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Monthly Newsletter
September 2024

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



NEXT MEETING:
Bemidji Veterans Home at
5441 15th Street NW, Bemidji, MN
Saturday, September 14 at 2:30pm

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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:	Tom Annonson - (218) 251-3025
TREASURER:	Jeri Harvey
CHAPLAIN:	Mike Gutz - (218) 444-5015
JUDGE ADVOCATE:	Ward Sutton
SERGEANT AT ARMS:	Bruce Tiegen
OFFICER OF THE DAY:	Glenn Aagard
LEGISLATIVE OFFICER:	Joe Vene
HISTORIAN:	Vacant
EXEC. COMMITTEE:	Bruce Tiegen, Gary Guggenberger, Andy Staudt, Henry Hammerback, Jim Pinsonnault

CH. #7 UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & EVENTS

Sept 2nd - Labor Day - VJ Day (Japan signed formal surrender in 1945).	Sept 29th - VFW Day (VFW established in 1899). -- Gold Star Mother's Day.
Sept 9th - DAV Chapter 7 Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.	Oct 2nd - Rosh Hashanah begins
Sept 10th - U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp Incorporated in 1962.	Oct 7th - DAV Chapter 7 Executive Meeting @ 1630 Hrs.
Sept 11th - Patriot Day & National Day of Service and Remembrance (Flags at half-staff).	Oct 7th - Afghanistan War began in 2001
Sept 14th - "Star-Spangled Banner" Written by Francis Scott Key in 1814.	Oct 11th - Yom Kippur begins
Sept 14th - VFW Ladies Auxiliary Organized in 1914.	Oct 12th - Columbus Day
Sept 14th - Special General Membership Meeting at the Bemidji Veterans Home at 2:30 PM	Oct 13th - U.S. Navy established in 1775
Sept 17th - Constitution & Citizenship Day.-- U.S. Constitution was approved in 1787.	Oct 14th - Columbus Day Observed (Monday Holiday Bill)
Sept 18th - U.S. Air Force established in 1947.	Oct 21st - DAV Chapter 7 General Membership Meeting @ 1830 Hrs.
Sept 20th - POW/MIA Recognition Day.	Oct 23rd - Grenada Campaign began in 1983
Sept 22nd - Autumn begins.	Oct 24th - United Nations Day
	Oct 27th - Navy Day
	Oct 31st - Halloween



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ATTENTION!!!

The September general membership meeting will be held at the new Bemidji Veterans Home at 2:30 PM on Saturday September 16th instead of on our regular 3rd Monday meeting.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Fellow Veterans,

First things first, remember that the September meeting will be held at the VA Home here in Bemidji on Saturday, September 14 at 2:30 pm, mark it on your calendar so you don't forget.

The DAV annual picnic is now over and it appeared that everyone had a good time. There was lots of good food, door prizes, and plenty of conversations and that is what it is all about. Thank you to all who helped make it a success by helping with the setup and take down, buying all the door prizes, help getting the food to DAV, mowing the lawn, coming to the picnic, etc. It takes a team to make things like this a success. Thank you all.

At the August Chapter meeting, the Chapter approved helping a couple of veterans in need, purchasing a new 18' trailer, donation to Vets R Us outdoor program, along with other business that came before the Chapter. Plan on attending the next meeting, it always proves to be entertaining, one way or the other.

The DAV Fall Conference is coming up in September along with a Stand Down in Redby and all of the other routine items like picking up the bins, loading the semi, handling medical equipment requests and donations, etc.

By the time you read this, fall will be on the way in and cooler days will be ahead of us, I hope all of you will be able to enjoy a nice "loonnng" mild fall. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give me a call @ 218-556-4592.

Hope to see a lot of members at the VA Home for the September meeting.

Gene

AUXILIARY COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings all,

Hope everything is going well, and you had a good time at the DAV picnic on Saturday, August 24th.

Things we covered and voted on:

- The DAV picnic is on Saturday, if you are able to help setup, please come at 930 am.
- We voted to go back to holding our meetings every month except December, January and February. With this change it was requested to have your volunteer hours in to Lyndsey at the November meeting or if the DAV has a Christmas party in December, they can be turned in them.
- Standing Rules were reviewed, and the only change was the meeting months above.
- The financial report was reviewed and approved.
- The fall conference will be held 9/19-21 in Austin MN. Lyndsey and Linda plan to attend and we voted to purchase items for two baskets to donate as a fundraiser.

We will be providing pizza for the November DAV meeting, as a thank you for their service and honor them for Veteran's Day.

Hope to see you at our next meeting. Have a great rest of your summer.

Sara Gast



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THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER #7

REGULARLY CONVENED ON 19 AUG 2024 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	Darrell Baltzell	Present
Junior Vice Commander	Tom Annonson	Present
Adjutant	Jeff Meyer	Present
Treasurer	Jeri Harvey	Present
Chaplain	Mike Gutz	Excused
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: 21

C. Introduction of Guests or Visitors: Kurt Christianson and Dave Chamness, who Tom failed to introduce as a new members, welcome to Chapter 7!

D. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- Minutes of the last meeting were read, with corrections made to the date of the next General meeting (Saturday, September 14th at the Veterans Home). Tom made the motion to accept as corrected, Mike made the 2d, and the motion carried.

E. Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's report was read by Jeri, and no changes or amendments were noted, the motion to accept was made by Andy, 2d by Randy, and the motion was carried.

F. Communications:

- We have an invite for anyone who might be interested to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation appreciation dinner to be held on Tuesday Sept. 17th. Social hour starts at 4 PM dinner is at 5 PM. The dinner will be held at Bernie's; 121 Demers Ave, East Grand Forks, MN.
- Brady Oberg Lagacy Foundation has sent us a request for donations, more information in the new business section.
- The chapter received a thank you from Erle and Deb Steigauf thanking the chapter for the installation of the new wheelchair ramp at their home.
- Gina from state has sent down an update on numerous items currently in the works, including training on the new mydav.org website. These are posted as well on the state website or see the adjutant if you would like a printed list of items updated.

G. Committee Reports:

- Membership: NA
- Service Officer: Tom reported that several Veterans were received at the fair where Tom was then able to introduce them to Luke and Shane, our County Veteran Services Officers.
- Hospital/Sickness and Distress: Don Odemudson has transitioned to assisted living. No other details available at this time.
- Legislative: NA
- Entertainment: Picnic, this Saturday 8/22/24 starting at noon, door prizes at 2 PM and you must be present to win.
- Publicity and Fundraising: Tom reported he and Dave Chamness raised \$1,312.82 at the Beltrami County Fair.
- Medical Equipment: 14 issues and 9 donations.
- Scholarship committee: Checks will go out this week to the specific institutions of each of our scholarship recipients.

H. Executive Committee Action Items:

- The Veterans PTSD Support Group which had been on hold due to

unavailability of the New Veterans Home has found a new location to hold their twice monthly meetings. The new place of meeting was presented to the general membership for consideration. Andy changed his original motion to meet at the new location until the New Veterans Home becomes available. Rodney made the 2d and the motion carried. The new meeting place will be the Stellher Program for Recovery conference room which is located at 1426 Bemidji Ave N Suite 1 Bemidji, MN 56601. This is directly across the parking lot from Ben Caron Farmers Union Insurance. As of this writing, the group will meet the 2d and 4th Friday of every month from 10-11 AM starting in September. This is a support group and not a therapy group facilitated by two Veterans, so please share with other Veterans you know who may benefit from this resource.

I. Old Business:

- Chapter 7's annual picnic will be held on Aug. 22nd from noon to 3 PM, with many door prizes and giveaways starting at 2 PM. You must be in attendance to win a door prize.
- The September chapter meeting is moved to 9/14/24 at 2:30 PM. Please note this is a Saturday, and we are hoping for a large turnout for DAV business and to check out the new facility and interact with our Veteran brothers and sisters who are residents at the home.

J. New Business:

- Gene would like to give a shout out and big thank you for dropping everything to give a Veteran a lift to his medical appointment. Thank you, Mike!!!
- Native American Veteran Stand down will be held in Redby on 9/20/24 starting at 9AM. Eugene Standing Cloud is organizing the standdown and Chapter 7 will have a table there. Darrel and Dave have already volunteered to help man the table. If you would like to participate in manning the table, please contact Gene for scheduling.
- Volunteers are still needed for the American Legion fish fry being held at the Bemidji Veterans Home on 8/29/24 starting at 1 PM. Anyone interested please contact Steve Jewitt at (218) 760-2626.
- We have a 90-year-old Veteran in need. His son is seeking help paying for the home's bathtub to be converted into a walk-in shower. Tom made a motion to contribute \$1500 dollars to the project, to be paid to the contractor after the work is complete. Andy made the 2d and the motion carried.
- Veteran in need; husband and wife, both Veterans, wife has been ill for some time and has accumulated a very large medical bill apart from what their insurance has already paid. Andy made a motion to donate \$6000 dollars towards the medical bill. Randy made the 2d and the motion carried.
- Kohls resort in Wendal MN which hosts Vets R Us is seeking donations for their Vets R Us program. Tom made a motion to donate \$500 dollars, Dave made the 2d and the motion carried.
- Bruce made the proposal to replace one of the old clothing trailers with a new one, Tom made the motion to trade in or sell the old trailer and purchase a new trailer for up to \$15,000 dollars. Mike made the second and the motion carried.
- Gary made a motion to have the new trailer wrapped to match existing trailers, Andy made the 2d and the motion carried.

K. Good of the Order:

- Gun safes sold in MN currently do not have any sales tax.

L. Closing Ceremonies performed.

M. Motion to Adjourn by Mike, 2d by Andy. Motion carried.

➤ The meeting adjourned at 1955 hrs.

➤ Next meeting 9/14/2024 @1630 hrs.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We begin this month with our continuing discussion about our spiritual temperaments, as you may recall, our spiritual temperament can best be determined by asking a few questions in each of the listed temperaments and noticing our reactions through the answers given, for example, while reading one question, a person may intuitively answer with, "Absolutely - Yeah, that is me." Therefore, that particular answer is rated as a 5. Another person may intuitively answer with "No way, that is definitely not me." Therefore, that particular answer is rated a 1. The higher the score, the more prone an individual is to that particular spiritual temperament and therefore displays certain worship characteristics, which is a reflection of who he or she is - it's very personal.

This month we are looking at the sensate spiritual temperament. This involves some questions, reflection, and understanding of one's own predisposition. Here are five questions to ask yourself if you are leaning towards this temperament:

1. I feel closest to God when I am in a church that allows my senses to come alive - when I can see, smell, hear and almost taste God's majesty.
2. I enjoy attending a "high church" service with a formal communion.
3. I would have a difficult time worshiping in a church building that is plain and lacks a sense of awe or majesty. Beauty is very important to me, and I have a difficult time worshiping through second rate Christian art or music.
4. The words sensuous, colorful, and aromatic are very appealing to me.
5. I am naturally drawn to museums, more than I am inclined to take a walk in the woods, work in a soup kitchen, or read a book by myself.
6. I would really enjoy drawing exercises or classical music playing in the background to improve my prayer life.

If you answered the following questions with a high score as described in the above paragraph, then you tend to be a sensate, but if you answer the questions with low scores then you are prone not to be a sensate.

Next month we will be looking at a different spiritual temperament, while at the same time keeping in mind the fundamental scriptures, we used last month (July 2024) such as Colossians 3:17, I Corinthians 10:31, Romans 12:1 and John 4:23-24.

Allow us a moment of historical background in our discussion of spiritual temperaments. As you may recall in the Old Testament, worshiping God involved practices considered by our culture as unimaginable. This often included the killing and burning of sacrificial dead animals. We have to keep in mind the contrasting context and meaning behind worship, before Christ came to earth, and after He departed. Prior to Christ's arrival, sacrificing to God was a picture of what He (God - The Father) would do for us, the sacrifice of His own Son, because of our sin. As you may recall the penalty for disobeying God is death, something we all deserve, but through God's mercy and grace, Christ died for us. Upon Christ departing earth, worshiping God changed and switched to a living sacrifice. This living sacrifice occurs when we serve God by giving our heart to Christ and making a decision to plan our lives around what He wants us to do and not how we want to live.

If you are in need of assistance, or would simply enjoy a conversation with us, we would be happy to help.

Mike and Julie Gutz

MILITARY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCE DAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Sept. 11 – Patriot Day – An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
- Sept. 18 – Air Force Birthday
- Sept. 26 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day – A Day to honor the families of fallen Servicemembers.



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR THE DAV OF MINNESOTA ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE IN AUSTIN, MINNESOTA SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2024

Thursday September 19, 2024

Chapter Service Officer (CSO) & Department Service Officer (DSO) Training
****Preregistered CSO's Only**** Salon 2: 1200-1600
 Executive & Finance Committee Meeting – Regency Room 1700-1800
 Foundation Board Meeting – Regency Room 1800-1900
 DAV Registration \$80 – Meeting Hall Lobby Time TBD
 Hospitality room?

Friday September 20, 2024

Breakfast (Must have ticket) – Bistro/Teddy/Pool Area 0700-0845
 Registration – Meeting Hall Lobby Time TBD
 VA Claim & Benefits Assistance – Regency Room 0900-1600
 Silent Auction Baskets –Salon 2 0900-1600
 Vendor Tables – Meeting Hall Lobby
 Fall Conference DAV Session – Salon 3-5 0900-1130
 Opening Remarks & Pledge of Allegiance: Commander Oather Martin
 Invocation: Chaplain Bob Heinz
 Trainings – Topics TBD
 Lunch – Bistro/Teddy/Pool Area (Included in Registration) 1130-1300
 Afternoon Training Session – Salon 1300-1530
 Social Hour with Cash Bar - Meeting Hall Lobby 1715
 DAV & DAVA Banquet, Awards Salon 3-5 1745

Saturday September 21, 2024

Breakfast (Must have Ticket) –Bistro/Teddy/Pool Area 0700-0815
 Continuing Trainings – Salon 3-5 0830-1100
 Opening Prayer: Chaplain Bob Heinz



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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LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Greetings all,

I just did an update on DAV of MN's Congressional Scorecard which you can find here: <https://davmn.org/congressional-scorecard/> Here is a quick summary of the changes since the last update:

Sen. Amy Klobuchar continued as the highest-scoring member of our CODEL with an additional four pieces of legislation cosponsored. Sen. Smith added four additional bills as a cosponsor.

In the House of Representatives Rep. Brad Finstad continued his climb by authoring his third piece of DAV supported legislation H.R.7657 - Healthcare Freedom for VHA Volunteer Drivers Act of 2024.

Rep. Angie Craig still leads all members from Minnesota in the House of Representatives with an overall score 26 points and added one additional piece of legislation as a cosponsor.

Rep. Phillips and Rep. McCollum both added one piece of legislation as cosponsors. Rep. Ohmar did not add any additional legislation and stayed steady at 6pts.

Rep. Tom Emmer got on board cosponsoring his first piece of legislation supported by DAV with H.R. 7480. Rep. Fischbach and Stauber added one and two bills each.

During the same time the DAV went from supporting 375 pieces of legislation to 424 pieces.

The DAV MN's Congressional Scorecard is all of the data compiled on the actions your elected officials are taking. No opinion, just the facts. If you visit the site you can see the actual bills, click on your Representative name and send them a note, or view all of DAV's supported legislation.

One simple way you can help get the word out on bills we want to see done in D.C. is by signing up for the DAV's Commanders Action Network here: <https://dav.quorum.us/home/> this is different than MinnFluence and will focus ONLY on federal legislation supported by DAV. Action only takes moments but can have a huge effect, if we all speak in one voice calling for action. Take a moment and sign up

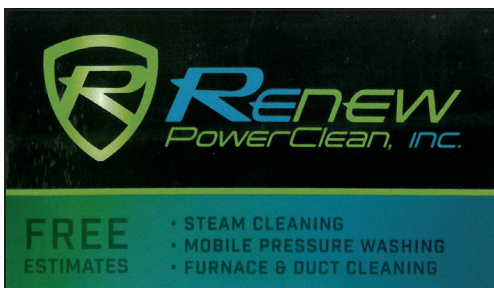
Please let me know if you have any questions.

Trent C Dilks
Legislative Director
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NEW BENEFIT ALERT - 100% DISABLED VETERANS



Vehicle Registration, Title Fees, Driver's License Fees, etc..

Jan. 1, 2024 changes to veteran benefits

Veterans with a total service-connected disability will be eligible for new benefits from DVS starting Jan. 1, 2024.

What you need to know

- 100% disabled veterans will be exempt from registration fees (including filing fees) for two vehicles of their choosing. This includes passenger vehicles, non-commercial 1-ton pick-ups, motorcycles and RVs.
- Does not include personalized plate fee, annual contributions for special plates, reinstatement fees or impound fees.
- 100% disabled veterans will be exempt from title fees (including filing fees) for vehicles purchased on or after Jan. 1, 2024.
- Does not include salvage inspections or fast track fees.
- Early renewal/titling (before Jan. 1) is not an option for veterans who would like to take advantage of these benefits.
- 100% disabled veterans will be exempt from driver's license and identification card fees for all types of cards: Standard, REAL and Enhanced.
- Starting July. 1, 2024 100% disabled veterans will also be exempt from paying motor vehicle sales taxes for vehicles purchased on or after that date.

To utilize these benefits bring your award letter or statement of benefits with you to show proof of 100% Service Connection



NATIONAL DISABLED VETERANS GOLF CLINIC (NDVGC) & REHABILITATIVE PROGRAM

What: The Mission of the National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic is to provide an adaptive golf and rehabilitation program for Veterans with a qualifying disability. The provision of this program serves to engage and invigorate Veterans to directly improve their physical, mental and emotional well-being.

The National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic (NDVGC) is a week-long adaptive golf program that is presented by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and DAV (Disabled American Veterans). This annual event promotes rehabilitation by instructing Veterans with specific life-changing disabilities in adaptive golf. In addition to adaptive golf Veterans will be introduced to other adaptive recreational sports.

When: Sunday, September 8 - Friday, September 13, 2024

Where: The host site is Riverside Hotel and Golf Resort in Riverside Iowa. Golfing will take place at various courses located in the Iowa City area. Bowling events will take place at Colonial Bowling Lanes in Iowa City. Alternative activities will also be at various venues in the Iowa City area and historically have included: air rifle, bicycling, bowling, kayaking and many others.

Who: Participation is open to U.S. military Veterans who are enrolled and eligible for VA care with a qualifying disability. Qualifying disabilities for the Golf Clinic include visual impairments, traumatic brain injuries, amputations, spinal cord injuries, strokes, amongst other profound disabilities.

Why: All the activities offered by the NDVGC office will give Veterans an opportunity to develop new skills, strengthen their self-esteem, and expand fellowship and camaraderie among the participants. The events provide eligible Veterans with an opportunity to participate in therapeutic adaptive sporting and other recreational activities, which demonstrates that having a visual impairment or physical disability is a conquerable obstacle to an active, fulfilling and rewarding life.

How: Veteran applicants must apply for participation to attend the event. Applications are available through the NDVGC Tournament Office see information below as well as on our website, www.veteransgolfclinic.org.

Hosted by: The Iowa City VA Health Care System, with support from more than 400 VA and community volunteers.

Information: Nick Beelner, Director, National Disabled Veterans Golf Clinic at: nicholas.beelner@va.gov, John Kleindienst, DAV Voluntary Services Director, (859) 442-2056, jkleindienst@dav.org

DAV 5K WALK, ROLL, RUN, RIDE TO HONOR AMERICA'S VETERANS

The DAV 5K is a walk, roll, run, and ride that thanks those who served and raises awareness of the issues our ill and injured veterans face every day. Join us in keeping our promise to America's veterans!

There are two ways to participate, join us in-person in Cincinnati or virtually from anywhere. Click on the links below to get registered today.

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VA TO BEGIN A TRANSITION TO NEW LOGIN PROCESS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced plans to start transitioning Veterans, over the next year, to a more modern, streamlined online login process to access benefit and health care services.

With VA's support through consistent outreach and training, Veterans will transition to one of two sign-in options to access VA.gov, VA mobile applications, and other VA online services: Login.gov or ID.me accounts. Veterans can begin this transition now by visiting; www.va.gov/sign-in-changes to learn how to create a verified Login.gov or ID.me account. The process takes about 10 minutes.

Veterans and other beneficiaries will no longer be able to use usernames and passwords for My HealtheVet after Jan. 31, 2025, or DS Logon after Sept. 30, 2025.

After these deadlines, Veterans who have not yet transitioned will still be able to access their data and resume managing their benefits and services online once they have created their new account.

ATTENTION!!!

The September general membership meeting will be held at the new Bemidji Veterans Home at 2:30 PM on Saturday September 16th instead of on our regular 3rd Monday meeting.

VETERAN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS

The following is a list of Organizations that cater to taking Veterans on outdoor events, usually at no cost to Veterans and some offer events that are also available to your family members as well. If you are interested in participating in any of these events and don't have access to a computer have a family member help you get in contact with them. Their contact info is listed on their home pages.

American Heroes Outdoor TV

<https://www.americanheroesoutdoors.com/applications/>

Band of Brothers Outdoors

<https://www.bandofbrothersoutdoors.com/>

Brady Oberg Legacy Foundation

<https://bradyoberglegacyfoundation.org/>

Fishing With Vets

<https://fishingwithvets.org/>

Mandatory Fun Outdoors

<https://mandatoryfunoutdoors.org/>

Middle River Veterans Outdoors

<https://mrveteransoutdoors.com/>

Minnesota Veterans Outdoors

<https://www.mnvetsoutdoors.org/>

Warriors and Walleyes

<https://warriorsandwalleyes.org/>

Wounded Warrior Guide Service

<https://wwgsmn.org/>



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