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

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www.davchapter7.org

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Monthly Newsletter August, 2014

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

NEXT MEETING: National Guard Armory Bemidji, MN Monday, September 15th at 7pm







Greetings Members,

Having gotten the July issue of our newsletter under our belt, we have been moving forward with a little more confidence to put together this issue! We are still working out some bugs and hopefully we will be able to provide you with more pertinent information about upcoming events and items that may concern you in a more timely fashion. We are in constant contact with each of our twelve County Veterans Service Offices to get inputs from them about what is happening within their Counties that we can include in our newsletters and on our website. Speaking of which, things are slowly coming together on the website as we are still in the learning process to properly build it. If you haven't done so yet, we urge you to go check it out at www.davchapter7.org. There are more expanded articles and links to information that may be of interest or help to you, not only on local issues, but on the State and National levels as well. As always, we would appreciate any feedback on what you would like to see for content in both the newsletter and on the website.

On a side note, even with the short notice, we had a pretty good turnout for the summer picnic with 64+ veterans and family members showing up to enjoy each other's company and the food that was prepared by our friends at the Marketplace Deli. It turn out to be a very nice day with intermittent sunshine and a nice breeze to keep the temperature comfortable. Keep an eye out for news about our December Banquet and Awards dinner that the entertainment committee is already working on!

Have a safe and wonderful month!

Your newsletter staff

Additional Sponsors

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COMMANDER

Just a quick shout out to all of our volunteers that are continuing to keep our fund raising programs on track! Without your help and support these programs would not be the successful fundraising endeavors that they have become. To everyone else, we are constantly in need of additional help and support for all of our programs, so if you, your families or friends are available to help or volunteer your time, your assistance would be greatly appreciated, not only by those you help, but also on relieving some of the burden of accomplishing these programs by helping those volunteers who are currently fulfilling these rolls. We realize that not everyone can help with the physical aspects of some of the programs, but by checking things out, you may find your niche as a volunteer in some other way. Just remember, there is strength in numbers and many hands make lighter work!

Have a great month!

Dave Sterr, Commander

ADJUTANT

Friends and Neighbor's

The Disabled American Veteran (DAV) North Central MN Chapter No. 7 closed out another successful Fiscal Year (July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014). Due to the generous donations from our local population and visitors to our area, we were able to give \$30,300 directly to disabled veterans in need and who live in the 12 counties we serve. These monies assisted veterans with such things as rent, utility bills, vehicle repairs, medical equipment, and hospital expenses. We also gave out numerous regular and electric wheel chairs, beds, scooters, walkers, along with other medical equipment for veterans in need. In addition, we donated over \$15,000 to organizations who support and care for our veterans such as our VA Clinic here in Bemidji, the VA Medical Centers in Fargo, St. Cloud, and Minneapolis, as well as our Veteran Nursing Homes in Fergus Falls and Silverbay. These funds were raised through donations to our Forget-Me-Not Flower fundraisers, Herberger's Community day booklet sales and our Clothing collection program.

You have probably seen many of the green boxes around the area for donating your clothing. Some have our **DAV Chapter** 7 logo and some that are from another company. When you are considering donations to these boxes, we ask you to keep in mind that your donations to our boxes go directly to helping our local veterans, and the other boxes are a "for profit" company.

We are an all volunteer organization except for the Treasure and Adjutant who receive \$250 each year for office supplies and other items needed for them to do their job, in addition we had 11,250 volunteer hours; which does not include our transportation drivers who are also volunteers; we always need more volunteers for transportation, clothing and other projects.

We are very proud of the members of our communities and continually rely on their giving nature and how well they support the DAV in order for us to help those who served our GREAT NATION. Again, We as Members of the DAV North Central MN Chapter # 7, would like to take this opportunity to send out a heartfelt "Thank You!!" to all of you that have contributed to our endeavors!

If you know of a Veteran in need please ask them to call either: Commander Dave Sterr @ (218) 556-4633 Adjutant Robert Saddoris @ (218) 243-2663.

Sincerely, Robert Saddoris, Adjutant

DAV MEETING FOR AUGUST 18TH, 2014

(Abbreviated)

Meeting called to order at: 1900 Hrs.

Opening ceremonies performed.

Roll call of Officers taken: A quorum was present.

Number of Members Present: 12

Guests or visitors: None

Reading of the minutes from the July 21st, 2014 meeting:

· Motion to accept as read. Approved

Treasurer's report given:

· Motion to accept as read. Approved

Chaplin's Report:

1. No new reports of Sickness or distress.

Reading of the Correspondence.

Committee reports given:

- Service Officer:
 - 1. Eight people assisted since the last meeting.
- Membership:
 - 1. Three new members joined.
 - 2. Two transfers into our chapter,
 - Motion to accept. Approved.

• Newsletter:

- 1. Update given on progress of obtaining more Advertisers/ Sponsors.
- 2. Cost of printing and mailing for July issue given.
- 3. Deadline for August edition articles set: 22 Aug 2014.
- Entertainment:
 - 1. Report of cost and attendance for summer picnic given.
- Forget- Me- Not:
 - 1. Reported on upcoming dates and places for sales in Sept.

Old Business:

1. Two new clothing bins have been order @ a cost of \$250 each.

New Business:

1. Motion to purchase new flat bed for Truck # 2. Approved.

Good of the order: None

Closing Ceremonies were performed.

Meeting adjourned at: 2030 Hrs.

AUXILIARY COMMANDER

Hello all!

As I was unexpectedly invited to have an input for this month's newsletter, I will keep it rather brief. It is my pleasure to be serving as the Auxiliary Commander and assisting our DAV Chapter in their fund raising endeavors. We, in the Auxiliary, are a small group at this point, but I would encourage all of the spouses and families of our DAV Chapter member's to join our unit so that we can continue to grow and become another great asset to the officers and committees of our DAV Chapter. Several of our members have assisted in their Forget-Me-Not fund raising over the summer and most recently helping with the summer picnic at which we had a very enjoyable time. We are looking forward to being able to assist with the upcoming MACV Stand Down at the end of the month and the awards banquet in December. I will be attending the fall conference and, as it will be my first one as your Auxiliary Commander, I am anticipating an exciting event with plenty of information to try and absorb!

I am looking forward to your continuing support!

Respectfully,

Linda Engesether, Auxiliary Commander

Upcoming Events

September 5th - At 10:30AM, RE-CREATION will present "40 Years of Entertainment" at the Fargo VA Medical Center in the Third Floor Auditorium.

All Veterans are invited to attend!

September 6th - 2nd Annual Veterans Rendezvous @ the St. Cloud VA Center from 09:00 AM to 03:30 PM. For more details visit www.stcloud.va.gov or the St. Cloud VA's Facebook page: stcloudvahcs.

September 13th & 14th - Gun show @ the Bemidji National Guard Armory.

September 17th -11am-7pm, Minnesota Veteran Symposium @ 7800 Normandale Blvd, Minneapolis, MN

MACV STAND DOWNS

September 24th – Bemidji area @ the National Guard Armory.

September 25th – Grand Rapids area Contact Paul Pedersen (218) 722-8763

FREE VETERAN HONOR CRUISES!

Join the National Park Service at the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway for a Special Program and Honor Cruise in recognition of your service, on a Pontoon Cruise from Stillwater, Minnesota!

September 11th, @ 5:00 PM: Honoring the Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan War Veterans

September 19th, @ 5:00 PM: Honoring POW/MIA Day for Vietnam Veterans

September 24th, @ 5:00 PM: Honoring the United Women Veterans NW Chapter

Space is limited to 12 veterans per cruise and registration is required.

Call the Namekagon River Visitor Center at (715) 635-8346 to register.

For additional information about or links to any of these events, check out our website at: www.davchapter7.org!

COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER REPORT (BELTRAMI COUNTY OFFICE)

This office is still waiting for the exact rules regarding H.R. 3230 (The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014). This bill passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law by the President recently is aimed at improving access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Though there are a number of provisions in this bill, of most interest to us in this area, is the stream-lined ability to access care from non-VA care providers. Both distance from VA medical facilities and waiting times will be major factors in who will be allowed to use non-VA services. From what I can determine, it looks like if you reside more than forty miles from a VA facility you **might be able** to benefit from this bill. Already I have received several inquiries about the passage of this law, but am unable to answer questions in any detail until the Veterans Administration publish their rules and explains how veterans will access care.

I have discussed the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) in a previous article. However, recently I have met a couple of family members of deceased veterans who did not know they were entitled to this great benefit. To repeat, CHAMPVA is a health benefits program in which the VA shares the cost of health care services and supplies with eligible individuals. CHAMPVA provides coverage to the spouse and children of a veteran who is rated permanently/totally disabled due to a service-connected disability; or was rated permanently/totally disabled due to a service-connected condition at time of death; or died of a service-connected disability. CHAMPVA is excellent medical coverage, and I hope if you are eligible you are enrolled and using it.

Hope by now you received your new Veterans Health Identification Cards? If you had an old identification card the VA was supposed to automatically mail you a new card. If you have not received your card yet or are a new veteran enrollee in the VA Health Care System, please go to your supporting Medical Center to get your card. For most of us in this area it means going to Fargo.

If you served in Korea during the Korean War, I have a book in this office you may be interested in picking up. The book is entitled "Korea Reborn, A Grateful Nation" and is a gift from the Korean People to you honoring your wartime service in their nation. I have limited copies and so it is available on a first-come first-serve basis.

Still looking to find a veteran who might be interested in some free land! The only stipulation is that the veteran build a house on this land that he/she will live in. If anyone is interested please call us for more details.

Don't forget if you have any questions regarding veterans' benefits please call the County Veterans Service Office at 218-333-4177/4178.

Scotty Allison, Beltrami County Veterans Service Officer.





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2014 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

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Northwest Transportation MN DAV Chapter 7 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:

Call 1-855-277-9787 (NOTE # HAS CHANGED) and follow voice prompts to leave a message.

If you have problems leaving a message call Adjutant Saddoris at 218-243-2663.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER: Dave Sterr - 218.556.4633
SENIOR VICE: Mike Zimmerman - (218)-252-2061
HINIOR VICE: Marten Schrage 218.308.7972

JUNIOR VICE:Marten Schrage - 218-308-7972JUNIOR VICE:Jay Ruediger - 218-395-0318ADJUTANT:Robert Saddoris - 218.243.2663SERVICE OFFICER:Robert Saddoris - 218.243.2663

TREASURER: Jeri Harvey

CHAPLAIN: Mike Gutz - (218)308-3927 CHAPLAIN (ALT.): Bruce Holden - 218-467-3591

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Vacant

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Bruce Tiegen - (218) 308-0962
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torgor@lightspeed.net

EXEC. COMMITTEE:

EXEC. COMMITTEE:

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The reality of God, Satan, and spiritual activities here on Earth were well documented in the Bible (Gen 1, Dan 10, Rev 12, Job 1-2, Eph 6). The Bible is God's word (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:19-20) and accepts the reality of the spiritual realm without justification. The Bible documents the existence of the spiritual realm as more real than the things we see here on Earth (Col 1:15, John 18:36-37, Rom 1:20). Regardless if someone acknowledges whether the spiritual realm exists, or not; operates here on earth, or not; or influences people here on Earth, or not; does not change the fact that a spiritual warfare exists on earth and in the heavenly realm (Dan 10, Eph 2:1-2).

People can acknowledge the true existence of the spiritual realm, although they can be (knowingly or unknowingly) incorrect in the manner or attitude they present spiritual information. A person can have a misguided concept, or incorrect emphasis that skews their understanding and application to the point that problems can be created (Matt 17:19-21). It is important a correct Biblical understanding of spiritual warfare is obtained and correctly applied. An example is knowing we are not fighting people (Eph 6:12).

When Jesus confronted Satan, it was not for the purpose to accuse the Devil, pick a fight just because Satan is bad. It was not until Jesus went to the cross, doing it God's way, that Jesus was able to destroy the works, or the authoritative control of the Devil (1 John 3:8). Notice, Jesus did not come to destroy the Devil, He came to destroy the Devil's authoritative control over mankind and all of God's creation. Yes, the Devil will be destroyed, but not now, and not until later when the time is right (Rev 20).

One issue that clearly needs to be addressed from time to time is why God allows so much suffering and evil in the world if He is really sovereign over His creation? Although not everything is understood (2 Thes 2.7, Deut 29:29), there is an umbrella principle that can be demonstrated to address this issue of responsibility. Mankind was created by God to live within certain boundaries, which consisted of blessings and curses. God also has given us the freedom to choose within those boundaries (Gen 2) and to make sure we understood the choices, He not only told us the consequences (death) of a poor decision (to sin), but also told us what choice (choose the blessing) to make (Deut 30:15-19). Yet, we can see that Satan does just the opposite, not only does he lie to us about the sin and its consequences (Gen 3), but is also constantly pushing us towards God's boundary (curses) that will hurt us, or pushes God to hurt us (Job 2:3), and then tries to make us believe (a lie) that God is the one who is responsible for hurting us. This is a perfect example of the kind of leadership mentality that operates in the world wherever we go. Supervisors who will set us up or confuse us into doing something, once completed, blames us (for doing what we were instructed to do) if the results embarrass the boss instead of taking responsibility for the instructions they provided.

We want to learn from Jesus' example of how to conduct spiritual warfare (Matt 4:9-11). If the Devil knew that this was going to be the method that God would use to completely destroy his authoritative control, then the Devil would have never killed Jesus, even though God was sacrificing His Son under the law, on our behalf for our sins (1 Cor 2:8-9, John 3:16), so that we may have eternal life (Gal 3:13-14; Deut 21:23, Gal 4:4-5, John 12:27) and thus putting the demons to shame while at the same time glorifying Jesus (Col 2:15). Staying with Christ, spending time with Him personally and praying is so important. Please feel free to call me whenever you would like to talk or have a need.

Michael J Gutz, Chaplin (218) 444-5015 HP (218) 308-3927 CP









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