

FULFILLING OUR PROMISES

TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

www.davchapter7.org

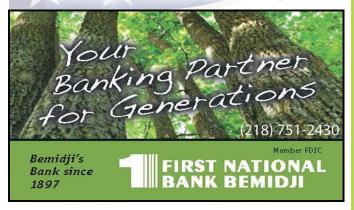
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Monthly Newsletter October 2017

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

NEXT MEETING:

New DAV Center on 15th Street NW Bemidji, MN Monday, October 15th at 7pm







CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER: Dave Sterr - (218) 556-4633 SENIOR VICE: Mike Zimmerman - (218) 252-2061

JUNIOR VICE: Joe Vene
ADJUTANT: David Myers
SERVICE OFFICER: Walter James

SERVICE OFFICER: Walter James
TREASURER: Jeri Harvey
CHARLAND. Tour Schwing.

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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For information on State and National DAV news and events check out their websites at:

State -- http://davmn.org/

National -- https://www.dav.org/

COMMANDERS CORNER

Our new storage building is now in use. It turned out to be quite an undertaking and thanks to some dedicated volunteers and professional contractors, it turned out just great. A grant from the Home Depot Foundation made it possible for us to add this storage building to our building site on 15th Street. We can't thank them enough. Access to our supply of donated medical equipment is now at our fingertips and we can provide items to our veterans with ease and speed.

Thank you just doesn't seem to express how deeply appreciative Chapter 7 is for the things that have been given to us for our work with our veterans. When you couple that with our awesome volunteers and dedicated members, we are a chapter much blessed up here in the northland. THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for your support with the building project and our other fund-raising projects. If this fall and winter brings hardships for any of our veterans and their families, our "Veterans in Need Fund" is ready and available.

We had a well-attended picnic the end of August and everyone had a good time. Good fun, good food and good fellowship describes this year's get together. Fall is now at our doorstep and there have been some cold mornings of late. Summer goes by so fast in Northern Minnesota, but fall brings a special beauty that soothes our souls before winter. Let's relax with the beauty of fall and get ready for what Mother Nature has instore for us the remainder of the year.

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.













THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON SEPTEMBER 18 2017 AT 1900.

Opening Ceremonies

A. Roll Call of Officers:

OFFICERS

Commander: Dave Sterr	Excused
Senior Vice Commander: Mike Zimmerman	Excused
Junior Vice Commander: Joe Vene	Present
Adjutant: David Myers	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	Excused

B. Members Present: 17

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

Guests/Visitors: No guests or visitors were present. A prospective member, Jack Young was introduced as a member wishing to transfer his membership to this chapter.

Prospective new members: Ten new applications, and 2 transfer requests.

Transfers in: None

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of July 17th, 2017 were read. There was no regular meeting held in the month of August.

Motion to approve: Randy Hanevold Seconded: Steve Hauschill. Carried.

E. Financial Report for July 18 – September 17: Chapter treasurer Jeri Harvey gave a double report, covering the months of July, August, and September up through the 17th. Also informed us that the annual report had been submitted to National.

Motion to approve: Steve Hauschill, Seconded: Glenn Aagard

Carried.

F. Sickness or distress: None reported

G. New Member Obligation: None

H. Communications: A letter from Grand Rapids Chapter requesting that chapter 7 contribute \$2,500.00 to help pay for a new transfer van for the Fargo VA was read. After Discussion, it was suggested that this should be forwarded to the Executive committee for further investigation.

I. Committee Reports:

- 1. Membership Report: This report was made by Jeri Harvey in the absence of Mike Zimmerman. It was reported that we have 10 new members, 2 new transfer applications, and that an application and check were received prior to the meeting. The transfer requests were made by Leroy Tillman Sr, and Jack Young (present at the meeting).

 Motion to accept the transfers: Gene Schwantes Seconded: Glenn Aagard Carried.
- 2. Service Officer Report: Discussed a case involving a disabled Veteran who is losing her home. (present at the meeting). Motion was made by Randy Hanevold that we designate up to \$1,000.00 to be used (if needed) to help pay for first and last month's rent, and/or security deposit. Seconded: Mike Gutz Carried.
- 3. Legislative Report: Joe Vene reports that our state senators would be at the County Administration Building, in the Board chambers on Wednesday 20 September at 1500. It was pointed out that we should attend and lend our voices to encourage a new veterans home.
- 4. Hospital Chaplain Report: Nothing to report
- 5. Entertainment: No report, Chairman absent
- 6. Fundraising committee: No report, Chairman absent
- 7. Newsletter Committee: No report, Chairman absent

J. Old Business

We received an update on the Anderson estate. Auctions have been held, property sold. At this point, we are waiting for the executor to pay all of the estate bills. When that is accomplished, we will be notified, and an amount will be given.

K. New Business

It was reported that the MAC V stand-down was going to be held on Wednesday September 27, at the Curling club. Help will be needed to help carry food items up the stairs to the kitchen. Jeri Harvey requests that we be there no later than 0730. It was pointed out that we received no prior notice, and that this was extremely poor planning by the MAC V committee.

- L. Executive Committee Action Items None brought forward
- M. Good of the Order: Nothing at this time.

A Minute of silence was observed for our fallen comrades

N. Motion to adjourn:

Made by Bruce Tiegen, 2nd by Steve Hauschill. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1950 hours. The next meeting will be held on 16 October 2017 at 1900 at the Chapter HQ.

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STATE COMMANDER

The DAV of Minnesota Foundation is proud to announce that at our most recent meeting in August the Foundation Board of Directors approved nine separate grant requests worth almost \$75,000 that will provide direct support for Minnesota Disabled Veterans. Individual grants include:

- -Primary funding for MDVA pilot on-site 2 chair dental clinic at the Minneapolis Veterans Home Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the state cemetery in Duluth
- -Round trip charter bus transportation for Minnesota Veterans to attend the 2017 National Disabled Veterans Training, Exposure, and Experience (TEE) Tournament https://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2017/veterans-tee-iowa-city/
- -Minnesota Veterans to attend the 2017 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic https://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/ssc/index.asp
- -Grant in support for Southeast MN deer hunt for disabled veterans
- -Grant in support for Saint Cloud VAMC Homeless Veterans Program
- -Grant for Minnesota Veterans to attend the 2017 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival https://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/caf/index.asp
- -Grant to support Welcome Home Troops Pheasant Hunt Grant for the construction of wheelchair accessible hunting blinds

State Commanders August travel:

Returned from New Orleans National Convention, it was a very good Convention with lots of information, you can find lectures on https:// www.dav.org/learn-more/media/. At St Cloud for a Foundation meeting was good, we went through many request for funds, all members present; to St Cloud VA Hospital to visit a member of Chapter 12 who was an inpatient. To Mankato for Chapter Training Session; to Moorhead Subaru Rally set up by Laura Brooks Becker County CVSO past 1st Jr Vice, she is very active with DAV and Chapter 31, State Chaplin Walter James and Rick Habstritt (one of our Outstanding Volunteer Driver's) we collected donations for Northwest Transportation Program; to Fergus Falls Chapter 25 to discuss changes in the finance report from National; discussed Fall Conference which will be held in Fergus Falls October 6-7, Chapter 25 will have hospitality room on night of October 5th; to Saint Cloud for Chapter Training Session had a good turnout, it was great training session; talked a few times with Chapter 14 new Commander very impressed with his progress and with Chapter 34 answered questions and gave information new Officers making good progress also. Talked with Chapter 16 Officer; to St Paul for DAV booth at State Fair, the two shifts signed up 9 or 10 new members plus discussed many issues with Veterans that stopped by; to VA Medical Center Saint Cloud for Transportation Committee Meeting, great meeting lots of discussion all members present ready to formulate policy procedure for Executive Committee to review. Handled several transportation questions from both drivers and Veterans wanting to ride Bemidji van, starting to work on 2018 schedule where Bemidji will run 4 days a week. Very busy month lots of computer time, met many of our great members, anytime I get a chance to meet our members it makes my day, it is such an honor to represent each and every one of you (at one of our meetings a member said, he did not think his thoughts mattered) "all of your thoughts and ideas are important" again we are a team. I drove 2,181 miles and away from home 12 days this month. Signed up three new members, do hope each of you are signing up new members if each of you would just sign up one member which is very possible that would be outstanding! I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference in Fergus Falls October 6-7; Chapter Service Officer training on October 5th 1000 hours until completed and the District Fall Conference in Detroit Lakes 21st of October. May God Bless each and every one of you and your families.









Saddoris

BEMIDJI DAV VAN 2017 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

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

May 2017						June 2017							
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March 2017									
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December 2017											
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Veterans free transportation to Fargo VA

Northwest Transportation MN DAV Chapter 7 Bemidji-Fargo Trips • Pick-up Points:

Bemidji National Guard Armory • Solway in front of bar • Shevlin in front of bar Bagley Tesoro Station west end of town • Fosston at LaPiere's on the east end of town Mahnomen Cenex park south of propane tank • Ada Country Store

To Schedule Rides:

Call 1-855-277-9787 and follow voice prompts to leave a message.

If you have problems leaving a message call scheduler **Saddoris at 218-243-2663 or 218-209-1863 (cell)**.

Volunteer Drivers Needed! Call Saddoris for info.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Can you believe that we are well into fall already? I pray that you all have stored up those beautiful summer days and vitamin D for the long winter ahead. If not, many doctors recommend taking vitamin D3 to keep your mood positive through the winter. I personally enjoy the changing seasons and look forward to snow so I can ski. It is so good to have something to look forward to in life.

Last month, I addressed the bargaining aspect of grieving. I talked about unresolved issues in relationships. We think that we can make a deal with God. Once we realize that God is in control we move toward acceptance. Life is never the same after someone dies, a divorce happens, the end of a relationship, a job ends or even health issues that change your life forever. There is no peace until you let go and let God. We need to find that new normal life that can seem so evasive.

As always friends I am preaching to myself. I am honored to be your chaplain and so thankful for the love shared by all of you. I love that we get to help veterans who are really struggling without judging their circumstances. You never know when a big life change is going to happen. We were all so young when we signed that dotted line. The cost was never counted. We were willing to die serving our country. There was no quitting. We made a commitment and we stuck to it.

This is why so many people will tell us thank you for serving. Does anyone else get bothered by that appreciation? My beautiful daughter-in-law taught me to say "you're welcome." I used say, "Aw no problem. No big deal. mmhmm." I never learned to accept being a hero. But she thoroughly loved to give gifts and say those 2-3

words. Have you learned to see yourself as a great American? King David was a warrior and a hero of Israel's songs (2Samuel 23:1). He survived many wars and killed many men but his heart knew great sorrow. Reading a Psalm every day shows us that it is okay to feel bad. Sometimes David was depressed. He called on the name of the Lord and was delivered from all of his troubles (2Samuel 4:9).

Accepting life struggles can lead to depression. Believe me I struggle every day. It takes a hero to get out of bed every morning and praise God for the good things in life. I heard a sermon once saying to just start by being thankful that you are alive, that you slept in a bed that you have food to eat or coffee to drink. Once you get started there are so many things to be thankful for. Family and friends are at the top of my list. We can think of the good memories and bless even those that we had to say good-bye to.

If you don't feel strong enough, God understands. Just ask Him to help your unbelief. God please give me the strength to bless those who curse me. Forgive me Lord for any sins that I have committed against you or others in your creation. Help me to understand that I am forgiven at the cross because of Jesus death. There is nothing too big that God cannot forgive. God has gone through so much trouble to get you to this very place. He loves you so much!!! God accepts you with all your fragilities and failures. Won't you please consider welcoming Him into your heart? I did it 35 years ago and I have never regretted that decision. If you don't want to do it alone, we can help you. There are several former chaplains and my assistant chaplain as well as myself. May God draw you unto Himself.

Into His Service, Chaplain Tara Schwinghammer, DAV Chapter 7





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AUXILIARY COMMANDER CORNER

Had a good meeting on the September 18th. Upcoming events include the Women Veterans Spa Day scheduled for Friday, November 10, 2017, Fall Conference in October, Chapter recognition meal in November, and doing the Christmas gifts for Veterans in facilities, activity bags for children for the Fargo VA hospital and planning for a fund raiser.

Next meeting is on October 16 at 7:00 at the DAV building.

Linda Engesether, Unit Commander

MACV VETERANS STAND DOWN



The Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans hosted a Veterans Stand Down on Wednesday Sept 17th. There were a total of 130 Veterans that attended with 37 providers and at least 25 volunteers. The DAV provided the food and had their own table set up for information. Thank you to all that attended and volunteered.







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Bemidji Chapter 7

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