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Monthly Newsletter
October 2026

North Central MN Chapter #7
PO Box 564
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NEXT MEETING:
DAV Headquarters at
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
Monday, October 19 at 6:30pm

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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

Oct 2nd -- Sukkot Ends	Nov 26th -- Thanksgiving
Oct 2nd - 4th -- Shemini Atzeret	Nov 29th - Advent Begins
Oct 5th - DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.	Dec 4th- 12th - Hanukkah
Oct 12th - Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day	Dec 6th - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Oct 19th - DAV Chapter 7 General Membership Meeting @ 1830 Hrs.	Dec 7th - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Oct 31st - Halloween	Dec 7th -- DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.
Oct 31st - Reformation Day	Dec 13th - 3rd Sunday of Advent
Nov 1st - Daylight Savings Time Ends	Dec 20th - 4th Sunday of Advent
Nov 2nd - DAV Chapter 7 Executive Committee Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.	Dec 21st - DAV Chapter 7 Christmas Party at the Eagle's Club @ 1700 Hrs.
Nov 3rd - Election Day	Dec 21st - Winter Solstice
Nov 11th - Veterans Day	Dec 24th - Christmas Eve
Nov 16th - DAV Chapter 7 General Membership Meeting @ 1830 Hrs.	Dec 25th - Christmas Day
	Dec 31st - New Years Eve



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Veterans,

Well, fall is here and in full swing, heading to winter. If you are like me, you are now scrambling to get everything done in preparation for winter. Never fear, if you get everything done or not, winter will still come.

Now that we know winter is actually coming (please read above paragraph), it is time to mark your calendar and get signed up for the annual DAV CHRISTMAS PARTY TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 21ST at the Eagles. A good time to be had by all, (better for those that win a DOOR PRIZE).

BSU Hockey is again having Honoring Veterans night, with free tickets to a men's hockey game on Dec. 11 and women's hockey game on Feb. 12, also with free tickets, plan on attending, so get signed up. Also, BSU Hockey teams plan on coming to DAV on Tus. Nov. 3rd to help unload DAV trailers and load the semi.

At the September membership meeting, the Chapter approved finishing the rest of our bins by sandblasting, repairing, and painting. So, some of our bins will be shifting around while this is being done.

Remember that elections for officers are not that far away, so get your name in the hat; all positions are available every year. Speak up, get involved in guiding the greatest CHAPTER IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA. (I heard rumors that's it's time to get a new COMMANDER)

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to give me a call @ 218-556-4592.

Respectively yours,
Gene

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THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 21 SEPTEMBER 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	Excused
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: 17

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: NA

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: Last meeting minutes read by Tom A., motion to accept minutes as read made by Andy, the 2d by Mike, the motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report: The August treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Jeri, the motion to accept the report was made by Tom A., and the 2d by Dave C., and the motion carried.

F. Communications:

1. Doug E. was able to report on the golf tournament he participated in, which appears to be a rousing success for both the golfers and the DAV itself.
2. Middle River Veterans Outdoors sent a thank you to Andrew and Steven thanking them for their participation in the recent goose/fishing day at Lake of the Woods. They are also requesting a donation from Chapter 7 for the purchase of new batteries for their track chair. Tom made the motion to approve the \$800.00 request; Dave C. made the second and the motion carried.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: 4 new members were reported by Sr. Vice Gary G., welcome guys!
2. Service Officer:
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Mike G. gave a short report on chapter members sickness and distress; Iron Mike is now in Rochester for the next 6 mos.
4. Legislative: NA
5. Entertainment: Christmas Party will be on Dec. 21st (3d Monday of Dec.) at the Eagles Club. Social Hour will begin at 1700 hours (5PM) with the dinner and program beginning at 1800 hours (6PM) and concluded with a very hefty door prize give away. Signup sheet will be posted or contact either the adjutant or commander to get signed up.
6. Publicity and Fundraising: Tom had intended to attend the annual gun show held at the Armory, however was un able to make it this year.
7. Medical Equipment: Henry H. reported 25 Issues and 40 donations for the month of August.
8. The Scholarship Committee reports that the 2026/2027 school year application is complete, and awardees have been selected. Scholarship funds have been sent out.

H. Executive Committee Action Items: None.

I. Old Business:

1. Previously approved propane pre-buy was reduced from 400-350 gallons. The tank had only 18% in it and it was fiscally more advantages to fill it completely now, rather than wait for the pre-buy season.

J. New Business:

1. Request from the Commander to increase door prize monies for FY2027, \$1000.00 to \$1,500.00 for the summer picnic, and \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 for the Christmas party. Membership voted unanimously to approve the proposed increases.
2. BSU Hockey team will help load trailers on 11/3/2026 in appreciation for and to help support Bemidji Veterans. Local news will be in attendance, and then there will be a DAV appreciation night on 12/11/2026 (Men's Hockey) and 2/12/2027 (Women's Hockey).
3. Park Rapids (Chap 38) invited us to share the cost of a bus to the State fairgrounds for the new United in Service reception on Thursday Oct. 15th 2026. There were none in attendance with an interest in attending, and the cost of the bus will not be shared.
4. Veteran in Need: Requested by John in Mahanomen, Veteran needing help with truck repairs in the amount of \$1,000, which was approved and paid for by the Exec Committee.
5. Veteran in Need: Request from Luke in Bemidji, Veteran needing help paying for his roof replacement. The Veteran has already received \$15,000.00 from MDVA leaving a balance of \$2,600.00 (total cost of \$17,600.00). The executive committee recommended approval and is being presented to the general membership for final approval. Dave C. made the motion to pay the \$2,600.00 balance, Jack made the 2d, and the motion was approved.
6. Veteran in Need: Request from Darren in Bemidji, Veteran needing help paying for brake repairs on his vehicle in the amount of \$859.83. Tom A made the motion to pay the repair bill in its entirety, Jack made the 2d and the motion carried.
7. Veteran in Need: Request from John in Mahanomen, Veteran needing help with paying for vehicle repairs in the amount of \$2,858.74 and help with the purchase of propane in the amount of \$361.00 for a total of \$3,219.74. Dave made the motion to pay up to \$3,300.00 Andy made the 2d and the motion carried.
8. Veteran in Need: Requested by Darren, Veteran needing help paying for vehicle repair of transmission, in the amount of \$1,726.61. This Veteran has previous assistance in the amount of \$2,730.95, and with the current request he would far exceed the chapters lifetime maximum assistance. With additional information and discussion, Andy made the motion to deny the request, Jack made the second and the request was formally denied.
9. Veteran in Need: Request from Shane in Bemidji, Veteran needing help paying for electric and propane (with past due penalties) in the amount of \$976.00. Gary G. made the motion to pay the utilities; Dave C. made the 2d and the motion carried.
10. Darrel B. made a request for \$15,000.00 to finish repairing and restoring the clothing bins for our clothing program. Tom A. made the 2d and the motion carried.

K. Good of the Order: NA

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Mike and second by Andy. Motion carried.

- The meeting adjourned at 2000.
- Next meeting 10/19/2026 @1830.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE VA

news.va.gov/news/

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/>

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings to all you Chapter #7, and Auxiliary Unit #7, members, hope all is well. This month we are looking at Ephesians 4:1-16. *Specifically we will be looking at the church as a group of believers who are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, who are continually maturing, but through Christ has already completed God's mission on earth for now* (Exodus 19:5-6, I Peter 2:9, Matthew 16:13-20). Yes, this is amazing, going back to our articles about God's mystery, purpose, values and character (June, July, August and September 2026), God's mission has *already* been completed through Christ's crucifixion - a formation of believers, born again (John 3) and created in God's image (Genesis 1:26, 2 Corinthians 5:17) - the church. Just as Jesus said on the cross "It is finished" (John 19:30). Yet at the same time, the church currently continues to mature in all its' diversity (I Corinthians 12) and unity (Ephesians 4:3-6) of individuals, because we have *not yet* reached the end of time (Revelation 6:9-11). This maturity is characterized by humility, gentleness and love (Ephesians 4:2, C/F Galatians 5:22-26) and is not accomplished by self-actualization, philosophy or any religious institutions.

We cannot reach maturity just by ourselves or adopting some kind of philosophy. Such examples are; "the good of the one outweighs the good of the many", or "the good of the many outweighs the good of the one". The first expression can be seen in Eastern Worldviews and Greek philosophy, while the second expression is found in the post modernism worldview and considered an axiom in logic often taught in universities. An explanation of these worldviews is beyond the scope of this article, but sufficient to say, the Christian worldview is not based on religion (rules & regulations) and is found in the existence, mystery and purpose of God (Father, Son & Holy Spirit). As believers we cannot mature in Christ by adopting any of these ideas - self-actualization, philosophies or anything that first begins with human existence (Human Manifesto - worldview based on human reason, science, and ethics without God) regardless of people's persuasive and different opinions. This includes religious institutions; often time's church is thought of as an institution, which has nothing to do with being a believer. A believer can be a member of an institution, but God's mystery and purpose through Christ works through the believer or small groups of believers and not the institution itself.

It's true we have seen the wonderful reality believers have in Christ, yet we know quite a few scandals occur as a result of our fallen human nature. Many believers have been seriously disappointed in different ways; expectations not met, criminal activity, deception through cults etc; these are the same events that happen to Israel throughout their history. As believers we want to individually keep our focus on Christ, while continuing to cherish our relationship with God, therefore doing the good works God wants us to do. It's hard not to be sidetracked by all the obstacles that surround us (scandals), a point made abundantly clear by Apostle Paul (Romans Chapters 7 and 8). This same principle can be seen in military history - Operation Overlord, June 6, 1944. On D-Day is when individual paratroopers were scattered all over the place for a variety of different reasons. As individuals and in small ad hoc groups they continued to complete the mission; cutting phone lines, surprising German soldiers, appearing all over the place where least expected, ambushing German couriers, attacking artillery sites, seizing bridges, all the while creating so much chaos the German Command did not know what was happening. Paul makes a direct comparison and contrast of a single believer with an individual Roman soldier (1944 Paratrooper?). Take Care

Blessings,
Mike/Linda



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NORTH CENTRAL MN DAV AUXILIARY #7: SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Unit Minutes - 09/21/2026; 6:33 pm
 DAV Building - 15th St, Bemidji MN, 56601
 In Attendance: Sara Gast Commander, Marie Lamon Sr Vice Commander, Mya Eichstadt Treasurer, Heather Eichstadt Adjutant, Linda Engesether Senior Member, Diana Jones Senior Member
 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: Present
 • Sr. Vice Commander: Present
 • Jr Vice Commander: Absent
 • Treasurer: Present
 • Chaplain: Absent
 • Adjutant: Present
 Quorum Met: 3 Officers, 3 Sr Member.: Total 6;
 Order of Business:
 • Transfers: None
 • Visitors: None at this time
 • New members initiated: None
 • Minutes read by: Heather Eichstadt, for August minutes. Mya Eichstadt made a motion, Linda Engesether second the motion with all approved.
 Treasurer's report given by: Mya Eichstadt
 Bills and Communications:
 • Communication -
 • Thank you from VAVS for donations of clothing and personal items.
 • Deposit \$5000 for DAV for Semi Annual donation.
 • National Fall Conference - Indiana Sept 24-26
 • Bills: Baskets \$162.21 women's, Football Theme for men \$138.02 = \$300.23
 Sickness and Distress:
 • Paul Jones has finished his radiation and will be finishing chemo and will be in remission.
 • Judy Vancamp has back problems and broke the rod in her back she has to have surgery. Judy is very thankful for the bed the DAV is letting her use.

• Tom continues to heal and doing well every day.
 • Marie's sister-in-law and her cancer fight and chemo shots, she is positive in her wellbeing and out helping others she is a blessing.
 • Julie's health concerns and needs at home for assistance.
 • Linda and her health.
 • Jim Lowmaster and his cancer fight and Judy with strength and caring for him.
 Report of Committees:
 • Membership: 4 new members - 2 over 80 and 2 under 80 - that the DAVA will cover their cost of membership.
 • Americanism: Continue to look at the site and how you can assist.
 • Community Service:
 • Linda helps with transportation of the veteran she visits; she tries to help where she can and a veteran couple with friendly communication and other assisted needs. Marie helping and traveling with Tom. Spouses supporting their veterans.
 • Members helping at the picnic in August.
 • Marie giving goldfish in the pond at Neilson place
 • Marie helped Tom with the newsletter.
 • Legislation: Vote early. Continue to visit the legislation website.
 • Junior Activities: Continues to help to mow lawns, help in church, and household chores and have started on the Christmas cards for the VA home in Bemidji.
 • VAVS: No new items at this time.
 • Ways and Means: \$5000 check from the DAV.
 • Other Committee reports: None
 Unfinished Business:
 • Set date for October sewing party for making of the pillow cases and making 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 October meeting.
 • Laptops for Adjutant and Treasurer and printer for paperwork. Heather Eichstadt completed research for

the laptops and printers. The \$1500 funds from the DAV State Executive Committee was delegated for the use of the laptops. Total cost is \$1838.97 for 2 laptops and a printer was given for shipment and delivery. The DAVA will cover the extra amount of \$338.97 to cover the laptops and printer total cost with the donated \$1500. Linda Engesether made a motion, Marie Lamon second, all approved the same sign.
 • Fisher house donations of \$500 to be completed by Marie - will work on in October to deliver items.
 New Business
 • Christmas donations for the 6 Veteran homes in our region. Motion made for \$500 for the 5 Veterans homes in the region and \$1000 for the Bemidji Veterans home. Heather will contact the Bemidji Veterans Home to discuss items that are needed. Mya made motion for the donations, Diana Jones seconded the motion, all approved with the same sign.
 • Gloria will plan to do Chill for the October meeting. We will touch base with her that she is still able to do that or we will take care of the meal.
 • The November meeting will have Pizzas for the DAV meeting. Linda Engesether made a motion, Heather Eichstadt seconded the motion, All approved same sign.
 • We will all bring snacks for the Oct 10th sewing party.
 • December party planning, bring ideas to the October meeting for decorations.
 • Next meeting is October 19th
 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 DAV for letting Heather use a wheelchair for her mother-in-law for her daughter's wedding.
 • Thank you everyone for your help and assistance and for coming to the meeting and supporting the organization, the Veterans and their families.
 Closing Ceremony Completed
 ➤ Meeting Adjournment at 7:45PM
 Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Heather Eichstadt Adjutant

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- October 13- US Navy Birthday
- October 26- National Day of the Deployed
- October 27- Navy Day

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