
Trent C Dilks  
Department Adjutant



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