



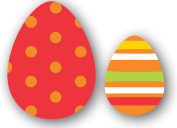
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Monthly Newsletter  
April 2022

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



**NEXT MEETING:**  
DAV Headquarters at  
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN  
Monday, April 18th at 6:30pm



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COMMANDER:	Gene Schwantes - (218) 556-4592
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JUNIOR VICE:	Tom Annonson
ADJUTANT:	Darrel Baltzell
SERVICE OFFICERS:	Scotty Allison
TREASURER:	Scotty Allison - (218) 333-4178
CHAPLAIN:	Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Jeri Harvey
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Agard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Mike Gutz, Andy Staudt, Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault

### CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

April 4th - Chapter Executive Committee meeting @ 1630 Hours  
 April 5th - Gold Star Spouses Day  
 April 14th - Air Force Reserve Birthday  
 April 17th - Easter Sunday   
 April 18th - Chapter General Membership meeting @ 1830 Hours  
 April 20th - Veterans on the Hill Day  
 April 23rd - Army Reserve Birthday   
 May 1st - Silver Star Banner Day  
 May 2nd - Chapter Executive Committee meeting @ 1630 Hours  
 May 7th - Military Spouse Appreciation Day  
 May 13th - Children of Fallen Patriots Day   
 May 15th - Armed Forces Day  
 May 16th - Chapter General Membership meeting @ 1830 Hours  
 May 31st - Memorial Day  
 June 6th - Ride for the Troops   
 June 7th - Chapter Executive Committee meeting @ 1630 Hours  
 June 14th - Flag Day  
 June 19th - Juneteenth   
 June 21st - Chapter General Membership meeting @ 1830 Hours

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# COMMANDER'S CORNER



Hello DAV Members,

Well, the snow is almost gone, the temps are going below zero for a couple of nights coming up, so I guess that's a sure sign spring is here. In just two months you can plant your garden, hooray let the good time's role.

Good news, Savers needs shipments, as of 3/25 they had zero trailers of clothing in inventory. They will take as much as we can ship, so clean out your closets and donate anything that you don't need.

The chapter will be appointing a budget committee at the April 18th meeting, if you would like to be on it, please attend the meeting.

Enjoy spring and don't work too hard,

Gene Schwantes

**WE ARE IN NEED OF A TREASURER BEFORE THE END OF JUNE,  
SO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE LET US KNOW!**



DAV member Wendell Affield (R) presents a check from DAV Chapter 7 for \$2000 to Mike Olson who is the new Director at the Bemidji Community Food Shelf (BCFS). The BCFS supports DAV Chapter 7's commitment to helping the veterans in need in the Bemidji area by supplying foodstuff to the veteran families that participate in the BCFS program.

## 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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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 21 MARCH 2022 AT 1830.

## ➤ OPENING CEREMONIES -- PRAYER -- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### A. Roll Call of Officers to determine if a quorum is present.

Commander	Gene Schwantes	Present
Senior Vice Commander	Jeff Meyer	Present
Junior Vice Commander	Tom Annonson	Present
Adjutant	Darrel Baltzell	Present
Treasurer	Scotty Allison	Present
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Present
Judge Advocate	Jeri Harvey	<i>Excused</i>
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	<i>Excused</i>
Officer of the Day	Glen Aagard	Present
Historian	Vacant	N/A

### B. SWEARING IN OF THE NEW OFFICERS FOR 2022/2023

The below officers were sworn into office by Andy Staudt for the 2022/2023 service year:

- Commander: Gene Schwantes, Sr. Vice Commander: Jeff Meyer, Jr., Vice Commander: Tom Annonson, Adjutant: Darrel Baltzell, Treasurer: Scotty Allison, Chaplain: Mike Gutz, Judge Advocate: Jeri Harvey, Sergeant-At-Arms: Bruce Tiegen, Officer of the Day: Glen Aagard
- Executive Board Members at Large: Andy Staudt // Henry Hammerback // Bruce Tiegen // Mike Gutz // Jim Pinsonnault

### C. Members Present: 14 + 1 Guest

### D. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: There were none.

### E. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of 21 February 2022 were read. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Andy Staudt; seconded by Randy Hanevold. Motion carried.

### F. Treasurer's Report: Scotty Allison presented the February 2022 financial report. Motion to accept the report was made by Andy Staudt; seconded by Randy Hanevold. Motion carried.

### G. Communications:

- Clothing Program Correspondence: The latest correspondence from State informs us that the number of trailers on the Savers lot waiting for unloading has been reduced to only 17. The clothing program activity will now get back to a more normal pace for our Chapter with semi's coming more frequently.
- Thank You Card: The Northwoods Care Givers sent Chapter 7 a very nice thank you card for the donation given to their organization.
- Thank You Card: Darrel shared a written thank you to the DAV members from Ginger Edward's daughter Elizabeth for all that was done for the family following Ginger's death.

### H. Committee Reports:

- Membership: One transfer to Chapter 7 approved.
- Service Officer: Nothing to report.
- Hospital/Sickness & Distress: Nothing to report.
- Legislative: Nothing to report.
- Medical Equipment: There were 5 donations and 8 issues.
- Fund Raising: Tom is still waiting on word about the Gun Show event. The Ride for the Troops is scheduled for the first Sunday in June. Both events are opportunities to raise funds for the Chapter.

### I. Executive Committee Report & Action Item(s):

- An informational report was given on the March 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting.
- One action item concerning increasing the scholarship amounts to be brought forward under New Business.

### J. Old Business

- Veterans Day on The Hill: A discussion concerning the activities and monetary needs to cover costs for this event was undertaken. The bus rental/fuel cost is expected to be approximately \$1750. In the past the Veterans attending this event were treated to donuts and coffee on the bus ride to the event and an evening supper meal on the way back to Bemidji. Tom will accept the first 50 Veterans to sign up for the trip, as this is the bus seat limit. The March 7 Executive Committee Meeting, members voted to recommend that \$2500 be allowed to cover traveling/food costs. A motion to support the recommendation to allow \$2500 for the traveling/food costs for the Veterans Day on the Hill event was made by Randy Hanevold; seconded by Glen Aagard. Motion carried.

- DAV Spring Convention: Delegates being registered for the Spring Convention are Jeff Meyer, Tom Annonson, Gene Schwantes, Darrel Baltzell and Jim Pinsonnault. One slot is still available. A motion to cover the allowed costs for these gentlemen to attend the Spring Convention was made by Henry Hammerback; seconded by Glen Aagard. Motion carried. *Refer to the March 7 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for the revised, allowed costs for Veterans registering for this annual event.*

### K. New Business

- Food Shelf Donation Discussion: A request from the Community Food Shelf for a donation has been received. At the March 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting the members voted to donate \$2000 to the organization and now bring forward the request to add a line item in the budget to donate a yearly amount of \$2000. Of interest, Wendell Affield brought forward some statistics on the number of Veteran families that are using the Food Shelf for grocery items, not to mention the large number of community people in need of this outlet. A motion to add a line item in the budget for a yearly \$2000 donation to the Community Food Shelf was made by Henry Hammerback; seconded by Glen Aagard. Motion carried.
- Senior Center Donation Discussion: A request for a donation to the Senior Center has been received. A motion to add a line item in the budget for a yearly \$2000 donation to the Senior Center was made by Andy Staudt; seconded by Henry Hammerback. Motion carried.
  - Increase to Scholarship Amounts for the 2023/2024 School Year: **\*\*Brought forward from the 3/7 Executive Board Meeting. \*\*** *The Scholarship Committee members would like to increase the scholarship amount for the 2023/2024 school year. They would like to make available \$6000, which is an increase from the present amount of \$3000, for the next school year. Following discussion, it was decided to offer three \$2000 scholarships to eligible students in the Chapter 7 area for the 2023/2024 school year. A motion to this affect was made by Jeff Meyer and seconded by Mike Gutz. Motion was carried by a vote of 3 to 2. This motion to be brought forward to general membership for approval.*
    - General membership took up the discussion and chose to change the scholarship amount to six \$1000 scholarships to be given out to eligible students for the 2023/2024 school year. The major reasoning was that more schools in the Chapter 7 area were informed of the scholarship money, and it seemed more equitable to offer scholarships to 6 students should the committee receive that many eligible applicants. A motion to make available six \$1000 scholarships to students in the Chapter 7 area for the 2023/2024 school year was made by Glen Aagard; seconded by Henry Hammerback. Motion carried.
  - Need for a New Computer and Monitor: The new printer/copier was installed this past Tuesday and there is now a need to upgrade the computer and monitor to make it compatible with the new printer/copier unit. Jeff Meyer and Darrel Baltzell are in the process of selecting the computer and monitor and would like the approval of general membership to go ahead and purchase the necessary equipment. A motion was made by Randy Hanevold to allow up to \$2200 for a new computer and monitor and the necessary upgrades for use by the officers; seconded by Henry Hammerback. Motion carried.
  - Veterans In Need: One request brought forward. Scotty Allison brought forward a request from an Air Force Veteran for assistance with medical bills in the amount of \$824.27. A motion to provide this Veteran his request for assistance through the Veterans In Need fund was made by Andy Staudt; seconded by Randy Hanevold. Motion carried.
  - Presentation by Wendell Affield: Wendell has been asked by a member of the Historical Society to help gather information from area Veterans for an oral history project being undertaken by the Historical Society. The request concerns "Cold War Era Veterans from 1955-1991." The stories will be compiled in a book on the Vietnam Era. Wendell is leaving forms at the building for anyone interested in sharing their story/experiences with him. Forms can be found on the small table in the break room.
- Good of the Order: Nothing to report.
- Closing Ceremonies performed.
- Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Mike Gutz; seconded by Andy Staudt. Motion carried.
  - The meeting was adjourned at 2000 hours.
  - The next official meeting will be held on 18 April 2022 at 1830 at the Chapter Headquarters.

# VETERANS ON THE HILL DAY

We are limited to 50 seats on the charter bus, so we are looking for participants that are seriously committed to going and reservations on the bus will be on a "first come, first served basis". The bus will be stopping at the following locations to pick up participants, so plan to be at your pick-up point 20 – 30 minutes prior to the arrival times as these times may vary depending on road conditions and traffic:

- Bemidji Walmart parking lot, promptly departing at 6:00 AM.
- Former Akeley VFW parking lot, arriving approx. 6:40 AM and departing 10 minutes later.
- Bricks Travel Center parking lot, Motley, MN, arriving approx. 7:50 AM, Departing 15 minutes after arrival.

Please Email me your information before the 15th of April so that I can add your names to my list. Your information must contain the following:

- Name(s) of everyone planning to join us.
- Email address of participant(s) for ease of passing on additional info.
- Cell phone # of each participating individual, we don't want anyone getting left behind.
- Which pick up point you want to meet the bus at, Bemidji, Akeley, or Motley.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call / text me at (218) 251-3025 or Email at [torgor@lightspeed.net](mailto:torgor@lightspeed.net).

Thank you for supporting our Veterans!

Sincerely,  
Thomas W. Annonson, Trip coordinator

## MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS FOR APRIL:

- April 5 – Gold Star Spouses Day – A Day dedicated to those whose spouses gave their lives while serving in the U.S. military or because of service-connected injuries or illness.
- April 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday
- April 23 – Army Reserve Birthday

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As we continue to consider our biblical citizenship, one main point seems to be a very significant factor - interpretation. Oftentimes interpretation has more to do with our worldview than facts, let's consider a half of glass of water. At this point you may be thinking "Are you kidding me?" I understand this may be an over simplified example, yet the point being made speaks volumes in a variety of different field and situations. Do you remember the question that always seems to come with this half of glass of water? The question has always been, is the glass half full or half empty. Some of us would say half full, other may say half empty, while still others may claim both - half empty and half full. Notice in each case we are simply observing a single factual reality - a half glass of water, yet at the same time notice the three different answers that single question generates. Often, we look at the world, and a half glass of water, through a variety of many different views or colored glasses that influences our interpretation. In this situation we can always go back to the half glass of water, a known factual reality for a discussion of the different views. This simple exercise becomes so much more complicated when attempting to understand an author's intent of a document.

This is where two schools of thought come into play. When understanding the meaning of the document, do we want to interpret the writings through the author's view and understanding or the reader's view and understanding? Let's take any particular document we find through study, research and development. We understand the author's intent and the reader's intent, yet both of their intents are diametrically opposed to each other, there is no resolution. Now what do we do? Do we give more weight to the author's intent, after all that person did write the document? The other option is to give more weight to the reader, after all the author did write it for a future audience! This is the dilemma.

You may be asking yourself, what document are we talking about? The answer you may have already thought about is the Bible and the Constitution. As a matter of fact, since both of these were written with the author's intent for a future generation, we will be examining the depths of this dilemma more fully in next month's article.

Hope everyone is enjoying the warmth of spring and doing well.

If you are in need, or would simply like to talk, give us a call.

Blessings,  
Mike and Julie Gutz




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# COLD WAR

Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) is gathering information for Cold War Era Veteran Stories. If you served in the military between 1955-1991 Douglas Bekke, a military historian with MHS would like to visit with you. Doug asked me to gather information from veterans in our area. "Cold War Era veterans from 1955-1991." He is looking for a diversity of military branches, units, eras. I will compile the list and submit to him. Over the next few months, he will visit with each person and decide who he will interview. If you are interested in participating, please fill out this information.

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Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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