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Monthly Newsletter
October 2025

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



NEXT MEETING:
DAV Headquarters at
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
Monday, October 20 at 6:30pm

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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

**Oct 7th - Afghanistan
War began in 2001**

**Oct 24th - United
Nations Day**

**Oct 1st - Yom Kippur
begins**

Oct 27th - Navy Day

Oct 31st - Halloween

**Oct 12th -- Columbus
Day**

**Oct 13th - U.S. Navy
established in 1775**

**Oct 13th - Columbus
Day**

**Oct 23rd - Grenada
Campaign began in
1983**



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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Veterans,

Well, here it is, the middle of September and I feel like someone robbed me of July and August because they are gone and we are not too far from having snow on the ground. I guess it proves that if you watch the clock, it seems like it takes forever for time to pass, but if you keep busy time flies by and you never get bored. So, the lesson here is, if you ever get bored come to DAV and volunteer and say I can do this and that and you will not have any more problems with being bored. PS, throw in a little 100 to 120 mph wind storm and it will fill in open spaces that you might have. I hope everyone is doing well and was able to enjoy at least part of their summer.

The DAV Summer Picnic is over and I believe everybody had a great time, we had plenty of food, great door prizes, and best of all a whole lot of fantastic people to visit with and like always, I didn't have enough time to visit with every one, so if I missed you it wasn't on purpose, it was a time issue. I would like to give a special "Thank You" to Shane and Luke for coming out with their mobile office and working in order to get their free meal. It just proves how far they will go to help VETERANS!!!!

We had another lively Chapter Meeting on 9/15 (remember, they are always on the 3rd Monday of every month) good discussions (not debates) making sure that the Chapter is doing the best job it can to serve Veterans in the best way possible, fairly and honestly, like they deserve. If you would like to join in, come to the next meeting and be part of the solution to handle the business that comes before the chapter, it can be very rewarding to know that you voted to serve veterans fairly and honestly and at the same time meet the DAV Chapter requirements.

Just a friendly reminder, elections are coming up soon, (not the government stuff) the important elections, for the Chapter, and I think all of the following offices will need to be filled, Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, and sad to say, Jr. Vice Commander, and our Treasurer would like to have someone step up and give her a break, she has been the Treasurer for many years. There is a lot of opportunity here and I know that every one of the current officers will do everything they can to help out all of the new officers, so step up and don't be afraid, you will not be left alone to struggle alone.

As always, feel free to give me a call with any questions or concerns.

Gene



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THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 15 SEPTEMBER 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	Excused
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Present
Officer of the Day	Glen Aagard	Excused
Historian	Vacant	N/A

B. Members Present: 18

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: None

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

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

F. Communications:

1. Marion Evans sent us a donation of \$20.
2. Cp Bliss, located in Walker, MN, has sent us a donation request for their organization, which offers multiple events for Veterans throughout the year.
3. Reminder from DAV National that September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, multiple programs available to help Veterans through the DV and VA, as well as testimonials. See the adjutant or visit the website for additional information and links to programs.
4. Thank you letter from Aubrey DeWitt, thanking us for her selection for a scholarship this year.
5. Minneapolis VA Fisher House sent us a request for donations. They are a "home away from home" for families of Veterans and active-duty military receiving care at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System. Please see the adjutant for more information.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: Sr. Vice Darrel reported one new member this month, John Widdel, to the chapter. Welcome, John!
2. Service Officer: NA
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Tom Annonson is currently at the Minneapolis VA hospital, and reports are that he is making progress, albeit very slow progress, after his injury in June. Mike Weber no longer resides in Nielson Place, and is up and about somewhat, and even

came to visit us on Tuesday morning. If you have some time, he will welcome visitors.

4. Legislative: NA

5. Entertainment: NA

6. Publicity and Fundraising: NA

7. Medical Equipment: 13 Issues and 15 donations.

H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.

I. Old Business:

a: DAV MN responded to the commander's request for assistance with Tom and his injury, donating \$3,000 to help pay for the tree and stump removal that Tom was working on when he was injured.

b. Review of bin refurbishing quotes and options to purchase additional bins. No action taken.

J. New Business: A Veteran in Need request was made by Beltrami County service officer Luke, for a Veteran needing elastomeric sealant for his trailer home roof, in the amount of \$269.64. Mike made a motion to approve, Randy made the 2d, and the motion carried.

A Veteran in Need request was made by Beltrami County service officer Luke for a Veteran needing help to pay for his propane. Andy made the motion to approve up to \$600 for the purchase of propane, Randy made the 2d, and the motion carried.

A Veteran in Need request was made by Beltrami County service officer Darren for a Veteran needing help paying for propane in the amount of \$295.35 (165 gallons). This was approved by and paid for by the Commander.

A Veteran in Need request was made by Beltrami County service officer Luke for a Veteran needing help paying for groceries. No amount was given by the CVSO, and the decision was made to simply let the commander use his discretion to help up to his authorized amount of \$500.

A Veteran in Need request was made by Beltrami County service officer Luke, for a Veteran needing help paying for groceries in the amount of \$250.02, which was approved by and paid by the commander.

Cp Bliss in Walker, MN, is seeking donations for their Veteran organization. Darrel made a motion to donate \$500; Dave C. made the 2d, and the motion carried.

K. Good of the Order:

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

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

➤ The meeting adjourned at 1943 hrs.

➤ Next meeting 9/15/2025 @1830.

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/>

NORTH CENTRAL MN DAV AUXILIARY #7: SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Unit Minutes - 9/15/2025; 6:33 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, Julie Lamon Sr Vice Commander

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by: Linda Engesether

Pledge by: Sara Gast

Purpose given by: Marie Lamon

Eligibility given by: Sara Gast

Roll call of officers by: Heather Eichstadt

Commander: Absent

Sr. Vice Commander: Present

Jr Vice Commander: Present

Treasurer: Present

Chaplain: Present

Adjutant: Present

Quorum Met: 3 officers, 3 member.: Total 6; 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, Marie Lamon second the motion with all approved.
- Treasurer's report given by: Mya Eichstadt
 - July's Beginning balance: \$13,506.19 Income with Receipts: None / Had an ACH credit D/C distrib AUX of \$0.50 (to be tabled for further information by treasurer)
 - July's Disbursements: \$500.00 July and August's Closing Balance: \$13,006.19
 - Donation from the DAVMN of \$1500 that can be used as the DAVA determines, no stipulations in place.

Bills and Communications:

- Super-Hear-O Phone info with calendar dropped off at the DAV for Veteran information as needed for hard of hearing veterans or family.

Sickness and Distress: Haley, Heather's daughter and her recovery from surgery, Hannah, Heather's daughter and healing from her broken foot. Keeping Tom in our prayers with progress and mobility; Marie's sister-in-law Marilyn in hospice and her kidney cancer;

Report of Committees:

Membership: None; Linda Engesether discussed possible new members coming, education provided.

Americanism: None

Hospital: None

Community Service: Linda visited with her veteran. Marie supporting and helping Tom.

Legislation: None

Junior Activities: None

VAVS: None

Ways and Means: None

Other Committee reports: None

Unfinished Business:

- The \$1000 donation from the State DAVA - all members discussed ideas of what to do with the funds.
 - Linda discussed Fargo VA
 - Sara Gast discussed VA Clinic
 - 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 take an inventory of what we have for items.
- Sara Gast discussed to split the \$1000 in half in \$500 for bag for the VA Clinic in Bemidji and \$500 for VAVS
 - Marie Lamon made a motion for \$500 for activity bags for the Bemidji VA Clinic and \$500 for VAVS ; Mya Eichstadt seconded the motion with all approved.
 - Mya Eichstadt will notify State DAVAMN of our designation of funds of \$1000.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion of switching officers with a re-election related to the recent passing of our commander Lyndsey Moe.
 - Lyndsey Moe will need to be removed from the Bank account at Deerwood Bank in Bemidji MN
 - Linda Engesether will be removed from the card for the Bank Account at Deerwood Bank
 - Officers to remain on the Deerwood Bank checking account as signers with be Sara Gast, Marie Lamon and Mya Eichstadt
- New Election of Officers:
 - Sara Gast Elected as Commander - Marie Lamon made the motion, Linda Engesether seconded motion
 - Julie Gutz Elected as Jr Vice Commander - Linda Engesether made the motion, Mya Engesether seconded motion
 - Officer sworn in at this time by Sara Gast.
- Congratulations to Mya Eichstadt on her engagement!!
- Financial Audit completed - Mya Eichstadt provided see attachment.
- Financial Audit signed to be submitted to the DAVA National Headquarters, DAVA State Headquarters, DAV State Headquarters, and DAVA #7 Unit..
 - Signed by Sr. members Julie Gutz, Linda Engesether, Sara Gast and Treasurer Mya Eichstadt.
 - Linda Engesether to submit by mail.
- Budget report made by Mya Eichstadt for the up coming year of 2025-2026
 - Discussed plan for a budget committee to determine use of funds for the year
 - Budget to be tabled for the October meeting, Mya will give a list of items.
- Mya Eichstadt requested funds for Treasury supplies for organization of paperwork from previous years and current.
 - Sara Gast requested further info on supply needs and pricing to bring to the next meeting for further discussion. Mya Eichstadt will provide information. Tabled for the October meeting.
- Marie Lamon provided information on The Minneapolis VA Fisher House - a place to stay for VA family members while family is being cared for in the hospital or Minneapolis VA home. Idea for a donor for 2025-2026. Tabled for future meetings.
- Check on further places in Fargo as well.

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 all for your help and assistance and for coming to the meeting and supporting the organization and Veterans.

Closing Ceremony Completed

- Meeting Adjournment at 7:49 PM

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Heather Eichstadt Adjutant

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This month we continue with our discussion about Ephesians. As veterans and auxiliary members we are acutely aware of our on-going and current changes to our society in our country. We would like to discuss two particular issues that seem to always be a part of our society in one form or another - death and disunity. No matter what era we are discussing, from Vietnam to the global war on terrorism, these two issues are always apart of our lives. This is particularly true now as we mourn for the assassination of Charlie Kirk and pray for his family.

We can see Apostle Paul writing about the same thing in Ephesians 2:1-10 - death and disunity. Yet he also mentions a solution to both of these, God's grace to save us (Eph 2:5) and his purpose to bring everyone (Jews and Gentiles) together in Christ. Essentially it is God who has taken the initiative to sacrifice everything in order to get us out of this mess.

We can see in Genesis where God warns Adam about the consequences of disobedience (sin) is death. It is through the disobedience of Adam (not Eve) that death has been apart of all our lives (Romans 5:12). This is a terrible tragedy, something we can not control that creates havoc in all our lives and families. Yet we can see God, through grace, using death as more of a transition than an incredibly worse situation (Genesis 3:22). Can you imagine what it would be like living eternally under the same conditions of Nazi Germany, 1941-1945 (Genesis 6:5-8)? God made sure we would not live forever in a terrible condition by making sure Adam did not eat from the Tree of Life after he disobeyed God (Genesis 3:23-24). Another example of God's grace is taking care of Noah through the flood (Genesis 6:8), instead of "[God] destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth" (Genesis 6:7 - King James Bible). As a result of all this history in the Old Testament (Bible used by everyone during Paul's life) it is imperative for Paul to ensure the Ephesians understand God's grace; "But God, being rich in mercy because of his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you are saved)." The two questions now are, what is and isn't grace?

As demonstrated by God above, his grace is favor and love people towards people who don't deserve it. God favors and loves inmates, fugitives, those dishonorably discharged and anyone who has done wrong as listed in Galatians 5:19-21, I Corinthians 6: 9-11 and given their lives over to Christ. It is so wonderful the kindness of God draws people to Christ and motivates them to change their life. As a result they are totally cleaned from the inside out and free to live the rest of their lives as part of God's purpose to point others to Christ.

There are some misconceptions about grace as well. Unfortunately these misconceptions can really cause havoc in a person's mind by the manner they view God. This is why it is so important to continually grow in the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ, which leads to a person having a peaceful heart (II Peter 3:18; II Peter 1:2). As a result other verses like Colossians 2:2 and Titus 2:11 emphasize the importance of understanding God's mysteries and godly living (not religion) that yields this knowledge. This brings us all the way back to our first article in July 2025 regarding the mysteries of God in the person, life and work of Christ (Ephesians 1:9-11).

Next month we will be looking at the misconceptions of grace. In the mean time, if there is something we can do for you, please call.

Mike - DAV and Linda - Auxiliary



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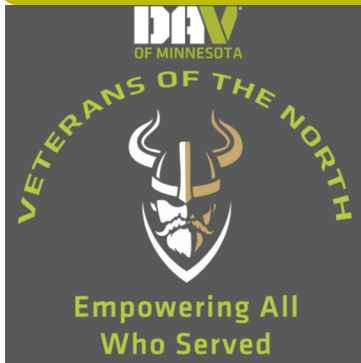
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NATIONAL: COMMANDER'S ACTION NETWORK (CAN)

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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>

NATIONAL: NATIONAL LEGISLATION NEWS

Keep up with legislation at the National Level by visiting <https://www.dav.org/about-dav/legislation>

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MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

October 13- Columbus Day
October 13- US Navy Birthday

October 26- National Day of the Deployed
October 27- Navy Day

VA: SWITCH FROM DS LOGON TO LOGIN.GOV OR ID.ME BY SEPTEMBER 30

After Sept. 30, 2025, Veterans will have two secure options to sign in to VA.gov and VA mobile apps—a Login.gov account or ID.me account. Most Veterans have already made the switch. If you're still using a DS Logon username and password, we want to make sure you're prepared when this option is discontinued by the end of September.

How to Transition

1. Visit Creating an account for VA.gov for detailed instructions on setting up your Login.gov or ID.me account.
2. Follow the step-by-step guide to create your account and verify your identity.
3. Use your new account to access VA services online as you did before.

VA: SIMPLER VA TRAVEL CLAIMS RIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE

August 26, 2025

VA Office of Information and Technology

Eligible Veterans can now submit mileage-only travel reimbursement claims through the VA Health and Benefits mobile app. This new feature saves time, reduces paperwork, and makes it easier to access your benefits with just a few taps on your mobile device. Read the official press release about this feature.

What this means for you

- Submit mileage-only travel reimbursement claims for VA-approved health care appointments using the VA Health and benefits mobile app.
- Access a travel claim option on the app's home screen after an eligible appointment.
- Review and submit your claim directly in the app.
- Track the status of your claim without completing or mailing paper forms.

How to submit your travel claim

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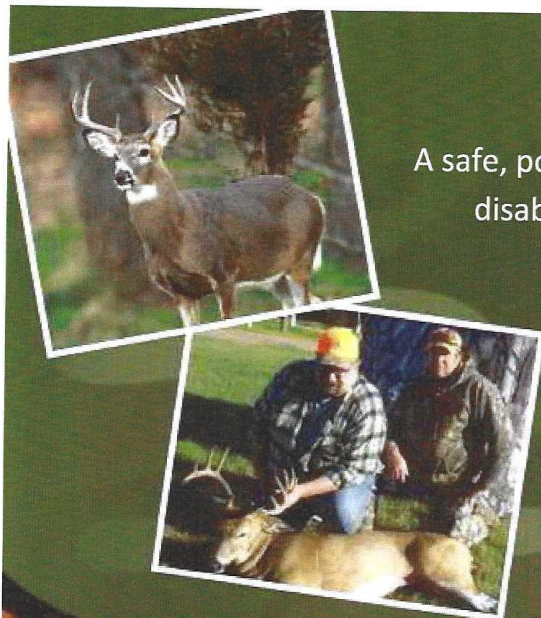


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VA: IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING YOUR VA ID CARD

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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