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Monthly Newsletter  
April 2024

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



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



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**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| COMMANDER:           | Gene Schwantes - (218) 556-4592  |
| SENIOR VICE:         | Darrel Baltzell  |
| JUNIOR VICE:         | Tom Annonson   |
| ADJUTANT:            | Jeff Meyer   |
| SERVICE OFFICERS:    | Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025  |
| 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**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Apr 1st - April Fools' Day  | June 3rd -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.  |
| Apr 8th - DAV Chapter 7 Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.                     | June 6th - D-Day: Allied Invasion of Europe began in 1944.   |
| Apr 15th - Tax Day  | June 14th - Flag Day -- US Army founded in 1775.   |
| Apr 15th -- DAV Chapter 7 General Membership Meeting @ 1830 Hrs.          | June 16th - Father's Day   |
| Apr 22nd - Passover Begins  | June 17th -- DAV Chapter 7 General Membership Meeting @ 1830 Hrs.                                  |
| Apr 26th - Arbor Day  | June 19th - Juneteenth, commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States.                  |
| May 1st - May Day   | June 20th - Summer begins.   |
| May 2nd - National Day of Prayer  | June 22nd - Pledge of Allegiance recognized by Congress in 1942 - GI bill signed into Law in 1944. |
| May 6th -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.                    | June 25th - The Korean War began in 1950.  |
| May 7th - Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces signed in 1945.    | June 27th - National Post Traumatic Stress Awareness Day   |
| May 8th - Victory in Europe (V-E) Day                                     | June 30th - Post 9/11 GI Bill signed into law in 2008.   |
| May 10th - Military Spouses Day   |  |
| May 12th - Mother's Day   |  |
| May 15th - Peace Officers Memorial Day (Flags at Half Staff until Sunset) |  |
| May 18th - Armed Forces Day   |  |
| May 20th -- DAV Chapter 7 General Membership Meeting @ 1830 Hrs.          |  |
| May 22nd - National Maritime Day  |  |
| May 27th - Memorial Day (Flags at half-staff until Noon)                  |  |
| June 2nd - Ride for the Troops motorcycle fundraising event in Bemidji    |  |



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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Veterans,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and looking forward to a wonderful spring. As I am writing this article on Mar. 21, the sun is shining bright, there is no snow on the ground, and the temperatures are cool, but come the early part of next week, all heck is going to break loose, according to the forecast we are in for the biggest snowstorm of the winter, up to 18". By the time you read this, that storm will just be a memory and I hope it gave you some good conversation, not just a sore back.

Well, we had another great meeting on the 18th, Officer elections are over, and all Officers remain the same as last year. We also discussed a lot of other business including helping a couple of Veterans in need. As I wrote last month, we missed the other 600 members that weren't able to attend, well we were a little bit short of that number again, we would love to have as many of our members attend as possible.

**THIS MONTH, APRIL, IS THE KICKOFF OF OUR 100 YEAR CELEBRATION, THE INSERT IN THIS NEWSLETTER COVERS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE, "\$100.00 FOR 100 YEARS", PROGRAM. THIS IS FOR "ALL" OF OUR MEMBERS, BY APPLYING, YOU WILL NOT ONLY BENEFIT, BUT THE CHAPTER WILL ALSO BENEFIT. THE CHAPTER WILL HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO UPDATE OUR ROSTER TO INCLUDE ONLY MEMBERS THAT ARE STILL IN OUR CHAPTER, HAVE NOT TRANSFERED, OR SAD TO SAY, BUT MAYBE SOME ARE DECEASED, ETC. SO, IF ALL OF OUR MEMBERS WILL APPLY THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENT IT WILL HELP UPDATE OUR RECORDS. TO APPLY IS VERY SIMPLE, "SEND US A COPY OF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL", THAT'S IT, THE BILL WILL HAVE THE ELECTRIC COMPANY, YOUR NAME, YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER, YOUR ADDRESS AND THE ELECTRIC COMPANY ADDRESS. JUST BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER AND YOUR ELECTRIC COMPANY PHONE NUMBER, THE PHONE NUMBERS WILL BE USED IN CASE WE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROGRAM, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL AT 218-556-4592.**

IF ANYBODY KNOWS OF SOME GOOD MEDICAL EQUIPMENT OUT THERE, WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF GOOD EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE PLENTY OF 2 WHEEL WALKERS, CRUTCHES, AND HOSPITAL BEDS, BUT PERTTY MUCH ANYTHING ELSE IS IN NEED, WE ONLY HAVE 18" WHEELCHAIRS AND 4 WHEEL WALKERS, NONE ANY LARGER, NO COMMODOES, NO CROSS OVER SHOWER BENCHES, NO SOCK AIDS, ETC. SO, IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS EQUIPMENT THAT THEY CAN DONATE, PLEASE DO SO AND HELP A FELLOW VETERAN!!! When you issue out 77 items and only receive 36 donations in the last 3 months, as we did, it creates shortages in trying to help more veterans, but with that many issues, it proves that our medical equipment program is working, and we are helping Veterans.

Thank you for reading and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 218-556-4592.

Best wishes and good health to all of you,  
Gene Schwantes

**The US Air Force Band will be in Bemidji April 7th at 3 pm for a concert at the High School auditorium. If you wish to attend, the concert is free, but you need to register at the following website: <https://usafband.ticketleap.com/spring-tour-concert-bemidji/>**

## AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER

Happy Spring!

Thank you to all that were able to attend the meeting on Monday the 18th. The DAV Convention is April 25-27th and we will have three representatives from our Unit attending. Our representatives will be Linda Engesether, Lyndsey Moe, and Marie Lamon. We also voted to provide two baskets for the raffle drawing.

Also, it was asked if Linda Engesether could make four quilts for the Veteran's Home. These quilts will be provided to be displayed on the spouse of a veteran's casket, as the veterans get a flag. We voted to assist in the cost of the quilting of the quilts. It was approved to assist up to \$100 per quilt. This was the estimated cost we received from the quilter.

Officer elections were held, and all officers remained the same.

Commander Sara Gast  
Sr Vice Commander Linda Engesether  
Jr Vice Commander Marie Lamon  
Adjutant and Treasurer Lyndsey Moe  
Chaplin Julie Gutz

We will be providing dessert for the May DAV meeting and hope to see you there.

Thank you for your support of our veterans.


I hope you had a Happy Easter.

Sara Gast



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# THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 18 MARCH 2024 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	Darrell Baltzell	Excused
Junior Vice Commander	Tom Annonson	Present
Adjutant	Jeff Meyer	Present
Treasurer	Jeri Harvey	Excused
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Present
Judge Advocate	Ward Sutton	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Excused
Officer of the Day	Glen Aagard	Excused
Historian	Vacant	N/A

B. Members Present: 11

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: Rodney Olson

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes were read and motion to accept made by Andy, 2d by Mike, the motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report: Treasurers report was read by Commander Gene, Motion to accept by Andy, 2d by Tom, the motion carried.

F. Communications:

1. Savers reports 85 loaded trailers in the inventory, 27 cloth, 49, misc. 3 mixed and 6 books. Also, Josh reports things are going well, and operations are smooth.
2. National is promoting a new program, Caregivers Support Program.
3. Gold Star Wives of America is seeking donations and new members to their program which is made up of surviving spouses of fallen service members.
4. DAV National has declared April 6th of 2024 as DAV Community Impact Day. You can pledge your time at <http://www.communityimpactday.org/> or contact your adjutant for link or more information.
5. From National, DAV March Membership Madness tournament is on! See the Commander or Adjutant or visit the National website for more information on how to participate.
6. National is promoting several PTSD programs this month, see the commander or adjutant or check out the details at <https://www.dav.org/>
7. DAV National is offering to match up to \$500,000 dollars for donations this year on behalf of Just B Kids scholarships.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: Rodney Olson is transferring over to our Chapter from Crookston.
2. Service Officer: Assisted several Veterans with advice to file claims and referred them to their CVSO's or the NSO in Fargo to help them file their claims or appeals.
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress:
  - a. Our Senior Vice is still recovering, please keep Darrel in your thoughts and prayers.
  - b. Our new Veterans Home in Bemidji is finally taking in new residents!!
4. Legislative: Trent has identified two priorities for this current session, meaningful property tax relief for MN Veterans, and their survivors, and provide increased access to education

for the spouses and dependents of our Veterans. To support these initiatives or get more information, contact Trent Dikes, or sign up for MNfluence today from up to the minute information on legislative happenings.

5. Entertainment: NA

6. Publicity and Fundraising: Bemidji gun show at the Armory is March 26th & 27th, Tom will be in attendance to raise funds.

7. Medical Equipment: 21 issues and 14 donations.

8. Scholarship Committee: applications have been updated and sent out for the 2024/2025 school year, and we are starting to see student applications already coming in.

H. Executive Committee Action Items: No actions were brought forward.

I. Old Business:

1. Veterans Day on the Hill April 17, leaving Walmart parking lot 0600, with an anticipated return to Bemidji between 1830 and 1900, contact Tom for more info or to sign up. You do not need to be a Veteran to participate!
2. Chapter 7 donated 1600 dollars (one person) for this year's flight.
3. Officer nominations stand with Gene Schwantes- Commander, Darrel Baltzell -Sr. Vice, Tom Annonson-Jr. Vice.
4. DAV Convention 4/25-27, Gene, Tom, and Ward attending.

J. New Business:

1. Veteran in need, needed help with vehicle repairs at a possible cost of 877 dollars, Andy made a motion to pay up to \$1000.00 and the motion was 2d by Tom, and carried unanimously.
2. Veteran in need, needing help with home heating for approx. 609 dollars. Motion made by Andy and 2d by Tom to pay heating (PROPANE) up to \$700 dollars.
3. The final call for Nominations for officers was called and closed; Nominees were Commander-Gene Schwantes; Sr. Vice- Darrel Baltzell; Jr. Vice- Tom Annonson. As none of the positions were contested, a voice vote was called and they were elected unanimously.
4. DAV convention delegate nominees: Gene, Tom, Ward, and Mike. If you are interested in attending this year's spring convention on 25-27 April, please get a hold of the adjutant or the commander.
5. Motion was made to increase door prizes for DAV chapter events by Tom, and the 2d by Andy, motion carried.
6. Special documentary, "Here Is Better" which will be aired on 3/27/2024.

K. Good of the Order:

1. Stellher Human Services, a VA provider here in Bemidji, is offering expedited intake and placement for Veterans seeking mental health services. They have a male and female Veteran on staff are advertising that the Veteran can get in to a therapist inside of two weeks from calling for an appointment.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion by Randy and second by Mike. Motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 1950,
- Next meeting 4/15/2024

## VETERANS ON THE HILL DAY 2024

Veterans on the Hill Day (VoH) will take place on the 17th of April at the Capitol in St Paul, MN.

The Bemidji Bus Lines charter bus will seat 50 people and seating is filling up quickly, **SO CALL ME TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE SEATS STILL AVAILABLE!**

**Please Text or Email me your information prior to the 10th 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.
- Cell phone number of each participating individual, we don't want anyone getting left behind.
- Which pick up point you want to meet the bus at, 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 0600 Hrs.
  - Former Akeley VFW, arriving approx. 0640 Hrs., departing 10 minutes later.
  - Bricks Travel Center, Motley, MN, arriving approx. 0750 Hrs. Departing 15 minutes after arrival.
  - Copper Lantern Restaurant in St Cloud, arriving approx. 0905 Hrs. Departing 10 minutes after arrival.

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,

Tom Annonson, Trip Coordinator



# 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://wwgsmn.org/>

## MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:


- 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 6th – Army Day
- April 9th – National Former POW Recognition Day
- April 14 – Air Force Reserve Birthday
- April 23 – Army Reserve Birthday

## 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://davn.org/events-activities/events-for-veterans/>

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# \$100 FOR 100 YEARS

IN RECOGNITION OF MINNESOTA DAV CHAPTER #7'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY, THE CHAPTER HAS DECIDED TO GIVE EACH REGISTERED DAV CHAPTER #7 MEMBER \$100.00 TOWARDS THEIR ELECTRIC BILL. WITH HIGH INFLATION, COST OF GROCIERS SKY ROCKETING, MEDICATIONS, INCREASING INTEREST RATES, ETC. WE REALIZE THAT ALL VETERANS ARE HAVING A HARD TIME MAKING ENDS MEET. IT IS DAV'S MISSION TO HELP VETERANS IN NEED AND DURING THESE TIMES, WHAT BETTER WAY TO HELP VETERANS THEN TO HELP OUR OWN MEMBERS!! JUST CONTINUE PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL LIKE YOU NORMALLY DO AND APPROXIMATELY IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER YOU SHOULD SEE A \$100.00 CREDIT APPLIED TO YOUR TOTAL BILL.

IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ONE PAYMENT, THE VETERAN MUST MEET AND PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- MUST BE A MINNESOTA DAV CHAPTER #7 MEMBER (OR WIDOW/ WIDOWER) AND ON THE DAV NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ROSTER FOR DAV CHAPTER #7.
- MEMBERSHIP MUST BE EFFECTIVE BY JANUARY 31, 2024.
- MEMBER MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF THEIR ELECTRIC BILL WITH THEIR NAME, ACCOUNT NUMBER, ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER, AND ELECTRIC PROVIDER NAME, PAY TO ADDRESS, AND PHONE NUMBER ON IT FROM ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MONTHS: MAY 2024, JUNE 2024, OR JULY 2024. THIS INFORMATION MUST BE TURNED IN BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 DEADLINE, NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!!
- DOES "NOT" EFFECT LIFETIME LIMIT FUNDS.
- DAV CHAPTER #7 WILL PAY \$100.00 TOWARDS MEMBERS ELECTRIC BILL ACCOUNT, APPROXIMATELY IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024.
- NO CASH WILL BE GIVEN TO ANY MEMBER, ALL MONEY WILL BE PAID DIRECTLY TO ELECTRIC PROVIDER!!!!
- DUE TO LOGISTICS, ONLY MEMBER ACCOUNTS WITH MINNESOTA ADDRESSES WILL RECEIVE THE PAYMENT.
- MUST BE A MEMBER IN "GOOD STANDING."

ANY QUESTIONS???? CALL 218-556-4592

COMMANDER GENE SCHWANTES

# RESTAURANTS & BUSINESSES IN BEMIDJI THAT GIVE A MILITARY / VETERANS DISCOUNT EVERY DAY

*Remember to ask for your discount when paying your bill.*

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Simonson's  
Perkins  
Pizza Ranch  
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Dave's Pizza  
Keith's Pizza  
Hardee's  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Bar 209  
Red Stu  
Giovanni's  
Dunkin Donuts  
Ruzy's  
Mi Rancho  
NorthStar Speakeasy  
Lazy Jack's  
Tapatios

## **Businesses:**

Skip's Auto Repair  
Home Depot  
Ace on the Lake  
St. Michael's  
Dunham Sports  
Bemidji Woolen Mills

This list is, to the best of my recollection, all the places where I have gotten a Veteran's Discount every time I have visited their establishment. There may be more in the area that I have missed. If you know of others, please let me know so that I can add them to the list next month.

Tom Annonson, Newsletter Editor  
Text: (218) 251-3025 • Email: [torgor@lightspeed.net](mailto:torgor@lightspeed.net)

FREE RIDES

# 2024 - BEMIDJI VAN - 2024

## DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

FREE RIDES

### JANUARY

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### NOVEMBER

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### DECEMBER

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Mysteries are amazing and can take many forms. Mysteries can be found in fictional stories, real life civil and criminal investigations, political scandals, and the wonders of nature. Law enforcement, private detectives, and in many cases, ordinary citizens are caught in the task of seeking the truth. Political scandals are always the talk with The ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Club.

The scriptures are filled with mysteries too. Many mysteries (truths not revealed by God) from the Old Testament (Jewish Bible) are described, but not solved in the New Testament. One mystery from our Jewish Bible (Old Testament), dating back prior to creation, was actually given a name by Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles; "mystery of iniquity" II Thessalonians 2:7. Paul, in the context of his writing refers to the ongoing nature of this iniquity (pure evil) from ages past into the future. The culminating event of this mystery is the establishment of a ruling government with a religious component overseen by two high ranking politicians who are completely ruthless, even to the point of replacing Christ. Paul writes about this in the context of a day when Christ will return (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 relating to II Thessalonians 2). We all know we live in a world with evil, yet Paul is not referring to this kind of daily evil (street crimes, family drama, scams, and scandals). Paul is referring to both a spiritual battle and governing leader who intends to influence people in such a way, that the populace will replace God with this leader whom Satan has given authority to perform miracles and wonders. About the time Paul writes this, Apostle John writes and explains there was already a spiritual battle going on to replace God with political leaders who acted as if they were God (1 John 2:18-23). History is full of examples, Roman Emperors, Hitler, Mussolini, and Japan's Emperor all with their State run churches. There are today, leaders and governments, who combine Church and State to the point of oppressing their own citizens, such as the Taliban in Afghanistan.

This conflict of opposing Christ, or replacing God, goes way back to a "time long ago, in a place (galaxy) far, far away - Star Wars." Although Star Wars is a science fiction story, this phrase by George Lucas has some truth behind it as referred to in Ezekiel 28:11-19, and Isaiah 14:12-21. God created Lucifer a perfect Cherub (Angel of High Class), however iniquity (intent, pride, and pure evil) was found in him by God, as a result Satan was forcibly removed from Heaven and sent down to earth, where he appeared to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Yes, these scriptures do refer to the ancient King of Tyre (on earth), it's understood there is a spiritual component as well, just as Satan entered Judas's heart (John 13:2 & Luke 22:22). This brings us to the question my military retired veteran had regarding events in The Bible.

The question has to do with events pre-ordained (pre-determined) by God, or are these events the result of the freedom in human choice? I believe this question can be best illustrated in Jesus' betrayal by Judas, to include the explanation given by Christ at the last supper (Luke 22:22, Matthew 26:14-30, Mark 14:21, John 13:21-30). Notice Christ's statement, yes, the scriptures did in fact reflect He would be betrayed - an event pre-ordained by God. Yet at the same time, there is the freedom of personal choice made by a person who is responsible for their own choice, in this case it was one of the Apostles. Personally, we believe this dilemma can only be managed by God, while at the same time; God does not pre-ordain or interfere with a particular person's freedom of choice - an unsolvable mystery.

Blessings and take care,  
Mike and Julie Gutz



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