

Bemidji Chapter 7

Disabled American Veterans

North Central Minnesota Chapter #7

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Monthly Newsletter
March 2015

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

NEXT MEETING:

**National Guard Armory Bemidji, MN
Monday, April 19th at 7pm**

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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JUNIOR VICE:	Jay Ruediger - (218)395-0318
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CHAPLAIN (ALT.):	Bruce Holden - (218)467-3591
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SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen - (218)308-0962
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Aagard - 218-556-7999
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE CHAIR:	Tom Annonson - (218)251-3025, torgor@lightspeed.net
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Holden
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Glenn Aagard
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Marten Schrage

COMMANDERS CORNER

It is March and we just got another two inches of that white stuff. I thought winter was gone for the year! Hopefully by next month, we can feel those spring breezes. We are still sorting clothes at the Armory. If you have a Tuesday morning free come out and give us a hand.

On March 11th we helped Chuck Deeds celebrate his 90th birthday. Commander Deeds was a state commander of the Disabled American Veterans and served as commander for our chapter 7 for a time. Commander Deeds was also in the first squadron in the United States Civil Air Patrol that was formed in Minnesota in 1941 and he spent 36 years in the US Air Force. What a wonderful example of someone giving their life to the service of our nation.

In last month's newsletter, Scotty Allison the Beltrami County Veteran's officer), briefly reported on a bonding bill that was introduced in congress for a veterans home here in Bemidji. On March 14th a meeting was held at the Beltrami County Board room by all parties involved with the process. If anyone is interested in the information that was given, please check the March 15th, 2015 edition of "The Bemidji Pioneer." The bottom line is, if everything goes as planned, the soonest we could realize our veterans home is 2020.

Whether you need help, want to help or just hang out with likeminded veterans we have a place for you.

Dave Sterr
DAV Chapter 7 Commander

DAV MEETING FOR MARCH 16TH, 2015

Meeting called to order: 1900 Hrs.

Opening Ceremonies Performed.

Roll call of officers taken: A quorum was present.

Number of Members Present: 19

Guests or Visitors: Jean & Julia Davis, Mark Burkley

Reading of the minutes from Feb 16th, 2015 meeting:

Motion to accept as read. Approved.

Treasurer's Report Given: Motion to accept as read. Approved.

Chaplain's Report: 4+ Veterans Assisted.

Reading of Correspondence: Thank you from the Fargo VA for donation.

Committee reports given:

Service officer: No report.

Membership: 2 new members, 1 approved transfer.

Newsletter: Articles in by Thurs.

Forget-me-not: upcoming dates presented.

Legislative: Multiple bills at State for Bemidji Vets Home.
Multiple bills about retirement & Homestead Tax Credit
Federal- tying Agent Orange for Blue Water Navy

Old Business:

1. Wheel Chair ramp no longer needed. Info
2. Sr. Vice Zimmerman & Cmdr. Sterr approved to attend convention on Apr 30th.
3. Sanford Center will submit bid for fall 2017 convention. Open.

New Business:

1. Cmdr. Edwards Accessible Van available for donation to a vet in need. (Info)

2. Trailer Damage was submitted to Insurance.
3. The Kelliher community working to create a veteran housing development.
4. Beltrami Electric hosting garage sale, Mr. Morgan volunteered to staff the trailer for donated items.
5. Warroad Church group collecting clothing for drive.
6. Budget, Transportation, & Bylaws committee formed and approved.
7. CVSO helping veteran with telephone- up to \$100, approved.
8. Cost for transportation for Vet in need for \$927, approved.
9. Vet in need in Blackduck- approved. (Info)
10. Vet in need, paid hotel bill for weekend. (Info)
11. Received an update on the Swenson Family.
12. CVSO received grant money to support vets (see article).
13. 10,000 grant to support vets in need of transportation in Kelliher.
14. Ride for Troops event to be held June 7th. \$800 was approved for this year. Discussion was held on the Ride not cashing the check in a timely manner.

Executive Committee Actions:

1. Donation for Middle River Goose Hunt for \$5000, approved.
2. Vet in Need -Auto Repair bill for \$600, was paid (info)
3. Vet in Need- Well froze, \$1000 bill paid (info)

Good of the Order: None

Closing Ceremonies were performed.

Meeting adjourned at: 2009 hrs.

CDR Chuck Deeds (past Chapter & State Commander) 90th Birthday Celebration

➤ DAV Chapter 7's current Commander, Dave Sterr wishing Chuck a Happy Birthday!



▲ Cake that was presented to Chuck Deeds by DAV Chapter 7, for his 90th Birthday!



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DAV Chapter 7, North Central Minnesota, presented a check for \$1000 to the VFW, Harold Baggenstoss Post 1260, Honor / Color Guard to help offset their costs for them providing the Military Honors at the funeral services of our local area Veterans. Pictured from left to right, Roger Reese, Dave Christianson, Tom Annonson, and Kelly Booge.

BELTRAMI COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

Recently, the Beltrami County Veterans Service Office was awarded a grant from Beltrami County Consolidated Conservation Fund to assist veterans and their families living in the northern part of our County. This area is the townships and unorganized territories primarily located around the cities of Kelliher, Waskish and the Fourtown Area near the City of Grygla.

The objective of this grant is to provide essential support to veterans and their families during times of need or crisis. This includes transportation support to medical appointments, energy assistance during the winter months, and help with minor home repairs. Specifically, in regards to home repairs, the grant will allow up to \$250.00 per visit to either fix a problem or get a detailed estimate so we can attempt to use other state programs to help.

The requirements for this program are as follows:

1. Applicants must be a veteran meeting the definition of "veteran" as outlined in Minnesota Statute.
2. Be a spouse of a veteran to include widows.
3. Meet income eligibility requirements as outlined by the Veterans Administration in regards to obtaining medical care.
4. To obtain home repairs, applicants must be the owners and living in the home.
5. Must live in the Beltrami County Consolidated Conservation Area.

For assistance please contact the Beltrami County Veterans Service office at 218-333-4178.

AUXILIARY COMMANDER

Meet at my house on March 28th to pack Easter Baskets for Veterans at Nielsen Place.

I hope you had a good break and I'd like to thank everyone that attended the last meeting. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Linda Engesether
DAV Unit 7

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE:

1. **HF 1414 (HANCOCK):** \$16 million bonding bill for Veterans Home in Bemidji & Montevideo.
2. **HF 54 (PERSELL):** \$30 million bonding bill for Veterans Home in Bemidji.
3. **SF 7 (SAXHAUG):** \$30 million bonding bill for Veterans Home in Bemidji.
4. **HF 137 (DETTMER):** Subtraction for military retirement pay. \$1500 per year for a maximum of twenty years served.
5. **SF 295 (ANDERSON):** Subtraction for military retirement pay. \$1500 per year for a maximum of twenty years served.
6. **Other bills related to military retirement:** HF 299, SF 40, HF 312, SF 294, HF 1028, SF 422, HF 171, SF 1, SF 603, and HF 25.
7. **HF 147 (DETTMER)/ SF 357 (ANDERSON):** Extends Veterans Homestead Tax Credit for surviving spouses indefinitely. Currently eight years is the maximum they can get. Only applies to 100% service-connected veterans who were total and permanent prior to death.

FEDERAL:

1. **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act:** Attempting to tie presumptive diseases of Agent Orange with also serving in the Navy of the coast of Vietnam.

ADJUTANT / SERVICE OFFICER

Since July we have had 53 loads of clothing delivered to savers, 336,661 Lbs. of clothing and 91,250 Lbs. of other. We have donated \$ 23,836.60 to Veterans or deceased Veterans Spouses in need. We have also given funds to such things as the State Outdoor program - Hunting for disabled Veterans, the State Cemeteries, State Veterans Homes, Fargo VA hospital, plus other funds to Veterans in need. In the end of year report, we will add it all up for you. We have had 7,539 volunteer hours thus far (**NOTE we probably have twice that amount, however not everyone has been turning in their hours!**)

Several of us went to the Task force meeting for the Veterans Home in Bemidji. It was in paper before we were asked to vote, but all present agreed to tie our home request in with Montevideo thus stopping the fight of one home request over the other. The politicians present felt that would give both communities a better leg up for having a home. Call your politicians ask them to vote for our Veterans Home the more that call the better the chance it will be of us getting the 70 bed home with grounds to double if needed. Also at some point, you may be asked to load on a bus to go down in support of this very important issue.

We had one of our 20 foot trailer vandalized and Mike Zimmerman is getting estimates to take to the executive board for approval of what is the best option open to us, then it will go to membership.

We are looking for Jr Vices from up North we have Jay Reudiger from Baudette, we think we have one willing to be a Jr Vice from the Middle River area.

State DAV Convention is in Mankato April 30th - May 2nd.

We had one transfer and five new members this month. Our transportation system is still going strong we do how ever need more volunteer drivers.

We still have two lots in Bemidji that the owner wants to give to a Disabled Veteran.

We have 6 boxes of size 36 pants and 17 shirts that a widow does not want to go in to the clothing drive but to be given straight away to a Veteran in need.

Cmdr. Robert Saddoris
218-243-2663

VETERANS CIRCUIT TRAINING AT ANYTIME FITNESS

I have worked out a deal with Anytime Fitness where Veterans can get free Circuit Training. I want to help give veterans of all shapes, sizes and physical ability the chance to change up their life or work out style. This will be a great test or start to your physical fitness. Classes will be a half hour to an hour depending on physical ability. If you are a veteran please let me know if you are interested. If you know a veteran, please let them know. I will continue to offer

the classes until there is no more interest. Availability is limited. Thank you.

Bidal Duran Jr.
Police Officer #8584, Bemidji Police Department
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2015 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

January

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
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December

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If you have problems leaving a message
call Adjutant Saddoris at 218-243-2663.

Volunteer Drivers Needed! Call Saddoris for info.



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

There are some things, which remain, constant and true. We humans do change though in our thoughts and ideas, and this can be both good and bad depending of course on whether the knowledge we have is accurate and based on facts and not speculation. The prophets were constantly dealing with these issues. When we read, "Thus says the LORD" (approximately 456 times in the Old Testament), it is imperative we understand what God is addressing through His prophets. We study of course to acquire knowledge, but that knowledge is only as good as the one who is presenting it and if their research and facts are correct. If an error was considered to be something correct long ago and persisted to this day then the error is even greater now. Example, if you are using a compass and are off by one degree the further you travels the greater the error.

So then what and who can we trust to be accurate in all things in this day and age of information technology? The Bible, God's word it can always be trusted. There are some who would argue this, but that is their privilege to do so. There needs to be a standard that never changes the standard is Christ (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8). God does not change; sometimes He attaches conditions to His word (if you do, or don't do this then this is what will take place). He is not a man like us that can change his mind many time's about an issue, God is perfect and correct in all He does, and His Word (Jesus-John 1:1,14) is perfect. So the question becomes who do we learn from, man or God? So often we tend to want to bring God down to our level when He is calling us to a higher plane. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55: 8, 9). We need to give understanding to the study of God's word, or how else will we become fit and prepared for the coming of the LORD and His kingdom? More on this in the upcoming months too.

Yet, some have corrupted the words of the Bible long ago because of superstitions and other errors of man's thoughts, their interpretation's being incorrect and just like that compass being off one degree over the years, these errors have grown and are accepted today as truth. Yes there is some truth in it, but for a lie to stand up it needs to be laced with a certain amount of truth. This can all be seen in a variety of different ways, from public officials whose policies violate God's heart (Hosea 8:1-4, I Kings 8:16-19), laws violating God's intensions (Lev 18:21, Jeremiah 32:35), pluralistic and incorrect religious views of another God, other than YHWH (Father) and Christ (Judges 2:11-12, Jeremiah 1:16, I John 2:18-22), and right is now wrong and vice versa because society standards are more important than God's standards (Malachi 2:7). Please study and discern that what you are being taught is in harmony with God's word, the Bible, and then when you hear an error, red flags will pop up in your mind saying, No, that is not right.

Please do not hesitate to call us. If you are in the hospital we would like to come and visit. If you, another veteran, or family member are in need, let us know. If you want to talk with us then we look forward to meeting you. Our prayer for you is Colossians 3:1-11.

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