



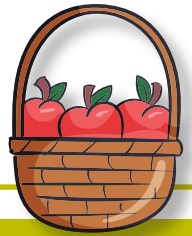
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Monthly Newsletter
September 2026

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



NEXT MEETING:
DAV Headquarters at
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
Monday, September 21 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

**Sept 7th - Labor
Day**

**Sept 11th - Patriot
Day**

**Sept 11th -- 13th -
Rosh Hashana**

**Sept 17th -
Constitution Day
& Citizenship Day**

**Sept 21st -
DAV General
Membership
Meeting @ 1830
Hrs.**

**Sept 21st - Yom
Kippur**

**Sept 22nd -
National Voter
Registration Day**

**Sept 23rd -
Autumnal Equinox
(Fall begins)**



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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Veterans

I hope everybody has enjoyed their summer, because fall is here and the hot temps are in the past. This past summer seems to have flown by so fast; it's like where did it go and what did I get done.

We had a very lively Chapter meeting in August, approved assistance for several Veterans in need, and DAV is again sponsoring bingo at the Bemidji VA Home put on by the IN COUNTRY VIETNAM MOTORCYCLE CLUB. A big THANK YOU to the DAV AUXILERY for providing a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, chips, and cookie meal for all in attendance, IT WAS GREAT. If you missed the meeting, you not only missed the lively discussion, but also a great meal. So, plan on attending the September 21 meeting; you never know what will happen.

The clothing program is going great, shipping a semi every 2 - 3 weeks, medical equipment is busy moving equipment in and out of the warehouse, helping Veterans as needed. By the time you read this, the DAV Annual Summer Picnic is over with and if you missed it, it is only because you didn't sign up and/or show up. The Chapter is doing great things and all you have to do, "is show up to participate", don't keep missing out, come join us.

As always, if you have any issues or concerns, please give me a call @ 218-556-4592.

Best wishes to all,
Gene

THANK YOU

The Chapter members want to extend their appreciation to our Auxiliary Unit for providing the meal prior to our August meeting. The pulled pork on a bun, coleslaw, watermelon, and chocolate chip cookies was delicious. THANK YOU!!

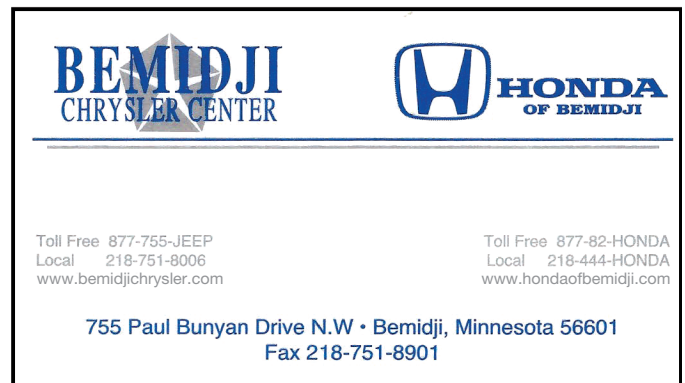
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THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 17 AUGUST 2026 AT 1830.

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	Present
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: 19

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: NA

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

1. Motion to accept minutes as amended, made by Andy, and 2d by Tom, the motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report:

1. The July treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Jeri, the motion to accept the report was made by Darrel, and the 2d by Tom, and the motion was carried.

F. Communications:

1. Headwaters Quilting Guild is seeking donations for their 2026 presentation of Quilts of Valor in the fall.
2. Joyce Plinke made a donation to the chapter of \$10.00.
3. National sent us notice of the Veterans Information Seminar which will be held on August 29th from 10-noon at the American Legion in Park Rapids. See adjutant for additional information.
4. We received a \$600.00 donation in memory of Larry Siverson from his wife.
5. Marshall Johnston sent us a donation of \$100.00 and will be receiving a thank you letter.
6. DAV State has sent us an opportunity to participate in the United States Tribute Experience. Please see the adjutant for more information or you have an interest in putting together a tribute tag.
7. Northwest MN Foundation sent us an invitation to their annual celebration and recognition dinner held on September 30th. 4PM is social hour with dinner and program starting at 5PM at the Sanford Center in Bemidji.
8. Veterans Campground has sent us a request for additional donations.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: 0
2. Service Officer: Beltrami County VSO attended the county fair and worked with several Veterans.
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: 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: Chapter 7, Summer picnic August 22, all door prizes are purchased, all food is ordered and looking for assistance with setup and cleanup.
6. Publicity and Fundraising: Tom reports donations of \$1,057 dollars total for the Woodcarvers and the Beltrami Co fair donations.

7. Medical Equipment: 20 Issues and 40 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 in the last week of August. Consolidated List has been sent to Treasurer.

H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.

I. Old Business:

1. Donations of \$1,057 dollars total from the Woodcarvers and the Beltrami Co fair donations.

J. New Business:

1. 2026 Chapter 7 propane prebuy from Bemidji propane at a cost of \$1.75 per gallon, Dean made a motion to purchase 400 gallons, Dave C made the 2d, and the motion carried
2. Veteran in Need: Requested by Luke for Veteran needing a security deposit with Polk Elec. in the amount of \$300.00. Approved and paid by Commander.
3. Veteran in Need: Bemidji Veterans Home is requesting help paying for a caregiver to accompany one of the resident Veterans already scheduled for the November Honor Flight. The Veterans care team agree that the Veteran could handle the trip but with the assistance of an accompanying caregiver. After a lengthy discussion Andy made the motion to pay the \$2,000 for the caregiver to accompany the Veteran, Dave C. made the 2d and the motion carried.
4. Veteran in Need: Request from Darren, Veteran needing help with purchase of 400 gallons of propane. Veteran also needs assistance with his Electric in the amount \$516.50 total. Dave C. made the motion to pay \$1300, and Jack made the 2d for the purchase of 400 gallons of propane and the electric bill.
5. Veteran in Need: Request made by Darren Beltrami Co VSO and requesting assistance with buying brake pads, needs a quote for the actual service. Veteran has received help in excess of \$1,500.00 dollars in the past. Total cost according to Skips is \$1,252.11. Jack made the motion to pay up to \$1,300.00 and Roger made the 2d and the motion carried.
6. Request for funds for American Legion Riders for Fund 84 made by Dave C. Commander made the decision to table the conversation until Dave and Jeri can research more.
7. Andy made the motion to donate \$2,000.00 for the Bingo fund at Bemidji Veterans Home, Gary made the 2d and the motion carried.
8. Headwaters Quilting Guild requested donations for their Quilts of Valor program, Andy made the motion to donate \$1,500.00 dollars, Tom made the 2d, motion carried.
9. Mike Larson from Chap 41 is requesting assistance with fuel for bringing down a trailer full of clothes. Motion was made by Mike G. and 2d by Andy, to leave it in the commander's discretion and the Sr. Vice discretion to reimburse for his fuel.
10. Approved Fall Conference attendees are Jeri H. Gary G. And Dave C.
11. In Country Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club has requested \$2,000 for prizes that can be handed out at their Bingo games which they host at the Bemidji Veterans Home. Andy made the motion to pay the \$2,000, Randy made the 2d, and the motion carried.

K. Good of the Order:

1. Park Rapids is organizing a bus for the Grand Opening of the Camp Ripley Museum on 9/12/2026.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion by Andy and second by Dave. Motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at
- Next meeting 9/21/2025 @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-section/category/outdoor-events/>

MN: MINNESOTA MILITARY & VETERANS MUSEUM ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING WEEKEND

LITTLE FALLS, Minn. — The Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum will officially open its new 40,000-square-foot facility during a three-day Grand Opening Weekend, September 11–13, 2026.

The celebration will feature statewide commemorations marking the 25th anniversary of September 11; remarks by retired U.S. Army Gen. Paul M. Nakasone; veteran-guided land, sea and air experiences; narrated historic warbird flyovers; family activities; historical reenactors; concerts; military vehicles; and programs honoring veterans from every generation of service.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It is an interesting note to all our world and stateside former armed forces travelers and family members that because of the 23.5 degree earth tilt to its orbital plane around the sun, and the Astronomical Autumn Equinox, whereas the sun will be position over the celestial equator at 0005 hours, 23 September 2026, Coordinated Universal Time, Greenwich Mean Time (UTC/GMT) the trees will be experiencing their annual Minnesota transformation. Translation - fall season is coming, temperatures are dropping and all we veterans with our families can start getting ready for a wonderful, beautiful, exquisite display of nature. YEAH!

Speaking about translations, let's have a different discussion this month about Ephesians and look at a common misconception being suggested by some people in their sermons on television. This misconception, or shall we say misinterpretation, is literally astounding, especially when a person studies the original context, intent, message, meaning, connotation, and application regarding Psalm 82. We want to include the conversation the Jewish Leaders had with Jesus Christ when they wanted to stone Him in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication, while it was a cold winter day (John 10:22-42). The question at this point becomes - so ... what's going on? The answer can be found in the first part of Psalm 82. The Jewish Leaders of The Covenant, upon receiving and applying God's word, had the awesome responsibility to carefully represent God on earth; were in fact, being called "gods" by God Himself! Jesus even confirmed this was the true meaning of Psalm 82 because he stated, "Scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Jesus was quoting Psalm 82 as a semantic defense against the Jewish Leaders of His day who was accusing Him of blasphemy. It is interesting to note that things were not going very well for either the audience of Father God in Psalm 82, or the audience of Son Jesus Christ in John 10:22-42. There is an interesting correlation between this and how Satan was tempting Adam and Eve, created in God's image (God's representatives) here on earth, to be like God (Genesis 3).

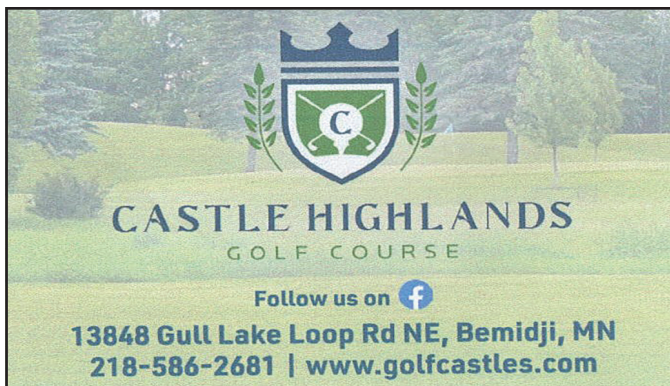
The other consideration is when God first referred to Jewish Leaders of The Covenant as "gods?" The answer to this question is found prior to Psalm 82, which can be found in Exodus 4:16 - 17 applying to Moses (Exodus 3:1-4:31, full context). There are two other instances, Exodus 21:6 and 22:7-9, although the original Hebrew word for God (Elohim) in these last two sets of scriptures are oftentimes translated "judges" in the Living Bible, New International Version, and King James Bible, emphasizing the human representation of God by the Jewish Leaders of The Covenant here on earth; while the New Revised Standard Bible, translates it as God. Now, back to the television personnel, their sermons and the manner they are misrepresenting the word "gods" to their audiences.

When these people refer to their audiences as "gods" it often carries the connotation, context, meaning, misunderstanding of a privilege social status, power over nature / events, self-ability to heal (in the name of Jesus - Matthew 7:21-23), entitlement to gain wealth, Father God requiring permission from these television personnel to do things here on earth, as well as other nefarious beliefs. Keeping in mind this title "gods" does not apply to their audiences because it clearly refers to the Jewish Leaders of the Covenant. All of this misrepresents God's character (Galatians 5:22) and His original audience (to include Jesus' audience), this title does not apply to us. If anyone would like us to visit or chat with you, please give us a call.

Blessings to all of you.
Mike and Linda.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE VA

news.va.gov/news/



NORTH CENTRAL MN DAV AUXILIARY #7: AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

DAV Building, 15th St, Bemidji MN, 56601

- A. In Attendance: Sara Gast Commander, Marie Lamon Sr Vice Commander, Julie Gutz Jr. Vice Commander, Mya Eichstadt Treasurer, Heather Eichstadt Adjutant, Linda Engesether Senior Member, Gloria Schwantes Senior Member
- B. CALL TO ORDER:
- C. Prayer by: Linda Engesether
- D. Pledge by: Sara Gast
- E. Purpose given by: Marie Lamon
- F. Eligibility given by: Julie Gutz
- G. Roll call of officers by: Heather Eichstadt
- Commander: Present
 - Sr. Vice Commander: Present
 - Jr Vice Commander: Present
 - Treasurer: Present
 - Chaplain: Absent
 - Adjutant: Present
- H. Quorum Met: 4 Officers, 3 Sr Member.: Total 7;
- I. Order of Business:
- Transfers: None
 - Visitors: Deb Prodoehl, State Commander
 - New members initiated: None
 - Minutes read by: Heather Eichstadt, for June minutes. Mya Eichstadt made a motion, Linda Engesether second the motion with all approved.
 - Treasurer's report given by: Mya Eichstadt
- J. Communication:
- Mya sent communication to the state regarding the bank changes switching from Deervood 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.
 - Summer Picnic Aug 22nd, 2026 - 11am-3pm at the DAV Building.
 - State Fall Conference - St. Cloud, Sept 17-19
 - National Fall Conference - Indiana, Sept 24-26
- K. Bills:
- \$197.30 reimbursement for food provided for veteran's meal - amount was approved at the last meeting.

- Sara requested reimbursement for gifts for state commanders - \$49.94 Prior approved.
 - The draw string bags for the VA Hospital/Clinic Children's activity bags - \$61.99 - Linda Engesether made a motion, Gloria Schwantes seconded motion. All approved with the same sign
- L. Sickness and Distress:
- Tom continues to heal and doing well every day.
 - Marie's sister-in-law and her cancer fight, she is positive in her wellbeing, Marie continues to be very concerned for Julie's health and needs at home for assistance.
 - Linda and her health.
 - Jim Lowmaster and his cancer fight and Judy with strength and caring for him.
- M. Report of Committees:
- Membership: None at this time.
 - Discussion regarding new members and talking to community members and sponsorships. Currently the entire membership needs to go in for \$100 reimbursement from the state.
 - Americanism:
 - Continue to look at the site and how you can assist.
 - 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.
 - Spouses supporting their veterans.
 - Legislation:
 - Continue to visit the legislation website, Flyer provided with QR code.
 - Junior Activities:
 - Continues to help to mow lawns, digging potatoes and chores and have started on the Christmas cards for the VA home in Bemidji.
 - VAWS: No new items at this time.
 - Ways and Means: None at this time.
 - Other Committee reports: None
- N. Unfinished Business:
- Set date for October sewing party for making pillowcases and packing backpacks for the VAVS. October 10th 9am-12pm

- Bemidji DAV #7 Standing Rules - need to update the paragraph added, executive to get together and discuss - Heather to type up Standing rules for the September meeting
 - 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 were 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. Update for computer needs will be brought forward at the Sept 21st meeting.
 - Fisher house donations of \$500 to be completed by Marie - will work towards September or October to deliver items.
- O. New Business:
- Sponsorship for Membership - DAVA would pay for membership fee of \$300 for 5 new members with \$100 reimbursement equaling \$200 per person for a total amount by the DAVA of \$1000 for 5 new members. Linda Engesether made a motion, Julia Gutz second the motion with all the same sign approved.
 - Conference is Sept 17-19 Linda brought forward about baskets Geri Harvey will deliver to convention if needed. \$150 for each basket, one for a male and one for a female for a total of \$300. Linda Engesether made a motion, Gloria Schwantes seconded motion with all approved the same sign.
 - Do we want to do a meal for September or October? Gloria will plan to do Chili for the October meeting. Will discuss further in September.
 - Mya brought Audit forward for signatures.
- P. Next meeting is September 21st, 2026
- Q. Money March: No information at this time.
- R. Remarks for the good of the organization:
- Thank you to all the Veterans for your service.
 - Thank you to Eric Eichstadt for making the pulled pork meal.
 - Thank you everyone for your help and assistance and for coming to the meeting and supporting the organization, the Veterans and their families.
- S. Closing Ceremony Completed.
- h. Meeting Adjournment at 7:21PM
- Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Heather Eichstadt, Adjutant

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- National Suicide Prevention Month
- National Service Dog Month
- Sept 2nd - V- J Day (victory over Japan)
- Sept 18th - US Air Force & Air National Guard Birthdays
- Sept 18th - POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Sept 27th - Gold Star Mother's Day
- Sept 29th - VFW Day



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