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Monthly Newsletter  
December 2023

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



**NEXT MEETING:**

**DAV Headquarters at  
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN  
Monday, January 15 at 6:30pm**



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| SENIOR VICE:         | Darrel Baltzell  |
| JUNIOR VICE:         | Tom Annonson   |
| ADJUTANT:            | Jeff Meyer   |
| SERVICE OFFICERS:    | Tom Annonson   |
| TREASURER:           | Jeri Harvey  |
| CHAPLAIN:            | Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015   |
| JUDGE ADVOCATE:      | Ward Sutton  |
| SERGEANT AT ARMS:    | Bruce Tiegen   |
| OFFICER OF THE DAY:  | Glenn Agard  |
| LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: | Joe Vene   |
| HISTORIAN:           | Vacant   |
| EXEC. COMMITTEE:     | Bruce Tiegen, Billy Woods, Andy Staudt,<br>Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault |

**CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Dec 3rd - Advent begins.  | Jan 15th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day                            |
| Dec 4th -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.          | Feb 2nd - Groundhog Day  |
| Dec 7th - Hanukkah starts.                                      | Feb 3rd - Four Chaplains' Day                                    |
| Dec 10th - 2nd Sunday of Advent                                 | Feb 4th - USO's Birthday   |
| Dec 15th - Hanukkah ends  | Feb 5th -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.           |
| Dec 17th - 3rd Sunday of Advent                                 | Feb 12th - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday                            |
| Dec 18th - DAV Chapter 7's Christmas Party @ the Eagles Club.   | Feb 13th - Mardi Gras  |
| Dec 21st - Winter Solstice (start of Winter)                    | Feb 14th - Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)                           |
| Dec 24th - 4th Sunday of Advent 7 and Christmas Eve.            | Feb 19th -- DAV Chapter 7 General Membership Meeting @ 1830 Hrs. |
| Dec 25th - Christmas Day  | Feb 19th - Presidents Day  |
| Dec 26th - Boxing Day in Canada and Kwanzaa starts.             | Feb 22nd - George Washington's Birthday                          |
| Dec 31st New Year's Eve   |  |
| Jan 1st - New Year's Day  |  |
| Jan 8th -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.          |  |
| Jan 15th - DAV Chapter 7 General Membership Meeting @ 1830 Hrs. |  |



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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Veterans,

IT'S PARTY TIME!!!!!! The annual DAV Christmas Party will be held on December 18 starting at 4:30 with social hour, then at 5:30 a short program, and about 6:00 dinner will be served, followed by door prize drawings. Be sure to sign up for the dinner, we need the name, number attending, and choice of chicken or roast beef dinner. SIGN UP BY DEC. 8 SO WE CAN ORDER THE MEALS!!!!!! As always, I am sure a great time will be had by all.

Any questions, please give me or any officer a call.

For any Disabled Veterans that are thinking about joining the DAV, the time is now, starting Jan. 1, 2024, the price for a Lifetime Membership goes up by \$25.00, to a member cost of \$75.00. The State DAV is still paying \$100.00, and DAV Chapter 7 is still paying \$150.00 for a total of \$325.00. That is for a LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP, NO MORE DUES FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

Mark your calendars for VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL, it is scheduled to be on APRIL 10, 2024. It shouldn't be really cold out by then, but it won't be warm enough to be doing any spring chores yet either, so what better timing for getting a free ride to see our State Capital, free food for the whole day, and a chance to tell our State Government Leaders to NOT FORGET OUR DISABLED VETERANS. LET US HELP OUR LEADERS HELP OURSELVES by showing up for Veterans Day on the Hill and having our voices heard.

Tom needs this to be able to get the newsletter out, so gotta go, remember if you need anything or have any questions, give me a call @ 218-556-4592.

Happy Holidays,  
Gene Schwantes

## AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER

I hope you have been having a great fall with the beautiful colors and milder weather.

With deepest sympathy I must report that we lost one of our members, Irene Johnson. Lyndsey Moe has lost some family members this past month as well. Please keep Lyndsey and Irene's families in your prayers.

Our meeting was held at the DAV building on November 20th at 6:30.

We approved to send money to each of the Veterans' homes to go towards their Christmas parties.

The North Central MN Unit 7 DAV Christmas party is at the Bemidji Eagles Club. Social hour starts at 4:30, followed by the program at 5:30, and the meal at 6:00. Please sign up at the DAV building. Hope to see you there.

Happy Holidays  
Sara Gast



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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 20 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 1830.

OPENING CEREMONY: \* OPENING PRAYER \* PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. ROLL CALL of OFFICERS to determine if a quorum is present.

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

B. Members Present: 13

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: Richard Batcho and Gregg Remus

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

1. Minutes were read and motion to accept made by Tom, 2nd by Randy, the motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report:

1. The treasurer's report was read by Jeri, motion to accept by Mike, 2nd by Randy, the motion carried.

F. Communications:

1. Savers, Josh reports 99 trailers in the inventory at this time, and with the CPC in operation, Josh believes they are past the point of concern regarding high trailer inventory. Have a great Thanksgiving!
2. Northwest MN Foundation asking to consider them for the Holiday/charitable giving season.
3. Northwoods Caregivers is seeking donations to continue their work in providing assistance (transportation) to our Veterans. They report that last year they provided 9,500 hours of direct care for Veterans and this year they are on track to clear 11,000 hours.
4. Veteran Resource Enrichment Center is seeking donations for its Christmas Healing Hearts Giving Tree program. This is intended to provide camaraderie and community to Veterans and their families via, adopting an individual or family, donating funds directly to VREC, or donating \$25/\$50/\$100 gift cards. Donations need to be made by 12/15/23, and you can call 320-204-5660 for more information or email them at vrecmn@gmail.com.
5. Snelling Spirit newsletter is out and available at the DAV Chapter HQ for your perusing pleasure.
6. National has initiated a new recruitment resource, you can find it under the Member Resources section of dav.org.
7. Gina from State returned from the National Conference loaded with information, but with the underlying theme of moving away from paper and having every form and publication on electronic format, including MYdav.org where members can update their own member information as well as completing chapter

business and updates.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: One new member, Mike Larson from Baudette, welcome Mike!
2. Service Officer: Congrats to Tom Annonson for obtaining his service officer certification.
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Attended funeral for Auxiliary member Irene Johnson.
4. Legislative: NA
5. Entertainment: Chapters Christmas party will be held again at the Eagles club on 12/18/23. Social hour begins at 1630, program will begin at 1730, and dinner is served at 1800 hours, call the chapter of stop by to sign up, menu is either chicken or beef this year.
6. Fund raising: NA
7. Medical Equipment: 21 issues and 20 donations

H. Executive Committee Action Items:

1. Two actions are brought forward by the Commander in New business.

I. Old Business:

1. Trent Dirks is asking for Veterans who have not already done so to sign up for MNfluence.
2. Rich Batcho reminds us of the Commanders Action Network, a national level resource.
3. The Hospice Veteran Pinning program with Sanford is still seeking volunteers, contact Tom or Gene for more information.

J. New Business:

1. Veterans on the Hill this year will be April 10th, please consider being part of this event and contact Tom for more information or to sign up.
2. Chapter Christmas party will be 12/18/23 at the Eagles club. Social hour begins at 1630, program at 1730, and dinner will be served at 1800 hours.
3. Veteran in need, needed a tank of gas which was taken care of by the commander for the sum of \$113 and 11 cents.
4. Price is going up for life membership on Jan. 1st, new cost will be \$325 dollars, with \$100 being matched and \$150 by the Chapter.
5. Midwinter conference has been changed to 7-10 March, see DAV National website for more details.

K. Good of the Order:

1. The December meeting will be replaced with the Chapter Christmas party at the Eagles Club.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion by Mike and second by Randy. Motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 1932,
- Next meeting: 1/15/2024

## ATTENTION VETERANS

There has been a change to the DAV's Mid-winter Conference from the normal dates in February to the 7th- 10th of March 2024 so that the legislators will be available in Washington D.C.

The Minnesota Veterans on the Hill Day is scheduled for the 10th of April 2024. I will be posting more about the event and bus schedule in the newsletters after the first of the year.

## MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

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



# VETERAN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS

The following is a list of Organizations that cater to taking Veterans on outdoor events, usually at no cost to Veterans and some offer events that are also available to your family members as well. If you are interested in participating in any of these events and don't have access to a computer have a family member help you get in contact with them. Their contact info is listed on their home pages.

**American Heroes Outdoor TV**

<https://www.americanheroesoutdoors.com/applications/>

**Band of Brothers Outdoors**

<https://www.bandofbrothersoutdoors.com/>

**Brady Oberg Legacy Foundation**

<https://bradyoberglegacyfoundation.org/>

**Fishing With Vets**

<https://fishingwithvets.org/>

**Mandatory Fun Outdoors**

<https://mandatoryfunoutdoors.org/>

**Middle River Veterans Outdoors**

<https://mrveteransoutdoors.com/>

**Minnesota Veterans Outdoors**

<https://www.mnvetsoutdoors.org/>

**Warriors and Walleyes**

<https://warriorsandwalleyes.org/>

**Wounded Warrior Guide Service**

<https://www.gsmn.org/>

# 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 our DAV Comrades and our wonderfully exceptional DAV Auxiliary, we hope the very best for your family time during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

We close with our last article, of the last month, for this year. This article is being written a few days before Thanksgiving, and just as we have experienced for the last 20 + years, we all find ourselves in a very sobering time. Unfortunately, Thanksgiving for many of our comrades in arms is not necessarily a pleasant time, we are continually reminded of world events, as well as family and social disruptions, therefore our meaningful and sobering prayers are with everyone who needs hope from God and kindness from others.

We are all keenly aware of the events in the Middle East as well as the ramifications, actions of others, as well as the backlash throughout the world. The United States is certainly not immune. Today, there are many groups of people with various perceptions, opinions and attitudes transcending back into the history of the 19th and 20th Centuries regarding the events leading up to the establishment and continued existence of The State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people, ever since God's call to Abraham.

Allow us a caveat to this writing by stating this article is not about taking sides, nor is this article about the ideologies, religions, politics, mistakes or any other issues (security or otherwise) regarding national or global foreign policy. Nevertheless, we will focus on scriptural information, which is known either in-part, shared, or in many other ways communicated by means of a variety of different methods throughout the world, especially the Middle East. We are not suggesting everyone who has this information accepts or believes the scriptures, but we are suggesting everyone has this information in one way shape or another, even when the information is misrepresented or disputed by other people.

The history of the Jewish people being originally connected to the land known today as Israel, was given to them by God whose purpose was to create a people for Himself, while establishing a kingdom here on earth. This can be seen from the opening remarks of Genesis (creation - Adam and Eve) to the closing pages of Revelation (The New Jerusalem) that includes a tremendous amount of detail in between, along with the misguided thoughts, mistakes (intentional / unintentional), actions (evil / good) and attitudes of people throughout time. All of this interacting with a holy God who said, "As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die? (Ezekiel 33:11 - New Living Translation). The scriptures further state, God wants everyone to be saved and to fully understand the truth. There is only one God, and there is only one way that people can reach God. That way is through Christ Jesus, who as a man gave himself to pay for everyone to be free. This is the message that was given to us at just the right time. (1 Timothy 2:4-6 - Easy to Read Version).

Considering the tumultuous history of the Jewish people and the modern-day establishment of The State of Israel, one may ask; what benefit is there for being a Jew? This is a very intriguing question, yet it was a question Paul - Apostle to the Gentiles, asked his readers at Rome, around 57AD, when he wrote from Corinth (Romans 3). We will be examining this question more fully next month.

Blessings,  
Mike and Julie Gutz



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