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Monthly Newsletter
November 2026

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



NEXT MEETING:
DAV Headquarters at
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
Monday, November 16 at 6:30pm







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

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

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Veterans,

October 20th, the sun is shining, in the 60's for the rest of this week, and in the 50's and upper 40's for next week. The time is noon and I am sitting in the house typing this letter, if I don't get all of my outside stuff done, I now have a good reason! You couldn't ask for better weather for this late in the season, I hope everybody was able to take advantage of it.

We had another successful Chapter meeting last night; the DAV Auxiliary provided chili and cupcakes. Next month they will be serving pizza for all in attendance, **A BIG THANK YOU TO THE AXUILIARY**. (By the way if you haven't been attending the meetings because you don't know when they are held, IT IS ON THE THIRD MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH EXCEPT DECEMBER STARTING AT 6:30 PM/1800 HOURS, THE SAME AS IT HAS BEEN FOR THE LAST 20 PLUS YEARS.) SO, NOW THAT YOU KNOW, I WILL SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER.

If you would like to attend the BSU Hockey Veteran appreciation games or the DAV Christmas Party, please let Jeff Meyer or myself know so we can get you signed up. Dates are Men's Hockey Dec. 11, Women's Hockey Feb. 12, DAV CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC. 21. The cut off dates for attending are coming fast, you don't sign up, **YOU LOSE, AND NOBODY TO BLAME BUT YOUSELF, SO DO IT NOW!!!!!**

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call @ 218-556-4592. I will do my best to help.

Still trying to do a good job,
Gene

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- National Veterans & Military Family Month
- Warrior Care & National family Caregiver Month
- November 10: Marine Corps Birthday
- November 11: Veterans Day

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THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 19 OCTOBER 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**	**Excused**
Adjutant	**Jeff Meyer**	**Present**
Treasurer	**Jeri Harvey**	**Excused**
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: 15

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors:

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. Last meeting minutes read by Adjutant Jeff M., motion to accept minutes as read made by Steve, the 2d by Jeff G., the motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report:

1. The September treasurer's report was read by Commander Gene due to the treasurer's absence, the motion to accept the report was made by Tom A., and the 2d by Jeff G., and the motion carried.

F. Communications:

1. Beltrami County Fair has sent us a big thank you for our donation and participation in this past Augusts fair.

G. Committee Reports:

1. Membership: No new member was reported by Sr. Vice Gary G.
2. Service Officer: Tom reports one individual going through the DAV service officer, who was awarded compensation of 100%.
3. Hospital/Sickness and Distress: NA
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. Sign-up sheet will be posted or contact either the adjutant or commander to get signed up.
6. Publicity and Fundraising: NA
7. Medical Equipment: Henry H. our medical equipment officer, was absent for this meeting and will share donations and issues at the next meeting in November.
8. The Scholarship Committee reports that the 2027/2028 school year application is being put together, with the intention of sending it out to schools by Thanksgiving.

H. Executive Committee Action Items:

1. Veteran in need outcome that needs to be transmitted to the general meeting.
2. Honor Flight recipient companion has been approved by the executive committee and needs approval from the general meeting. This request has been withdrawn.

I. Old Business:

1. BSU men's hockey team will be here 11/3/2026 with the Veteran appreciation game held on 12/11/2026.

J. New Business:

1. Chapter 38 initiated and then partnered with Chapter 7 to purchase Jerseys for both the Men's and Women's Hockey, Veteran appreciation nights. The back of the jersey where the name usually goes will have Veteran printed on it, and the number of the player will be "7" (for chapter 7) and "38" (for chapter 38). There will be one each jersey one for the men and one each for the women, to be given away on the respective Veterans appreciation nights. Total cost of the Jersey's for Chapter 7 is $235.80, which was approved and paid for by Commander Gene.
2. Veteran in Need: Request by VSO Shane, Veteran needing help with paying for dental extraction of teeth. Requesting at least half of the total cost of $3,696.00 which is $1,848.00. Gary made the motion to pay $2,500.00; Mike made the 2d and the motion carried.
3. Veteran in Need: Request by VSO Logan for Veteran spouse (widow) needing help paying for new well. Spouse is requesting $1,000.00 with the remainder of the total cost of $8,850.00 being covered by the family of the Veteran. Jeff G. made the motion to pay the $1,000.00, Tom A. made the 2d and the motion carried.
4. Veteran in Need: Request by VSO Shane, Veteran needing help paying for gas and groceries. Total cost was $356.20 which was approved and paid for by Commander Gene.
5. Veteran in Need: Request by VSO Luke, Veteran needing help paying for new circuit breaker panel and furnace repair (as a result of faulty circuit breaker panel) in the amount of $995.00 which was approved and paid by the executive committee on 10/5/2026.
6. Veteran in Need: Request by VSO Luke, Veteran needing help paying for his electric in the amount of $609.00, which was approved by the executive committee and left to the commander's discretion for paying. Final bill was actually $574.12, which was paid for by commander Gene.
7. Veteran in Need: Request by VSO Shane, Veteran Spouse needing help paying for concrete and bronze marker for Veteran's grave in the amount of $585.00. Commander Gene was able to negotiate a Veteran discount, and the total was adjusted down to $499.25 which the commander approved and paid.
8. Veteran in Need: Request by Darren, Veteran needing help paying for his internet. Total cost of $72.00 which was approved and paid by commander Gene.
9. Review of the Chapter constitution and bylaws committee has been formed. The meeting to review will be determined and the committee members who have volunteered for the review process are Commander Gene S., Sr. Vice Gary G., Adjutant Jeff M., Treasurer Jeri H., Judge Advocate Ward S., and at large members Rodney O., and Jim P. If you are interested in joining this committee, please notify the commander or adjutant to be added.

K. Good of the Order:

1. 11/11/2026 There will be a Veterans Day Dinner at the Eagles club as well as a cutting of the Marine Corp Birthday cake. Dinner is at 6PM.
2. Our November general meeting will have pizza provided by the Chapter 7 Auxiliary, please come hungry.
3. Steve donated a flag for anyone needing a healthy un-frayed United States Flag.
4. 11/3/2026 is Election Day, do not forget to vote.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion by Mike G. and second by Tom A. Motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at 1942.
- Next meeting 11/16/2026 @1830.

DAV NATIONAL'S LATEST NEWS & MEDIA

https://www.dav.org/news-media/

MINNESOTA: UPCOMING DAV MN OUTDOOR EVENTS

November 17 - November 21 ZION NATIONAL PARK HIKE AND EXPLORE

December 14 - December 18 GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK HIKE AND EXPLORE

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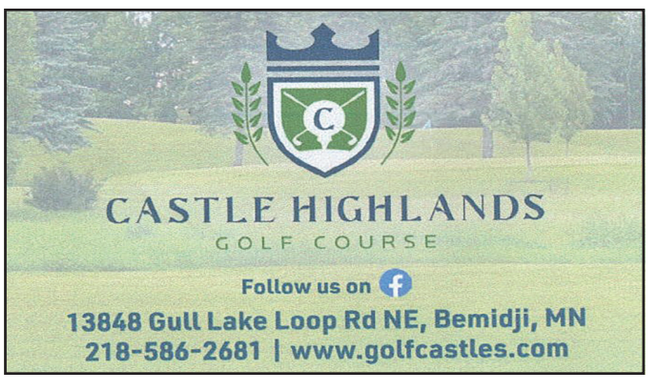
CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings to all of you veterans and family members as we take a short detour from Ephesians 4:1-16, to Matthew 16:13-20, because we referred to Matthew 16:13-20, from our last article (October 2026), and there is more to consider about the church. Its interesting Jesus brought his disciples to Caesarea Philippi for the purpose of asking his disciples two questions, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is ... [and] ... but who do you say I am?" (New Living Translation). There are references made by Jesus' question, and the *people's responses* (verses 13 & 14), found in both the Old / New Testaments. These references are from Daniel 7:13 ("Son of Man"), Malachi 4:5 ("Elijah"), Deuteronomy 18:15 (Jewish traditions refer to "Jeremiah"), and would bring to mind specific messages to the disciples as Jewish Believers. "John the Baptist" was mentioned by the people because they knew Herod Antipas (son of Herod the Great and ruler over Galilee to include Caesarea Philippi) killed him, therefore Herod Antipas believed John the Baptist returned from the dead (Matthew 14:1-12). We want to share with you the background of Caesarea Philippi before discussing Peter's response.

Caesarea Philippi was a cliff at the foot of Mount Hermon in northern Israel, 145 miles by foot, 7 days travel, from Jerusalem going around Samaria due to the deep-seated hostility (religious / historical reasons) between Jews and Samaritans. It was not safe to go through Samaria. Caesarea Philippi was originally associated with Baal worship by the ancient Canaanites (Joshua 11:17 - 1406 BCE), when Alexander the Great conquered the area (330 BCE); Hellenistic (Greek) worship towards Pan (half goat, half man) took over, later Caesarea Philippi (name given by the Romans) added Roman Imperial worship of Caesar (as a god) to Pan around 19 BCE. The cliff included niches carved into it that housed other Roman gods as well, Jupiter, Mercury, Nemesis and others. Caesarea Philippi included a temple to honor these pagan gods, as well as a cave with a spring inside and a stream that helped to form the Jordan River. This cave was believed to be the Gate of Hell leading to the underworld of the dead. As you can see Caesarea Philippi was a very pagan and incredibly evil location, although there was no legal or formal travel ban as a forbidden place, there was a cultural, social and spiritual sense of being a place no respectable Jew would want to visit. This is where we move into *Peter's response as well as Jesus' "church" response to him.*

Peter's response is the first actual and official personal confession by the disciples Jesus is the Messiah. The term Messiah during Jesus time carried a common Jewish expectation of a military / political leader as a result Jesus kept his actual identity a secret, until Peter stated, "You are the Messiah, Son of the Living God". Jesus was known before as a teacher, healer, and preached peace, something different from being a Messiah, therefore the disciples had to unlearn their common expectations and re-learn Jesus' true identity. When Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, (meaning a little rock), Jesus was using a word play for a different word that meant a larger rock. As a result, when Jesus later in the same sentence used the phrase, "...and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail" (King James Bible) He made an incredible statement, especially since this is the first time the word "*church*" appears in the scriptures. The phrase "...upon this rock..." has a different meaning to different people and denominations, yet Jesus often uses his surrounding environments to demonstrate the meaning of His teachings. Caesarea Philippi (the rock?) as an evil place of worship and hell's gate, although powerful, will not overcome the churches victory.

Mike and Linda.





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NORTH CENTRAL MN DAV AUXILIARY #7: OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Unit Minutes - 10/19/2026; 6:32 pm
DAV Building, 15th St, Bemidji MN, 56601

In Attendance: Sara Gast Commander, Marie Lamon Sr Vice Commander, Mya Vohnoutka Treasurer, Heather Eichstadt Adjutant, Linda Engesether Senior Member, Haley Reynolds, Jr Guest Sophia Reynolds Walker

- CALL TO ORDER:
  - Prayer by: Haley Reynolds
  - 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: Present
  - Adjutant: Present
- Quorum Met: 3 Officers, 3 Sr Member, Guest 1.: Total 7;
- Order of Business:
  - Transfers: None
  - Visitors: one visitor Sophia Reynolds.
  - New members initiated: None
- Minutes read by: Heather Eichstadt, for August minutes.
  - Linda Engesether made motion, Marie Lamon second the motion with all approved.
- Treasurer's report given by: Mya Vohnoutka
- Communication: None at this time.
- Bills:
  - Gloria Schwantes: $79.89 for Chili donation Linda Engesether made motion and Marie Lamon seconded motion with all approved same sign.
  - Linda Engesether: $320.77 for materials for pillowcases Mya Vohnoutka made motion and Marie Lamon seconded the motion with all approved signs.
  - Heather Eichstadt: $127.43 for reimbursement for computer cost, Linda Engesether made motion and Haley Reynolds seconded with all approved same sign.
- Sickness and Distress:
  - Gloria is not feeling well; we will keep her in our prayers
  - Paul Jones and his cancer remission.
  - Maries knee and soreness with walking,
  - Marie's sister-in-law and her cancer fight and chemo shots, tumors are shrinking, she is positive in her wellbeing and out helping others she is a blessing;
  - Tom as he continues to get stronger.
  - Haley's husband Pat and his need for surgery on his knee.
  - Julie's health concerns and needs at home for assistance.
  - Linda and her health.
  - Jim Lowmaster and his cancer fight.
  - Judy with strength and caring for him.
- Report of Committees:
  - Membership: 4 new members –Mya will send the original documents to Tanya at the DAV Auxiliary National Office in Kentucky and the copies to Gina in the DAV office in St. Paul, MN
- Americanism: no report.
- Community Service:
  - Linda helps with transportation of the veteran she visits bringing rolls and coffee; 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 and supporting their veterans.
  - Members helping to make 15 pillowcases and packing over 100 backpacks for the kids at the veteran hospital and clinics
  - Linda went to Blackduck for more fabric, and Anderson Fabric helped to prep the kits for us.
  - Linda finished the 19 pillowcases that we prepped on Oct 10th.
  - Marie helping bring items to the DAV office.
- Legislation: Vote early. Continue to visit the legislation website.
- Junior Activities: Continues help in church, 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: None
- Other Committee reports: None

Unfinished Business:

- Bemidji DAVA #7 Standing Rules - need to update the paragraph added, executive to get together and discuss - Heather to type up Standing rules for the January Meeting.
- Laptops for Adjutant and Treasurer and printer for paperwork. Heather Eichstadt completed research on laptops and a printer. The $1500 funds from the DAV State Executive Committee was delegated for the use of the laptops. Total cost is $1966.40 for 2 laptops, and a printer was given for shipment and delivery. The DAVA will cover the extra amount of $338.97 plus $127.43 in tax 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 for October and November to deliver items. Linda may be able to deliver at the end of November.
- 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, voted at the last meeting, Heather will reach out to the Bemidji Veterans Home for the next meeting.

New Business

- The November meeting will have Pizzas for the DAV meeting for Veterans Day! Thank you for your service! Sara will reach out to Little Caesars to order the Pizza. Will purchase 10 pizzas, 4 sausages, 4 pepperoni, and 2 cheese; Linda Engesether made a motion, Mya Vohnoutka seconded the motion, All approved same sign.
- December Christmas party is the 21st. Decorations for 20 tables for center pieces and a game to give away the center pieces, think of a game to play and if the dice game would work or not. Budget of $600 for the center pieces for the party. Haley Reynolds made a motion, Linda Engesther seconded motion.
- Discuss Microsoft subscription and renewal.
- Next meeting is November 16th
- 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 everyone for your help and assistance and for coming to the meeting and supporting the organization, the Veterans and their families.
  - Thank you to all who attended the work session for making the pillowcases and packing of backpacks.
- Closing Ceremony Completed
- Meeting Adjournment at 7:45PM

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Heather Eichstadt Adjutant









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