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Monthly Newsletter
March 2018

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



NEXT MEETING:
New DAV Center on 15th Street NW
Bemidji, MN
Monday, March 19th at 7pm

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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
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

VETERANS ON THE HILL DAY TRIP UPDATE

As we have mentioned in last couple of month's newsletters, the Veterans on the Hill day will be March 12th. **There are still some seats available, but they are filling up quickly so let us know ASAP if you are planning to go along!** We are encouraging all veterans and their spouses to attend if possible. There is no requirement that they belong to any Military Organization, so spread the word to any Veteran friends that you know and invite them to go along. Remember, there isn't any charge for the trip and there will be beverages, snacks, and a meal provided.

The scheduled bus stops for pickups are:

Leaving Bemidji @ 5 A.M. -- Akeley @ 5:45, -- Leader @ 6:40, -- Motley @ 7:05.

The times listed for each stop are approximate arrival times, depending on road conditions, with a 10-minute maximum loading time so please plan to be there 20-30 minutes prior to the arrival time at your pick-up point.

There are a couple of things we ask;

- 1) That you contact us and let us know the names and cell phone numbers for everyone that will be joining us on the bus(s). POC is Tom Annonson (218) 251-3025 or Email mandavchapter7@gmail.com
- 2) Everyone must be ambulatory enough to get on and off the bus, (we don't have wheelchair accessible bus(s) available) but if required, we can stow wheelchairs in the luggage compartment.

The goal for this year is to have over 1000 attendees from all over the State at the event. The more attendees, the greater the impact we will have on Veteran related Legislative issues.

MARCH EVENTS

- Day Light Savings Time Begins - March 11th
- Veterans on the Hill Day - March 12th
- Bemidji American Legion Bonspiel - March 16th & 17th
- St Patrick's Day - March 17th
- Park Rapids American Legion All Veterans Memorial fish fry fundraiser - March 23rd

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COMMANDERS CORNER

Here it is March already and around the corner lurks our very busy season with the clothing program. Everything seems to be flowing nicely with our process as we enter 2018. As I prepare this note for the newsletter, the latest snowfall is underway in our area. I hope it is the last time I must use the snow blower, but I suspect "it ain't over with yet".

As we March into Spring, please keep in mind that we need to be thinking about membership and participation in our Chapter. I am hoping that we can invite more Veterans both young and old to support us as they are able. They may need us and, we know we need them. Our Chapter can be a place of friendship, comfort, comradery, etc. Do keep that in mind when encountering a Veteran you think might be a candidate for membership in our organization.

The minutes from the February 19th general meeting are in the newsletter and you will see the new slate of officers for the 2018 season. I'm proud of their dedication and am happy to serve another year as Commander with them. Congratulations officers – I salute you..

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 15 JANUARY 2018 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 Present
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 Present

B. Members Present: 13

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

Guests/Visitors: Mr. Tim Biocic

Prospective new members: None present

Transfers in: None

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of January 15, 2017 were read. *Motion to approve made by Andy Staudt, 2nd by Steve Hauschill. Carried.*

E. Financial Report for 1 – 31 January:

Chapter treasurer Jeri Harvey gave a report. *Motion to accept the report as read was made by Randy Hanevold, 2nd by Andy Staudt.*

F. Sickness or distress:

Walter James continues to convalesce at home. He is improving, slowly.

G. New Member Obligation:

None

H. Communications:

There were three items received:

1. A donation from Ms. Gertrude Gilbertson
2. A donation from Dakota Supply Group
3. A thank you from Minnesota Foundation for our Donation.

I. Committee Reports:

1. **Membership Report:** One new member, Mr. Steven S. Jewett.
2. **Service Officer Report:** 10 veterans were assisted in various capacities.
3. **Legislative Report:** Joe discussed the legislative bonding meeting of 17 January, and the importance of making our voices heard at upcoming events.
4. **Hospital Chaplain Report:** Discussed Walter James' recovery.
5. **Entertainment:** Nothing to discuss at this time.
6. **Fundraising committee:** Recent Herberger's fundraiser (17 February) generated \$441.00. Next fundraiser is also a Herberger's function, taking place 1-3 March.
7. **Newsletter Committee:** Need articles to be submitted no later than Wednesday 22 Feb.

J. Old Business

1. Veterans on the hill update: So far, we have at least 48 veterans (and possibly 53) sign up for transportation. Fundraising has been robust, and it appears that we will not be spending the full \$2800.00 as authorized. We will know more regarding funding as the event gets closer and will report final projected tallies at the March executive board.
2. Commander Sterr reported that the National Guard Armory's chairs and racks had been returned. He had procured 60 chairs and racks from Menards, at a cost of \$12.50 per chair, and less than \$1000.00 had been spent.
3. Commander Sterr gave a reported that the mortgage had been paid in full and recorded. A "mortgage burning" ceremony will take place at the summer picnic.
4. Commander Sterr reported that the veteran in need of assistance to help pay a dental bill had received this assistance. \$766.00 was paid to the Dental Office.
5. Election of Officers for the 2018-2019:
 - Dave Sterr was nominated for Commander. A call for other nominations was made three times. There were no other nominations. Dave Sterr was elected Commander
 - Mike Zimmerman was nominated for SR Vice Commander. A call for other nominations was made three times. Tom Annonson said that Robert Sadoris desired to be nominated for Senior Vice Commander. The adjutant called for a nomination for Robert Sadoris from the floor. No one was willing to nominate Mr. Sadoris. The Adjutant asked for a nomination three times, and none was forthcoming. Mike Zimmerman was elected Sr Vice Commander.
 - Joe Vene was nominated for Jr Vice Commander. A call for other nominations was made three times. There were no other nominations.

- Joe Vene was elected Jr Vice Commander.
- David Myers was nominated. A call for other nominations was made three times. At this time, Jeri Harvey stated that she would serve as treasurer for the remainder of the fiscal year. David Myers asked that his name be removed from consideration and asked for a nomination from the floor for Jeri Harvey. The nominating committee pointed out that she had already been nominated, and that it was not necessary for another nomination. Nominations were closed, and Jeri Harvey was elected Treasurer.

• At this time, Commander Sterr introduced his appointed Officers:

Adjutant: David Myers Judge Advocate: Bruce Holden
Chaplain: Mike Gutz Sergeant at Arms: Bruce Tiegen
Officer of the Day: Glenn Aagard Historian: Tom Annonson

At Large Executive Committee:

Gene Schwantes, Steve Hauschill, Bruce Tiegen

- At this point, Tom Annonson pointed out that Commander Sterr should have asked for volunteers and stated that he wanted to remain on the executive committee. Bruce Tiegen, Steve Hauschill, and Gene Schwantes all declared that they had volunteered. Tom was thanked for his interest, but the three listed above were appointed.
- Tom Annonson asked about appointing Robert Sadoris to the Executive Committee as the most recent past commander. Andy Staudt pointed out that this would be a conflict of interest. Tom Annonson argued that State bylaws do not prohibit the state commander from holding any chapter office except that of commander. But argument from the floor was heavily against this appointment. As a result, the appointment was tabled until commander Sterr could speak with the state adjutant and seek direction.
- At this point (1935 hours), business was suspended, and turned over to former commander Andy Staudt, who presided over the installation of newly elected and appointed officers.
When this was completed (1950 hours), the gavel was returned to commander Sterr, and we proceeded to new business.

K. New Business

1. The executive committee (at the urging of Department adjutant) recommended that \$400.00 be given to Tom Annonson to help pay for his trip to the National Convention. The MN Foundation would match up to \$400.00. It would also be necessary to amend the budget to include these funds. Commander Sterr called for a motion from the floor. Andy Staudt pointed out that we have a motion in place that prevents funding anyone for an out of state event. Andy Staudt explained that the reasons for this motion was because past members had taken advantage of the chapter by attending any and every event, at the expense of the chapter.

The adjutant pointed out that if this was correct, that the motion could be rescinded at the will of the members. He then asked if this was the will of the members present and asked for a motion. *The motion to rescind the motion preventing travel funding was made by Steve Hauschill and seconded by Randy Hanevold. Motion carried.*

After much discussion about the issue in general, a motion was made by Tara Schwinghammer to appoint a committee to set some limitations and restrictions on out of state travel. *This motion was seconded by Steve Hauschill Carried.*

The following people were appointed to this committee: Andy Staudt, Jeri Harvey, and Bruce Holden.

As a result of this discussion, no funds will be made available for Tom Annonson's travel to the Mid-Winter Conference at this time.

2. A motion was brought forward to limit the paying of mileage to once a year (for a single trip) per member. *The motion was made by Andy Staudt and seconded by Randy Hanevold. Motion failed.*
3. Commander Sterr discussed Adult Day Care Services need of new physical therapy equipment for veterans only use. *A motion was made by Randy Hanevold to donate \$1000.00 for such equipment. Steve Hauschill seconded the motion.*
4. Jeri Harvey pointed out that we need to nominate 4 people to attend the state convention to be held May 3-5 in Rochester. The following people expressed interest in attending: Tom Annonson, Mike Zimmerman, Bruce Tiegen, Dave Sterr. *Motion was made to send these people by Andy Staudt, seconded by Randy Hanevold. Motion carried.*

L. Executive Committee Action Items: See item "1" in new Business

M. Good of the Order:

Commander Sterr discussed making flag display cases. If anyone needs one, or knows of anyone who needs one, contact him directly.

A Minute of silence was observed for our fallen comrades

N. Motion to adjourn:

Made by Steve Hauschill, 2nd by Andy Staudt. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours. The next meeting will be held on 19 March 2018 at 1900 at the Chapter HQ.

STATE COMMANDER

February was a very slow month as was January, mostly due to the weather. I had Chapter visits lined up but could not travel safely. Have been very busy on computer and helping several Veterans over the phone. I am hoping that March will be milder for all of us, so we can get out to recruit new members and help Veterans in need. I had the pleasure of working with members of the various committees and talked many times with our State Adjutant Stephen Whitehead. My travel for February has been the lowest thus far at 973 miles, and I am well over 120 hours. My travel by auto in last 9 ½ months is at 19,449 miles, with a guess of 1,140 hours, and at least 132 days.

February work accomplished:

- 1st Worked with sick veteran spent most of day on computer
- 5th -7th Rogers for a Foundation meeting, then to cities for Commander Task Force meeting
- 12th-13th St Cloud for Chapter meeting
- 13th Picked up food and delivered it to Bemidji CBOC
- 14th Worked on awards for Spring Convention.
- 18TH Talked with Adjutant Chapter 33 in Marshall for intended visit. Trip canceled due to weather.
- 19th Computer all day
- 21st Worked with a family member of Veteran that needed power wheel chair and lift chair with the help of Stephanie Ziemetz was able to give the son several contact numbers for the needed equipment.
- 23th meeting with DAV/VA Bemidji van drivers to set up driver's schedule for next four months.
- 24th-28th Traveled to Washington DC for National Winter Legislative Conference.

Once again it is an honor to have the privilege of working for each of you. With all of the help I have received, together, we are indeed making a difference for Veterans around the state!

May God bless each of you and your loved ones.

Robert Saddoris



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January

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I would like to thank Tara Schwinghammer for her contributions as Chapter Chaplain and extend the very best for her as she moves onto State Chaplain. This month's article is about culture as it relates to our families regarding education. The current culture of the United States reflects many people who incorrectly believe the Bible can not be used in classrooms, and to do so, would be illegal. These cultural beliefs do not reflect a biblical worldview. These values are legal and have nothing to do with improper proselytizing (Matthew 23:15).

A person's biblical worldview involves questions surrounding the centrality of their belief in God, reality, the nature of the world, human beings, death, ethics, human history and future. A biblical worldview consists of using the scriptures (Judeo-Christian Holy Bible of the Old and New Testaments) to answer many of these questions. This means the bible reflects God is the creator of creation, while mankind was made in the image of God (Genesis 1), the real world operates in a way The Holy Spirit can intervene anyway He wants (Acts 2, 5, and 9) with God being the ultimate determination of right and wrong based on his good character (Deuteronomy 17, Exodus 20) to include Christ being the Messiah (John 4).

It is through actions or behaviors a biblical worldview becomes real. A theistic worldview involves God who is personal, relational and very real. A deistic worldview still involves God but is less personal and more religious. A common illustration of this shows God as a watch maker. God made the world as a watch, wound it up, and then let it run on its own. The scriptures (Isaiah 1:10-31) reflect God's view (displeasure) of a deistic worldview that draws people into becoming more ritualistic.

This is extremely important when teaching about the injustices that exist in the world because the value of this provides for a means of healing and restoration. This teaching expands the use of scriptures (not proselytizing) because it provides public school students with an understanding of God's personal love as an objective truth, something permitted by the Supreme Court in *Schempp Vs Abington*, 374 US 203 (1963): "Nothing we have said here indicates that such study of the Bible or of religion, when presented objectively as part of a secular program of education, may not be effected consistently with the First Amendment." The Supreme Court said the state requirement of devotional reading of the scriptures was unconstitutional, but the study of the scriptures as objective truth reflecting our history, heritage, as well as for classroom educational purposes through literature was protected by the First Amendment.

As a people we are a Christian nation. Yet our government is religiously neutral. This is because it allows for those who want to have a relationship with Christ (any denomination), or be a part of any religion, may do so without any problems from anyone who has a misdirected zeal (Romans 10:2). This protects from those like Saul (Acts 8 & 9), who were all law, no grace and harmed others in the name of God (John 16:2). This is exactly what happened during our own American history with state churches.

Our religious heritage must be taught, and the scriptures are a part of this process. regardless of culture opinions. God is the author of the arts, sciences, and history lessons to include all human knowledge. This should be a wonderful source of gratitude towards God. As a result, a biblical worldview adds the value of God's love (I John 3) and respect for others objectively in a public school, something we need today.



If you would like to talk about anything or you are in need, call Me at (218) 444-5015.

May God Bless You,
Mike Gutz

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STATE CHAPLAIN

I wanted to thank you all for a great year as your chaplain. It has been an honor to serve you. Many of you know that our State Chaplain Walter James had a couple of strokes in November. His recovery is going well but he felt he was not physically able to finish his term. The State Executive board approved me to replace Chaplain James on January 23, 2018. Even as your State Chaplain, I will always be available to serve Chapter 7. Although I am not required to step down, Mike Gutz is ready to fill in as chaplain. I will continue to serve as assistant chaplain and Chapter service officer. I am humbled by the board's confidence in me to assume the State Chaplaincy. The DAV is an incredible organization that helps our veterans in so many ways. God has supplied us volunteers to help raise funds for this great cause. It is through your hard work that makes it a blessing to serve. Our common goal is achievable and beneficial to all and I am so proud of the wonderful people with whom I serve at the DAV. We all contribute what we are able. Let's rejoice in each other and continue to build each other up. We are doing great things.

If you do not know that you have eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord or if you have any questions or doubts, there are many former chaplains and I that would love to share with you and hear your story. Please reach out to a Chaplain today and join me in welcoming Mike Gutz back as Chapter 7's Chaplain.

Tara Schwinghammer

218-368-9988

AUXILIARY UNIT COMMANDER

Greetings Auxiliary members. Just wanted to remind everyone that we will be resuming our monthly meetings at 7 PM on March 19th out at the Chapter headquarters on 15th street.

With the onset of the coming year we will be holding the election of our unit officers at this meeting, so I encourage everyone to attend.

Please contact me with you volunteer hours prior to the meeting so that we can get them turned in to the State.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Linda Engesether

(218) 308-1041

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