

Bemidji Chapter 7

Disabled American Veterans

North Central Minnesota Chapter #7

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Monthly Newsletter
February 2015

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

NEXT MEETING:

**National Guard Armory Bemidji, MN
Monday, March 16th at 7pm**

CHAPTER OFFICERS

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| COMMANDER: | Dave Sterr - (218)556-4633 |
| SENIOR VICE: | Mike Zimmerman - (218)-252-2061 |
| JUNIOR VICE: | Marten Schrage - (218)308-7972 |
| JUNIOR VICE: | Jay Ruediger - (218)395-0318 |
| ADJUTANT: | Robert Saddoris - (218)243-2663 |
| SERVICE OFFICER: | Robert Saddoris - (218)243-2663 |
| TREASURER: | Jeri Harvey- (509)389-8505 |
| CHAPLAIN: | Mike Gutz - (218)308-3927 |
| CHAPLAIN (ALT.): | Bruce Holden - (218)467-3591 |
| JUDGE ADVOCATE: | Vacant |
| SERGEANT AT ARMS: | Bruce Tiegen - (218)308-0962 |
| OFFICER OF THE DAY: | Glenn Aagard - 218-556-7999 |
| HISTORIAN: | Vacant |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE CHAIR: | Tom Annonson - (218)251-3025,
torgor@lightspeed.net |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE: | Bruce Tiegen |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE: | Bruce Holden |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE: | Glenn Aagard |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE: | Marten Schrage |

COMMANDERS CORNER

Elections are over and all positions are filled. Welcome new officers and thank you for your willingness to serve. Thank you, also, to all the members who participate in the meetings and the fundraisers. Chapter 7 covers a large area with members far and wide. We try to be available to everyone but that is sometimes hard to do. There are four ways to keep in touch.

1. Come to our monthly meetings, they are held on the third Monday in the Bemidji National Guard Armory at 1900 hrs.
2. We have a clothes sorting get-together most Tuesdays morning at the Armory. This is our major money making project to help veterans in need.
3. You can call me at (218) 556-4633 to have your questions answered or just say hello.
4. If you are having a veterans meeting in your town, call me and we will come and meet with you.

Whether you need help, want to help or just hang out with likeminded veterans we have a place for you.

Dave Sterr
DAV Chapter 7 Commander

DAV MEETING FOR FEBRUARY 16TH, 2015



At the February meeting of the Disabled American Veterans, Commander Dave Sterr presented a check for \$1000 to the American Legion Honor/Color Guard. Pictured from the left are Claude Sand, Bill Pagel, Dave Sterr and Tom Annonson.

Meeting called to order: 1900 Hrs.

Opening Ceremonies Performed.

Roll call of officers taken: A quorum was present.

Number of Members Present: 16

Guests or Visitors:

Legion Members, State Senior Vice Commander
Greg Remus

Reading of the minutes from Jan 19th, 2015 meeting:

Motion to accept as read. Approved.

Treasurer's Report Given:

Abbreviated Report given. Motion to accept as read.
Approved.

Chaplain's Report:

6+ Veterans Assisted.

Election of Officers:

Appointed members read. Motion to accept as submitted.
Approved.

Oath of Office:

Presented and Completed by State Senior Vice

Reading of Correspondence.

Thank you from Vet for supporting well installation.

Thank you from Fergus Falls Vet's Home for Recreation
Sponsor

Invitation to LeeAnn Karg's Testimonial Dinner to be held
April 11 @ Hilton Minneapolis

Presentation to Legion:

\$1000 check presented to Bemidji Legion to support
Honor Guard.

Committee reports given:

Service officer: Helped 6 Veterans.

Membership: no new report.

Newsletter: Articles due in by Thursday

Forget-me-not: upcoming dates presented.

Old Business:

1. CDR Chuck Deeds information presented. Info
2. Obtain flags for the Auxiliary \$640. Closed.

New Business:

1. \$400 to support moving expenses. Approved.
2. \$995 to support Widow with rent. Approved.
3. \$600 to support vet with closing outstanding rent. Approved.
4. Beltrami County Fair Booth paperwork presented, space rental check issued. Info.

Exec. Committee Actions:

1. Vet in need of Wheel Chair Ramp. Home Depot will support 1/3 of cost. Info.
2. Vet in need of fuel cost. \$310.53. Approved.
3. DAV Spring Convention in Mankato Apr 30 – May 2. Will vote on attendees at next meeting.
4. 2017 Fall Conference- more info will be gathered and presented at next meeting for official proposal to hold event in Bemidji.

Good of the Order: None

Closing Ceremonies were performed.

Meeting adjourned at: 2009 hrs.

SERVICE OFFICER CORNER

Are you aware that for each new member you sign up you receive 2 points which is worth \$2 at the DAV store to buy whatever they have for sale, I found that I had \$280 built up, so I spent \$40 on a new bag for my new job with the Chapter, this means that I Have recruited 140 new members since being with Chapter 7 and transfers do not count.

The Van we use to take Veterans to Fargo was driven 16,974 miles and carried 145 Veterans with drivers volunteering for 418 hours. Our sister van in Park Rapids we beat by 831 miles.

The State Convention is April 30th thru May 2nd at Mankato.

Our Certificate of good standing has been renewed for 2015, this is with State of MN, showing we are ok to keep our clothing sales going.

Information Center for Woman Veterans:

[http:// www.va.gov/womanvet/](http://www.va.gov/womanvet/)

Department of Veterans Affairs home page:

www.va.gov/

Emergency, non-emergency, and fee basis care:

www.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf

By now you should have received your Veterans Choice program information card. (for Veterans and Providers)

<http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/>

This card is for qualifying medical care outside of Department of Veterans Affairs. Please call **1-866-606-8198** to insure treatment has been authorized. This is for those who live over 40 miles from CBOC or VA Hospital. Also, if VA cannot provide you care within 30 days this program can be used.

I have had 2 Veterans who went to Emergency room because CBOC could not care for them: or eye appointment was over 30 days old went to their own doc. Folks you must have permission to see your own Doctor. And if you go to ER you must agree to be transferred if you can be and you also must notify VA within 72 hours or sooner otherwise VA may not pay for the care. Check with your Chapter Service Officers Saddoris 243-2663 or better yet check with your CVS0.

**Auxiliary will be resuming
their meetings on the
third Monday in March.**

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90th Birthday Celebration

Wednesday March 11 2pm-4pm
Windsong Theater, Woodsedge Campus,
1010 Anne St NW, Bemidji



Send Cards to:
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APT 324
Sanford Health Windsong
1010 Anne St NW, Bemidji, MN 56601

**Invited to attend for refreshments,
cake, and to socialize.**

ACTION IN SAINT PAUL

Representative John Persell along with four other Representatives from the Minnesota House and Senator Tom Saxhaug from the Minnesota Senate have introduced bonding bills to establish a Veterans Home in Bemidji that will serve Northern Minnesota. Both bills are intended to raise up to \$30 million for the design, construction and equipping of this new home. H.F. No. 54 is the House bill and S.F. No. 7 is the Senate bill. If you support a Veterans Home here in Bemidji please thank both of these authors and let other politicians know that we want and need a Veterans Home in this part of the state.

H.F. No. 147 is a bill that has been introduced to extend the Minnesota market value exclusion on property taxes for surviving spouses of deceased service members who were rated 100 percent disabled, total and permanent, prior to their deaths. Currently, surviving spouses can keep the exemption for the year of death of the veteran and for eight years after that. This bill would do away with that and make it permanent as long "as the spouse does not remarry, sell, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the property." Once again, it would be good to make your voice known if you have an opinion on this matter.

H.F. No. 137, H.F. No. 299, H.F. No. 312, and S.F. No. 40 are all bills that have been introduced to exempt some part of a military retirees' pension. Minnesota is one of only nine states that still fully taxes military retirement pay. Regarding our surrounding states, Wisconsin/Michigan exempt all retirement pay from state taxes, South Dakota has no state taxes, and North Dakota exempts a portion of their retired pay. Minnesota has a very small number of retired military living in the state and the intention of the legislation "is to make Minnesota a more veteran-friendly retirement state." It is believed that the current tax system regarding retired pay discourages military retirees from relocating to Minnesota when they leave the service and that it encourages them to leave the state when they are able to do so such as when they fully retire.

Recently, the Department of Defense announced Vietnam veterans diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and who received less-than-honorable discharges should receive careful consideration when military review boards consider requests to upgrade their discharge. "In effect, a veteran seeking a revised discharge will have to prove three elements: that he or she suffered from PTSD at the time of service, that the cause was related to military service and that the symptoms were a factor in the misconduct underlying the less-than-honorable discharge." This guidance mainly pertains to veterans who received administrative discharges.

Wounded Warriors Guide Service, a non-profit organization in the Bemidji area that provides outdoor recreation opportunities to disabled veterans, recently received a grant from the George W. Neilson Foundation to purchase two fish houses. Houses purchased are 8' x 16' Glacier wheeled houses and can accommodate up to four people at a time. They are currently open for use by veterans in the Bemidji area for single and multi-day use. The houses are located on the hot fishing spots on Lake Bemidji and have everything needed to fish. Bring your family or friends and enjoy a day on the lake. You can sign up by contacting the Executive Director, Brian Ophus, at brian@wvgsmn.org or by calling 218-209-1230.

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.

2015 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
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February

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November

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December

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Fosston at LaPiere's on the east end of town;
Mahnomen Cenex park south of propane tank;
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If you have problems leaving a message
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Last month we were looking at the ways we can live in the freedom of GOD. The dynamics in this process involves forgiveness and humility, a variety of actions we can take while being led by the Holy Spirit, knowing the mind of Christ, heart of YHWH (God the Father) and the scriptures. This month we want to look at some of the warning given through the prophets and Christ to Israel for those seeking a meaningful relationship with GOD.

The person seeking a relationship with GOD is one who trusts a Christian (wrote about this last month) and begins to explore the faith. It is all about building trust and relationships. The person seeking GOD may or may not be ready to hear what the Christian has to offer through Christ. People, who are seeking GOD, may not be curious about the Christian faith because there are so many religious or spiritual journeys from which to choose.

There are some people who have wrong ideas about our Christian community all because of other people behavior. This results in false teaching and religious presuppositions. A couple examples of this is when people use the Christian faith for pleasure (Romans 13:12-14), a way of getting rich (I Timothy 6:3-10), self-promotion - power - influence (II Timothy 3:1-9) or legalistic rules and regulations (Colossians 2:16-23, Mark 7:1-13, Galatians 1:11-17) and a lot of religious rituals (Isaiah 1). Yet, as a Christian genuinely lives out their authentic faith in GOD's freedom and grace, this very well may cause a genuine curiosity in Christ. Then when the person asks a Christian what following Christ is all about, a Christian can share what Christ has done for them in their lives and how living for Christ is a choice (Joshua 24:15) and takes perseverance. This is because it may result in the loss of a job, reputation and relationships, which may result in lawsuits for the true convictions we uphold in Christ (Luke 6:26 & 14:25-35).

The question becomes, how does a person live for Christ? This is a good question because it is not just going to church, or any number of other characteristics people may think, rather it is being filled with the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 3:19) as well as demonstrating the traits of the Holy Spirit in our lives and attitude (Galatians 5:22-23). We want to focus on our relationship with Christ, and not allow our lives here on earth to distract us from GOD (Colossians 3:1-11) as we continue to live under the conviction, or leading of the Holy Spirit. GOD will not force us to do anything (Matthew 11:29-30), we still make our own choices, but we allow the Holy Spirit to prick our hearts in the times we sin (I Corinthians 14:24, John 16:5-8, I John 2:1-6), or when we know we should do something we do not want to do because it really does go against our grain (upbringing, personality, etc). When we live like this our lives will be evident to the person who is seeking to know God personally. Then the person may want to come to know Christ by asking questions and actually changing the course and focus of their life. The prophets and Christ spoke about living for GOD meant something totally different than what Israel's religious community thought. Yet, they were raised in a culture emphasizing religion (Isaiah 1, Hosea 8:1-4, II Chronicles 24:20-21). More on this next month.

Please do not hesitate to call us. If you are in the hospital we would like to come and visit. If you, another veteran, or family member are in need let us know. If you want to talk or have comments then we look forward to meeting you, our prayer for you is Matthew 11:29-30.

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