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Monthly Newsletter  
July 2017

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

**NEXT MEETING:**  
New DAV Center on 15th Street NW  
Bemidji, MN  
**Monday, July 17th at 7pm**

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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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## Area Events

- June 30th – July 5th – Bemidji Jaycee Water Carnival
- July 2nd – Bemidji 4th of July Parade @ 1 PM
- July 4th – Debs 4th of July Parade @ 11 AM
- July 7th – 9th – Wild Rice Festival – Deer River, MN
- July 8th & 9th – Big Bog Festival ---- Waskish, MN
- July 24th & 25th – Blueberry Festival ---- Lake George, MN
- July 29th – Woodcarvers Festival ---- Blackduck, MN

These are only a few of the many events happening in and around our area this month, so be sure to check your local papers and bulletins for events happening in your neighborhood.

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# COMMANDERS CORNER

It looks like the summer months will be extra busy at the DAV building and property. We are in the middle of getting the pole barn on the west side of the lot enclosed for use as cold storage. It will be divided into two sections. The south section will be used to store the donated medical equipment. The north section is multipurpose. It will be used to store building equipment, storage of clothing program overage and a place to park one of the trucks when needed.

Things continue to go well with the clothing program and we continue to adapt to the continual changes with the process. Instead of traveling to Fargo and Duluth with trailer loads of product, we are now packing the goods into a semitrailer provided by the Savers folks. When it is full, we call for a driver to bring an empty replacement semitrailer. Josh Vrtacnik, Director of Operations/Deputy Adjutant from the State DAV office and the Saver's District Manager worked this out for us and it is saving us time, wear and tear on our vehicles and will be less costly in the long run. They are keenly aware of what Chapter 7 has done to stand as an example of a well-run program, and this is their way of helping us and other chapters to maintain solidly run clothing programs.

Our "Forget-Me-Not" and Clothing Programs continue to provide a steady stream of income for our "Veterans in Need" fund. I just want to take a few sentences here to again thank everyone for your volunteer hours. You are the workers behind the scenes who are keeping us strong and viable. Thank you also for your help and supportive words through our move to the 15th street location. We are inching away at improving the building and grounds, and the building is becoming a multipurpose facility for our DAV related activities.

I am proud of Chapter 7, proud of my comrades and proud of all the volunteers who support our organization. Be safe this 4th of July and enjoy what Bemidji has to offer in fun activities for the celebration!!

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 VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON JUNE 19, 2017 AT 1900.

- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance

## A. Roll Call of Officers:

### 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  
Hist./Judge Advocate/Co-Adjutant: David Meyers..... Present  
Treasurer: Jeri Harvey ..... Present  
Officer of the Day: Glen Aagard ..... Present

## B. Members Present: 22

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

**Guests/Visitors:** Dennis Brown

**Prospective new members:** Dwight Wersbacher, David Bangberger, Winfield Black, Roger Hamilton

**Transfers in:** Lawrence Lamon

## D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Read the minutes of May 15, 2017.

*Motion to approve: Dave Sterr*

*Seconded: D. Ron Kaiser*

*Carried.*

## E. Financial report for 15 May to June 18, 2017 made by Jeri Harvey (see enclosed).

*Motion to approve: Mike Gutz*

*Seconded:*

*Carried.*

**F. Sickness or distress:** About 21 veterans served including a trip to Alexandria by Bruce Holden, a hospital visit by Walter James. Tara planned a bowling event and a potbless dinner on Thursday. We need volunteers to visit an elderly man (Contact Tara).

## G. New Member Obligation: None

**H. Communications:** Wendell Affield thanked us for the donation to his writing class.

## I. Committee Reports:

**1. Membership Report:** See new members

**2. Service Officer Report:** Helping five veterans. Wendell Affield asked if we could place literature at the food shelf.

**3. Legislative Report:** Joe Vene reports on veteran home not bonded due to Governor Dayton claiming that they needed to study the cost. There are five operating homes in MN.

**4. Hospital Chaplain Report:** Walter James reports one hospital visit.

**5. Entertainment:** Discussed 4th of July parade on July 2nd. Application needs to be sent in by Mike Zimmerman or Tom Annonson. Mike Zimmerman will donate his trailer which sits lower for the parade. There was discussion about not having too many vehicles. Meet at the Boys and Girls club at 11:00am. Bring your own chair. Parade starts at 1:00pm. \$200 allocated to decorate the float. Geri Harvey will buy candy locally.

*Motion to approve: Walter James*

*Seconded: Randy Hanavold*

*Carried.*

**6. Fundraising committee:** Tom Annonson mentioned that he felt he needed someone training in on his job. He also suggested that would be good for Geri Harvey as treasurer.

## J. Newsletter Committee:

Tom's helper lost his access to computers. It's causing problems with the newsletter.

## K. Old Business

1. The credit cards with funding for the new pole barn have arrived.

## L. New Business

1. Willie Anderson's Will, not news till after the court hearing.

2. Audit Committee: Walter James, Tom Annonson, Joe Vene appointed

3. Agenda note 3

4. 4th of July parade. See entertainment.

5. Need some brochures at the food shelf.

## M. Executive Committee Action Items

1. Special meeting called to approve \$250 donation to Butch Whitehead campaign for a National DAV office.

## N. Good of the Order:

1. Nothing brought up.

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

## O. Motion to adjourn:

*Made by: Walter James*

*Seconded: Mike Gutz Motion Carried.*

The meeting adjourned at 2007 hours. The next meeting will be held at 1900 on Monday, July 17, 2017 at DAV headquarters



# STATE COMMANDER

## BUDGET PROPOSES TO REDUCE VETERANS' BENEFITS

On May 23, 2017, the President released the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) budget for fiscal year 2018. Contained within this budget were two legislative proposals that DAV strongly opposes because if enacted into law, they would seriously reduce benefits for our nation's ill and injured veterans, their families and survivors. The budget proposal contains a provision that would round down cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for disability compensation, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and some other benefits for the next 10 years. The budget proposal also contains a provision that would scale back VA's Individual Employability (IU) program for thousands of veterans. DAV strongly opposes this ill-conceived proposal. We are calling on all DAV and members and supporters to contact their members of Congress and urge them to reject these harmful proposals that would negatively impact injured and ill veterans, their families and survivors. DAV has a prepared email and letter for you to send to your Senators and Representative. To Take Action Today, you can click the icon "Take Action" or you can [Click Here!](#)

**ALERT**  
**CONTACT**  
**CONGRESS**  
**NOW!**

Minnesota @ 102.01% leading Nation 370 new members, Hawaii @ 101.81 %, 95 new members, South Dakota @ 101.33 % with 60 new members we are in trouble we must get in more members Remember do not send after 6/15/2017 as they will not count till next year. Membership above shows all members who owe less than \$100 please pay them off. Hawaii @ .20% could catch us very fast please do not let this happen after all of your hard work.

State Chapter # 7 @107.37 with 42 new members ½ as many new members as Hawaii this shows how very important to get those new members in by 6/15/2017. Park Rapids is second with 105.63% and 18 new members. Those little states can kill us in a big hurry;

Lead recruiter is Carla Rose with 21 new member part time do not count. Sadoris is second with 19 new members. These two recruiters have recruited almost ½ of what Hawaii has recruited another example of why it's so very important to get-er-done.

Not sure if you've caught wind of this or not, but Minnesota PBS is putting together a Vietnam War project. They are accepting personal stories, photos and videos to be displayed on an interactive story wall later this year. Vietnam veterans can share their own stories, photos, etc. at the following link: <https://www.mnvietnam.org/share-your-story/> If this is something that hasn't been shared with Vietnam LMC members and the like, help spread the word.

I would like to recap my month starting 6/5/2017; I drove 2,201 miles this could be off a few miles. Attended the following: Brainerd Rat meeting plus meeting with State Adjutant, Camp Ripley Turkey Hunt, Prayer Breakfast cities and on to office afterward, Saint Joseph's 5 K run, Ely Fishing for the troops, Cities for two events Memorial Day, 5/31 Camp Ripley trolling for the troops plus several meetings. Have talked with Governor, Senator Klobuchar, Congressman Waltz, VA Commissioner Larry Shellito, Deputy Commissioner Douglas Hughes, Representative Dettmer plus many more contacts, a very rewarding month, and enjoyed talking to many of you along the way. This month seemed to fly by and rain seemed to follow me ever where I went for some reason. Enjoy your summer its going fast. May our Lord bless each of you and your family.

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# BEMIDJI DAV VAN

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

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
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March 2017

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July 2017

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August 2017

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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September 2017

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October 2017

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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
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31						

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I pray that you are all enjoying the summer weather. We had 8 people attend bowling but no one was able to bowl. Again, we want to invite you to fellowship with us in whatever way might work for you. I appreciate your input. These activities are designed to strengthen relationships within the chapter. We can learn more about advocating for ourselves from so many knowledgeable people who attend. Let me know what you would like to do to better connect with our chapter.

For the month of July, we will work on a float together. Please meet us at the Boys and Girls club at 11:00am. The parade starts at 1:00pm so feel free to come later. Hope to see you there. We appreciate your help.

This group is very special in that we exist to help veterans. This help comes in many forms and we are limited by the bylaws set in place. We all need to have the heart to serve as Jesus did. He can see our needs and He knows how to meet those needs. Jesus suffered with those who suffer. He understands our weaknesses. How can we better serve you? Jesus taught us so very much about servant leadership. Matthew 20:28(NIV) 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Oh, what an awesome God we serve. The Bible calls Jesus a high priest who, because he was fully human, understands us. Jesus was ever so patient with his disciples who continually did not understand his message. He never blew up and yelled. Yes, he rebuked the Pharisees but he did so using the truth in love. The Bible teaches that many disciples decided the teaching was too difficult and they walked away from Jesus. The Bible gives no indication of Jesus speaking evil of His disciples who left. He only acknowledges that His teaching is hard to understand.

As I continue this teaching on grieving, I pray that the heart of Jesus reaches your heart. In order to deal with death of a loved one, at some point we need to have assurance of our own salvation. Thankfully we are not the ones to judge if our loved one goes to heaven or not. This will be decided by Jesus. Even if your loved one lived a very ungodly life, he or she need only to repent at the last hour and they will be saved. We may actually see this happen or we may need to trust that our loving Father did everything he could for our loved one to be saved. I have a lovely godly mentor who had a great dad that rejected the Lord. He verbally repented on his death bed but she thought he may have just done it so the family would not feel bad.

We never know about another person's salvation but we can be assured of our own. I know some people may try to reassure us that we will see our loved one again but this is not Biblical. It is more important to know that you will be with Jesus when you die. If your loved one is with Jesus then you will see them again. This is the hope that we have as Christians. What makes the gospel good news is that we cannot earn immortality. When Jesus returns, the "dead shall rise." When the perishable is clothed with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality, the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory (1 Corinthians 15:54 NIV)." I recommend reading this in the KJV as well. Please feel free to discuss anything that I write. If I was wrong I will fix it. Have a great month and may God richly Bless you!!!!

Tara Swinghammer

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## AUXILIARY COMMANDER CORNER

If you can assist with the parade float decorating, meet at the parade staging area (usually in front of the Boys and Girls Club) at 11:00 AM. The Parade starts at 1:00 PM, so if you are coming to ride or hand out candy please arrive 30- 45 minutes prior to the start of the parade so we can make seating arrangements on the float and be sure we have enough people to hand out candy.

The trailer for the float this year is available thanks to Mike and Amy Zimmerman and is lower to the ground so it will be much easier to climb on and the trailer can even accommodate the loading of wheelchairs too! If you plan to ride on the float, PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR, so that you can be comfortable for the duration of the parade. We can use help with everything.

Any questions call Linda or Ginger.



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