



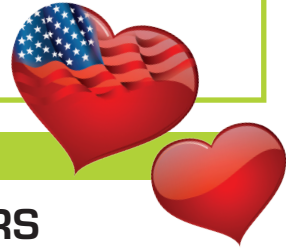
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Monthly Newsletter  
February 2017

North Central MN Chapter #7  
PO Box 564  
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| COMMANDER:             | Dave Sterr - (218) 556-4633                             |
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| 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,<br>torgor@lightspeed.net |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE:       | Walter James  |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE:       | Glenn Aagard  |

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The **10th Annual "Give A Veteran A Lift" music benefit fundraiser** for the Clearwater County Veterans Transportation Program is on **Saturday, February 11th** at the Bagley High School from 7:00 to 9:30pm.

**JUST A REMINDER**

Every day we are seeing more and more Restaurants and Businesses that are joining in to Honor our Military and Veterans by providing a discount on purchases and meals daily, instead of just once or twice a year, like on Veteran's or Memorial Day. So, when you are checking out, don't be shy, ask if they give a Military discount. If they do, enjoy their appreciation of your service! If they don't, they may consider doing so in the future. Remember, "The answer is always NO, until you ask."

**Have a Great day and thank you for your service to our Country!**

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## COMMANDERS CORNER

February greetings to you. As I fulfill my duties as Commander, I see us developing into a strong, active and dedicated organization. We are seeing more new people becoming interested in helping, serving and lending their talents to our mission of helping fellow Veterans. It is the regular participators who send a message to others that this is a great organization to belong to. Thank you for your dedication and your example of giving of your time and talents.

I thought you would like to know what our hard work has helped accomplish. During our fiscal year, from 1 July 2015 through 31 June 2016, we were able to assist Veterans and VA service related organizations in the amount of \$36,550. Half of this amount was used for Veterans in need of emergency financial assistance and the other half given to Veterans' nursing homes and hospitals for recreational programs and to other VA service related organizations' needs.

Our donated medical equipment cache is quite full. We have several lift chairs that have been donated and they are available if you or someone you know has a need for this kind of chair. All you need to do is let us know through one of the officers.

We are comrades and we will go forth together in our efforts to build an even stronger Chapter 7 DAV organization. Let us keep up the good work.

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 (333-4178). 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 can help you connect with the person who can help you with securing an item you might need.

## AUXILIARY COMMANDERS CORNER



The Auxiliary will resume their regular meetings on the third Monday in March at 7 Pm, out at the DAV Chapter 7 building, located at 5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji Mn. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

Linda Engsether



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# Vets on the Hill

When: Monday, March 20th, 2017

Where: State Capitol Bldg., St Paul, Minn.

## Schedule:

- 8:00-9:45 a.m. The 5th Floor of the Veterans Services Bldg. will be available prior to event; all Veterans and guests are welcome. This is an optional offering of space to hang out if your group arrives early.
- 10:00-11:00 Veterans Day on the Hill ceremony at Capitol Rotunda.
- 11:00-1:00 Meet with your individual representatives/senators in their offices, or set up a room and ask your elected officials to stop by.
- 1:00 Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting- State Office Bldg. (Optional)

We are working out the details for a bus trip to attend this event and we need to get a head count of people that are planning to go along with us. The cost per individual for the bus ride will be free, as we are once again seeking sponsorship from the local Veterans organizations and County Veteran Service offices to cover the cost of the bus(s). Watch for more details and the Departure times in the March Newsletter or online at [davchapter7.org](http://davchapter7.org).

If you are planning to attend, send us an Email at [mndavchapter7@gmail.com](mailto:mndavchapter7@gmail.com) with the name(s) of people in your group and their Military Organization affiliation (DAV, VFW, Legion) or; call / text Tom Annonson @ (218) 251 3025 **no later than March 8th** to confirm your reservations so we will know how many buses we will need.

## THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON JANUARY 16 2017 AT 1902.

- Opening Ceremonies

### A. Roll Call of Officers to determine if quorum is present

#### OFFICERS

Commander: Dave Sterr ..... Present  
Senior Vice Commander: Mike Zimmerman ..... Present  
Junior Vice Commander: Don Strege ..... Present  
Chaplain: Mike Gutz ..... Present  
Service Officer/Co-Adjutant: Robert Sadoris ..... Present  
Sergeant-at-Arms: Bruce Tiegen ..... Present  
Hist./Judge Advocate/Co-Adjutant: David Myers ..... Present  
Treasurer: Jeri Harvey ..... Present  
Officer of the Day: Glen Aagard ..... Excused

### B. Members Present: 19

### 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 November 21 2016 were read.

Motion to approve: Andy Staudt

Seconded: Randy Hanevold Approved.

### E. Financial Report for 20 November 2016 – 15 January 2017:

Report given by Jeri Harvey

Motion to approve: Walter James

Seconded: Andy Staudt Approved.

### F. Sickness or distress: One member had been taken to Fargo for medical attention, but has been released and was present at the meeting.

### G. New Member Obligation: None

### H. Communications: Thank you letters from Fargo VA for our continued support of the CBOC.

### I. Committee Reports:

1. **Membership Report:** 7 prospective new members.

2. **Service Officer Report:** Robert Sadoris is working with three individuals, Mike Gutz with one, and Walter James with four, for eight veterans being helped now.

3. **Legislative Report:** No report given.

4. **Hospital Chaplain Report:** Two hospital visits were made.

5. **Entertainment:** 91 persons attended the Christmas party. The next event is the summer picnic, and will be discussed again as it gets closer.

6. **Fundraising committee:** Received an additional check for \$616.00 from Herberger's for our efforts during their November fundraiser. This leaves us approximately \$690 shy of our budgeted goal. We are also \$814 short of our projected Forget-Me-Not budget goal. We have one more upcoming fundraiser for each and should be able to meet or exceed these goals.

7. **Newsletter Committee:** May fall short of our newsletter funds by about \$625.00 for the June newsletter. Need to find new advertisers. Need articles for the newsletter as soon as possible.

### J. Old Business: None remaining

### K. New Business

1. Nominations for Officers for 2017-2018: Protocol was followed for the nominations procedure.

For Commander: Walter James nominated Dave Sterr, 2nd Randy Hanevold.

For Senior Vice Commander: Walter James nominated Mike Zimmerman, 2nd Randy Hanevold.

For Junior Vice Commander: Walter James nominated Joe Vene, 2nd Randy Hanevold.

For Treasurer: Walter James nominated Jeri Harvey, 2nd Randy Hanevold.

The process will be repeated at next month's regular meeting, followed by elections and installation.

2. The executive board recommends purchasing a new/used truck for no more than \$39,100.67, our entire transportation budget. Motion to approve by Joe Vene, 2nd by Andy Staudt. Approved.

3. The annual Veterans on the Hill event is set for Monday, 20 March. Tom Annonson will make preparations by arranging bus, contacting the other Veteran's organizations to solicit funds and bolster attendance. The motion was made to provide \$250.00 to help fund the event by Andy Staudt, 2nd by Steve Siats. Approved.

4. All decisions regarding mileage paid for deliveries have been rescinded, due to IRS restrictions. These will be discussed by the executive board, and a recommendation brought forward, before the next fiscal year.

### L. Executive Committee Action Items

1. The need for another truck is evident. The Transportation committee recommends purchasing a 2016 Dodge. After much discussion, the executive committee recommends purchasing a new/used vehicle, for no more than \$39,100.67. This sum represents our entire transportation budget, so no other equipment may be purchased for quite some time.

2. CDR Sterr requests that we amend previous resolution that we pay 150.00 per trip to drivers taking loads to Duluth and Fargo to paying drivers traveling to any location at .45 cents per mile with the gas being paid for by the chapter. Motion by Martin Schrage, 2nd by Bruce Tiegen. Carried. This was discussed at the general meeting.

### M. Good of the Order: None

### N. Motion to Adjourn:

Made by Walter James Seconded: Steve Haushil Approved.

• Minute of silence was observed for our fallen comrades.

• Closing Ceremonies.

The meeting was adjourned at 1954 hours.

The next meeting will be held at 1900 on 20 February 2017 at the DAV Chapter 7 Headquarters.

## ADJUTANT CORNER

\*\* The VA budget totals \$176.9 billion for fiscal 2017, almost twice the budget total when Obama took office in fiscal 2009 (\$93.7 billion) and almost four times the total when the war in Afghanistan began in fiscal 2001 (\$48.7 billion). Of the 2017 total, roughly \$77.4 billion is set aside for discretionary programs, and the rest for disability, medical and education benefits, along with other mandatory spending.

\*\* The VA employed about 365,000 workers in fiscal 2016, up about 88,000 people from when President Barack Obama took office in 2009. Employee bonuses and discipline has been a constant fight for department leaders in recent years, with critics saying they do too little to root out lazy or incompetent bureaucrats. In fiscal 2015, about one-third of the VA employees were veterans.

\*\* Roughly 9 million veterans were enrolled in VA health care at the end of fiscal 2016, about 42 percent of the nation's veteran's population. That number was 7.8 million in fiscal 2009, roughly 33 percent of the total U.S. veteran's population at the time. Part of the increase is due to troops returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the department has also seen increases in the usage rate from older generations.

\*\* About 58 million medical appointments were scheduled by VA in fiscal 2016, an increase of almost 6% in two years. Almost a third of those appointments were scheduled with doctors working outside the VA system, in private clinics.

\*\* About 93 percent of veteran's medical appointments are being scheduled within 30 days, per department data from December 2016. That's down about 1% from fall 2014, when department officials began tracking patient wait times in the wake of nationwide scandals about delayed appointments and cover ups. The average wait time for mental health care appointments is 4.5 days, roughly the same as the wait over the previous two years. The wait for primary care is 5.7 days (down from 6.7 in fall 2014) and the wait for specialty care is 10.2 days (up from 7.5 days in fall 2014). 8,481 patients on VA lists have been waiting more than four months for appointment requests, a number that swelled to more than 10,000 in early 2016.

\*\* More than 960,000 veterans received some type of education benefits through VA in fiscal 2016, up from around 265,000 in fiscal 2009. The biggest contributor to that jump was passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill in 2010, which offered full four-year tuition at state universities and a housing stipend to troops who served at least three years after 2001.

\*\* An average of 20 veterans a day committed suicide in fiscal 2014, the latest information available. Past research had pegged that number at 22, but those estimates were drawn from fewer states and contained problematic guesses. It's unclear whether recent mental health efforts by VA have driven down the suicide rate.

\*\* Another 303,673 benefit cases that are pending in the department's appeals system, as of Dec. 31, 2016, That's up from about 181,000 cases at the end of 2009. The cases typically take three or more years to fully complete.

\*\* More than 2.6 million VA home loans were awarded in fiscal 2016, up about 500,000 from eight years earlier.

\*\* Federal researchers estimate that 39,472 veterans were homeless as of January 2016, that's down from about 75,600 veterans on the streets in 2009, when Obama announced plans to house every veteran in America by the end of 2015. So far, 33 communities and three states have been certified as "effectively" ending veteran's homelessness, meaning they have the resources to rapidly house all veterans in their community facing financial distress.

Our chapter is currently first in the State for Membership; Also, MN is first in the Nation. We still need many more memberships, so keep up the good work of recruiting.

I will be going to the cities to help work on Veterans bills February 25th – March 2nd and to Washington DC for same purpose.

The Convention will be in Duluth this year during the last week of April, please plan to attend. State wide we now have 23 DAV vans that go to Sioux Falls SD, Fargo ND, St Cloud and the Cities. It has been a real honor to serve you as Adjutant over the last many years, and to now serve you as your State Sr Vice. God, Bless you and your families!

Robert Saddoris



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# 2017 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

## January 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## February 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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## March 2017

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## April 2017

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30						

## May 2017

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## June 2017

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## July 2017

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## August 2017

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## September 2017

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## October 2017

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## November 2017

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## December 2017

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

With the 20th of January, having been the Presidential Inauguration, we might as well all acknowledge this has been a pretty rough election cycle. The striking issue made here is the realization God works through national and personal crises in our lives. The Books of Lamentations and Job are clear indications of God's desire to work with us in these ways, while at the same time recognizing that life here on earth is not at all perfect, as reflected in the Book of Ecclesiastics. Yes, the scriptural political events that were so much a part of Israel's history reflect the numerous interactions God had with His people and the nations that surrounded Israel.

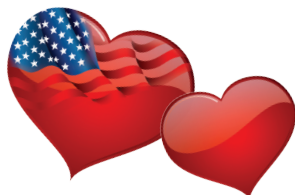
All the prophetic books were written at a time of great upheaval and during the times of tremendous political change, especially with world empires such as Egypt, Babylon and Persia. The point of all this? Simple, God is still in control even when things are in total chaos. Knowing that God is with us does not necessarily mean things will go smoothly, but even during the rough times, God never leaves us nor forgets about us (Hebrews 11).

Individually this may mean that God is redirecting our lives down a different path other than the one we expected to follow at the time. The important thing to remember is never compromise our values regardless of the cost. Yes, there has always been a cost to following Jesus. Yet in the end, that uncompromising cost has, and always will be, the best thing for us (Luke 14:25-35). There are many cults and numerous people who push others into doing things that do not seem right. There seems to be a gut feeling, a hunch - if you will, that goes against our better judgment. When this occurs, then this is definitely not something to do (James 4:13-17). Even with the cost of following Christ there seems to be a deep peace that comes in doing whatever the Holy Spirit has a person do (Galatians 5:22-26). It may not make sense, but it does not and will not compromise our relationship with Jesus, or contradict the scriptures. One situation for example is "Taking the Lords Name in Vain..." (Deuteronomy 5:11). The meaning for this scripture is simply to not misuse God's name for anything we say or do. Most people think this only applies to swearing or using foul language, it actually means much more. An example would be getting entangled into relationships (dating, making friends, gang involvement, or establishing businesses) with people who use God's name for the express purpose of harming others, or taking advantage of them, to include criminal type behavior (Proverbs 1).

Our prayer for you can be found in II Corinthians 13:14.

If you, or someone you know is in need, in the hospital, or would just like to talk, feel free to contact us.

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