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Monthly Newsletter
June 2017

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

NEXT MEETING:
New DAV Center on 15th Street NW
Bemidji, MN
Monday, June 19th 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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June Events

June 4th - Ride for the Troops at Marketplace Foods parking lot. Breakfast: 8-11, Ceremony: 11:30, Ride: Noon, Dinner after the riders return.

June 14th – Flag Day. Bemidji Elks and American Legion post 14 will be hosting a Flag Ceremony at the Ralph Gracie Park, 14th St and Birchmont Drive, at Noon.

June 19th – Chapter General Membership meeting 7PM at Chapter HQ, 5441 15th St NW, Bemidji,

June 23rd & 24th – Forget Me Not Fundraising at the Bemidji Walmart from 10AM - 4PM both days.

We will be incorporating a monthly events section in the newsletter, if you have an event in your local area that you would like to have included on the list please send us the pertinent information via email to davchapter7@gmail.com or a text message to Tom Annonson at (218) 251-3025.

COMMANDERS CORNER

We are honored to have two Chapter 7 and two Auxiliary Unit 7 members serving at the state level of the Minnesota DAV for the 2017-2018 term.

State Commander Robert Sadoris
 State Chaplain Walter James
 State DAV Auxiliary 2nd Junior Vice Linda Engesether
 State Auxiliary Chaplain Ginger Edwards

Congratulations to these dedicated comrades and I ask you to give them your support as they serve us at the Minnesota state level. Also, I would like to thank you for the honor of the 2017 "Commander of the Year" award presented to me at the state convention. I was completely surprised and deeply moved by this honor. Knowing that my chapter was behind the nomination confirmed what I already knew. You are the backbone of our organization and my outstanding support as we continue to build a strong chapter together. Also, at the state convention, we were awarded a bonus of \$17,000 for our efforts with our clothing program. We will match this amount from our savings and apply \$34,000 to our mortgage, lowering our mortgage amount significantly. Wow!! Amazing!!

I urge you to participate in any of our fund-raising endeavors. Please call me regards to the clothing program and Tom Annonson regards to the "Forget-Me-Not" and Herberger's coupon programs.

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 VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON MAY 15TH, 2017 AT 1900.

- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance

A. Roll Call of Officers:

OFFICERS

Commander: Dave Sterr Present
Senior Vice Commander: Mike Zimmerman..... Excused
Junior Vice Commander: Joe Vene Present
Adjutant: David Myers Present
Service Officer: Walter James Present
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: 20

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. The minutes of April 17th, 2017 were read. It was pointed out that Andy Staudt was left out of the budget committee appointment:

Motion to approve (as amended): Andy Staudt
Seconded: Randy Hanevold
Carried.

E. Financial Report for 17 April through May 14 2017: Report given by Jeri Harvey (See enclosure).

Motion to approve: Andy Staudt
Seconded: Randy Hanevold
Carried.

F. Sickness or distress: Two hospital visits were made.

G. New Member Obligation: None (We had a new member, but the meeting was pressed for time, so it was put off).

H. Communications were read.

I. Committee Reports:

1. 1. Membership Report, New members:

Ward L Sutton
George E. Inott
Caren M. Smith
James R. Gildersleeve

2. Service Officer Report: Two veterans are being assisted.

3. Legislative Report: Joe Vene updated us on progress toward a veteran's home in Bemidji. Even though many organizations are "Pledging" donations, none of this can move forward without the State Legislature moving forward.

4. Hospital Chaplain Report: As previously mentioned, two visits were made.

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: Next fundraiser is the Ride for the Troops. Will need several volunteers.

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

J. Old Business

The Pole Barn enclosure project has been given to the Home Depot Foundation. No new information now.

K. New Business

1. The chapter received a bonus check of \$17,000.00 for our work in the clothing drive at the State Convention. Commander Sterr would like to see us take that check, match it by taking \$17,000.00 out of savings, and use it to pay down the mortgage.
2. Randy Hanevold made the motion that we donate \$150.00 to the DAV Golf classic to sponsor a cart. Andy Staudt 2nd. Motion carried.
3. The newsletter funding is short for the last two months of the fiscal year. Bruce Tiegen made a motion to fund the newsletter \$1,300.00 to cover that period. Mike Gutz 2nd the motion. Carried.
4. Commander Sterr read an e-mail regarding a DAV member from Grand Rapids chapter13 in financial distress due to a medical issue. He suggested that we donate \$1000.00 to help this comrade. Motion made by Andy Staudt, 2nd by Bruce Tiegen. Carried.
5. Wendell Affield asked that the chapter donate \$400.00 towards a start-up (through the VA, and at the request of Dr. Peterson) of a PTSD program. Motion made by Steve Siats, 2nd by Bruce Tiegen. Motion carried.
6. The budget committee has recommended that the 10% tithe taken each load be reduced to 5%. The reason being is that we have 2 new vehicles, which require less maintenance. Motion made by Randy Hanevold, 2nd by Steve Siats. Carried.
7. Jeri Harvey presented the new budget. Motion to accept was made by Randy Hanevold, 2nd by Mike Gutz. Will be presented again at our next regular meeting.

L. Executive Committee Action Items discussed in new business

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.

N. Motion to adjourn:

Made by: Walter James

Seconded: Steve Haushil *Motion Carried.*

The meeting was adjourned at 1956 hours. The next meeting will be held at 1900 on Monday 19 June 2017 at DAV Chapter Headquarters.

STATE COMMANDER

New Access & Quality in VA Healthcare website – www.accesstocare.va.gov

The VA has rolled out a new website this month and it is designed to increase transparency related to our quality and access data, providing Veterans with an easy to use, easy to understand website that allows them to quickly compare their VA with other VA's and other comparable private sector healthcare facilities, enabling them to make informed decisions about their healthcare. Features of the website include:

1. How quickly can my VA facility see me?
 - a. Average wait times at individual facilities (including CBOCs) for various clinic appointment types.
 - b. Same-Day Services in Primary Care and Mental Health services.
2. How satisfied are Veterans with their care? This relates to Veterans' experiences in accessing care (percentage of Veterans who reported they were Always or Usually able to get an appointment when needed for routine primary care). Data is from July 2016 – December 2016.
3. How does care in my VA facility compare to other hospitals in the area? (Fargo VA HCS is not yet part of this information).
4. How is the VA system doing with access nationally? No specific facility breakdown but rather national data on wait times and access to specialty care.

As a chapter member, I want to pass on some great news! Savers is willing to bring tractor trailers to Bemidji to pick up our loads of clothes, if we accumulate 36,000 lbs. or more. They will do this at no cost to the Chapter, and it has the potential to save us a goodly sum of money by reducing our transportation costs for fuel and drivers, plus the added benefit of saving wear and tear on the vehicles and trailers. This could be a big win/win for our Chapter and I find it very exciting.

Robert Sadoris

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2017 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

VETERANS - PLEASE TELL YOUR FARGO SCHEDULER THAT YOU RIDE THE BEMIDJI VAN.

May 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

There has been much celebration over our four new state representatives. These great people have worked hard to make our Chapter the best in the state (my informed opinion lol). I won't use space listing them but I wanted to thank them for their extraordinary service to our beloved veterans. This great organization has much to offer. I keep learning more each day and am proud to be a part of it.

Several very special things happened at the meeting last night and I can't wait to tell you about it. One of the amazing things I noticed is how the budget process goes at meetings. I think it is fantastic how we entertain a motion only from the non-board members. This gives everyone a voice. I also love the generosity. People came with financial needs and we all voted to help every one of them.

One fellow came asking for help to start a writing therapy group. He himself is an author and Dr. Peterson at CBOC has asked him to get this group started. We all know that there are veterans out there who are still suffering. This group helps you to write down your story and then perhaps rethink it and add to it or take away. You don't have to share what you write with anyone if you don't want to. Research has shown this to be very effective therapy. The class is still in the planning stage but I will give you more information as I get it. Please think and pray about participating or telling others you think might be interested. It might even help physical pain issues not just mental issues.

After the meeting, I was approached by my good friend and prior Chaplain Mike Gutz. He pitched me an idea that I absolutely loved. We all know that our clothes packing days are dwindling down. And I don't want to take away any help with that. I love the camaraderie of this group. We have so many wonderful volunteers who love to be of help and there is still much work for us to do but it may not be as much clothes packing. When I talked to commander Sterr, he thought this was a good idea too. We would like to plan some family wellness events. It might be as often as weekly but we will see how it goes. The idea is to build on the community that we already enjoy. My hope is that we might attract younger veterans in order to keep this group alive well into the future. Also, we have so much wisdom to share and help returning soldiers and their families. We have our first event, bowling, on Thursday June 8th from 4-6pm. Even if you don't want to bowl or are not able to bowl, please come and visit and give us ideas on when and what you would like to do. We understand if you can't make it every time. Trust me we will always be happy to see you. Also, we will share a meal together at the DAV headquarters on Thursday June 22, 2017 from 6-8pm. Please bring your favorite healthy food to share. We exist to be a resource for veterans in many ways, from physical to mental, emotional, emergency financial, legal or spiritual needs. Take a risk and at least come and meet us (all ages welcome).

Last month I promised I would dig a little deeper into the grieving process. The Bible says in Matthew 18:3 (NIV) And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." People who die suddenly must have this done by God instantaneously. But those who linger and remain bedridden tend to do this more slowly. God knows what is right for everyone. Death can be hard because it is out of our control or we tend to judge the situation as unfair. But if you remain in the moment, unresponsive loved ones can hear you. In fact, their hearing gets very sharp as their other senses decline. They can be encouraged by sharing with them that God loves them and forgives them for anything they might regret in life. God sent His Only Son to save us from all our sins. Hope to see you soon. Call me if you want to bowl or would like/need to talk at (218) 368-9988.

Enjoy the beautiful creations of God. Here in Minnesota, they can be fleeting.

Tara Swinghammer

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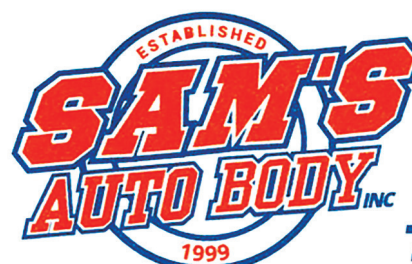
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AUXILIARY COMMANDER CORNER

Our regular meeting was held on 5/15/17, 7:00 at the DAV building. Our evening was focused on providing a meal for our Chapter in recognition of Memorial Day. We served pizza and pop. The decorated cake was furnished by the Chapter.

Upcoming events include local Memorial Day Services which members will go to different services in the area. If you would like to join us call Linda or Ginger.

Plans are in the works for the following:

- July parade: contact any officer if you can help in any capacity.
- Forget-Me-Not promotion contact Tom Annonson at 218-251-3025 or Linda Engesether at 218-308-1041
- Women's Veteran's Recognition event is being planned, contact committee member, Linda Engesether, Darlene Dillon, or Ginger Edwards if you can help or have questions or referrals.
- Heart pillows and children's activity bags to donate the Fargo Hospital are being planned for this fall. If you can help sew or stuff contact Linda Engesether.

Next meeting is June 19, 2017, 7:00 at the DAV Building.

Linda Engesether



Congratulations to our Chapter 7 and Auxiliary Unit 7 members who were elected to State officer positions for the 2017/18 term! Pictured L-R State Auxiliary 2nd Jr Vice Commander Linda Engesether, DAV State Chaplin Walter James, State Auxiliary Chaplin Ginger Edwards, DAV 2017 State "Chapter Commander of the Year" recipient Dave Sterr! Not Pictured DAV State Commander Robert Saddoris.

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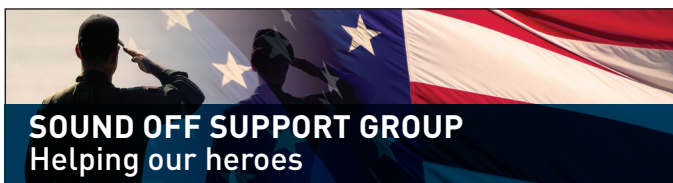
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