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Monthly Newsletter
May 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, May 15th at 7pm

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- COMMANDER: Dave Sterr - (218) 556-4633
- SENIOR VICE: Mike Zimmerman - (218) 252-2061
- 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, Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025, torgor@lightspeed.net

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Agent Orange Education Seminar

The Fargo Elks Lodge 260 is co-sponsoring an Agent Orange Education Seminar with the ND Vietnam Veterans Association on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 17TH, 2017**, at the Elks Lodge, 3435 North Broadway, Fargo, ND, beginning at **5:00 PM**. A "free" dinner will be served.

Information on health issues in Children and Grandchildren of Veterans that were exposed to Agent Orange and the services that may be available through the VA to help treat them.

COMMANDERS CORNER

Spring is finally here, at least the snow is gone. The rummage sales have begun which means we are getting very busy. If anyone wants to get in on the fun please come out to the DAV building at the west end of 15th Street on Tuesday mornings. We get going about 8:00 am, usually. Our faithful volunteers keep the operation moving along nicely, but we could always use more help. Things will really begin to pick up as the spring and summer rummage sales get into full swing.

One thing we really need is drivers for our deliveries to Fargo and Duluth and our pickups at Thief River, Warroad and International Falls. Call me at 556-4633 if you or someone you know could help with that. Our Chapter meeting is at 1900 hrs. (that's 7 PM for all of you that are operating on civilian time now) on the third Monday of each month at our DAV building. I encourage you to attend the meetings to see what is going on and to meet your fellow veterans. Now that we have our own place to congregate, we are becoming stronger in attendance and comradery.

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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BEMIDJI, MN

THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON APRIL 17, 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 Excused
Adjutant: David Myers Present
Service Officer: Walter James Absent
Treasurer: Jeri Harvey Present
Chaplain: Tara Schwinghammer Present
Judge Advocate: Bruce Holden Present
Sergeant- at-Arms: Bruce Tiegen Present
Officer of the Day: Glen Aagard Present
Historian: Tom Annonson Present

B. Members Present: 18

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

Guests/Visitors: 1 Visitor

Prospective new members: None

Transfers in: None

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of March 21, 2017 were read:

Motion to approve: Andy Staudt

*Seconded: Randy Hanevold
Carried.*

E. Financial Report for 20 March through April 16, 2017 given by Jeri Harvey.

Motion to approve: Andy Staudt

*Seconded: Randy Hanevold
Carried.*

F. Sickness or distress: One funeral attended by the chaplain.

G. New Member Obligation: None

H. Communications: Two thank you letters from the VA.

I. Committee Reports:

1. **Membership Report:** No new members.
2. **Service Officer Report:** No report given.
3. **Legislative Report:** No report given
4. **Hospital Chaplain Report:** As previously mentioned, one funeral was attended.
5. **Entertainment:** The next major event is the summer picnic, and will be discussed again as it gets closer. It will be held in August, with the date to be determined.
6. **Fundraising committee:** Several fundraisers coming up. The Gun show will be 22-23 April, and will be covered by Tom Annonson and Robert Sadoris.

7. Newsletter Committee: Articles and notes are due by the end of the week.

J. Old Business

1. The issue of members using the building/property was discussed. It was proposed that we allow any active member to use the facility, if nothing else is scheduled at the same time. No alcohol to be consumed on the premises, and the member sponsoring is responsible for cleanup. There is no fee for rental, but donations are happily accepted. Motion was made by Robert Sadoris, 2nd by Mike Gutz. Further discussion ensued. Vote was not unanimous, but motion carried.
2. A financial report for the Ride for the Troops was provided covering the last 2 years. After studying the report, it was proposed that we release the \$750.00 which had previously been designated for the event, but frozen until a financial accounting had been submitted). Motion by Steve Siats, 2nd by Glen Aagard. Motion carried.

K. New Business

1. Commander Sterr proposed enclosing the pole barn on the west side of the property. This will bring all of our operation to our chapter headquarters. Home Depot will consider donating time and materials. It does not include a poured concrete foundation so, it will be our responsible to provide the funding and work for that. Lakes Concrete will provide the concrete at \$75.00 per yard. Our cost will be about \$2,250.00. Home Depot Foundation will pay approximately \$12,700.00. It was proposed that we allow Commander Sterr to present the requests to the Home Depot Foundation, if approved, then the project will move forward, if not, it dies. Motion by Andy Staudt, 2nd by Steve Hauschill. Motion Carried.
2. The budget committee has been appointed by Commander Sterr. It consists of the following individuals: Tom Annonson, Bruce Tiegen, and Robert Sadoris. It will meet on Monday, 8 May at 1000 hours at chapter HQ.
3. There is a spouse of a deceased veteran in need of a handrail on her outside steps. Walter James will check into this situation.
4. Discussed the possibility of setting up a clothing donation trailer at the Beltrami County and Clearwater County Fairs. Issue tabled for the time being.
5. Mike Gutz would like to offer NRA firearm Safety, Concealed Carry, First Aid, and Scuba Diving courses in our facility. Tabled and handed over to executive committee for further discussion.

L. Executive Committee Action Items None

M. Good of the Order:

1. Flag Retirement ceremonies were discussed. The next such ceremony is at 1100 hours on 14 June, at Ralph Gracie Park.
2. It was pointed out that we should face east for our closing ceremony.

N. Motion to adjourn:

Made by: Steve Siats

Seconded: Mike Gutz Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours. The next meeting will be held at 1900 on Monday 15 May 2017 at the Chapter Headquarters.

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

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

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 Sadoris



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May 2017

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greeting, my first month as chaplain has gone by quickly. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know more of you. I love the diversity of this group of people. Each of my comrades is special in your own way. Some of you are bold about your faith and I love it. Acts 4:31 says *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the word of God with boldness."* Others prefer to quietly live your faith and serve as an example. 1 Thessalonians 4:11 says *"And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."* Both are equally valuable to this great organization.

Most of us fall somewhere in the middle. I once heard an analogy that God is like a diamond with many facets. Each of us has part of God's character but none of us have all of God. Our earthly bodies and souls will only be made perfect when we meet our Lord and Savior at the end of life (1 Corinthians 15:34-45). Of course, some of us might still be living when Jesus returns and will receive our glorified bodies at that time, but that discussion is for another time. I cannot prove the diamond theory biblically but I do see that our God is bigger than we can ever imagine. Isaiah 55:9 says *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."* So, if it works for you great. If not, I would love to hear your perspective. The overlying idea is that each of us is created as special and precious to our loving Father.

When Bruce Holden first told me about this group, he talked about how working together and swapping stories is very healing. So far this is my favorite part of the job. It is great to be part of a group that is busy about the Lord's work. Another part of my job involves attending funerals and hospital visits. In preparation for this great privilege, I have been studying the process of grieving. Again, we are all different, and beautiful in our own way. Grieving is a process that looks and feels different on each individual. There is no right or wrong way to grieve. No one is untouched by death. It is a part of life. When a loved one passes on, the first stage is generally though not always denial. A coping mechanism kicks in that gets us through the days of planning the funeral and maybe taking care of the effects. We might feel a bit numb as we go through the motions of everyday life. I won't even put a time frame on this feeling. Feelings come and go and there is no order necessary. You might find yourself saying, "I cannot believe he/she is gone." You might pick up the phone to call the person only to realize they won't answer. Many of us feel God strengthening us through the first days, weeks and months. Others might wonder if they will see their loved one again. This is a very difficult question to wrestle with. I will cover it next month as we work through the stages of grief. For now, I leave you with the great words of the Apostle Paul. He's expressing that you shall not be alone. 2 Corinthians 2:4 *"For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you."* As a group, we can be like Paul and come alongside of our hurting friends. I continue to pray God's blessing over our DAV membership.

May God, Bless you!
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AUXILIARY COMMANDER

Our meeting in April was canceled for lack of a quorum. Please plan to attend as many meetings as you can so we can conduct and act on any business that needs to be attended to. The next meeting will be May 15, 2017, at 7:00 PM in our DAV building. We will be hosting a meal at that meeting for the Chapter in honor of Memorial Day.

The attendees to the April 27-29 Convention in Duluth, will give their reports at the May meeting.

We are working on projects for the Fargo VA hospital – heart pillows and children’s activity bags. Start planning ahead for the 4th of July parade. Also contact me if you can help with the fund raising at any of the Forget-Me-Not venues this summer.

Linda Engesether

With Memorial Day coming up at the end of the month, I hope you are planning to attend a ceremony in your local area to honor our comrades that are no longer with us. Watch your local newspapers for announcements about planned events for that weekend.



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