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Monthly Newsletter
June 2023

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



NEXT MEETING: DAV Headquarters at 5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN Monday, June 19th at 6:30pm







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CHAPTER OFFICERS

COMMANDER: Gene Schwantes - (218) 556-4592

SENIOR VICE: Darrel Baltzell
JUNIOR VICE: Tom Annonson
ADJUTANT: Jeff Meyer
SERVICE OFFICERS: Scotty Allison
TREASURER: Jeri Harvey

CHAPLAIN: Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015

JUDGE ADVOCATE: Wade Sutton
SERGEANT AT ARMS: Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY: Glenn Aagard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER: Joe Vene
HISTORIAN: Vacant

EXEC. COMMITTEE: Bruce Tiegen, Billy Woods, Andy Staudt,

Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault

CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

June 4th - Ride for the Troops June 4th - Battle of Midway Began

in 1942

June 5th - DAV Chapter 7
Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.

June 6th - D-Day (1944)

June 14th - Flag Day

June 18th - Father's Day

June 19th - Juneteenth

June 19th - DAV Chapter 7 General Membership meeting @ 1830

June 22nd - GI Bill Signed (1944) June 25th - Start of the Korean

War (1950)

June 27th - PTSD Awareness Day

July 3rd -- DAV Chapter 7
Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.

July 4th - Independence Day

July 20th -- DAV Chapter 7 General Membership meeting @ 1830 Hrs July 26th - Americans with Disabilities Act Signed (1990)

July 27th - Korean War Ends (1953)

Aug 2-6th - Clearwater County Fair

Aug 7th - Purple Heart Day

Aug 7th -- DAV Chapter 7
Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.

Aug 9-13th - Beltrami County Fair

Aug 21st -- DAV Chapter 7 General Membership meeting @ 1830 Hrs.







COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello Fellow Veterans.

Summer has finally arrived, now the work has begun, rake the lawn, buy premium gas, till the garden, plant the garden, mow the lawn, last frost plant the rest of the garden, fertilizer everything, mow the lawn, buy more premium gas, cut the dead tree down, get the splitter out and split the wood for the fire pit, mow the lawn, buy more premium gas, and on and on. Boy, I sure hope winter gets here soon, so much less work and the snowblower doesn't use much premium gas.

We had a great Chapter Meeting last night, got a lot done. Approved helping a veteran in need, had 6 applicants for our scholarship distribution, each will receive \$1000.00, approved \$250.00 for the PTSD 4-wheeler ride, approved next year's budget, and much more, please see the minutes. If you don't attend the meeting, you don't get in on all this fun stuff and don't have a say in how YOUR chapter spends the chapter's money. So, plan on attending our next meeting on June 19 at 6:30 pm and be part of the action.



The summer DAV picnic will be held on August 19 or the 26, a decision will be made at the June 19 meeting. Donations were down on the clothing program during the winter, but now seem to be returning to normal. If you would like to join us on Tuesday to help load the semi starting at 7:30 to 8 am and you are under 70, you will be one of the young ones, if over 70, you become one of the average ones, and we have no old ones in the working crew and as always there is no charge for our exercise program, another benefit of being a DAV volunteer, so come join us.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable summer, spend lots of time with family and friends and make the most of our short season of warm weather, because we all know winter is just around the corner.

Gene Schwantes

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- June 6 Anniversary of the World War II Allied invasion in Normandy, France, now known as D-Day.
- June 14 Flag Day A Day to celebrate the adoption of the U.S. flag.
- June 14 Army Birthday
- June 23 Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- June 27 National PTSD Awareness Day A Day to bring awareness about issues related to PTSD.









THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7 REGULARLY CONVENED ON 15 MAY 2023 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	Darrel Baltzell	Present
Junior Vice Commander	Tom Annonson	Present
Adjutant	Jeff Meyer	Present
Treasurer	Jeri Harvey	Excused
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Present
Judge Advocate	Ward Sutton	Excused
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: None
- D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:
 - Minutes were read and a correction made to the minutes was made by Andy, correcting Jennifer Nelson, Navy Veteran to Jennifer Nelson, Coast Guard Veteran. Andy made the motion to accept with the corrections made, 2nd by Billy, and the motion carried.
- E. Treasurer's Report:
 - The treasurer's report for the month of March was read by Commander Gene, motion to accept by Mike, 2nd by Dean, the motion carried.
 - The treasurers report for the month of April was read by Commander Gene, motion to accept was made by Billy, 2nd by Gary, the motion carried.
- F. Communications:
 - Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake is open and accepting reservations, there is a flyer available at the DAV Chap HQ as well as posted online and in the newsletter.
 - The MN Veterans home in Fergus Falls is celebrating their 25th anniversary with the annual Stars and Stripes parade and followed by a celebration party afterwards. Information is available at Chap HQ, online, and the newsletter.
 - DAV Chap #2 is hosting a family extravaganza on Saturday July 15 from 10-1600. More information is available at Chap HQ, online, and the newsletter.
 - DAV Chap 38 is hosting a charter fishing trip on Lake Superior, Flyer and information available at Chap HQ, online, and the newsletter.
 - Chap 38 is also hosting or making available to Veterans, an icehouse/camper which will be parked at Big Pines RV Park in Park Rapids MN. Anyone desiring a little vacation time should contact Richard Batcho at 218-289-1773 if interested.
 - Big thank you from Trent Dilks for all the legislative support given and passage of this year's Veterans omnibus bill!
 - 7. Update from Josh Vrtacnik regarding the Savers operations, they are starting the week with 6 trailers and are looking for all the material they can get. Josh also extended an offer to come speak directly to the Chap concerning the clothing program itself. Josh also reported that there are a couple of enclosed 18 ft. trailers (7,000 lbs. weight capacity) for sale by other Chapters. Call or email Josh for more info at 651-291-1212/josh@davmn.org
 - 8. Thank you letter from Sam Erickson, one of our scholarship recipients this year.
 - 9. Thank you and donation of \$50.00 Gail Henne in memory of Hank Rossiter.
 - 10. Donation to the Chapter from Marion Evans, for the amount of \$20.00, Thank you Marion!
 - There are tickets available for the St. Paul Saints. If interested contact Andrea Kostiuk, at 651-331-8041 / andrea@snowglobepr.com
 - DAV National announces the retirement of DAV CEO and National Adjutant Marc Burgess. Barry Jesinoski will be his replacement going forward.

- G. Committee Reports:
- Membership: One new member, John Beem, transferring to us from National, motion to accept for Chap membership was made by Mike, 2nd by Billy and the motion carried, welcome to Chap 7 John!
- 2. Service Officer: NA
- Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Jim Gildersleeve passed away on 2/14. Funeral services on 3/4 @ 1030 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church were attended by Mike and Gene
- 4. Legislative: Veterans Omnibus bill has passed!
- 5. Medical Equipment: 14 issues and 4 donations
- Scholarship Committee: We have six recipients to this year's Chap 7 Scholarships, they are Regan Dewitt, Summer Hasseldahl, Elise Carlson, Anna Carlson, Sam Erickson, and Amelia Scherling. Congratulations!!
- 7. Public Relations:
 - a. Greenwood cemetery Flag ceremony will be on 5/29/23, placing the flags will be on 5/27, at 0900, all are welcome to help place the flags. Retrieval of the flags will be on 6/3 at 0900.
 - b. Annual CrossFit DAV fundraiser will be on 5/27/23 starting at 0700.
- H. Executive Committee Action Items: Actions were brought forward as new business this
 month.
- I. Old Business:
 - Scholarship committee has received several applications for our scholarships and six were selected to receive scholarships for this upcoming year.
 - On 6/4/23 there will be a ride for the troops, information will be placed in the newsletter, the website or call Tom for more info.
 - Reminder that if you find yourself in a community hospital you have 72 hours for yourself or loved one to contact the VA to avoid hefty medical bills being sent to you.
- J. New Business:
 - There are tickets available for the 7/8/23 Twins game, additional information is available at HQ, the website and will be posted in the newsletter.
 - There was a motion to equip the enclosed trailers with electric jacks, the motion was for up to \$5000, made by Dean, the 2nd was by Andy and the motion carried.
 - A motion was made to increase the amount of financial support to the Wounded Spirits Ministry from \$2000 to \$5000. Motion to approve was made by Bruce and 2nd by Andy, and the motion carried.
 - Brent Thompton presented a request of \$250 for the PTSD awareness ATV ride. Motion to approve was made by Andy, 2nd by Mike, and the motion carried.
 - Gene presented a request in increase the limits of financial assistance to Veterans in need, from \$2000 to \$3000 for disabled Veterans, and from \$1000 to \$1500 for nondisabled Veterans. Motion to approve was made by Steve, 2nd by Mike, the motion carried.
 - Shane presented a request for a Veteran in need for the amount of \$2,111 to cover car repairs needed. Motion to approve was made by Dean, and 2nd by Mike. Motion carried
 - The new budget for 2024 was presented by Tom, which included significant increases in support of most of the missions and ministries Chap 7 supports. Motion to accept was made by Darrel, 2nd by Mike and the motion carried.
 - The \$100 for 100 years celebration was presented by Gene, motion to approve was made by Andy, 2nd by Dean, and the motion carried.
- K. Good of the Order: None
- L. Closing Ceremonies performed.
- M. Motion to Adjourn:
 - Motion by Andy, 2nd by Mike. Motion carried
 - Meeting adjourned at 2014 hrs.
 - ➤ Next meeting 6/19/2023

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/

AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings all,

I hope you are doing well.

At our May meeting we received a report on the spring convention. AnnMarie Hurley, National Sr Vice Commander DAVA was present. The basket donations and the donations made for the auction were very successful and raised a record high amount. State officers were elected: Commander Deb Mason, Sr Commander Sandy Martin, 1st Jr Vice Commander Mary Jane Lynch, 2nd Jr Vice Commander Deb Prodell, Treasurer Tonia Kessel, Judge Advocate Nancy Berndt, and appointed positions, Diane Kerr Chaplin and Lyndsey Moe Adjutant.

Our very own member, Linda Engesether, won the Katherine Pearson Memorial Award for the MN DAV Auxiliary Outstanding Member of the Year. Congratulations Linda and thank you for your dedication to the Auxiliary and our veterans.

The upcoming events this month are:

- June 3rd at 0900 hrs. the flags will be removed from Greenwood Cemetery. If You are able to help, that would be great.
- June 4th is the Ride for the Troops; Breakfast starts at 0800 hrs. at Marketplace foods and the ride begins at 1200 hrs. The ride ends up at the Eagles Club in the afternoon for an early supper, the silent auction and raffle drawings.
- June 25th Fergus Falls State Veterans Home is celebrating their 25th anniversary. They will be having a parade and at 10:00am sharp with a Warbird Flyover by pilot Paul Brutlag, celebration program, exhibits, and tours.

Our next meeting is in June. Hope to see you there.

Sara Gast

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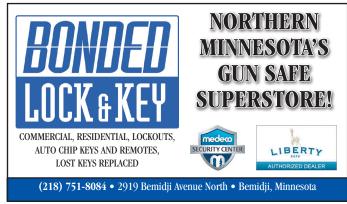














2023 - BEMIDJI VAN - 2023 DAV NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION DATES



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FREE RIDES To All Veterans and Caregiver (if needed)!

Northwest Transportation MN DAV Bemidji-Fargo Trips • Pick-up Points:

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

TO SCHEDULE RIDES FOR HIGHLIGHTED GREEN AREAS:

Call 1-855-277-9787 and follow voice prompts to leave a message.

If you have problems leaving a message call **Saddoris at 218-209-1863 (text/call)**.

Volunteer Drivers Needed! Call Saddoris for info.









CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We are wishing all Disabled American Veterans and Auxiliary Members a very blessed, wonderful, and beautiful summer.

May God's face shine upon you as we continuously wait patiently for our Lords return:

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever.

I Thessalonians 4:16-17 (New International Version)

As always, if you would like to talk with us, feel free to give us a call.

Blessings to you all,

Mike and Julie Gutz

FROM THE ADJUTANT

May has been and continues to be a very busy month for the chapter. This month saw the receiving of multiple applications for the available six scholarships we are giving out. We awarded all six scholarships this year, congrats to all our scholarship recipients, and just a reminder, if you haven't yet sent in the school address and your student ID number, please do so as soon as possible. The general meeting was a marathon session as there was much business to attend to including the 2024 budget presentation, which included substantial increases to most of the missions and ministries we support. It also highlights an area of concern, that is 99.99 % of all chapter business is accomplished by less than 20 members, and we have about 650 members on our roster. If you haven't attended a meeting lately, please come out on the third Monday of every month and be a part of the great work this chapter is doing in our community and this region.

Jeff Meyer

BEMIDJI VETERANS HOME UPDATE

On May 19th at 0930 hrs. Kevin Gish, the Director of the Bemidji Veterans Home, gave an update briefing on how things are progressing. Currently they are anticipating the completion of construction of the building in the latter portion of this summer. This will be followed up by attaining the Certificate of Occupancy in mid fall and then having the Initial Admissions begin after achieving that approval. The timing of all these things, of course, hinges on any unforeseen delays during the final phases of Construction.

The hiring process is being done in seven phases and those seeking employment should continuously check the State hiring website at https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/ searching for jobs listed under - MN Northwest Area – Bemidji.

The current waiting list as of 17 May 2023 is 216 applicants.

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS

The Park Rapids, MN DAV Chapter 38 Outdoors Program has placed their Ice Castle (Fish House/RV) at Big Pines RV Park on Fishhook River for the summer!

It is available for "mini vacation get aways"!

Contact Richard Batcho at (218) 289-1773 to check for dates of availability and to make a reservation.





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Bemidji Chapter 7

Disabled American Veterans

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