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Monthly Newsletter
August 2026

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



NEXT MEETING:
DAV Headquarters at

5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
Monday, August 17 at 6:30pm

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER:	Gene Schwantes - (218) 556-4592
SENIOR VICE:	Gary Guggenberger
JUNIOR VICE:	Andy Staudt
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 Aagard
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT OFFICER:	Henry Hammerback - (218) 556-9839
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault, Lila Teunissen, Rodney Olson

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

**August 2nd - Ralph
Gracie Post 14
Summer Picnic -
1100-1500 Hrs.**

**August 12th - 16th
- Beltrami County
Fair in Bemidji, MN**

**August 3rd -
DAV Executive
Committee meeting
@ 1630 Hrs.**

**August 17th -
DAV General
Membership
Meeting @ 1630
Hrs.**

**August 5th - 9th -
Clearwater County
Fair in Bagley, MN**

**September 7th -
Labor Day**

**August 7th - Purple
Heart Day**



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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Veterans,

First things first, if you haven't signed up for the ANNUAL DAV SUMMER PICNIC, "DO IT NOW" CONTACT GENE @ 218-556-4592, time is running out. We have a deadline for turning in our head count for ordering food, SO SIGN UP NOW.

Second thing, last night at the July Chapter meeting we had danish rolls provided by the DAV Tuesday Work Crew and next month at the August Meeting we will be having Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Cold Slaw, Chips, and Chocolate Chip Cookies provided by the DAV AUXILIARY. If you ever thought that you had no reason to come to DAV or DAV AUXILIARY MEETINGS in the past, that thought is now, "what is in the past". Come join us for free food and find out at the meetings what your Chapters are doing.

Remember that we have medical equipment for Veterans and their family members all at no charge. Henry is now in charge of the medical equipment, and he reports that equipment is going out and donations are coming in, which is keeping him and his helpers very busy. The Chapter is busy with year-end business, getting things lined up for the summer picnic, clothing program, and all the regular daily DAV business.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I hope you are enjoying your summer.

SEE YOU AT THE PICNIC,

Gene Schwantes

ATTENTION DAV AND AUXILIARY MEMBERS

At the next DAV meeting on August 17th the DAV Auxiliary will provide a meal starting at 6pm, of Pulled Pork sandwiches, chips, coleslaw and cookies for dessert.

MINNESOTA: DAV MN FALL CONFERENCE

September 17 - September 19

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THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 20 JULY 2026 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	Gary Guggenberger	Present
Junior Vice Commander	Andy Staudt	Present
Adjutant	Jeff Meyer	Present
Treasurer	Jeri Harvey	Present
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Excused
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: 18

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: NA

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

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

F. Communications:

1. DAV State (Gina) is seeking input for National conventions "Ask Me Anything" segment at the convention this year. Any Veteran related question can be asked. If you have questions to submit or desire more information, please see the adjutant or go directly to the website.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: 2 new members were recognized tonight, Josh Kojetin, Jeremy Jensen, welcome guys!
2. Service Officer:
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress:
 - a. Mike Weber (Iron Mike) is in Sanford hospital room 208 after his minor medical procedure, until his move to Bagley, visitors are welcome and we will post more information on his move when we know it.
4. Legislative: NA
5. Entertainment: Picnic August 22.

6. Publicity and Fundraising:

- a. The Blackduck Wood Carvers Festival will be held on 7/26/25 from 0900-1600 hrs., with Dave C. posting there for fund raising. If you are interested in assisting Dave, call the commander at 218 556-4592.
- b. The Lake George Blueberry Festival is going the same weekend but we are currently without anyone to fundraise there. If you are interested, please call the commander at 218 556-4592.
- c. Set up at Beltrami County Fair begins at 1100 sharp, and setup must be complete by 1200 on 8/12/2026. We can always use help setting up the fair which Tom will be able to attend this year. Tom could also use assistance fundraising at the fair. If you can help setup or want to assist Tom with fundraising call the commander at 218 566-4592.

7. Medical Equipment: 17 Issues and 18 donations for the month of June.

8. The Scholarship Committee reports that the 2025/2026 school year application is complete, and awardees have been selected. Scholarship funds will be sent to the respective institutions the last week of August.

H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.

I. Old Business:

1. Storm cleanup volunteers were awarded \$500 for help with fuel, maintenance, and meals during their three-day clean-up effort here.
2. Chapter 7 Picnic, August 22, begins at 1100, lunch at 1200, close by 1500, lots of door prizes.
3. Tom continues developing newsletter material and productivity.

J. New Business:

1. Veteran in need request from John CVSO in Mahanomen, for veteran needing help with paying for washing machine for total of \$887.78 but paid out \$809.78.

K. Good of the Order:

1. American Legion picnic Aug. 2d and will be held at Lazy Jacks bar and grill.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion by Andy and second by Dave. Motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at 1914.
- Next meeting 8/17/2025 @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/>

VA: FREUND V. COLLINS LAWSUIT

On April 15, 2026, the VA Office of General Counsel published notice pertaining to the Freund v. Collins lawsuit (Freund). That notice addressed how the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Veterans Court) has certified the Freund lawsuit as a class action and appointed class counsel to represent the certified class's interests. It also addressed how the Freund lawsuit's parties have filed a proposed classwide settlement agreement (proposed class settlement), which the Veterans Court will review to ensure that it is fair, reasonable and adequate.

Part of the Veterans Court's review will involve a hearing scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at 625 Indiana Ave. NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20004. At the hearing, the Veterans Court will consider whether the proposed class settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate.

The parties expect the Veterans Court to livestream the hearing and to post audio and video recordings at the Veterans Court's website. For more information in this regard, please see https://www.uscourts.cavc.gov/oral_arguments.php.

The Freund lawsuit pertains to VA benefits claimants whose timely substantive appeals have not been processed. For more information on the Freund lawsuit and the proposed class settlement, please see <https://news.va.gov/146172/notice-proposed-settlement-substantive-appeals/>.

NATIONAL: LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES FROM NATIONAL

THE LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES FROM DAV NATIONAL CAN BE FOUND AT
dav.org/learn-more/news/category/news/

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello (English), Boozhoo (Chippewa), Annyeonghaseyo (Korean), Shalom (Hebrew), Konnichiwa (Japanese), Mrhban (Arabic) all you fine, outstanding, honorable veterans and family members. This month we begin from our last article (July 2026) and directly move into Ephesians 3:14-21. This is Paul's prayer to God for the Ephesians at that time (61-62 AD) and us today (Eph 3:21). Paul writes about the Trinity (Father, Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit), having a part in their separate roles, to strengthen the inner being of each believer (Eph 3:16). This strengthening process has nothing to do with any effort on our part - philosophy, positive thinking, outstanding accomplishments, or doing good deeds for others; however, it only has to do with God's character, and the grace He has given us. Paul is describing the Father's glory (vs. 16, 21), the Holy Spirit's power (vs. 16) and Christ's love (vs. 17-19) all working together, so let's take a look at each one of these. God is living in each believer, therefore wanting to show us and the world all of His goodness: though fallible and evil as we are - it seems so scandalous.

Father's glory (vs. 16, 21):

Whenever we hear the word "glory" throughout our daily lives, we often have a negative view. Glory seems to mean something we can add to ourselves that we did not have before, such as fame, or a person who puts themselves on a pedestal, or needs to be the center of attention, yet how can we reconcile this view with God's love? We can resolve this by understanding God's glory has nothing to do with anything negative, or anything he needs. God's glory is simply responding to him for his goodness, kindness, creativity, endurance and love, these are traits of his character and traits he wants his people to have and show throughout the world.

Holy Spirit's power (vs. 16):

Whenever we think of the word power, we seem to always revert to words like force, political and military might, or physical strength. However, the meaning Paul gives is quite different. Again, we need to reconcile our perception of power with God's love. It can be said the power of the Holy Spirit is a power for the wellbeing of everyone. God's power is benevolent and fiercely committed to good. The intended purpose of the Holy Spirit's power is to draw (not push) a person towards Christ and to show everything God has done to get us out of the mess we all have in our lives.

Christ's love (vs. 17-19):

We all have notions of love and often times it consists of affection, desire, and a solution to all of the world's problems. Yet Paul is describing a totally different kind of love. In order to understand this love, Paul is praying for God's power to help reveal this different kind of love towards us. Christ's love is both sacrificial, holy and can best be seen on the cross. Holiness is often viewed as God's perfect moral character, yet there is so much more. God's holiness separates God into a class of his very own and this is completely different from us and his creation. Essentially God is unknowable but wants us to know him and his love for us. Christ, to be fully God, fully man, a mystery and is in fact God reaching out to us in order to bring us back to him. Many people see God of the Old Testament as vengeful, destructive and always angry, yet this is not a part of God's character as some people would think, but it is God response in dealing with sin. Christ on the cross is the ultimate response to our sin, through love, all the while taking upon himself the punishment we deserve, this is love.

Blessings to you.

Mike and Linda



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NORTH CENTRAL MN DAV AUXILIARY #7: JULY MEETING MINUTES

Unit Minutes - 07/20/2026; 6:28 pm • DAV Building • 15th St, Bemidji MN, 56601

In Attendance: Sara Gast Commander, Marie Lamon Sr Vice Commander, Julie Gutz Jr. Vice Commander, Haley Reynolds Chaplain, Mya Eichstadt, Treasurer, Heather Eichstadt Adjutant, Deb Prodoehl State Commander, Linda Engesether Senior Member.

CALL TO ORDER: Commander: Present
Prayer by: Linda Engesether Sr. Vice Commander: Present
Pledge by: Sara Gast Jr Vice Commander: Present
Purpose given by: Marie Lamon Treasurer: Present
Eligibility given by: Julie Gutz Chaplain: Present
Roll call of officers by: Heather Eichstadt Adjutant: Present

Quorum Met: 5 Officers, 3 Sr Member.: Total 8;

Order of Business:

Transfers: None
Visitors: Deb Prodoehl State Commander
New members initiated: None

Minutes read by: Heather Eichstadt, for June minutes.

- Marie Lamon made a motion, Linda Engesether second the motion with all approved.

Treasurer's report given by: Mya Eichstadt

Bills and Communications:

Communication - switching of banks from Deerwood to First National Bank of Bemidji.

- Authorized signers for the account will be Sara Gast Commander, Marie Lamon Sr. Vice Commander, Mya Eichstadt Treasurer, Two signatures will be required for withdrawals.

National Convention in Orlando Florida Aug 1-Aug 4th
Summer Picnic Aug 22nd 2026 - 11am-3pm at the DAV Building
National Fall Conference - Indiana Sept 24-26

Bills - Prior approved the draw string bags for the VA Hospital/
Clinic Children's activity bags - \$61.99 - request made for reimbursement to Sara Gast. Linda Engesether made a motion, Haley Reynolds seconded motion. All approved with the same sign.

Sickness and Distress: Tom continues to heal and doing well; Marie's sister-in-law and her cancer fight, she is positive in her

wellbeing, Marie is very concerned for her; Julie's health concerns and needs at home for assistance. Diana and Paul for their health and wellbeing. Linda and her health. Jim Lowmaster and his cancer fight and Judy with strength and caring for him.

Report of Committees:

Membership: None at this time

Americanism: Marie shared about the 4th of July parade and Tom with his brother-in-law, riding with the color guard and flags flying on his chair as he celebrated the 4th of July holiday and the 250th Birthday of the United States. Marie and Tom did fundraising for the DAV newsletter in the community. Some wanted to reinstate their membership and others wanted to help the cause and donate. It costs about \$900 a month to distribute the newsletter. More donations would be greatly appreciated to help support the newsletter and communication to our veterans. Thank you to those who have already donated.

Community Service: Linda visits with her veteran weekly with rolls and coffee and a veteran couple with friendly communication and other assisted needs. Marie helping and traveling with Tom.

Legislation: Continue to visit the legislation website, Flyer provided with QR code.

Junior Activities: Continues to help to mow lawns, and have started on the Christmas cards for the VA home in Bemidji.

YAVS: Will be planning to discuss purchases for donations for the Veterans hospital..

Ways and Means: Receives donation twice a year from the DAV.

Other Committee reports: None

Unfinished Business:

Marie Lamon will look into the needs for 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 2026-2027. Linda found out at convention for further information - The items need to be physical items purchased. Linda Engesether made the motion for a \$500 item donation that Marie will go buy and be reimbursed. Haley Reynolds seconded the motion.

Pillow cases for the Bemidji Veterans Home - have 15, need 21 more. Will plan to push forward to 2026 donation - Linda Engesether to donate material and to purchase for the pillow cases - will discuss in July about a sewing party. Looking at plan at our meeting in August for the sewing date in October. Thought of other homes in

the area to give to Veterans as well.

Bemidji DAV #7 Standing Rules - will go over for the July meeting and work on a budget - need to update the paragraph added, executive to get together and discuss - Heather to type up Standing rules for the August meeting

Ideas for a meal at the meeting for August - Pulled Pork sandwiches, chips, cole slaw and cookie. Budget for \$300. Linda Engesether made motion and Mya Eichstadt seconded motion.

Look further into info regarding the \$1500 donation from DAV MN Executive Committee - For filling of the bags and what other the \$1500 will go for.

August 12-16 Beltrami County Fair who can help with the DAV booth - reach out to Tommy. 218-251-3025 to volunteer.

Donation needs for the Bemidji Veteran Home
Plans to put the 4th of July on the agenda for the Parade for activities for next year

NEW BUSINESS:

Laptops for Adjutant and Treasurer and Printer for paperwork. Heather Eichstadt and Mya Eichstadt to complete research and pricing for final approval. The \$1500 funds from the DAV State Executive Committee was delegated for the use of the laptops. Linda Engesether made a motion and Julie Gutz seconded the motion, all in favor of the same sign approved.
Next meeting is August 17th

Money March: No information at this time.

Remarks for the good of the organization: Thank you to all the Veterans for your service. Thank you to the Auxiliary members and thank you Deb Prodoehl our State Commander for visiting and coming to the meeting. Thank you everyone for your help and assistance and for coming to the meeting and supporting the organization, the Veterans and their families.

Deb shared from the State Adjutant that our unit does an excellent job with communication and current on all required paperwork.

Closing Ceremony Completed

Meeting Adjournment at 7:28PM

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Heather Eichstadt Adjutant

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Aug. 4 – Coast Guard Birthday
- Aug. 7 – Purple Heart Day – A time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice.
- Aug. 29 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday



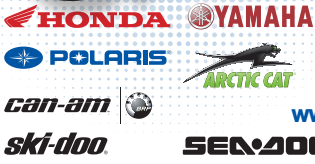
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