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Monthly Newsletter
December 2022

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



NEXT MEETING:
Bemidji Eagles Club
1270 Neilson Ave SE, Bemidji, MN
Monday, December 19th at 5:00pm



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CHAPTER OFFICERS

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| COMMANDER: | Gene Schwantes - (218) 556-4592 |
| SENIOR VICE: | Jeff Meyer |
| JUNIOR VICE: | Tom Annonson |
| ADJUTANT: | Darrel Baltzell |
| SERVICE OFFICERS: | Scotty Allison |
| TREASURER: | Jeri Harvey |
| CHAPLAIN: | Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015 |
| JUDGE ADVOCATE: | Wade Sutton |
| 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

- Dec 7th - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec 15th - Bill of Rights Day
- Dec 17th - Wreaths Across America Day
- Dec 18th - 26th Hanukah
- Dec 21st - Winter Solstice
- Dec 24th - Christmas Eve
- Dec 25th - Christmas Day
- Dec 31st - New Year's Eve
- Jan 1st - New Year's Day
- Jan 2nd - New Year's Day Observed (Federal Monday Holidays Bill)
- Jan 16th - Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 19th - Confederate Hero's Day
- Jan 27th - International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- Feb 1st - Start of Black History Month
- Feb 14th - Valentine's Day
- Feb 20th - President's Day



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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Merry Christmas Everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well and in good health. Winter is here and along with it comes cold season, flu season, etc., and my hope for everyone is that we all can stay healthy and enjoy the winter season. I know that the Monday, Tuesday, and Friday crews all enjoy getting out and frolicking in the snow and fresh air.

The Chapter again voted to support the Civil Air Patrol by purchasing 100 wreathes for Wreathes Across America. These wreathes will be placed on Veterans Graves at Greenwood Cemetery on December 17 at 11 am. If you are able to volunteer to help place these wreathes, please give me a call with your name and phone number, your help would be greatly appreciated.

The Nominating Committee was elected by the Chapter, and they are Mike Gutz @ 218-308-3927, Billy Woods @ 218-368-2967, and Jim Pinsonnault @ 218-444-7459. The three Offices up for election are Commander, Senior Vice Commander, and Junior Vice Commander, all other Officers are appointed by the Commander.

If you would like to run for or be considered for any Officer Position, or nominate someone for an Officer position, please contact the Nominating Committee. Please PLAN on attending the February 20th Chapter Meeting to be able to vote on next year's Officers.

I WISH EVERYONE OF YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR (all though I know midnight is past most of our bedtimes) THE WHOLE YEAR THRU AND GOOD HEALTH TO ALL FOR 2023 AND BEYOND.

Gene Schwantes

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Would you, or someone you know, like to apply for the position of Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, or Jr. vice Commander? If so, please contact one of the Nominating committee members, or any of the Officers listed in this newsletter. All nominees must be members of DAV Northcentral MN Chapter #7 in good standing.

The three offices listed above are voted upon by the General Membership during the February meeting. Nominations for these offices closes during the February meeting.

The other positions as shown in the newsletter are appointed

by the Commander except for the At-Large Members of the Executive Committee that are nominated and voted into office by the General Membership during the February meeting.

Elected and appointed Officers along with the At-Large members make up the Executive Committee.

Thank you from the Nominating Committee,

Mike Gutz (218) 308-3927
Billy Woods (218) 368-2967
Jim Pinsonnault (218) 444-7459



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THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7

REGULARLY CONVENED ON 21 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 1830.

OPENING CEREMONY: * OPENING 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	Excused
Junior Vice Commander	Tom Annonson	Present
Adjutant	Darrel Baltzell	Present
Treasurer	Jeri Harvey	Present
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Present
Judge Advocate	Ward Sutton	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Present
Officer of the Day	Glen Aagard	Excused
Historian	Vacant	N/A

B. MEMBERS PRESENT: 14

C INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS OR VISITORS: There were none.

D. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of 17 October 2022 were presented.
A motion to accept the minutes was made by Tom Annonson, 2nd by Billy Wood. Motion carried.

E. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Jeri Harvey presented the September treasurer's report. A motion to accept the report was made by Tom A.; seconded by Ward Sutton. Motion carried.
- Jeri presented the October treasurer's report. *A motion to accept the report was made by Steve Saitz; seconded by Billy W. Motion carried.*
- Additional note: The required IRS form was completed, sent and accepted in time for the November 15th deadline.

F. COMMUNICATIONS

- Clothing Program Update: Savers reports a total of 49 trailers in the MN inventory this week (22 soft, 24 hard and 3 mixed). Savers will be opening a new store soon and they asked Josh to relate to the Chapters that Savers is prepared to accept as much material as the Chapters can collect.
- Funds Received from State: The State Finance Committee recommended an allocation of \$3000 to each MN Chapter with the stipulation that the funds be used for helping individual veterans and/or their families that are in need. Chapter 7 has received that money.
- Donations Received: \$10,000 from Jeanette Andersen; \$1000 from Wally & Catherine Peck; \$10 from Joyce Plinke and \$8 from Naomi Eversole.
- Webinar: A webinar has been scheduled for November 30th on the subject of the DAV Scholarship Program. Anyone interested should contact Commander Gene for more info.
- DAV of MN Seeking Community Partners for the Clothing Drive: The DAV MN is seeking community partners to assist the DAV in conducting clothing drives in an effort to generate revenue towards programs and services supporting MN Veterans and their families. For more information, see the flyer posted in the DAV building break room on the bulletin board.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Membership: 2 new members: Earl LaMaack and Nicole Donley.
- Service Officer: Regarding the passing by congress of the new PACT program, veterans should submit claims through their County Service Veteran's Officer.
- Hospital/Sickness & Distress: Nothing to report.
- Legislative: A meeting on the new Veterans Home is being scheduled for December.
- Medical Equipment: There were 14 issues and 3 donations.
- Fund Raising/Other Event Information: Nothing to report.
- Scholarship Committee: No report.

H. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & ACTION ITEM(S) from 7 November 2022:

- Sponsor a Wreath Program: Chapter 7 has received the annual request to participate in the 2022 National Remembrance Ceremony by purchasing wreaths for the graves of Veterans at Greenwood Cemetery in Bemidji. The Executive Committee members would like to see the Chapter participate by purchasing 100 wreaths at the cost of \$1,500. *A motion to spend \$1,500 for 100 wreaths for the graves of Veterans at Greenwood Cemetery was made by Jeri Harvey; seconded by Gene Schwantes. Motion carried. **This motion will be taken to General Membership for final approval.*

2. Following discussion, general membership was in agreement with spending \$1,500 for 100 wreaths for the graves of the Veterans at Greenwood Cemetery. *A motion to that affect was made by Billy W.; seconded by Steve Saitz. Motion carried.*

I. OLD BUSINESS

- Christmas Party: The Christmas Party is scheduled for December 19th. The sign-up sheet is in the DAV building breakroom. Please get signed up before Dec. 5th. You may also call the Commander at 218-556-4592 to be added to the list.
- New Lawn Mower: The final cost for the new lawn mower was \$2,186 plus tax.
- Disaster Relief Donation Sent: The \$5000 donation from Chapter 7 to the Disaster Relief Program has been sent.
- Paul Bunyan Broadcasting in Support of Veterans: The recorded vignettes from Chapter 7 were aired at various times during Nov. 5th to Nov. 11th on PBB.

J. NEW BUSINESS

- Request to the Scholarship Committee: The Commander recommends that the Scholarship Committee meet soon to update the scholarship information and get the forms sent to the schools. Getting the information to the schools early ensures that interested students have the information in plenty of time to apply for the 23/24 school year. Mike Gutz will get the committee members called so a meeting can be scheduled soon.
- Middle River Pickup: Middle River is in need of a pickup of clothing donations next week. The guys will get that done.
- Veteran in Need: A special (emergency) meeting was called by members of the Executive Committee on Nov. 15th to discuss a Veteran in need of financial assistance for a water pump for his well. This need was reviewed this evening and general membership was in agreement with the Exec. Cmt. members on their motion to allow \$1,200 toward the \$2,129.09 bill. *A motion to allow a payment of \$1,200 toward this Veteran's plumbing bill was made by Bruce Tiegen; seconded by Tim Kassa. Motion carried.*
- Veterans in Need: The Commander reported on three Veterans in need. (1) A bill will be forthcoming for a gentleman who needs the electric company to come out to his home to remove the ripple control so he can use his gas fireplace. He has had surgery and cannot use his outdoor wood burning furnace right now. The bill is expected to be minimal. (2) This gentleman was in need of groceries and gas, the total amount being \$287.08. The funds were provided for this bill. (3) This Veteran needed help with a car repair bill. His \$410 bill was taken care of.
- Nominating Committee Needed: A nominations Committee was established, members being Billy Woods, Jim Pinsonneault and Mike Gutz. *A motion was made to this affect by Henry Hammerback; seconded by Bruce T. Motion carried.*
- December General Membership Meeting: Due to the Christmas Party, there will be no December meeting. The next General Membership Meeting will be 16 January 2023. Also, there will not be a float in the "Night We Light" parade. Tom is unable to do that.

K. GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Special Thank you: Tom Annonson received a thank you card from the Beltrami County Board for his support of the County Fair. The Chapter members thanked him for his efforts at representing our organization at the fair.
- Placement of Wreaths Date Set: The wreaths for the graves at Greenwood Cemetery will be placed at the gravestones of the Veterans on December 17th. Those interested in helping should call Dianna Cluff at 218-308-3277 or 218-586-2802.
- DAV Mid-Winter Conference: A communication regarding the DAV Mid-Winter Conference, February 25 to March 1 has been received. It is being held in Washington, DC. Anyone interested should check in with Darrel Baltzell for more information.
- DAV Regional Meeting Report: Ward Sutton thanked the members for the chance to attend the DAV Regional Meeting in Billings, Montana this year. He shared some information he learned and found the event well organized and very informational.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn: *Motion made by Mike G.; seconded by Tom A. Motion carried.*

- The meeting was adjourned at 2000 hours.
- The next official meeting will be held on 16 January 2023 at 1830 hours at the Chapter Headquarters.

AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings everyone,

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Christmas party at the Eagle's club. Be sure to let the Chapter Commander or Adjutant know if you are planning to attend, how many will be in your group, and what their choice of meal is (Roast Beef, Chicken Breast or Lasagna).

Remember that we will not be holding our meetings in January and February and will resume them in March.

Sincerely,
Sara Gast

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Dec. 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day - The anniversary of the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, signaling the United States' entrance into World War II.
- Dec. 13 – National Guard Birthday
- Dec. 18 – National Wreaths Across America Day

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

Greetings to all you fun loving Chapter and Unit Comrades.

As you may recall in our last article, we wrote; some ministries whose leaders have said, if you will contribute financially more to “their ministry in the form of a seed” then the more you will financially receive “in the form of a harvest from God”. The scriptures quoted out of context to back up their statements include Luke 6:37-38 (giving), Luke 21:1-4 (widows) and Isaiah 54:17 (protection). Let's first establish a foundation regarding their statements before going any further. Yes, it is a biblical principle for a person to dedicate or give a variety of different things (gratitude, money, gift, land, inheritance, abilities, and skills, etc) as a service to God for the benefit of others to trust Christ. As a result, a person can hope for, and receive, a blessing. This blessing may take many different forms, but nevertheless it is a blessing that is very personal and meaningful from God and others. Unfortunately, there is a dark side to all of this too, it's called greed and oppression, especially when these ministry leaders take advantage of you (II Corinthians 2:17, John 2:15-16 and II Peter 2:3). We will be continuing this discussion into next month too.



Many times, these leaders will use the phrase “press down, shaken together, running over” which is an excerpt from Luke 6:38. Their intent is for you to give as much money to their ministry (representing God) as humanly possible. These leaders do this because they teach and believe God will reward you (physical healings, more money, special spiritual knowledge and abilities, a change in life's circumstances etc). There is only one problem; this verse was taken out of context. The original context has to do with a person's attitude towards other people. This can be determined from examining the surrounding text, which has to do with the good-will attitude a person demonstrates towards another. An example of this is not being a hypocrite or holding grudges. Jesus is describing what happens when a person shows this kind of good will towards others. During Jesus' day, if a person had a gentle demeanor, then merchants at the marketplace would be more willing to give you more food in your clothes. This is similar in fashion to the way we stretch out our sweatshirt to carry more than we can carry with our arms.

Giving was meant to be done to help the poor and needy. Yet at the same time, giving can also show the generosity of a person's heart, dedication to God, as well as the oppressive nature of religious giving. All of this can be seen in Jesus' observation of a widow giving very little money to the temple, although she gave more than anyone else because the amount she gave was all she had to live on (Luke 21:1-4). It is important to note the fact Israel and the family were supposed to take care of their widows and not oppress them (Isaiah 1:17, Psalm 82:3, Exodus 22:22-23), but because widows were mistreated, God is the one who would hear their cry and provide for them. As a result, Jesus was also commenting about the oppressive nature of the temple's financial system. It's interesting some “ministers” have actually said on television God told them to say, “There is a widow out there that does not know where her next payment for rent will come from, but if you send money to my ministry, then God will bless you.” This is not taking care of widows. No doubt this ministry leader is clearly being oppressive by using God to verbally compel the widow to send in money. If the widow really wanted to give to that ministry, then God freely gives the desire to the widow to make the decision without compulsion (II Corinthians 9:6-8). In closing here is a beautiful reading from Isaiah 55:1-13 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters, and you who have no money ...” (NIV).

We wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season!

Mike and Julie Gutz

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Don't forget that the Christmas Party is scheduled for December 19th at the Eagles Club starting at 1700 hours (5P.M.), please make sure to get signed up before Dec. 5th. You may call the Commander at 218-556-4592 to be added to the list.





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