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Monthly Newsletter  
April 2017

North Central MN Chapter #7  
PO Box 564  
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**NEXT MEETING:**  
New DAV Center on 15th Street NW  
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Monday, April 17th at 7pm

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| COMMANDER:          | Dave Sterr - (218) 556-4633  |
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| JUNIOR VICE:        | Joe Vene   |
| ADJUTANT:           | David Myers  |
| SERVICE OFFICER:    | Walter James   |
| TREASURER:          | Jeri Harvey  |
| CHAPLAIN:           | Tara Schwinghammer - (218)368-9988   |
| CHAPLAIN (ALT.):    | Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591  |
| JUDGE ADVOCATE:     | Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591  |
| SERGEANT AT ARMS:   | Bruce Tiegen   |
| OFFICER OF THE DAY: | Glenn Aagard   |
| LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:  | Joe Vene   |
| HISTORIAN:          | Tom Annonson   |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE:    | Walter James, Gene Schwantes,<br>Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025,<br>torgor@lightspeed.net |

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**Veterans on the Hill**

*Our bus group at the State Capitol.*

Thanks to the Bemidji American Legion, VFW, the Blackbuck AmVets, The Minnesota DAV Foundation and DAV chapters; #7 (Bemidji), #38 (Park Rapids) and #22 (Brainerd) who sponsored the bus trip to St Paul for the **Veterans on the Hill** day on March 20th. With their donations, we were able to send 29 Veterans and Auxiliary members from the various organizations to meet with the representatives and senators from the

*continued on page 4*

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# COMMANDERS CORNER

Greetings of the Lenten and Easter Seasons. This is a good time for reflection on what we have accomplished in growth for Chapter 7. Without your hard work and support we wouldn't have been able to make such great strides in the life of our organization. In our "basket of blessings" is our own building, two good trucks, several trailers, additional drivers, many pieces of medical equipment for loaning/giving, increased membership, increased volunteer workers and a newly elected slate of dedicated officers. We are strong and healthy and able to meet every request for our Veterans in need. I salute you and honor you for supporting our clothing program and our other yearly fund raising efforts.

Now that the rummage sale season is at hand, the first call has already come in for April 1st (\*\*no fooling\*\*). As a group, we are working on a plan of action for "pickups" of the contents of the bins and private rummage sales. We're trying to set up a system of sharing the duties so a few people don't have to be over-burdened. We will keep working toward improvements to our clothing program process for everyone's good. Also, now that we have our own building, we need to take care of it and all our vehicles. We have folks willing to help in that regard and we're setting up processes to take care of the building and the vehicles.

Commander 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.



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**BOB LOWTH**



**BEMIDJI, MN**

# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON MARCH 21, 2017 AT 1900.

- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance

**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: Joe Vene ..... Present  
 Chaplain: Tara Schwinghammer ..... Present  
 Service Officer/Co-Adjutant: Bruce Holden ..... Present  
 Sergeant at Arms: Bruce Teigen ..... Present  
 Judge Advocate/Adjutant: David Meyers ..... Excused  
 (sub- Tara Schwinghammer)  
 Treasurer: Jeri Harvey ..... Present  
 Officer of the Day: Glen Aagard ..... Present  
 Historian: Tom Annonson ..... Present

**B. Members Present: 25**

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

**Guests/Visitors:** None  
**Prospective new members:** Lyndon Roberts, George Perkins, Mark Thomon, Thomas Plinke  
**Transfers in:** None

**D. D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

*Motion to approve: Dave Sterr Secinded: Andy Stout Carried.*

**E. Financial Report for 20 February to 19 March, 2017 made by Jeri Harvey.**

*Motion to approve: Steve Sights Secinded: Andy Stout Carried.*

**F. Sickness or distress:** Bidal Duran, Bruce had two hospital visits and a funeral of a nondisabled Veteran.

**G. New Member Obligation:** None

**H. Communications:** Fargo Health Center received our donation of \$400. Bemidji CBOC received coffee and snack donations. They thanked us.

**I. Committee Reports:**

1. **Membership Report:** 4 new members and Tom Annonson has 4 not yet paid
2. **Service Officer Report:** Walter James is working with 5 veterans.
3. **Legislative Report:** We met with Reps Matt Bliss, Matt Grossel and Senator Eichorn and others during the Veterans Day on the Hill. We discussed funding \$10 million for a veteran's home in Bemidji MN. We need to partner with Montevideo. The Fed has funds for 140 beds to split with Montevideo. MN needs to accomplish bonding. It would be quicker with a direct appointment. Quoted President Trump, "Veterans took care of us. Now we need to take care of them." in a letter to the editor. We made a statement of our needs. Joe encouraged us to get involved in the politics.
4. **Hospital Chaplain Report:** 2 hospital visits by Bruce Holden. Please let Tara Schwinghammer know what is going on.
5. **Entertainment:** Trip to St. Paul had 29 people counting the bus driver who is a veteran. 2 from VFW Crookston. 1 from Blackduck and Dave Hancock, former MN state representative. The bus cost \$1400. Meals \$259. Funds should be coming in to cover the cost. Pictures from the day at the Hill were distributed by the bus driver Steve Modich.
6. **Fundraising committee:** Awaiting Herberger's bonus check for \$1,007.96. Gun show coming in April, Tom Annonson and Robert Sadoris have it covered. June 4th is the Ride for the troops and start of Forget-me-nots fundraising.
7. **Newsletter Committee:** We have enough to cover the cost for April & May.

Collections for fiscal 2018 start in June. State senior vice article would be good. Need more from Auxiliary. Keep them short.

**J. Old Business**

1. New officers were voted in during a suspended meeting in February 2017.
2. Veterans on the Hill reports good turnout.
3. Spring Convention will be held in Duluth in April 2017, from 27-29. The following will attend: Dave Sterr, Mike Zimmerman, Walter James, and Tom Annonson.
4. Nothing new on the ride for the troops.
5. Nothing new on the trailers parked at county fairs.
6. Nothing new on Mike Gutz using the building for firearm safety, concealed carry, first aid and scuba diving courses. Will be discussed at next Executive meeting.

**K. New Business**

1. Robert Sadoris reports that the new Chaplain and Junior Vice have been sworn in.
2. American Legion has pledged \$10,000 to the Veterans home. Can we match that? Leadership said that would be discussed at the next Executive committee meeting.
3. Gary concerned about having a table and pamphlets available. He was reassured.
4. Two canopies were damaged beyond repair. Tom Annonson will inspect one that we have. Otherwise we will need to purchase two new canopies.
5. Mike Gutz raised a concern about funds that may have been misused.
6. Joe Vene encouraged us to call this a "Veterans Home." Rather than a nursing home. We discussed the term "Soldiers Home" but this is normally referring to retirees only. Mike Gutz implied that we would lose numbers if we make it retirees only.

**L. Executive Committee Action Items**

1. Walter James asked about the trailer. Dave Sterr reported that the roof was fixed without needing to be replaced. The cost was \$448 versus \$4,000 to replace the roof.

**M. Good of the Order:**

1. Nothing brought up.

**A minute of silence was observed for our fallen comrades**

**N. Motion to adjourn:**

*Made by: Andy Stout*

*Secinded: N. Walter James Motion Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 2004 hours. The next meeting will be held at 1900 on Monday, April 17, 2017 at DAV headquarters.

In Comradeship	Approved
Tara A, Schwinghammer	Dave Sterr, Commander
(Adjutant- substitute)	North Central Minnesota Chapter #7

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## STATE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER:

We applaud Senators Patty Murray, Susan Collins, and Representative Jim Langevin for introducing the "Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act" on March 9, 2017. [https://d3dkdvqff0zqx.cloudfront.net/groups/dav/images/dav\\_dava\\_bigger.png](https://d3dkdvqff0zqx.cloudfront.net/groups/dav/images/dav_dava_bigger.png)

DAV has worked diligently for several years as a part of a larger coalition of veteran's organizations that promoted the advent of family caregiver support services for severely injured and ill veterans. Congress finally responded by enacting Public Law 111-163, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010. However, that law limited services and supports to family caregivers of veterans who were injured or became severely ill in military service only on or after September 11, 2001. That omission left thousands of veterans' families without the level of caregiver support and services they have needed because those veterans' health challenges, many from war injuries, occurred before that effective date.

If enacted, the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act would responsibly and finally address these families' needs on the same basis as those of veterans injured after September 11, 2001. Ultimately, when fully implemented, the bill would improve the lives of tens of thousands of veteran families, and will save the federal government a significant amount of resources that otherwise would need to be spent to provide institutional solutions to these veterans' health challenges and health maintenance. This bill is both beneficial to these families and a taxpayer-friendly measure.

Please write your elected representatives to urge co-sponsorship and support of passage of S. 591 and H.R. 1472. A letter has been prepared for this purpose or you may write your own to express your views. As always, thank you for your support. Click the link below to log in and send your message:

[https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/3Ru6QtC1\\_7E\\_-\\_cev5NUnw](https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/3Ru6QtC1_7E_-_cev5NUnw)

All 30 DAV Chapters in Minnesota have met their membership goal for the year, MN leads the Nation at 101.16%, SD is very close at 100.73%. Chapter # 7 leads the State with 104.91% and Park Rapids is much to close! In our friendly rivalry with them, we must get more members to join our chapter to win State. State wide we have gained 214 members over goal or close to 439 members since start of new year.

God, Bless you.

Robert Saddoris

*continued from page 1*

Northern Minnesota area. After the opening ceremonies, we spent more than an hour with Representatives Matt Bliss, Matt Grossel, Senator Eichorn and several others that dropped by the meeting room during that time, discussing the progress on the Veterans Homes proposal and other issues that pertain to Veterans that are currently being considered by the State Legislature.



*Opening ceremonies in the Capitol rotunda.*



*Veterans and spectators watching the various speakers during the Veterans on the Hill ceremony.*

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# BEMIDJI DAV VAN

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May 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			

June 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
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

March 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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April 2017

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30						

July 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30	31		

September 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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October 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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November 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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December 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello fellow Veterans. I wanted to introduce myself as your new Chaplain. I have been very blessed by all the wonderful DAV people that have welcomed me with open arms. All of you have blessed me so much!

I have three grown children and three at home. We have studied Gods Word together all these years. We are an ecumenical family. My husband and I were married as Catholics, my oldest son married a Lutheran Pastors daughter, and my daughter married a man from a Pentecostal family. We attended an Evangelical Free church for many years and currently attend the First Baptist Church.

Like many of you I had no idea what I was getting myself into when I joined the Navy. I never thought of being a soldier. I was needed to teach a Naval Nuclear Power Course. I considered myself a support role to the men who would do the fighting. It was 1995 when Bill Clinton decided that women should be on submarines. It became my job to prepare these women as best we could. I knew this was not an easy road and I questioned the wisdom of such an endeavor.

My daughter is currently serving in the army attending air assault school. She is a female soldier in every sense of the word. She has weapons and a bullet proof vest. There are many opinions on these issues and I respect the different views. As a mother, I'd rather she had stayed in the hospital patching up injured soldiers since she is a licensed Physician Assistant, however, this was not my decision to make.

When Mike Gutz approached me with the concept of becoming chaplain, my immediate thought was "But I am a woman?" Would it be Biblical for me to act in this capacity? There are a few Scriptures that seem to limit a woman's service in the church and or ministry.

1 Timothy 3:1-4. 3 "Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full[a] respect." I am assured that I am not acting as an overseer but as a support person. I am under the authority of the board and desire to serve them well.

1 Timothy 2:12 says "I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man..." Chaplains are support people not necessarily leadership. I see my role as meeting the spiritual needs of the DAV. I mostly attend to veterans who are in the process of dying. My gift is prayer and comfort. Timothy himself spoke very highly of the women that raised him up in the Lord. So, women taught Timothy in his youth.

I have no formal training in the Bible but I can say that I love the Word and have attended Bible Studies, taught both children and adult Sunday School, and have been an Awanas leader over the past 22 years. I am trained for counseling through NPCC and will attend Victim Advocacy Training at the end of April.

Thankfully, I have several awesome former chaplains that are willing to assist me and I understand completely if some of you would prefer to talk with a man. My assistants; Mike Gutz (218) 308-3927, Bruce Holden (218) 467-3591 and Walter James (218) 618-3377 would love to talk or visit with you about your faith if that is what you prefer.

If you ever need assistance, a listening ear or prayer, please feel free to give me a call at (218) 368-9988.

Tara Schwinghammer

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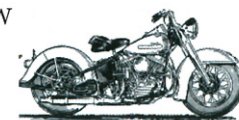
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# LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

In partnership with the Montevideo Contingent, the push continues to have a Veterans Home Built in Bemidji / Beltrami County for the 16-County Catchment area. Two Veterans Homes -- Bemidji and Montevideo match the VA specifics for design/build and have support in the Minnesota Legislature. Funding for Bemidji is in the amount of \$10 million. This funding, whether through bonding or direct appropriation must be approved before the 140-bed Funding Match for the two facilities will be granted by the Federal Government. Beltrami County has pledged \$1 million and other entities and jurisdictions within our 16-county area are advancing funding pledges as well, to bring the required \$30 million for the designing and building of the facility, to full funding.

During our 20 March 2017 Veterans Day on the Hill Event in our convergences in the Capitol Rotunda and at our meeting Representatives Matt Bliss and Matt Grossell and Senators Paul Utke and Justin Eichorn, were impressed with such a strong push to at last get our Northern MN Veterans Home designed and built ASAP. We have been advocating for this project for over 10 years. The bills identified for the designing, constructing, furnishing and equipping both Veterans Homes are HF 1109 and SF 1089.

The thrust for building a Veterans Home in Beltrami County / Bemidji is to provide a continuum of care, skilled nursing/physical/mental health and residential nursing to the Veterans in our catchment. Veterans and their families who currently reside in our area are 2, 3, and 4 hours distant from the existing facilities in the State. Co-located at the Home will also be the Community-Based Out-Patient Clinic (CBOC).

Currently 3,404 Veterans live in Beltrami County, and with the nine surrounding Counties, the number jumps to 18,155 Veterans. Bemidji has a Regional Center for Health Care along with the CBOC, making it the right location for the new Veterans Home on the Campus of Sanford Health Systems, Bemidji, from which 15 acres have been dedicated as the site location for the Home.

A central reason to build additional Veterans Homes in Minnesota is the long wait times for Veterans to be placed in the current facilities available. The wait times will only increase as Minnesota Veterans continue to age. As of now, 77.2% of the Veterans living in the 16 Counties listed are over age 55. In the 2011 American Community Survey, 50% of the Veterans in Northern Minnesota were over age 65; this number has now increased to 55.1 %. Simply put, the health care needs for these older Veterans is increasing rapidly, especially for Vietnam War Veterans. The Northern Minnesota Veterans Home Task Force will continue its work in establishing a Veterans Home in Beltrami County/Bemidji.

Please communicate your thanks to our Legislators for their support, both Veteran and Civilian, and encourage them to continue their support to bring the Home to the happening stage.

As we did on our 20 March 2017 Veterans' Day on the Hill, we will continue to testify in Legislative Committee Hearings in St. Paul, and anywhere where our advocacy can advance the cause to accomplish the desired end.

Much obliged to all.

Joe Vene  
Jr Vice-Comdr



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**Bemidji Chapter 7**

# Disabled American Veterans

North Central Minnesota Chapter #7

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