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Monthly Newsletter
March 2020

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



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

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER:	Mike Zimmerman - (218) 556-4633
SENIOR VICE:	Joe Vene - (218) 556-5478
JUNIOR VICE:	Gene Schwantes
ADJUTANT:	David Myers
SERVICE OFFICERS:	Scotty Allison
TREASURER:	Scotty Allison
CHAPLAIN:	Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015
CHAPLAIN (ALT.):	Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Bruce Holden - (218) 467-3591
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Aagard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Darrel Baltzell, Mike Gutz, First Alternate Andy Staudt, Second Alternate Tom Annonson

CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Mar 2nd - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours
Mar 3rd - Super Tuesday (primary elections and caucuses)
Mar 8th - Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 16th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
Mar 17th - St. Patrick's Day
Apr 6th - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours
Apr 10th - Good Friday
Apr 12th - Easter Sunday
Apr 20th - Veterans on the Hill Day held at the Capitol in St Paul, MN
Apr 27th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
May 4th - DAV Executive Board Meeting @ 1630 Hours
May 7th-9th - DAV MN Convention in Saint Cloud, MN
<https://davmn.org/Events/dav-mn-annual-convention-2/>
May 18th - General membership meeting @ 1800 Hours
May 25th - Memorial Day



THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA CHAPTER # 7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON FEBRUARY 17 2020 AT 1800.

- Opening Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance
- A. Roll Call of Officers to determine if quorum is present

OFFICERS		
Commander	Mike Zimmerman	Present
Senior Vice Commander	Joe Vene	Present
Junior Vice Commander	Gene Schwantes	Present
Adjutant	David Myers	Present
Treasurer	Scotty Allison	Present
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Tardy
Judge Advocate	Bruce Holden	Present
Sergeant-At-Arms	Bruce Tiegen	Present
Officer of the Day	Glen Aagard	Excused
Historian	Vacant	N/A

- B. Members present: 22
- C. Introduction of guests or visitors, prospective new members, and transfers to Chapter #7.
 - Guests/Visitors: Irene Johnson, Andrs Macy
 - Prospective new members: None
 - Transfers in: None
- D. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of January 20 2019 were read. Motion to approve made by Andy Staudt, seconded by Jeff Geiger. Motion Carried.
- E. Financial Report for 1-31 January 2020: Report given by Treasurer (See enclosure). Motion to approve report made by Andy Staudt, seconded by Steve Siats. Motion carried.
- F. New Member Obligation: None
- G. Communications:
 - Various donations.
 - Several thank you notes.
- H. Committee Reports:
 1. Membership Report: (14 New Members) Baumann, Keith D.; Benson, George G.; Blowers, Jaymy D.; Fleming, Douglas R.; Gardner, Charles F.; Kubu, Timothy R.; Marquardt, Brian J.; Molitor, Gerald E.; Reano, Bradley P.; Reuter, John R.; Springer, Jay M.; Westin, Craig R.; Woodford, Bert D.; Haskell, James W.
 2. Service Officer Report: Nothing to report
 3. Legislative Report: Discussed Veterans Home
 4. Hospital Chaplain Report (Includes Sickness and Distress): 2 Visits were made
 5. Entertainment: Nothing to report
 6. Fundraising committee: Nothing until the Gun show at the Armory in April.
 7. Newsletter Committee: Need to have articles in by Thursday.
 8. Medical Equipment:
 - i) Distributed: ?
 - ii) Received: 19

- I. Election of Officers:
 1. The Following Officers have been nominated to serve the chapter for 2020.
 - For Commander: Mike Zimmerman - Are there any further nominations? (x3)
 - For Sr. Vice Commander: Joe Vene - Are there any further nominations? (x3)
 - For Jr Vice Commander: Gene Schwantes - Are there any further nominations? (x3)
 - For Treasurer: Scotty Allison - Are there any further nominations? (x3)
 2. Executive Committee Members:

• Tom Annonson _____	• Jeri Harvey _____
• Darrel Baltzell _____	• Andy Staudt _____
• Mike Gutz _____	• Ward Sutton _____
• Henry Hammerback _____	• Bruce Tiegen _____

 Are there any further nominations? (x3)
 3. The following officers will be appointed by the commander:

• David Myers, Adjutant	• Glen Aagard, Officer-of-the Day
• Bruce Holden, Judge Advocate	• Mike Gutz, Chaplain
• Bruce Tiegen, Sergeant-at-Arms	• Historian – Open position
 4. At this time, we will distribute ballots. Please fill them in and then pass them forward to the Judge Advocate.
 5. After the ballots have been counted, I am pleased to announce that the following Have been elected to serve for the year 2020:

• Commander: Mike Zimmerman	• Jr Vice Commander: Gene Schwantes
• Sr Vice Commander: Joe Vene	• Treasurer: Scotty Allison

 Executive Committee:

• Bruce Tiegen	• First Alternate Andy Staudt
• Darrel Baltzell	• Second Alternate Tom Annonson
• Mike Gutz	
 6. The following have been appointed and approved to serve for the ensuing year:

• Adjutant: Davide Myers	• Officer of the Day: Glen Aagard
• Judge Advocate: Bruce Holden	• Chaplain: Mike Gutz
• Sgt at Arms: Bruce Tiegen	• Historian: Vacant

- J. Old Business
 1. We have 5 people who are interested in running for a seat on the executive board. Our constitution and bylaws currently limit membership to three members at large. Tom Annonson proposes that we raise the number to 5. Before this can happen, we need to draft a proposal, have it read at two meetings, send it to the department and then, once approved, to National. This will take almost a year.

The consensus was, however, that we need to do something immediately. So a motion was made by Commander Zimmerman that we recommend that 2 alternates be elected, in addition to the three at large members. These alternates would not have a vote UNLESS another member of the e-board was absent. If one was absent, then the first alternate would have a vote. If two were absent, then both would have a vote. Bruce Tiegen 2nd the vote. Motion was carried. This will be taken to the general membership at the next regular meeting.

 - Motion to change the structure of the executive board was made by Darrel Baltzell. Seconded by Ward Sutton. Motion Carried.
 2. The following proposed changes to the chapter constitution and bylaws was read for the first time:

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IV – ADMINISTRATION

Currently Reads as follows (amended):

Section 2: The Chapter Executive Committee (See articles 3: page 2 these bylaws) shall be composed of: The Commander, Senior Vice Commander, 1st Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Judge Advocate and three (3) other elected Committee members from two-thirds (2/3) of members present. Adjutant for record keeping only, in case of a tie Executive Chairman will vote only to break tie.

Proposed change:

Section 2: The Chapter Executive Committee (See articles 3: page 2 these bylaws) shall be composed of: The Commander, Senior Vice Commander, 1st Junior Vice Commander, Treasurer, Judge Advocate and three to five other elected Committee members from two-thirds (2/3) of members present. Adjutant for record keeping only, in case of a tie Executive Chairman will vote only to break tie.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CONT.)

Currently reads as follows (Amended):

Section 2: The executive committee shall be composed of eight members (8). Commander, Senior Vice Commander Junior Vice Commander, the Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Adjutant (for record keeping only) and three (3) chapter Executive Committee members, the latter to be elected from Chapter members in good standing, as above provided, and in accordance with "Nominations and Election" and three such committee members shall be elected thereafter at each annual Chapter election. The committee shall elect its own chairman from the membership, who shall not be the commander. None of the three (3) Chapter Executive Committee members shall hold other elective office in this Chapter. The Chairman only votes to break a tie. (This chairman will always assure Chapter Commander is aware of all Executive Committee activity and actions should the commander not be present at a meeting).

Proposed Changes:

Section 2: The executive committee shall be composed of a minimum of eight (8) members. Commander, Senior Vice Commander Junior Vice Commander, the Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Adjutant (for record keeping only) and three to five (3-5) chapter Executive Committee members, the latter to be elected from Chapter members in good standing, as above provided, and in accordance with "Nominations and Election" and three such committee members shall be elected thereafter at each annual Chapter election. The committee shall elect its own chairman from the membership, who shall not be the commander. None of the three to five (3-5) Chapter Executive Committee members shall hold other elective office in this Chapter. The Chairman only votes to break a tie. (This chairman will always assure Chapter Commander is aware of all Executive Committee activity and actions should the commander not be present at a meeting).

Currently reads as follows (Amended):

Section 10: Any one or more of the three (3) Chapters appointed Executive Committeemen may be removed from office if they miss three unexcused meetings in a row.

Proposed changes: This is poorly worded, and needs to be changed, both to reflect our proposed executive committee makeup, and because it is vague grammatically incorrect.

Section 10: Any one or more of the at-large Executive Committeemen may be removed from office if they miss three meetings in a row. The absences that count towards being removed are unexcused absences.

K. New Business:

1. Info item: Someone attempted to steal one of our trailers. It sustained damage in the amount of \$690.50. we will be sending it to King of the Road Trailers for repair.
2. Update on Vets day on the hill. B us will leave Walmart at 0700.

L. Executive Committee Action Items: None

M. Good of the Order:

Reminder: The April meeting will be moved from the 20th to the 27th, due to Veteran's day on the hill.

N. Motion to adjourn: Motion made by Andy Staudt, 2nd by Randy Hanevold. Motion carried.

1. The meeting was adjourned at 1917 hours.
2. The next meeting will be held on 16 March 2020 at 1800 at the Chapter Headquarters.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN NORTH WEST MINNESOTA CHAPTER #41 REGULAR SUPPER & MEETING * 1800 HOURS SUPPER * 1900 HOURS MEETING AT THE MIDDLE RIVER AMERICAN LEGION CALLED TO ORDER

Opening Prayer Pledge of Allegiance Members present: 10 New Chapter Members: 13 Transfers in: 0 The Financial Report for January 2020 was read by Adjutant Knutson.
The Minutes of the Previous Meeting read by Adjutant Knutson.

Old Business: 1. Transportation Bank Account. Set up and functioning well.

2. Chaplain. We still need someone to step up.

New Business:

1. Membership. 13 New Members. Our chapter met and exceeded our membership goal. Chapter #41 now has 76 members.
2. DAV Clothing Bags. Discussed utilizing Clothing bags to assist with the clothing drive to help fundraise for the transportation program. Response was positive. Bags will be at the next meeting.
3. Veterans Day on the Hill. Lots of interest in attending. Finalize discussion at the next meeting. If you did not get your name on the list at the last meeting, call to get on the list. Any questions, please call (218) 469-2093 Commander Knutson or DAV chapter #41 phone (218) 452-8890

4. The \$75/\$75 matching is worth it to members to assist with new memberships. The 75/75 department termination will be brought to the next meeting with further discussion. The chapter agreed 75 could be paid by the chapter.
5. Transportation. Chapter #41 has begun transporting veterans to their medical appointments. Roseau is now listed with the VA Volunteer Transportation Network.

The meeting was adjourned at 2057 hours.

The next meeting will be held on 17 March 2020 at the Roseau Masonic Lodge.
Any questions call the Chapter #41 phone at (218) 452-8890.

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

We had a great year in 2019 serving 127 veterans and 48 family members. We did have a few hiccups – a blizzard caused us to cancel an ice fishing event, the lodge in South Dakota that we were scheduled to stay at for the pheasant hunt burned in late summer so we ended up making two trips to accommodate all applicants, another blizzard on the 10 of October severely limited the disabled deer hunt on Rydell Refuge. Our “Riley Kuznia Memorial Disabled Veterans Goose Hunt” was well attended and a good number of geese were harvested, this event is memorable in that the Minnesota Dept of Veteran Affairs Commissioner, Larry Herke was here on Friday and Saturday as a volunteer and to observe our operations, he toured our two deer camps and facilities & was out in the field with one of our groups of hunters.

For 2020 we are expanding our deer hunting area to approximately 4000 acres, this will provide more flexibility in the positioning of our blinds and more opportunities for Veterans to harvest a deer. We also plan to request permission again from MN DNR to hunt geese over water during the early season.

January 16th, 2020 MRVO had its’ annual meeting, the 2019 finance and event operations reports were read and accepted, the 2020 budget was presented and approved, the bi-annual election of officers was held, and various committees were re-organized. The 2020 fundraising efforts and the planning for this years’ events now begins. It is anticipated that we will again do a raffle in cooperation with “Hardware Hank Stores” “Big Buck Contest”. The grants that we have been receiving from V4V (which partially funded operations) are no longer available because there is a three year limit on these, so we will be pursuing other sources of financing for our operations, various VFW, American Legion posts & DAV Chapters as well as MN DAV Foundation have been faithful supporters of our mission of serving veterans and their family members. We continue to receive various amounts of donations from individuals. MRVO is sincerely appreciative of the all the support we receive.

MRVO is planning for 11 or possibly 12 events for 2020 with a goal of serving a total of 180 veterans / family members with outdoor recreation activities.

Please check out our website for schedule of events and other information, you can find a link to print an application at the bottom of our events page. Don't hesitate to call or e-mail with any questions you may have. Phone 218-686-9114 or 218-686-0889

E-Mail mrjetsod@wiktel.com Website MRVeteransOutdoors.com



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



We started last month looking at hope and healing. Hope, it really helps in so many ways. Regardless of the veteran's or family's situation, hope is such a wonderful sense of true relief. 'When hope is crushed, the heart is crushed, but a wish come true fills you with joy' (Proverbs 13:12 - Good News Translation). There are so many different considerations when it comes to hope. This month we continue looking at hope in its' proper context (true vs. false). So, how does this help a disabled veteran, their family or anyone who were not healed and lost hope without minimizing their condition and experiences. The answer can be found in the purpose for Jesus' coming to earth as seen in the application of this specific issue in Mark 1:32-39. We are looking at issues like, what about veterans who were not healed, does God care about us? Where is the hope (Job 42:11)? Do the people in our life matter? What are some of the misunderstanding out there that can hurt, and cause mistrust in our faith?

The context of Mark 1:32-39, has to do with Jesus being with a very large group of people in the evening who wanted to be healed. At this point Jesus was healing many people. Yet, it is interesting Jesus goes out and prays early in the morning and later tells his disciples it is time to move on while many more people had gathered in the morning to be healed. Again, what about those who were not healed or for that matter what about veterans who were not healed, does God care about us? A person would think that Jesus would want to stay and continue to heal more people, not wanting to leave anyone behind. Jesus as fully God and fully man is full of compassion, therefore moving on did not have anything to do with God being less compassionate. Jesus was not minimizing the condition (disabilities, injuries, sickness, trauma, physical, mental or spiritual) or needs of the people.

Researching and reflecting on one commentary shows Jesus prayer is a prayer being done at a very critical time (as all His prayers in Mark), suggesting it is important to focus at that moment on another critical task given to Jesus, which meant to move throughout other towns to share the good news of salvation. Jesus already being there and healing the people is an introduction of salvation being exemplified, while Jesus did not want to be seen simply as a miracle healer. Yes, healing is very personal because it really does lift a tremendous burden off, while giving us hope, and at the same time Jesus mentions elsewhere the importance of sin and if a part of your body (that was, or needs healing) causes you to sin, cut it off (Mark 9:43). Keeping this in context, Jesus is addressing, and differencing the reality of healing, sin and salvation, something Joni Earickson Tada points out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TevDhFzjI4>. Jesus wants us to be whole and there is so many people who are genuinely healed, while at the same time there are many who are not, so where is the hope (Job 42:11)?

On a more personal note, Job experienced a lot of trauma, yet in the end, God restored him in so many ways, including the people Job needed to help him heal. This is something that is so important for us as we continue to live with our disabilities, or transition into the healing God has given, yet in either way, God's promise for a total restoration in the future is a promise that is a blessing and gives us hope. So the people in our lives can really help restore a sense of hope. This may be through the Department of Veteran Affairs, good personal relationships, and veteran organizations.

We will look at some of the misunderstandings that can hurt, and cause mistrust in our faith next month.

If you want to talk, give us a call at (218) 308-3927.

Mike and Julie Gutz.

2020 DAV MN Convention May 7th – 9th 2020

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DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES

FREE
RIDES

January

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Bemidji National Guard Armory • Solway in front of bar • Shevlin in front of bar • Bagley Tesoro Station west end of town
Fosston at LaPiere's on the east end of town • Mahnomen Cenex park south of propane tank • Ada Country Store

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VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL 2020

I am happy to announce we are currently scheduled to have Veterans Day on the Hill (VDOTH) 2020 on April 20th, 2020. I am well aware this is the latest date to hold the event since I have been involved with the planning, and I want to assure the setting of a date was not without reasons. This is the session leading up to an election, I fully suspect that the pace will go something like this: Initial committee work, two months of issues based politicking to appeal to elected official's base, final weeks to complete the work necessary and govern.

The later date is partially based on my belief that the combined efforts of the Veteran's community can push our supported legislation through the first couple of stops in the committee process which is the first part of how I suspect the session will go.

Historically, interest in the process has been high early on when the path for bills is relatively predictable; original committee, subsequent committee, etc. with regularly scheduled committee hearings. However, once the process starts to "breakdown" into legislation being "held over for possible inclusion", entire bills become small parts of a 'monster' omnibus bill, etc. it becomes hard to explain the process, difficult to coordinate responses, and our advocacy suffers as a result at the most important times. A later date will allow for a clear statement of current position in the most confusing part of the process.

We can focus our advocacy on the bills that actually have a chance. It's harsh to say, but many of our groups will support many pieces of legislation but the honest truth is very few of them have a chance based on the priorities set during the session.

As a community we can make it clear that by holding Veterans Day on the Hill this late we would gladly make it into a celebration if our elected officials get their work done for Veterans within the first three months of session. If they decide to keep Veteran's issues moving, and above the predictable partisan fighting, they can all enjoy a day of being cheered for a job well done.

However, if the more likely scenario happens where politicking is taking the place of progress, this later date will have us positioned to make a strong call for our officials to "Get it DONE for our Veterans" (or some better tagline).

This is Minnesota and the weather can suck earlier in the session.

Additional details will emerge as the CTF, UVLC, and MACVSO work toward their vision of the formal VDOTH proceedings. The DAV MN does intend to offer funding busses and providing a lunch prior to the formal event again this year. Details will be shared as they become available.

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns. The gavel will drop before we know it and it is important we continue to work together for our Veterans.

Regards,

Trent C Dilks, Department Adjutant

VETERANS ON THE HILL DAY BUS SCHEDULE

This year, we are limited to 50 seats available on the bus so we are looking for participants that are seriously committed to going and their reservations on the bus will be on a "first come, first served basis". We are having the bus stop at the following locations to pick up participants, so plan to be at your pick-up point 20 - 30 minutes prior to the arrival times as these times may vary depending on road conditions and traffic:

- Bemidji Walmart parking lot, promptly departing at 0600 Hrs.
- Former Akeley VFW parking lot, arriving approx. 0640 Hrs. and departing 10 minutes later.
- Bricks Travel Center parking lot, Motley, MN, arriving approx. 0750 Hrs. Departing 15 minutes after arrival.

Please Email me your information before the 10th of April so that I can add your names to my list.

Your information must contain the following:

- Name(s) of everyone planning to join us.
- Email address of participant(s) for ease of passing on additional info.
- Cell phone number of each participating individual, we don't want anyone getting left behind.
- Which pick up point you want to meet the bus at; Bemidji, Akeley, or Motley.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call / text me at (218) 251-3025 or Email at torgor@lightspeed.net.

Thank you for supporting our Veterans!

Sincerely, Thomas W. Annonson, Trip coordinator

King of the Road Trailers LLC

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COMMANDER'S CORNER



Greetings Everyone.

I hope everyone has been able to avoid the colds and flu that are going around!

Sorry that there was no Commanders Corner last month but there was a computer glitch somewhere and I wasn't able to get it sent to the newsletter staff.

At our last General Meeting on Feb 17th we held our annual elections for the upcoming year and the installation of officers will be at the meeting on the 16th of this month. We added 2 more seats to the Executive committee, and hopefully this will bring more input and ideas to the Committee.

Tom is still working on the Transportation for Vets Day on The Hill. I encourage you to go if you are able to. Our April meeting will be moved from the 20th to the 27th to allow more people from the Chapter to attend this event and report their reaction to the impact the event has on the Legislative processes that affect us as Veterans and our families.

Middle River Outdoors program has some upcoming events. Check out their website to see if are interested in attending any of those events.

I'm trying to get to meet with the gentleman that we bought the elevator from to get him paid and get it ready for the summer because we will really need it.

Thank you to everyone for reelecting me for another year. If you have any ideas or questions don't hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely, Mike Zimmerman

AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER



We will resume our meetings on March 16th at the Chapter Headquarters building and I am look forward to seeing you all there.

If you have any volunteer hours to turn in please give Linda Engesether a call at 218-308-1041, as she will be working on the report to send into the State.

Sara Gast

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/>



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