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Monthly Newsletter  
December 2017

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



**NEXT MEETING:**

Eagles Club  
Bemidji, MN

**Monday, December 18th at 5pm**

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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,<br>Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025,<br>torgor@lightspeed.net |

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**DAV and Auxiliary  
Christmas Party and  
Recognition Dinner**



- When:** December 18, 2017  
**Where:** Bemidji Eagles Club  
**Time:** 5:00 Social Hour; 6:00 Dinner  
**Meal choice:** Roast Beef, Fried Chicken Breast, or Vegetarian Lasagna  
**RSVP:** Call Ginger at 368-8562 by December 10, if leaving a voice mail, please include full names of each guest and their meal choice.

**Come and enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship with friends. There will be a short program and door prizes.**

# COMMANDERS CORNER

Christmas greetings to everyone. I hope to see as many of you as possible at the DAV Christmas party scheduled for December 18th. It has been a great year for the chapter and you deserve a celebration for what has been accomplished in 2017. It is comforting to know that we have our own building to navigate from, and that we are financially healthy for our mission of helping Veterans when needs arise.

I am hoping that 2018 brings a rise in membership in our chapter and a rise in attendance at our monthly meetings. We can all play a part in this aim by inviting Veterans to join us and by telling them the benefits of being a part of our organization. If you are a reader of the newsletter and haven't attended our meetings, I invite you to do so. We meet the third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm at 5441 15th St NW.

As I said in last month's newsletter, we have so much to be thankful for. The blessings have been many for our chapter these past few years. I have been personally blessed by getting to know so many of my fellow Veterans and by guiding and helping the Chapter 7 members in the establishment of our own permanent building.

My wish for you is that you have a wonderful Christmas holiday. Let us all pray for peace in our world, safety and calm for our active duty servicemen, and happiness and good health for each other and our loved ones.

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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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 20 NOVEMBER 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 ..... 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 ..... Excused  
 Historian: Tom Annonson ..... Present

**B. Members Present: 19**

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

**Guests/Visitors:** Mr. Tom Keeler  
**Prospective new members:** None  
**Transfers in:** None

**D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the last regular meeting (October 16, 2017) were read. Commander Sterr pointed out that there was an additional visitor from Middle river (Wayne Kiln) present at that meeting. Motion to approve (as amended) by Bruce Tiegen, 2nd by Steve Hauschill. Carried.

**E. Financial Report for 17 October – 19 November:** Chapter treasurer Jeri Harvey gave a report. Motion to accept the report was made by Randy Hanevold, 2nd by Steve Hauschill. Carried.

**F. Sickness or distress:** The Chaplain reported that we have 12 members who were ill, and that we suffered a death. Mr. Ron Johnson passed away.

**G. New Member Obligation:** None

**H. Communications:** A number of communications were read.

**I. Committee Reports:**

- 1. Membership Report:** The following applications have been received and forwarded to national: James W. Johnson; Kenneth J. Lucas; Benson Ledford Jr.; Frank Hernandez; Gene T. Sistad; and Daniel Dietrich
- 2. Service Officer Report:** Because Walter James was absent Tara Schwinghammer gave a short report.
- 3. Legislative Report:** Discussed progress on the Bemidji veteran's home.

- 4. Hospital Chaplain Report:** Nothing to report
- 5. Entertainment:** The Christmas party will take place on Monday, 18 December, at the Eagles club, starting at 6 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Chapter lobby.
- 6. Fundraising committee:** Chairman apologized for not being able to do any fund raising during the Herberger's Community day sales event due to being out of State
- 7. Newsletter Committee:** Chairman apologized for the newsletters being late the last couple of months due to the staff being otherwise occupied and out of state.

**J. Old Business**

All items have been taken care of. Nothing further to discuss.

**K. New Business**

- 1.** We received an update on the Anderson estate. Auctions have been held, property sold. All know bills have been paid. Once the attorney (Mr. Zimmerman) is satisfied that everything is in order, a check will be sent to the chapter. It is anticipated that we will receive between 80 and 90 K at that time. \$10,000.00 will be held in case there are any more bills to be paid. At that point, if there are no further bills, the remainder will be sent to the chapter.
- 2.** January begins a new year, and we need to appoint a nominating committee to bring forward recommendations for the new slate of officers. The following members are appointed to this committee: Tara Schwinghammer; Steve Hauschill; and Mike Gutz.
- 3.** Joe Vene asked the chapter to consider reimbursing him for expenses incurred for legislative visits to the capital. Mike Gutz made a motion to this end. 2nd by Bruce Tiegen. Carried.
- 4.** Mr. Tom Keeler discussed plans for a PTSD event. It was recommended that he return when he has more specific details.
- 5.** Tom Annonson discussed the Wreaths Across America Ceremony that will take place locally on 16 December, at 11:00. He hoped that the chapter would purchase 100 wreaths to be placed on veteran's graves. Bruce Tiegen made the motion that the chapter purchase 100 wreaths (for \$1500.00). 2nd by Jim Guildersleeve. Carried.

**L. Executive Committee Action Items:** None brought forward

**M. Good of the Order:**

- 1.** Commander Sterr reports that Home Depot made several flag display cases on veterans day, and are looking for veterans (or their families) who need one to display an official flag. If you know of anyone, please contact Commander Sterr.
- 2.** David Myers invites all members to a Thanksgiving dinner at Ridgewood Baptist Church on Thanksgiving Day, serving begins at 1 pm.

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

**N. Motion to adjourn:**

*Made by Mike Gutz, 2nd by Steve Hauschill. Carried.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2011 hours. The next meeting will be held on 18 December at 1800 at the Eagles Club. This won't be a regular meeting, but rather the Chapter Christmas Party.

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# VETS ON THE HILL

## ATTENTION ALL VETERANS AND SPOUSES!

The date for the Veterans day on the Hill 2018 has been announced! Mark your calendars for the 12th of March, as we will once again be putting together another bus trip down to the State Capitol for the Rally in the Rotunda. After the rally we will be meeting with our local Representatives to discuss current Legislative actions that pertain to Us Veterans and our families.

Watch for more info on departure times and pick up points in upcoming newsletters or on Chapter 7's website: [davchapter7.org](http://davchapter7.org)

To sign up for the bus, contact Tom Annonson at:

Email – [mndavchapter7@gmail.com](mailto:mndavchapter7@gmail.com)

Text – (218) 251-3025

## Wreaths Across America

The local Civil Air Patrol Unit will be hosting the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Greenwood Cemetery at 11:00 AM on the 16th of December.

To learn more about Wreaths Across America you can visit their website at:

<http://www.wreathsassacrossamerica.org>



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# - Bemidji DAV/VA Van - 2018 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

**January**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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**February**

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**April**

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**June**

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**July**

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**August**

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**October**

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**November**

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**December**

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It is hard to believe that Christmas is already in the air. What are your Christmas traditions, I wonder? Do you have a real or fake tree? Do you fix turkey, ham or pizza (we celebrate with a birthday party for Jesus)? Do you use gold, red, silver or blue as your color scheme? It is so comforting to bring out your traditions and share them with the children and grandchildren. Surprisingly, the Bible commands us to do just that. Our Christmas traditions are one way that we can share the joy of our Savior's birth.

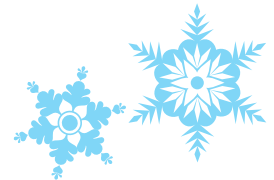
Jesus was prophesied to come to Bethlehem, the City of David, by the prophet Isaiah. He was born in a barn and placed in a manger. All of this was predicted 400 years prior. Wow! The Bible doesn't tell us to do all the things we do for Christmas, but we do this for our children. We want them to know that when Jesus was born, our world was transformed. We are no longer tasked with hard cold obedience. The letter (of the Law) killeth but the Spirit giveth life (2 Corinthians 3:6). When Jesus later died, rose again, and ascended into heaven, he promised to send the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, the early church was empowered to preach the Gospel. Our triune God is complete. We have the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As we acknowledge the saving grace that began with a baby in a manger, we can see even greater things, "...heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of man (John 1:50)." "How beautiful, how marvelous is your love for us." I pray that this season, your heart will be filled with the Holy Spirit love and comfort of Our Heavenly Father. Oh, I know that some find this time of year depressing. Know that your Jesus is here to lift you up as you share your pain with Him. I suggest reading Psalms of David out loud to find the peace that you seek. It starts with honestly telling God how you feel. Your feelings are part of who you are. Everyone needs validation of their feelings. Please don't stop there. Next, trust that Jesus knows and understands you. He is fully human and fully God. He has been tempted in every way and yet was without sin. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be cleansed of all unrighteousness. This means we are free from the guilt of sin. Jesus paid the price that we might be forgiven. Don't let the devil rob you of the joy of knowing that we, through Christ, have overcome death. Our feelings come and go but the joy of our salvation can never be taken from us.

Perhaps some of you struggle with memories from holidays during your service. We all do to some extent, I guess. We must remember that we live in the greatest nation on the planet. We desire to serve the one true God of love and mercy. War began in heaven and it will end right here as Jesus returns as conqueror, on a White Horse. Jesus as king will make everything right again as it was in the Garden of Eden. Though war can seem like hell, it will eventually end with Jesus as victor. The devil and his angels will be thrown into the abyss. We can rewrite our war stories to bring glory to God. Amen? I pray that this season, you are empowered to receive the hope to which He called us and the riches that we have received. Know the height, and the depth of His love for all who believe.

If you have not invited Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, please do so as soon as possible. If you need help, call me. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

Chaplain Tara Schwinghammer (218-368-9988)



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## AUXILIARY COMMANDER CORNER

The Auxiliary hosted a meal for our Chapter in November with sloppy joes and a variety of sides. December 18 is the DAV and Auxiliary Christmas party and recognition dinner. Call Ginger to RSVP and give meal choices by December 10. On December 16th we meet at the DAV building to assemble the Christmas gifts for veterans in Neilson Place, Havenwood, and Blackduck Good Samaritan homes. Come if you are able at 10:00. We will deliver them when assembled.

Don't forget there are no Auxiliary meetings in January and February. We will discuss any needed business in December during the party.

Christmas blessings to all.

Linda Engesether, Commander



### *Season's Greetings!*

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Happy Holidays from your Newsletter Staff!

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