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Monthly Newsletter  
August 2025

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



**NEXT MEETING:**  
DAV Headquarters at  
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN  
**Monday, August 18 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 Aagard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Gary Guggenberger, Andy Staudt, Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

**July 30th - Bemidji  
Dragon Boat Festival**

**Aug 3rd - Ralph Gracie  
Post 14 annual picnic at  
Lazy Jacks**

**Aug 3rd - Tisha B'Av (A  
day of mourning for the  
Jewish Community)**

**Aug 4th -- DAV Chapter  
7 Executive Committee  
meeting 1630 Hrs.**

**Aug 6th - National Root  
Beer Float Day**

**Aug 7th - Purple Heart  
Day**

**Aug 18th -- DAV Chapter  
7 General Membership  
meeting 1830 Hrs.**

**Aug 23rd - DAV Chapter  
7 annual picnic at the  
Chapter HQ 1100-1500  
Hrs.**

**Aug 21st - International  
Day of Remembrance &  
Tribute to the Victims of  
Terrorism.**



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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Fellow Veterans,

I hope everyone is able to enjoy their summer despite the wind storm and flooding that has happened in our area. I know that for a lot of people their plans got changed after one stormy night in June, but, look at it this way, it is nothing more than any opportunity for you to prove your resiliency and nothing can knock you down and stop you from getting back up and winning this battle, it's the military way!

DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE DAV SUMMER PICNIC, IT IS COMING UP FAST, AUGUST 23 @ DAV CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM, CALL DARREL @ 218-766-9287 OR MYSELF @ 218-556-4592 AND SIGN UP NOW!

At the chapter meeting, I am sorry to say, some sad news was reported, our Auxiliary DAV Commander passed away on July 18, a DAV member had a serious accident while removing stumps after the storm, and another member has fallen and broke his hip, please keep these people and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

After all of that sad news, I still wish everyone a happy, enjoyable, and safe summer and hope to see you at the summer picnic and if anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully yours,  
Gene Schwantes

### MINNESOTA: UPCOMING WOMEN VETERANS OUTDOOR EVENTS

Women's trips are designed to introduce and deepen the unique and meaningful benefits of time spent in nature within a safe space inclusive of all women. Join us on a kayak tour of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Experience a series of sea kayaking and hiking day trips from our Little Sand Bay Base Camp.

Contact John Carson at [john@davmn.org](mailto:john@davmn.org) to signup for one of the following events.

July 17th – July 20th, 2025 or August 21st - August 24th, 2025

### MINNESOTA: 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 JULY 2025 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	Present
Junior Vice Commander	Tom Annonson	Excused
Adjutant	Jeff Meyer	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	Present
Historian	Vacant	N/A

B. Members Present: 19

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: NA

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Motion to accept minutes as read by Randy, 2d by Andy, the motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report: The June treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Jeri. Andy motioned to accept the report, Randy made a 2d, and the motion carried.

F. Communications:

1. Marion Evans sent us a donation of \$20.
2. Thank you card from Keelan Pinsonnault thanking us for his selection to receive one of our scholarships.
3. Carol Reike made a \$100 donation to us.
4. DAV National has reminded all chapters that we are not authorized to sign agreements with government-related entities. There is a revision to NEC Regulation 3, which now reads in part: *Any DAV subordinate entity must receive prior written approval from the National Executive Committee before entering into a business relationship with a government entity.* The complete revision is on file and can be read by asking the adjutant for a copy of the correspondence.
5. DAV Minnesota has announced a change in the amount the department will pay chapters for the delivery of clothing to the Department Clothing Program. Effective July 1st of 2025, the amount paid goes from 0.23 cents a pound to 0.24 cents a pound. This is an increase of 4.35% or about an additional \$360 per average semi-trailer load.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: NA
2. Service Officer: NA
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Tom Annonson was seriously injured in an accident while cleaning fallen trees out of his property. He has sustained serious neck injuries and is currently only able to talk and shrug his shoulders; everything else remains paralyzed. Tom is currently en route to the Minneapolis VA hospital, which has a spinal specialist/surgeon on staff. Mike Weber fell and broke his hip on 7/1/25; he is currently residing in Nielson Place, room 106 (Mulberry). There is a visitation for Lindsey Moe, who passed on 7/18/25, on 7/25/25, with her funeral service on 7/26/25 at 1030 hrs., both will be at the Pony Lake Church on Hwy 89. There is also a memorial service for Dan and Jan

here at the DAV HQ on 7/26/25 at 1330 hrs.

4. Legislative: NA

5. Entertainment: NA

6. Publicity and Fundraising: \*\*With Tom injured, we are also in need of volunteers to work at the Beltrami County DAV booth in Aug. If you can donate any time to this event, please contact the Chap 7 office/Commander's phone to do so. Dave C volunteered to take Tom's fundraising place at this year's Wood Carvers festival in Blackduck on 7/26/25.

7. Medical Equipment: 13 Issues and 9 donations.

H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.

I. Old Business: a. Audit committee needs a replacement for Tom, which Bruce Tiegen has volunteered to fulfill. Meeting time and place TBD. b. Dan and Jan's memorial service will be held at the DAV Chap 7 Hq's building, 7/26/25 at 1:30 PM. c. The summer picnic will be held on 8/23/25 from 11-3 PM. The CVSO mobile office will also be on display. Please sign up ASAP if you have not already done so, so that an accurate headcount for food can be made. Gene also reminds us that additional help will be needed and welcomed for setting up prior to the picnic.

J. New Business: A Veteran in Need request was made by Beltrami County service officer Shane, for a Marine needing help with groceries. The amount of \$257.43 was approved by and paid by Gene.

1. Clearwater County is seeking assistance for the handicap van repairs. More information is needed, and this was tabled until the next session. Andy made the motion to pay \$2,000 towards repairs, and the 2d was made by Glenn, and the motion carried.

2. A Veteran in Need request by Logan, Clearwater County CVSO, for an Army Veteran needing help with paying his dental bill. The total bill is \$9,000.00, with the Dept of Veterans Affairs picking up \$6,500 of the bill so far. Andy made a motion to pay \$1,500 towards the Veterans' dental bill, 2d was made by Randy, and the motion carried.

3. A Veteran in Need, here in Bemidji, through Commander Gene, injured during storm cleanup, is paralyzed from the shoulders down, needs help with completing cleanup and transportation costs (he is currently in the Minneapolis VA hospital for surgery and rehab). Andy made the motion to pay up to \$5,000 towards tree removal, with Randy providing the 2d, and the motion was approved. Additionally, Andy made the motion to provide his spouse with a \$200 gas card to help with the frequent traveling between here and Minneapolis.

K. Good of the Order: There is another scam making the rounds within the Veteran Community, promising Veterans they can get 100% compensation. There is a contract to sign and fees are required, and in the end, you get nothing. Please remind Veterans you know that compensation approval can only be had by the VA, and there are never any costs or fees associated with the claim. See your CVSO for more compensation information.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Mike, seconded by Andy. Motion carried.

➤ The meeting adjourned at 2002 hrs.

➤ Next meeting 8/18/2025 @1830.

## MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

September- National Suicide Prevention Month

September- National Service Dog Month

Sept 9th- Labor Day

Sept 2 - V-J Day (Victory over Japan)

Sept 11 - Patriot's Day

Sept 15 – Oct 15 Hispanic Heritage Month

Sept 18 - Air Force (USAF) Birthday

Sept 18- Air National Guard Birthday

Sept 29- National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept 22-24- Rosh Hashanah

Sept 28- Gold Star Mother's Day

Sept 29- VFW Day



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This month we continue our conversation about Ephesians 1:1-5. Allow us to provide a little context into the time The Book of Ephesians was written. This will provide us with some of the relationship dynamics occurring at the time - between Saul (Paul), Jesus Christ, and the racial tensions Paul had towards certain groups of people.

Saul (Paul) and Jesus Christ were contemporaries; that is to say for a certain period of time, during their lives, they lived and traveled in the same region. Saul (Paul) was born a Roman Citizen in Tarsus, Cilicia, which today would be south central Turkey. He was a tent maker by trade, although he studied in the Jerusalem area under a well known and respected Pharisee named Gamaliel. Saul (Paul) was a very prominent Pharisee who had a tremendous amount of clout and authority, so much so, he set out to literally destroy these people and their belief in Christ, essentially putting an end to The Way (Acts 22).

The reason Saul (Paul) wanted to murder the participants of The Way was because they violated (in his mind) the instructions given by Moses in the Old Testament. As a result people at that time were divided amongst racial tensions; either you were a full Jew, a partial Jew - called Samaritans (the Jews considered them half-breeds) or a Gentile. According to Saul (Paul), Gentiles were absolutely worthless, lived outside of God's purpose and should never be a part of God's people, it is interesting to note back at that time The Way was simply a different sect of Judaism consisting of Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles, but Saul (Paul) later called them all the church. Saul was so arrogant, judgmental and full of zeal before he actually came to know Jesus Christ, changing his name to Paul (Acts 9 & 22), that he actually thought he was a righteous man doing God's work by killing all the people in The Way. Saul (Paul) no doubt knew about Jesus Christ since they were only 10 years apart, but at that time, Jesus was just a controversial person whose influence expanded throughout the region, and for Saul, Jesus was not the Son of God. So when Saul (Paul) met Jesus Christ after His resurrection (Acts 9) this completely and totally changed Saul's (Paul's) perception and outlook towards Christ, and the people of The Way. Now instead of murdering these people and destroying everything they own, Paul was calling them God's Chosen!

As we can see Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is now calling the people in The Way, such as the churches in Damascus, Ephesus and Thessalonica as God's Chosen. Wow, what a remarkable change. Therefore everyone who trust, depend upon, and commit their lives to Jesus Christ, asking Him for an understanding pardon from all we have done wrong are now Chosen of God (Deuteronomy 7:6, Ephesians 1:4-5) and will be a part of Israel (Romans 11:26). Jesus Himself stated "...many are Called but few are Chosen." (Matthew 22:14). This verse is part of a parable Jesus tells about a king who throws a wedding feast for his son. Many people are invited, but only those who accept the invitation and are properly attired (symbolizing those who truly follow God's will) are chosen, while God is waiting for all others - those being called, to come to Him (Revelation 6:9-11) as seen after the fifth horse.

Therefore as a church depending upon Christ for our lives, while acknowledging that all our life, talents, capabilities and abilities, as well as our salvation are all gifts from God (Ephesians 2:8). There is a tremendous responsibility that comes with being chosen, it involves the discipline of being humble, in other words being like Paul at the time when he wrote Ephesians (Eph 1:4-5) after coming face to face with Christ.

Mike & Julie

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or  
email us at: [mnvetsoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:mnvetsoutdoors@gmail.com)

Must be a resident of Minnesota and a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces



## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUMMERFEST RIDE

### When:

July 26th, 2025

10:00 AM

### Cost:

\$25 Per Rider

\$15 Per Passenger

- o 50/50 Raffles at each stop
- o Raffle Drawing @ 8 PM
- o Silent Auction 9:00 AM-7:00 PM

### Bands start at 4 PM

The Clearwater Boys

4 PM - 7 PM



### Ride Schedule:

- ❖ 8:00 AM Registration Opens
- ❖ 9:00 AM Registration Closes
- ❖ 9:00 AM Welcome Program
- ❖ 9:30 AM Safety Briefing
- ❖ 10:00 AM Ride Leaves

### Where:

Monticello VFW

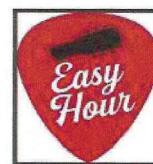
Post 8731

713 S Cedar St

Monticello, MN 55362

Easy Hour

8 AM-12 AM



Proceeds will be donated to Sarah's Lung Squad and their mission to provide Legos and Squishmallows to Childrens MN. These items will be in honor of their sweet baby Sarah who was diagnosed with RSV at 2.5 weeks old and has had an extensive stay at Childrens.

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## NATIONAL: COMMANDER'S ACTION NETWORK (CAN)

To stay informed and take action to support federal legislation and policies affecting veterans, their families and survivors, please join DAV CAN (Commander's Action Network).

To enroll, go to the DAV.org website and do a search for the "Commander's Action Network" it will direct you to a results page and there you will find the link to sign up and become an active participant in the program. Once you are enrolled you will periodically receive emails with "canned" letters to your individual representatives on legislative matters pertaining to veterans' issues that are currently before them in Congress encouraging them to act on behalf of all veterans that the proposed bill in question is addressing. Simply click the "take action" button at the bottom of the email and the letter will automatically be sent.

## NATIONAL: NATIONAL MEMBER NEWS

The link below is to the National's web page that highlights some of the activities of Chapters and members from around the Country. The page has some interesting accounts of the various things that might spark some ideas that other Chapters might consider incorporating in their local areas of influence.

Check it out at <https://www.dav.org/news-media/member-news>



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# NORTH CENTRAL MN DAV AUXILIARY #7: JULY MEETING MINUTES

Unit Minutes - 7/21/2025; 6:28 pm

DAV Building

15th St, Bemidji MN, 56601

**In Attendance:** Sara Gast Jr Vice Commander, Linda Engesether Chaplain, Mya Eichstadt, Treasurer, Heather Eichstadt Adjutant, Julie Gutz Member

## CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by: Linda Engesether  
Pledge by: Sara Gast  
Purpose given by: Sara Gast  
Eligibility given by: Sara Gast  
Roll call of officers by: Heather Eichstadt

Commander: Absent  
Sr. Vice Commander: Absent  
Jr Vice Commander: Present  
Treasurer: Present  
Chaplain: Present  
Adjutant: Present

**Quorum Met:** 4 officers, 1 member.: Total 5; 1 (SEC)

## Order of Business:

Transfers: None  
Visitors: None  
New members initiated: None  
Minutes read by: Heather Eichstadt, minutes adopted as written.. Linda Engesether made a motion, Mya Eichstadt second the motion with all approved.  
Treasurer's report given by: Mya Eichstadt  
Beginning balance: \$13,616.92 Income with Receipts: None  
Disbursements: \$ 110.73 Closing Balance: \$13,506.19

## Bills and Communications:

- Lyndsey Moe passed away - Visitation is Friday July 25th from 6-8 PM and Funeral on Saturday July 26th at 10:30 AM at the Pony Lake Church

**Sickness and Distress:** Think about Tom, he was injured while clearing trees and is currently in the hospital in Fargo; Thinking of Lyndsey Moe's family and keeping them in our prayers; Marie's sister-in-law Marilyn in hospice and her kidney cancer;

## Report of Committees:

**Membership:** None.

**Americanism:** None

**Hospital:** None

**Community Service:** Linda visited with her veteran and a veterans family, Sara helped a veteran with tree clean up and repairing a pair of special pants, and Julie assisted a veteran's family member.

**Legislation:** None

**Junior Activities:** None

**VAVS:** None

**Ways and Means:** None

**Other Committee reports:** None

## Unfinished Business:

- Submitting the DAVA Meeting Minutes in the DAV newsletter. Is that something we want to do or do we want to only submit the meeting highlights by the commander? Discussion with Heather Eichstadt Adjutant

in regard to submitting meetings monthly - Heather agreed to submissions with review by commander before monthly submissions.

- Sara Gast requested a motion to place minutes in the newsletter monthly - Julie Gutz made a motion, Linda Engesether 2nd the motion.
- The \$1000 donation from DAV - all members discussed ideas of what to do with the funds.
  - Mya Eichstadt read stipulations for the use of the funds.
  - Sara Gast brought forward the use for donating to the VAVS.
  - Sara Gast also discussed getting small canvas bags or drawstring backpacks with activity items to be given to the children of the Veterans while they wait at the VA clinic or hospital with their family members.
  - American themed bedding or pillow cases for the VA Home in Bemidji - Linda will contact the VA Home again
  - Will table until next meeting in August
- DAV Picnic - August 23rd 11 AM - 2:00 PM - Let Gene or Tom know if able to attend.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion of switching officers with a re-election related to the recent loss of our commander Lyndsey Moe.
  - Tabled until September meeting
- Discussed not having the August meeting related to many members being out of town.
  - Julie made a motion, Heather Eichstadt seconded the motion, all approved.
- Linda will be attending the National Convention - Discussion to give Linda \$500 in funds to assist with the travel expenses.
  - Julie Gutz made a motion for \$500 in funds to be given, Mya Eichstadt second the motion, all approved.
- Discussed completing Financial Audit - Mya Eichstadt and Linda Engesether will get together and complete.
  - Mya Eichstadt or Linda Engesether will meet with other DAVA members to review the audit and sign before being sent in.
- Budget to be completed by the end of July, signed and submitted to the DAVA National Headquarters, DAVA State Headquarters, DAV State Headquarters, and DAVA #7 Unit.

**Money March:** No information at this time, to be reviewed at the next meeting in September.

**Remarks for the good of the organization:** Thank you to Lyndsey for all she has done for the DAVA, Veterans and the organization, she will be greatly missed. Thank you to all for your help and assistance as well and for coming to the meeting and supporting the organization and Veterans.

## Closing Ceremony Completed

- Meeting Adjournment at 7:21 PM**

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Heather Eichstadt Adjutant



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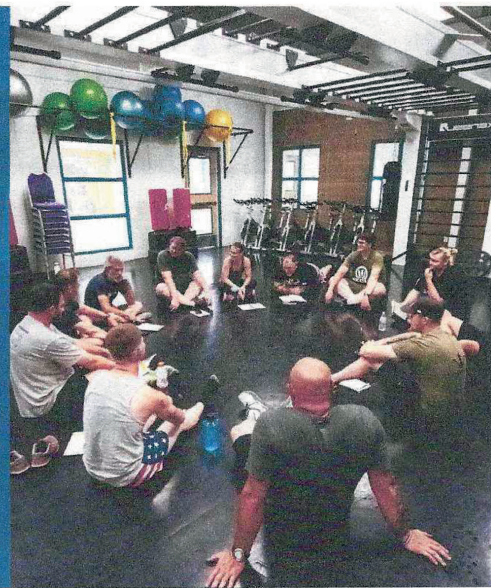


23<sup>rd</sup>  VETERAN

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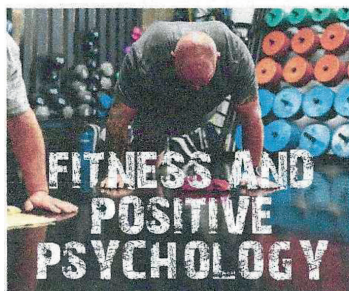
There are no physical fitness requirements to participate. However, the Outdoor Wellness Adventure is physically strenuous. A goal to work toward is ability to complete a 4-mile ruck with a 40lb pack within 90 minutes.

**ORIENTATION:** September 19th-Time and Location TBD

**Dates:** September 20-25

**Location:** Blue Ridge Mountains Backpacking and Rock Climbing with North Carolina Outward School - Asheville, NC

This six-day backpacking and rock climbing course offers a unique opportunity for self-discovery in some of the oldest mountains in the world. Home to hundreds of waterfalls, over a million acres of national forest, park and public land, unique rock formations and the highest peaks in the Eastern United States, the Blue Ridge Mountains are a beautiful, challenging natural environment to discover or rediscover your true potential, build trust, and discover camaraderie with your crew.



**GYM ORIENTATION:** September 26 | 3:00-4:00pm  
Mesabi Fit-8367 Unity Dr, Virginia, MN 55792

### GROUP SESSIONS

September 29<sup>th</sup> - December 26<sup>th</sup>  
Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday | 3:00-4:30pm *5pm - 6pm*  
Mesabi Fit-8367 Unity Dr, Virginia, MN 55792

PAGE 1 of 2



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# 2025 - BEMIDJI VAN - 2025

## DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

FREE  
RIDES

## JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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## FEBRUARY

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30	31					

## APRIL

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## MAY

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## JUNE

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30					

## JULY

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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31						

## SEPTEMBER

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## OCTOBER

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## NOVEMBER

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## DECEMBER

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## VA: IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING YOUR VA ID CARD

As a Veteran receiving health care, one of the most crucial assets you possess is your VA ID card. It's imperative to understand why maintaining and updating your VA ID card is essential and how you can ensure it remains functional.

### Identification at VA Facilities

Your VA ID card serves as your primary identification at VA facilities. Whether you're seeking medical care, accessing benefits, or attending appointments, this card is vital. It streamlines the identification process, reducing potential human errors and allowing seamless access to your personal files and medical records.

### Check-in for Appointments

When you have appointments at VA facilities, your VA ID card is a necessity for check-in. It helps staff quickly verify your identity, ensuring a smooth and efficient process.

### Updating Your VA ID Card

If you need to update your VA ID card, visit the enrollment office at your local VA facility. No appointment is necessary for this process. The staff at the enrollment office are there to assist you in updating your information. Don't hesitate to ask any VA employee for guidance or assistance. They are more than willing to help you navigate the process of updating or obtaining a new VA ID card.

### Inspecting Your VA ID Card for Serviceability

#### Image Accuracy

Ensure that the photo on your card accurately reflects your current appearance. If not, it might be time for an update.

#### Expiration Check

Regularly check the expiration date on your VA ID card. An expired card might hinder your access to services and benefits. If your card has expired or is about to, it's crucial to visit the enrollment office for renewal.

#### Ensuring Barcode and Card Information Accuracy

Your VA ID card's barcode and information play a pivotal role in swiftly accessing the benefits and services you're entitled to as a veteran. Regularly inspecting and ensuring the integrity of these components is essential for a hassle-free experience when utilizing your card at VA facilities. If you notice any issues with the barcode, information accuracy, or physical wear on the card, promptly address them by seeking a replacement or an update at your nearest VA enrollment office.

Maintaining and updating your VA ID card is pivotal for ensuring a smooth experience when accessing VA services and benefits. Whether for medical care, benefit claims, or appointments, a functional and up-to-date VA ID card simplifies the process. The VA is committed to assisting veterans in this regard, providing the necessary resources and support for a hassle-free experience.

Veterans have sacrificed and served our nation, and the VA ID card is a token of appreciation and commitment to providing the care and support deserved. By keeping your VA ID card current and well-maintained, you're taking a proactive step to ensure that you receive the benefits and services you've rightfully earned through your service to the country.



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