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Monthly Newsletter
September 2018

North Central MN Chapter #7
PO Box 564
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NEXT MEETING:
DAV Headquarters at
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
Monday, September 17th at 7pm

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JUNIOR VICE:	Joe Vene
ADJUTANT:	David Myers
SERVICE OFFICER:	Walter James
TREASURER:	Jeri Harvey
CHAPLAIN:	Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015
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:	Steve Hauschildt
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Steve Hauschildt, Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025, torgor@lightspeed.net

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UPCOMING HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS

- Sept 3rd - Labor Day
- Sept 18th - US Air Force's Birthday
- Sept 20th - 22nd - DAV Fall Conference @ St Cloud, MN
- Oct 8th - Columbus Day
- Oct 31st - Halloween
- Nov 4th - Daylight Savings Time Ends
(set clocks back 1 hour)
- Nov 11th - Veteran's Day
- Nov 12th - Veteran's Day Observed
(Monday Holiday Bill)
- Nov 22nd - Thanksgiving Day

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COMMANDERS CORNER

Summer seemed to pass very quickly this year, as we had several projects to work on at the DAV building. Not only that, but the rummage donations never seemed to slow down. The volunteers did not have to worry about sitting around doing nothing on Tuesday mornings. The clothing program throughout the DAV Chapters in Minnesota has grown to the point that Savers must make changes to keep up with all the donations. We are adapting to some temporary changes right now and waiting for more word from the Savers people on more permanent changes for the future.

In my article in last September's newsletter, I expressed the below sentiments. I have added the paragraph to this article, as the sentiments are the same as last year and just as heartfelt.

The most important thing I hope to build before my time as Commander is up, is a solid, active core of members and volunteers. It truly is an organization sharing in good fellowship while helping our veterans in multiple ways. If you have not yet stepped forward to participate, trust me, we would have a place for you and we want to meet you. If you have a disability that prevents you from participating in our more physical activities, we have ways that you can serve to accommodate your personal situation. We meet most every month of the year on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the DAV building (5441 15th Street NW). Getting into the building, for those of you who use canes or are in wheelchairs, should not be a problem, since there are no steps to navigate. Do stop by so we can meet and greet you!!

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 AUGUST 20 2018 AT 1900.

- Opening Ceremonies
- 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 Excused
Adjutant: David Myers Present
Treasurer: Jeri Harvey Present
Chaplain: Mike Gutz Excused
Judge Advocate: Bruce Holden Present
Sergeant- at-Arms: Bruce Tiegen Present
Officer of the Day: Glen Aagard Present
Historian: Steve Hauschildt Present

B. Members Present: 19

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

Guests/Visitors: 1 Visitor; Mr. Marcus Dickens of "Fishing with America's Finest". Mr. Dickens gave a presentation about his organization. He will bring paperwork about his chapter to the adjutant for discussion at the next executive board meeting.

Prospective new members: None

Transfers in: None

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of July 16, 2017 were read. *Motion to approve, Andy Staudt, 2nd by Randy Hanevold. Carried.*

E. Financial Report for Report for 1-31 July: Report given by Jeri Harvey. *Motion to approve, Andy Staudt, 2nd by Randy Hanevold. Carried*

F. Sickness or distress: One hospital visit was made.

G. New Member Obligation: None

H. Communications: 2 items were received:

1. A thank you note from Ms. Karinne Davidson, Chief of volunteer services for the Fargo VA, thanking us for our donation of refreshments to the Bemidji CBOC.
2. A letter of congratulations from the National Commander for chapter 7 meeting our recruiting goals for 2017/18. A "battle-Streamer" was enclosed.

I. Committee Reports:

1. **Membership Report:** Six new members have submitted their

applications to national: Nancy Fleo; Richard Jacobson; James Lowmaster; Richard Batcho; Roland Schmit; Willis Stittsworth

2. **Legislative Report:** Pledges/donations to the veteran's homes were discussed; an article about the veteran's homes in the VFW paper was discussed

3. **Hospital Chaplain Report:** 1 hospital visit was made

4. **Entertainment:** The summer picnic is coming up on 25 August. Hours 11-4. The menu was discussed.

5. **Fundraising committee:** Our efforts at the Beltrami County Fair yielded 4 new members and 1 new auxiliary member. Additionally, \$893.00 was raised.

6. **Newsletter Committee:** \$6,975.00 gas been raised so far to cover the cost of the newsletter. Articles and notes are due by the end of the week.

7. Medical Equipment:

- a) Distributed: 3 powered wheelchairs; 2 walkers; 1 regular wheelchair; 2 lift chairs; and 1 power scooter.
- b) Received: Ramp; 2 wheelchairs; 2 walkers; 4 beds

J. Old Business

1. The issue of flag replacement was discussed, along with the need for a new flagpole light. Andy Staudt made the motion that a new light be purchased, not to exceed \$75.00. *2nd by Randy Hanevold. Carried.* Adjutant will make the purchase.

K. New Business

1. Discussed the fall upcoming conference that will be held September 21-22 at Holiday Inn and Suites in St Cloud, MN. The following members will serve as delegates: Mike Zimmerman, Steve Hauschildt, Ward Sutton, and Dave Sterr

L. Executive Committee Action Items: None

M. Good of the Order:

1. A group called "Patriot.org" is masquerading as DAV at the Bemidji Walmart. They are aggressively seeking donations in our name. Adjutant will contact the Department adjutant to make a report.
2. The next executive Board Meeting will be held on Monday, 10 September. Due to the fact that the usual Monday Executive Committee meeting would fall on Labor Day.

N. Motion to adjourn: Made by Steve Siats. 2nd by Bruce Tiegen. *Motion Carried.* The meeting was adjourned at 1955 hours. The next meeting will be held at 1900 on Monday 17 September 2018 at DAV Chapter Headquarters.

The John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act of 2019

On August 13, 2018, the president signed the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law. Although the NDAA is primarily a legislative vehicle for the Department of Defense (DoD), it contains several provisions that pertain to service disabled veterans and their families, including several that address DAV policy priorities, such as:

- Space-available travel on DoD aircraft for veterans with service-connected disabilities rated as permanent and total. Veterans who are service-connected permanent and total are eligible to fly on military aircraft, space permitting. This provision can be found under Section 624 of the NDAA and is in accord with DAV Resolution No. 274.
- Extension of certain morale, welfare, and recreation privileges to certain veterans and their caregivers. Beginning in January 2020, service-connected disabled veterans and their caregivers will be eligible to use base commissary stores and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities. This provision can be located under section 621 and is in agreement with DAV Resolution No. 270.

- Improvements to the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). TAP prepares transitioning service members for civilian life. This provision includes mandatory instruction on preparation for civilian employment, VA benefits, and transition assistance. It also allows for transitioning service members to elect two days of specific training of their choice. These improvements are in agreement with DAV Resolution No. 304 and can be found in the NDAA under section 552.
- Study on availability of long-term care options for veterans from VA. The study will focus on long-term care options from the VA for veterans with combat related disabilities. This provision can be found in the NDAA under section 738 and is aligned with DAV Resolution No. 085.

These policy changes have been important priorities for our members for many years. For veterans whose ability to work is impacted by a service-connected disability, the cost savings associated with access to base commissary and exchanges and Space-A flights will be a significant benefit. To view the full text of the "John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act of 2019" [click here](#).

COINS LEFT ON TOMBSTONES

While visiting a cemetery you may have noticed that some headstones of Military members have coins on or near them. These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those graves and the meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased Military member's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay their respects.

A penny at the grave simply means that someone who knew the Military member had visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased had trained at boot camp together.

A dime means you served with him in some capacity while in the Military.

A quarter left at the grave, is there to let the family know that whoever left it was with the soldier when he was killed.

In the US, this practice became more common during the Vietnam war due to the political divide in the Country over the war effort. Leaving a coin became a more practical way to communicate that someone had visited the grave than directly contacting the Military member's family, which had the potential to devolve into an uncomfortable argument over the politics relating to the war.

Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

According to tradition here in the USA, the money left at graves in National and State Veterans Cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are either put toward maintaining the cemetery or helping to pay for toward the burial costs of indigent Veterans.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced as far back as the Roman Empire.



UPCOMING DAV MN OUTDOOR EVENTS

The Minnesota DAV Department's Outdoor program has scheduled their upcoming events and posted them on their website. Check them out at:

<https://davmn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/>



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A few month ago, at the Minnesota State DAV Convention, members of our chapter had the opportunity to meet our National Chaplain, Michael Dover. During that meeting we had the opportunity to compare notes regarding a variety of issues such as faith, veteran concerns, service, and salvation. This is by no means an inclusive list, but it does represent the value of attending conventions as a means of helping to serve others. The question becomes, how well do we help others? The answer to this question can only be given by those individuals whom we assist. Regarding my travels and conversations with veterans and family members, the answers can be varied. An issue written about a few months ago, was the intent of our (national, state and local) articles to provide truth, hope, help and healing to all. While keeping this in mind, I would like to comment on the article written by our National Chaplain Dover in our DAV Magazine, July/August 2018. His article was written about interpersonal communication and relationship skills as it pertains to intolerance. Considering the shake-up this nation has been experiencing, his article is timely and very challenging.

National Chaplain Dover states "Contrary to common belief, the height, of intolerance is not disagreement, but rather removing the public space and opportunity for people to disagree." National Chaplain Dover continues on and writes: "My charge to you is to reflect on the true meaning of tolerance. How can this be incorporated into your chapter meetings? What can you do to ensure our brothers and sisters feel comfortable among our ranks, regardless of their religious affiliation? Taking the time to consider these questions is not just a challenge I present to my fellow chaplains. Embracing true tolerance is something any member of the DAV can do and everyone can benefit from."

There is also a functional element to this as well. There are times things get shaken up and we get frustrated (Hebrews 12). This can happen in personal and organizational relationships, especially while dealing with critical issues as death, dying, separations, divorce, disabilities, job loss, to include other innumerable life events. If we are honest with ourselves, we do get frustrated with God too. While disagreeing with others, we still want to do it with respect towards the person and their property. While being frustrated with God, recognize He really does want us to come out on the other side with a better disposition (Hebrews 12:11-29), even though our current situation (event, attitude, reaction and response - sin) is really hard. One specific example is Able (Genesis 4), did we ever wonder what God meant when He said to Cain, "your brother's blood cries to me from the ground?" (Genesis 4:10). Essentially Able was calling for justice and revenge! Jesus response, on the other hand was better and very different (Hebrews 12:24). James refers to the patience of Job when dealing with life and our responsibilities (James 5:11).

We want to be concerned for the hurts of others and their healing process, while God continues to help us through our difficult times. Doing all of this can be challenging when we disagree with God and others, but God really is intending for us to come out better on the other side (Hebrews 12:1-3). Our circumstances may not change, and in some cases, may even get worse, but God really is on our side (1 Timothy 2:4). We live in an imperfect world and have to work hard for justice amongst people with competing interests and perhaps ulterior motives yet being kind and having respect gives a sense of wholeness to all.

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Mike Gutz



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AUXILIARY COMMANDER

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

It was nice to see so many attend the picnic; the food, comradeship and music were fabulous.

The DAV conference is September 22 and 23rd. We will have three auxiliary members representing us this year. Thank you to those that are able to attend and bring back what you learn.

The kid's bag committee reported items that they found to put in the bags. It was approved that up to \$350 would be spent to purchase these items. Jennifer and her husband donated color canyons and notebooks to this cause, along with a gift card from Jennifer's co-worker. The bags will be donated to our VA Clinic in Bemidji.

We celebrated Irene's 91st Birthday. Happy Birthday Irene, we thank you for all you and Lester due for the Auxiliary.

Sara Gast

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