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Monthly Newsletter
January 2017

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

New DAV Center on 15th Street NW
Bemidji, MN
Monday, January 15th at 7pm

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| COMMANDER: | Dave Sterr - (218) 556-4633 |
| SENIOR VICE: | Mike Zimmerman - (218) 252-2061 |
| JUNIOR VICE: | Don Strege |
| ADJUTANT: | Robert Saddoris - (218) 243-2663 |
| SERVICE OFFICER: | Robert Saddoris - (218) 243-2663 |
| TREASURER: | Jeri Harvey |
| CHAPLAIN: | Mike Gutz - (218) 308-3927 |
| CHAPLAIN (ALT.): | Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591 |
| JUDGE ADVOCATE: | David Myers |
| SERGEANT AT ARMS: | Bruce Tiegen |
| OFFICER OF THE DAY: | Glenn Aagard |
| HISTORIAN: | David Myers |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE CHAIR: | Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025,
torgor@lightspeed.net |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE: | Walter James |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE: | Glenn Aagard |

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Vets on the Hill day

The Veterans on the Hill day is on the 20th of March this year and we will be getting together another bus trip to attend it. Hopefully this year it will be a little nicer weather and we can get more Veterans to show up. There will be updates for departure times in the February and March issues of the newsletter as well as on our website (www.davchapter7.org).

If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, please send an Email (mndavchapter7@gmail.com) or text/call (218) 251-3025.

COMMANDERS CORNER

Happy New Year! May all your wishes and hopes come true for 2017!! Our big undertaking of purchasing a building became a reality in 2016. Those of you who have worked on the project have been such good stewards and supporters. Everyone in our organization can be proud that we have a home base to pivot from and we can continue to do good works for our veterans.

As we head into the winter months, we are learning how to maneuver in the building to stay warm while we work and hold meetings, etc. Things are working out nicely for sharing the building space amongst the Chapter 7 family. We will chip away at making improvements to the building and land in the coming years.

I salute you all for your service, your volunteerism, your friendship and for the many kindnesses you have shown me over the few years I have served as Commander. Things don't always go smoothly, but we seem to manage to calm rocky waters when they happen. I now know what you ladies and gentlemen are capable of, and we will go into the future a strong, vibrant group.

Dave Sterr

The DAV's main mission is to help veterans in need. If you or someone you know is in need, the Veteran's Service Officer should be contacted by calling the Veteran's Service Office at 333-4177 or 4178. The officer will determine if the veteran qualifies for assistance and can then determine what funds or services are available to the veteran or a veteran's family member. Know also that we have a large supply of medical equipment items to offer our veterans free of charge. Contact any of the DAV officers and they will help you connect with the person who can help you with securing an item you might need.



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The VA has introduced 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311) as a go-to source for Veterans and their families who don't know what number to call. This new national toll-free number will help eliminate the feelings of frustration and confusion that Veterans and their families have expressed when navigating the 1000-plus phone numbers that currently exist. However, if you have a number that works for you, keep calling it, none of the existing VA numbers will go away.

The future vision is that 1-844-MyVA311 will become a 24/7 one-stop information service platform for all VA services.

With 1-844-MyVA311, Veterans, their families, and caregivers can access information about VA services like disability, pension, healthcare eligibility, enrollment, and burial benefits, in addition to a self-service locator to find the nearest VA facility. If they're looking for immediate assistance with housing or are having a mental health crisis, 844MyVA311 will route callers to the Homeless Veteran help line and the Veterans Crisis Line.

Highlights from our Christmas Party

We had ninety-one participants show up at our Christmas party on the 19th of Dec. Commander David Sterr gave a short speech thanking everyone for attending the party and the volunteers for their service this past year, and is looking forward to working with everyone in the coming year. A brief ceremony was held to honor the flag and an explanation of the meaning of the POW/MIA table and items upon it, followed by the playing of Taps. Chaplin Mike Gutz asked the Blessing and everyone enjoyed the great meal prepared by the Bemidji Eagles club staff. The meal was followed by giving out the door prizes that were donated by several of the local businesses.



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ADJUTANT CORNER

DAV is pleased that there will be a reduction in copayments for many service-connected veterans in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 135. **VA issued** final regulations set to take effect February 27, 2017, changing VA's current copayments structure for each 30-day or less supply of medication and how future year copayment amounts and annual caps are calculated. Veterans who are currently exempt from medication copayments remain exempt, including but not limited to, a veteran with a service-connected disability rated 50 percent or more, medication for a service-connected disability, and a former prisoner of war. Currently, Priority Group (PG) 2-6 veterans must pay \$8 for each 30-day or less supply of medication and PG 7-8 veterans must pay \$9. Under the new rule, VA will essentially assign three categories for medication and associated copayments:

Tier 1 - preferred generics - \$5 copayment for 30-day supply.

Tier 2 - non-preferred generics - \$8 copayment for 30-day supply.

Tier 3 - brand name drugs - \$11 for 30-day supply.

Currently copayment costs for veterans in PG 2-6 is limited to a \$960 annual cap and PG 7-8 veterans have no cap. Under the new rule, VA will reduce the annual copayment cap to \$700 for all veterans who are required to pay medication copayments.

It is estimated that a large majority of veterans will encounter no cost increase, or will realize savings, while a small percentage of veterans-veterans who only fill Tier 3 medications-may experience a small increase in medication copayments. Based on a comparison of the current and proposed copayment amounts, VA anticipates that most veterans would realize between a 10 and 50 percent reduction in their annual pharmacy copayment costs. VA also estimates, 94 percent of copayment eligible veterans will experience no cost increase, and 80 percent will realize a savings of between \$1 and \$4 per 30-day supply of medications. For more information, please click the link below to log in and send your message: <https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/IqfEGgO-X25DfeeQG8GLzw>

This will be my next to last Adjutant Corner as you will have a new Adjutant after the February meeting. I cannot do justice in my service to the State of Minnesota DAV and to the Chapter 7 DAV at the same time. I do plan to continue with the transportation program and with the CBOC food service.

I have been your Adjutant for more years than I can remember, and you're Commander for two years before that, as well as Senior and Jr Vice. I will continue to work with our Chapter, but as your State Senior Vice this year, I have found it very difficult to visit 12 different Chapters from almost to Iowa to the Canadian border, and from Wisconsin to South Dakota. This year as State Sr Vice I attended the Montana Convention, went to Ohio for Adjutant and Commander Orientation, the National Conference in Georgia and last February, to DC for the winter Conference. I have learned a lot about the DAV and its operations. I have also attend executive meetings, Foundation and Finance meetings, all of which did not leave much time for the chapter. It was all very rewarding and I would not change a thing, now I am serving you at a different level and hope to continue to do so.

God Bless each one of you and your families.



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2017 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

January 2017							February 2017							March 2017							April 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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September 2017							October 2017							November 2017							December 2017						
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A POEM OF A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

The traditions of man seem to hold that Jesus our Lord was born on a December night, so very cold.

Yet as we search the scriptures end to end we find nothing in God's word to uphold that trend.

So very many people and religious leaders we might add, are so vigorous to promote this fad.

And let's not forget the merchants up and down the street wringing their hands for a sales quota they hope to meet.

Yes, tis a season of good joy and cheer, where almost everyone will smile at least once a year.

Oh, the hustle and bustle as all rush about, money is no problem they all seem to shout. The cash registers jingle and the credit cards flash, and no one seems to worry about being short of cash.

There seems to be a Santa on every street, but where is the Jesus we should be preparing to meet?

Yes, there are those who make Jesus a showing of sort, but their efforts are mostly halfhearted and they come up short.

Why is it that we want to limit the king of the Universe to just one season, is there more here who could give me a good reason?

Now I am not saying that celebrating Christmas is all bad, it's just the way we go about it that makes me so sad.

I know you have seen signs that tell Jesus is the reason, yet most limit Him to just one season.

Oh, brothers and sisters and all who can hear, we need to rejoice of His birth every day of the year.

And when people ask what are our reasons, we say we worship the living Jesus, the man for all seasons.

So now as you go about spreading holiday cheer, be sure to tell everyone the coming of Jesus is very near.

Oh, little children I'm not a Grinch, but we need to be very careful not to give Satan one little inch.

By the power of faith in our Lord Jesus we need not worry of other people's reasons, for without a doubt we serve King Jesus, and He is truly a man for all seasons.

Merry Christmas to all.

Jay J, Ruediger

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