



Paralyzed Veterans of America

North Central Chapter

A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America
Chartered by the Congress of the United States

North Central Chapter

209 N. Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104
1-605-336-0494 * 1-800-505-4782
Email: info@ncpva.org Website: www.ncpva.org
National PVA Website: www.pva.org



February/March 2020

Volume 345

Upcoming Events

February/March 2020



Feb 2 . . . Super Bowl Sunday

Feb 13 . . . Membership Meeting,
Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon
and 1:00 PM Meeting

Feb 14 . . . Valentine's Day

Feb 17 . . . Presidents' Day, Of-
fice closed

Feb 20 . . . SF Veterans Council
Meeting, VFW, 7:00 PM

Feb 27 . . . VA Movie Day,
Chapter Office, 10:30 AM

Mar 2-5 . . . Advocacy/
Legislative Seminar,, Arlington,
VA

Mar 8 . . . Daylight Saving Time
begins

Mar 12 . . . Membership Meet-
ing, Chapter Office, Noon Lunch-
eon and 1:00 PM Meeting

Mar 17 . . . St. Patrick's Day

Mar 19 . . . SF Veterans Council
Meeting, VFW, 7:00 PM

Mar 20 . . . First Day of Spring

Mar 25 . . . SD Veterans Council
Meeting, Chapter Office, 10 AM



Happy Valentine's Day!
Friday, February 14th

Notice of PVA North Central Chapter Election

Election Timeline

February 1

Nominations Open. Nominations may be made in person or by any other electronic means. Submit bio/photo and why you would be a good candidate by March 20th.

April 20

Nominations Closed.

May 1

Ballots will be mailed out with a self-addressed return envelope. Ballots must be returned in the envelope in a timely manner.

June 11

Election results will be reported at the Annual Membership Meeting.

October 1

New term of office begins

In accordance with Chapter bylaws, election of Officers will be held annually, and the Officers will serve a one (1) year term. Officers include: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. At the Annual June Chapter Membership Meeting, the Election Committee will report the election results.

Certification of Membership - If a write-in candidate be elected, he or she shall have thirty (30) days to successfully complete the certification process, if not previously certified. If you have any questions on the election procedure, contact the Chapter Office.

SD State Veterans Cemetery

Endowment Fund

With the passing of SB 91, the South Dakota Veterans Council has established an Endowment Fund with the South Dakota Community Foundation. This fund will be used for the maintenance and operations of the veterans cemetery.

The South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery will be located at the 1-90/I-229 area in Sioux Falls, SD and will encompass up to 50 acres of land donated by the City of Sioux Falls.

All federally defined veterans, spouses, and dependent children are eligible for burial in the State Veterans Cemetery.

We are proud to be able to give our veterans their final resting place on the eastside and keep them close to their families.

If you would like to contribute to the Endowment Fund, please click on the following link. Our goal is to raise \$3,000,000.00 by 2023.

<https://sdcommunityfoundation.org/for-advisors/existing-funds/south-dakota-veterans-cemetery-fund/>



Monday, February 17th
Office Closed

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

OFFICERS

President, Perry Grimme
Vice President, Casey Davidson
Secretary, Greg Brandner
Treasurer, Gene Murphy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Duane Biesboer Charles Doom
Rodney Melcher

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Chapter Hospital Liaison: Chuck Doom
Legislation Director: Terry Paulsen/Gene Murphy
Volunteer Coordinator: Charles Doom
VAVS: Lisa Cummings/Sheri Kloes-Rozeboom
Membership Officer: Duane Biesboer
Newsletter Editor: Barbara Priesz
Sports Director: Mike Olson/Charles Doom

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Michael Olson

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER

Brad Friez
VA Dakota Regional Office
2501 West 22nd Street, Room 100
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-333-6801
800-795-3632

OFFICE STAFF

Lisa Cummings, Executive Director
Terry Paulsen, Government Relations Director
Barbara Priesz, Administrative Assistant

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30

Sioux Falls VA Health Care SCI Coordinator

Rachel Gangle, Social Worker
605-336-3230 ext. 7898

Fargo VA Health Care SCI Coordinator

Tracy Lamont, SCI Coordinator
701-239-3765

Black Hills VA Health Care SCI Coordinator

Michelle Hough, SCI Coordinator
605-720-7003

— Attention Members —

If you are receiving your newsletter by mail and would like to receive this via email, please contact me at the Chapter Office
(LisaC@ncpva.org/605-336-0494) with your email address. This will help save the Chapter on postage and printing costs.



<http://www.facebook.com/ncpva>

Disclaimer: The North Central Chapter PVA newsletter is published six times a year. It serves its members and interested parties by informing them about chapter activities, veterans' issues, SCI related matters, advocacy and legislative developments and other relevant issues concerning disabilities and the disabled community. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the North Central Chapter, its Officers, Board Members or the Editor. Similarly, appearance of advertising herein does not constitute an endorsement of their products or services. The editor has the right to edit all articles.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Membership-Duane Biesboer

The Chapter currently has a total of 182 members and 95 Associate Members.

Regular membership is FREE! If you know of anyone who has a spinal cord injury or disease please have the Veteran contact the Chapter office.

Beginning October 1st, all Associate Members will be invoiced for Annual Dues. Annual dues are \$30 per year and Life Dues are \$200.00.

Thank you to those who have sent in their dues!!

Please notify the Chapter when you have
a change of address.

Volunteer Program-Charles Doom

The Chapter had 278 hours for the month of December. Terry Paulsen and Steve Wagner were Dec 2019/Jan 2020 Volunteers of the Month. Remember to look for your volunteer number in the newsletter and win a \$25 Gift Card! If you see your number, call the Chapter Office!

State Veterans Home to Offer

Nursing Scholarships

(From 2019 A Year in Review of Fitz Bitz Times)

After conducting research, retired Air Force Master Sergeant Arlyn Reinert of Texas chose to donate his entire estate upon his death to the Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home. Governor Noem set the money aside to give out \$100,000 per year in scholarships for recruitment and sustainment of the nursing workforce at the Home. Essentially, the money will provide 10 years worth of scholarships for nursing students here at MJFSDVH.

Superintendent Richardson earmarked a portion of the donation and matched it with the Build Dakota Scholarship as a "Corporate Sponsor." Build Dakota Scholarship Fund offers full-ride scholarships to tech students in South Dakota. As long as we continue to sponsor a student, Build Dakota will match their scholarship funds, affording us the opportunity to benefit more students.

We started internally with nursing students and will have our first nursing program in 2020, thanks to the scholarship funds. Each nursing student that is sponsored must sign a contract to work for the Home for a minimum of three years.



"Friends Aiming High"

by John Green

Framed and Matted - \$275

Print Only - \$75

To order your print, please contact the
Chapter Office at (605) 336-0494

SD Vietnam and Era Veterans Reunion

March 27-29-2020

Dakota Sioux Casino & Hotel, Watertown, SD

1-800-658-4717 or 605-882-2051

Room Rates: \$63 per night

Registration Fee - \$75 per person

Register by 2/1/2020

Contact number for further information and registration: 605-881-6142 or 605-393-0444

Registration can be sent to: Vietnam Vets Reunion, P. O. Box 343, Watertown, SD 57201

Acting Voluntary Service Director

Stephanie Weidler will be the Acting Voluntary Service Director until the Voluntary Service position can be filled.

Telephone: 605-333-6806 or 605-333-6851

Email: VHASUXVoluntary@va.gov



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Lisa J. Simoneau named Sioux Falls VA Health Care System Director



EAGAN, Minn. — (12-13-2019) The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Lisa J. Simoneau, FACHE, PMP as the new director of the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System (HCS).

“Ms. Simoneau has sound leadership qualities and proven experience,” said Mr. Robert McDivitt, VA Midwest Health Care Network Director. “I am certain she will be an asset to our network, our employees and volunteers, our health care partners, the community, and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve.”

Ms. Simoneau has been with VA for over 30 years. She currently serves as the Associate Director for the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, Texas.

Ms. Simoneau earned her Bachelor of Arts in Politics from Randolph-Macon Woman’s College, Lynchburg, VA and a Master of Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL. She completed the Harvard Senior Executive Fellows Program in 2018. She is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and a graduate of Leadership VA 2006. She is board certified in health care management.

The Sioux Falls VA HCS includes a 98-bed medical center and five Community Based Outpatient Clinics. It provides inpatient and outpatient care for Veterans in eastern South Dakota, southwestern Minnesota, and northwestern Iowa. Services include primary and specialty medical care, mental health services, and rehabilitation. Affiliated with The Sanford School of Medicine of the University of South Dakota, it supports residency programs in internal medicine, psychiatry, and pathology, plus a fellowship in geriatrics. In addition, the facility also has a pharmacy residency.

SDDVA and Avera Partner to Enhance Veterans’ End-of-Life Care

PIERRE, SD – (12-18-2019) The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and Avera have partnered to build a consortium of veteran volunteers to ensure that excellent care at the end of life is available for our veterans.

Avera@Home Hospice began a partnership with the We Honor Veterans program three years ago. The programs goals, while straightforward, require a collaboration between hospice professionals and leaders in veterans care. As Avera continues collaboration with the Department and partners, they will build a coalition of volunteers to provide veteran-to-veteran service.

“Veteran volunteers can share their training, history and common language,” said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. “Veterans never take off their uniforms, even when they retire or complete active service. Their core values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage are rooted in who they are.”

Avera Hospice teams provide care in veterans’ homes, long-term care facilities and rural hospitals.

“Whenever a physician recommends hospice care, we are there as a team to provide it,” said Megan Enfield, lead social worker with Avera@Home. “When we provide it for a veteran, we now know how to make the experience more personal and relevant to their specific needs, as well as the needs of their families.”

Whitlock said veterans have unique needs based on when and with which branch they served.

“When we can acknowledge their rank, and the facts about their enlistment and experiences, including those in combat or that led to injuries, we can make veterans realize we honor them,” he said “Veterans are more apt to open their doors and share their stories when we recognize their service. We can join them, as comrades, in remembrance as well as in celebration of accomplishments.”

Whitlock said the voluntary commitment that Avera’s care teams have made by incorporating the We Honor Veterans program in their hospice services is noteworthy.

“We appreciate Avera’s commitment to our heroes and look forward to this partnership,” said Whitlock. “In January, our Department, Avera and Hughes County Veterans Service Office will host an information-sharing event, and we have invited over 40 veterans to join us so they might learn about this great volunteering opportunity.”

You can learn more about the program at Avera.org.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Fargo VA Awards Lease for North Dakota's first ever Veterans Community Resource & Referral Center

The Fargo Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System (HCS) has awarded a lease for North Dakota's first-ever Veterans Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) in Fargo.

The Fargo CRRC, to be located at 721 1st Ave. N., Fargo, is expected to be ready for occupancy in June 2020. The contract with MDM Construction LLC is a 20-year lease.

CRRCs support Veterans who are experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness, by assisting in securing and maintaining housing, promoting physical and mental health, and by working with Veterans to achieve increased community integration.

At almost 10,000 square feet, the Fargo CRRC will be staffed by the Fargo VA HCS's Homeless Veterans Programs Team, a home-based primary care team, as well as a primary care team specifically designed to care for Veterans at risk of homelessness. The Fargo CRRC will be equipped with a primary care clinic with two exam rooms, one of which will be dedicated specifically to female Veterans, multipurpose room with a kitchen, laundry, showers, community room, clothing closet, food cupboard, computer lab, and on-site parking. Hours of operation will be Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

The Fargo CRRC will help Veterans get connected to a myriad of resources to include housing referrals, counseling, medical care, employment services, substance abuse treatment, and personalized psychosocial programs. The Fargo CRRC is strategically located in downtown Fargo to be in close proximity to the many existing resources for the homeless such as the Salvation Army, shelters, employment services, transportation, and meal services.

Many of the services that will be provided in the new Fargo CRRC were previously provided over the past several years by the Gladys Ray Shelter in Fargo.

"The Gladys Ray Shelter did a phenomenal job providing these services," said Diana Hall, Fargo VA HCS Homeless Programs Coordinator. "The City of Fargo deserves a special thank you for contracting to provide these services as we transitioned to the build-up of the Fargo CRRC."

According to Dr. Breton Weintraub, Fargo VA HCS Director, the new Fargo CRRC will be a valuable resource to help at-risk Veterans overcome the barriers keeping them from achieving their life goals.

"The Fargo CRRC is another example of how the Fargo VA Health Care System continuously strives to innovate

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to meet the needs of our Veterans in North Dakota and northwest Minnesota," Weintraub said. "We are eager to open the doors of the CRRC to provide these necessary services in a convenient location for our Veterans."

For more information, call the Fargo VA HCS Public Affairs Office at 701-239-3724.

SFVAHCS receives ANCC Pathway to Excellence Designation

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System joins a premier group of organizations that have received Pathway to Excellence designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The achievement recognizes organizations that foster a healthy, positive workplace environment that allows nurses and all health care members to flourish.

The Pathway designation is a global credential that highlights the Sioux Falls VA's commitment to creating a healthy network environment where nurses feel empowered and valued. The Sioux Falls VA's nurses are an integral part of the healthcare team, with a voice in policy and practice. Pathway nurses are engaged, resulting in higher job satisfaction, reduced turnover, improved safety, and better patient outcomes. "It is a testament of what can be achieved when we work in unison on behalf of the Veterans we are honored to serve," said Dr. Timothy Pendergrass, Acting Director, Sioux Falls VA Health Care System. As a Pathway organization, the Sioux Falls VA leads the effort to enhance quality of care, patient and nursing safety, and the future of healthcare delivery.

"On behalf of our nursing team and the entire SFVAHCS team, we are honored to have achieved the Pathway to Excellence designation," says Barbara Teal, Associate Director, Patient Care Services/Nurse Executive. "So many of our staff poured their hearts and devotion into this effort. This recognition validates the professionalism and dedication the staff exhibit every day and their commitment to nursing excellence," she added.

For more information on our Pathway to Excellence designation, send inquiries to Erin Bultje, Public Affairs Officer, at 605-333-6889.

For more information on the Pathway to Excellence recognition program, visit ANCC's website at <https://www.nursingworld.org/pathway>.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, SPORTS & REC

Firefighters/PVA Joe Niemeyer Memorial

18th Annual "Gone Fishing" Event

The PVA North Central Chapter/Firefighters is pleased to announce the 18th Annual Firefighters/PVA Joe Niemeyer Memorial "Gone Fishing" Wall-eye Event in Chamberlain/Oacoma, SD on May 21-22, 2020.

This event will be limited to the first 40 disabled anglers who respond.

PVA North Central Chapter will cover the cost of lodging on the night of Thursday, May 21st, for PVA members, disabled anglers, firefighters and volunteers who would like to participate in this event. Reservation deadline for lodging is April 20th.

This is a fun non-competitive event!

For further registration information and questions, please contact:



PVA North Central Chapter
209 North Garfield Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
1-605-336-0494
or 1-800-505-4782

Disabled Veterans Eligible for Free National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass

Good for entry into 400+ National Parks and over 2,000 recreation sites across the country

Spring flowers will quickly bloom, the summer travel season will quickly approach and Veterans are joining the 330 million yearly visitors enjoying U. S. National Parks.

Many Veterans with a service connected disability rating are entering Federal recreation lands and national parks for free with an America the Beautiful-the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands lifetime Access Pass (<https://store.usgs.gov/faq#Access-Pass>) through an interagency partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. Good for entry into thousands of federally managed recreation sites across the country, the Lifetime Access Pass is another way a grateful nation says thank you for the service and sacrifices of U. S. Veterans with disabilities.

The Access Pass admits the pass owner and any passengers in a single, private vehicle (non-commercial) at per-vehicle entrance and day use fee areas; or, the pass owner plus three additional adults where per-person fees are charged. In addition to free entry at participating sites, the Access Pass includes discounts on some expanded amenity fees such as camping. Sites recommend that pass owners check with each site before visiting for details about Access Pass entry and discounts.

Veterans who have been medically determined to have a disability are eligible for the Lifetime Access Pass -

with three options for obtaining the pass. Make sure to have photo ID available when using your Lifetime Access Pass and enjoy the majestic scenery and abundant recreational opportunities our National Parks provide. For further information and questions, please check out the Frequently Asked Questions (<https://store.usgs.gov/faq>).

Author: Steven Clipp (<https://www.blogs.va.gov/Vantage/author/steven-clipp/>)

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PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, FUNDRAISING

Thrivent Choice Dollars® directions can help Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter.

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial who's eligible to direct Choice Dollars®?

Choice Dollars charitable grant funds can make a world of difference to our organization as we work together to support our programs and services we provide to our veterans. By directing Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent members recommend where they feel Thrivent should distribute a portion of its charitable grant funds. Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



Support Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter by shopping at AmazonSmile.com Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your **eligible** AmazonSmile purchases to **North Central Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans Of America Inc** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-03030359947e>

Newsletter Booster Program Thank you for your support!

Ronald and Darla Shelburg
Dennis Hahnemann
Paul Hanson
Alan & Kathryn Gobczynski
James and Marilyn Arneson
Warren Zweifel

Paul Haggar

Please support your local Chapter!

Newsletter Booster Program

The North Central Chapter PVA publishes the newsletter 6 times per year. We would like to invite our PVA members, Associate Members, and business associates to help support the Newsletter Booster Program. Your name will be published in each newsletter (unless otherwise specified) for only \$10.00. Please help defray the cost of publishing by supporting **YOUR** Chapter. Thank you!

I wish to make the following donation to the Newsletter Booster Program:

Newsletter
Booster
Program

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Amount of donation \$ _____

Send all remittance payable to:

PVA North Central Chapter, 209 N. Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR
2020 APPROVED**

Congress recently approved a pair of spending packages totaling \$1.4 trillion to keep the federal government running for the remainder of the fiscal year (FY). The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies section includes roughly \$217 billion in total for VA operations, which amounts to a nine percent increase over last year. The \$91.9 billion in discretionary funding it provides is \$5.4 billion more than last year. Slightly more than \$80 billion of that figure will go directly toward the provision of health care for VA's approximately 9.3 million enrolled veterans.

Specific allocations within the \$80 billion figure are as follows: \$9.4 billion for mental health; \$1.1 billion for telehealth services; \$710 million for the comprehensive caregiver program; \$402 million for opioid misuse prevention and treatment; \$800 million for medical and prosthetic research [a \$21 million (+2.7 percent) increase over comparable FY 2019 levels]; \$585 million for health care specifically for women veterans; and \$300 million for rural health initiatives. Congress also provided \$8.9 billion in FY 2020 and \$11.3 billion in FY 2021 which will go towards further implementation of the VA MISSION Act and VA's Community Care Networks.

Much of the \$122 billion in mandatory funding goes toward VA's various benefit programs and services including disability compensation programs for 5.1 million veterans and more than 446,000 survivors; education benefits for nearly 900,000 veterans; and vocational rehabilitation and employment training for approximately 124,000 veterans. Here, Congress set aside \$153.6 million for the implementation of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act. Also, \$1.9 billion will go toward VA homelessness programs and \$3.1 billion will go toward ensuring that proper staffing and resources are utilized to reduce the wait time and backlog of disability decisions on appeal, and to meet the demand for other benefit programs, including the new Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans eligibility.

Finally, the bill provides \$87.6 billion in FY 2021 advance discretionary funding for veterans health care, and \$131.0 billion in FY 2021 advance mandatory funding for veterans benefits.

In other appropriations actions, Congress approved creation of a Disabled Veterans Program within the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service. For several years, PVA has led a coalition of allies in the disability and VSO communities to press Congress

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to establish such a program to bring more attention to the employment challenges faced by veterans with catastrophic disabilities. The package also extends through 2020 the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (including the VOW to Hire Heroes Act credits) that provide incentives to employers to hire those with barriers to work and provides a two-year extension of the 7.5 percent threshold for medical expenses deductions.

Helping the Survivors of ALS Veterans

Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) along with Representatives Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr. (D-CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) recently introduced legislation to help ensure surviving spouses and families of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) receive the full benefits they are due.

S. 3091 and H.R. 4747, the Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2019, would entitle Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) eligible survivors of veterans who died of service-connected ALS to an additional \$246 per month in DIC. The extra payment is commonly referred to in the veterans community as the "DIC kicker."

Under current law, the higher rate of DIC is only payable if the veteran was rated totally disabled for a continuous period of at least eight years immediately preceding death. VA regulations recognize ALS as a presumptive service-connected disease and, due to its aggressive nature, it is automatically rated at 100 percent once service connected. However, because the average life expectancy for a person with ALS is two to five years, many spouses of deceased veterans with ALS rarely qualify for the additional DIC benefit given the eight-year requirement.

PVA Chapters and members are encouraged to contact their elected officials during the holidays and ask them to support this important legislation.

Update on Caregiver Expansion

Under the VA MISSION Act, veterans who sustained a serious military-related injury before May 7, 1975, were supposed to be able to enroll in VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) starting this fall. But, as we have previously reported, VA was unable to launch its new management system for the program so veterans will have to wait until at least June 2020 for entry. The timeline shift also pushes back eligibility for families of veterans who served from 1975 to 2001, from fall 2021 to fall 2022 at the earliest.

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PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN

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Meanwhile, VA is current working on new guidance for the program that could constrain eligibility for the VA's comprehensive caregiver program. Additionally, the current moratorium on discharges from the program and decreases in assistance will eventually be lifted. Thus, Congress needs to take steps now to ensure veterans applying for this program are evaluated through a process that is systematic and fair.

S.2216, the Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers Act, would require VA to allow veterans to identify more than one caregiver in their health record and to notify veterans' caregivers of clinical determinations made concerning the veteran's eligibility for the caregiver program.

S. 2216 would also require VA to temporarily extend caregiver benefits to any veteran who has been determined no longer clinically eligible for an additional 90 days after the date of notification.

Know Your Social Security Act Introduced

PVA has endorsed legislation introduced by House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Chairman John Larson (D-CT), Ways and Means Committee Member Vern Buchanan (R-FL), Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Finance Committee Member Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) titled, "Know Your Social Security Act" (H.R. 5306/S. 2989). This legislation will clarify the requirement for the Social Security Administration (SSA) to mail an annual Social Security statement to all workers ages 25 and older with covered earnings, who are not receiving Social Security benefits. Since Fiscal Year 2011, SSA has failed to mail annual statements, citing limited operating budgets, even though in 1989 and 1990 Congress enacted requirements for SSA to provide such a statement each year.

In a press release, Chairman Larson said, "Social Security is our nation's foundation to a solid retirement. Americans who contribute to Social Security should receive an update every year so they know what benefits they are earning and can plan for their retirements. No matter what happens in the stock market, Social Security will always be there for them. I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan, bicameral legislation alongside Ranking Member Wyden, Senator Cassidy and Congressman Buchanan." The House bill was subsequently marked up by the Ways and Means Committee on December 11, and now awaits a vote in the full House of Representatives.

IATA Wheelchair Assistance Workshop

On December 3, Senior Associate Advocacy Director, Lee Page, attended the International Air Transport Association's (IATA)

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workshop on wheelchair and disability assistance at JFK International Airport. The workshop was supported by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the JFK Terminal 4 Airlines Consortium. Attendees included representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation, airlines, airports, travel agents, and disability organizations.

The Air Carrier Access Act of 1986 requires airlines to support disabled passengers in navigating the airport experience. No description or documentation of the disability being accommodated is required. According to the airlines, a significant percentage of persons requesting wheelchair support are not technically disabled. Rather many people are asking for wheelchair support in order to avoid walking long distances, to get through security lines faster, or for help in finding their gate or baggage claim area.

Wheelchair assistance represents a significant and growing cost to airlines. At JFK alone, it is estimated that airlines provide more than 1.4 million wheelchairs pushes each year (out of a total of approximately 65 million passengers), with an average cost of \$35 per push (\$70 round trip). Other major U.S. airports are seeing a similar volume of requests.

A 2018 IATA survey found that the number of wheelchair assistance requests increased by 30 percent globally between 2016 and 2017. The survey found that the reasons for request were age (elderly passengers), distance (unable to walk), language challenges, temporary disabilities (medical conditions), and way-finding (worried about being lost in the airport).

The main objectives of the workshop were to: 1) assess the magnitude of the wheelchair assistance problem; 2) find ways to reduce the rate of wheelchair assistance by advocating for alternative service to those passengers who are not disabled but need assistance to navigate the airport; 3) promote dialogue between disability associations, policymakers, and industry for a regulatory framework that eliminates operational complexity and increases access to air transport for persons with disabilities; and 4) analyze the results of the workshop and provide recommendations for the ways to address this challenge.

Virtual Appeal Hearings Coming

In the near future, veterans who are challenging decisions made by VA may be able to make their case via virtual hearings. The Board of Veterans' Appeals
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PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

2020 South Dakota Legislative Session

The 95th Session of the South Dakota Legislature convened at approximately 1:00 PM on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, in Pierre, with Governor Noem's second State of the State Address. This year's session is scheduled for 37 legislative days, with the main run concluding March 12th. March 30th is reserved for considering gubernatorial vetoes.

Legislative Research Council's website can be viewed at: <http://sdlegislature.gov/>

Legislative bills can be viewed at: http://sdlegislature.gov/Legislative_Session/Bills/Default.aspx?Session=2020

The legislative calendar can be found at: <http://sdlegislature.gov/docs/legsession/2020/calendar.pdf>

There are 105 legislators - 35 in the Senate and 70 in the House of Representatives.

.SD Veterans Council



The South Dakota Veterans Council
will hold their meeting on
Wednesday, March 25th
at the PVA Chapter Office
starting at 10:00 AM

You are welcome to attend!

South Dakota Veterans Council Legislative Priorities for 2020

1. Decommission current Veterans Commission and replace with the South Dakota Veterans Council.
2. Veterans Tuition. Allow certain Veterans to attend courses offered at postsecondary technical institutes without payment of tuition.
3. State Veterans Home Study for eastern SD and evaluate current nursing home beds needs for veterans.
4. Veterans License plate funding evaluation.



Daylight Saving Time
begins **Sunday, March 8th** - -
set clocks ahead one hour
Saturday night before bedtime

Care In The Community
Customer Service
Offices
NOW OPEN

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

- Hospital 4th floor elevator lobby
- Ground Floor next to Pharmacy
- Bldg. 38 Room 120

Veterans can walk-in and get their community care appointments scheduled.

- ❖ Care in the Community (CITC) consults must be entered and signed by the Veteran's provider before sending the Veteran to the CITC Customer Service Office.
- ❖ Consults for URGENT or EMERGENT Care in the Community will continue to be managed with the current STAT consult process. Please call STAT pager - #206 to schedule STAT consults.
- ❖ Please note: Complex care may need to be reviewed by the community provider before scheduling. CITC staff will make their best effort to collect information and schedule Veterans who present to the Customer Service Office.
- ❖ Questions regarding Community Care billing should be directed to:
1-877-881-7618



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**From Executive Director Lisa Cummings**

I am excited to share that PVA North Central Chapter is now participating in the Hy-Vee Giving Tag Program, which is designed to make it easy for customers of Hy-Vee stores to contribute to their local community while supporting the environment.

This ongoing opportunity can be taken advantage of at any Hy-Vee store. All you have to do is purchase a \$2.50 red My Heart Reusable Bag, follow the instructions on the attached Giving Tag and we will receive a \$1 donation!

This is a great way to support the environment and fundraise for our cause. If everyone on our email list purchased just ONE bag and directed the \$1 donation to us, we would receive a donation of \$250.00.

Let's get started! We can begin by sharing the news of this opportunity with our friends and family. Call, send emails and post on social media.

The more people who learn about the program, purchase the red My Heart Reusable Bag and use the attached Giving Tag to direct the donation to Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter, the more money we will raise.

To learn more about this program, please visit hy-vee.bags4mycause.com.

Thank you for supporting our Veterans!

Happy January! I hope everyone has been staying warm and healthy so far this year. Our audit for FY 2018-2019 has been completed and approved by the Board of Directors. We will be sending our Annual Report out within the next couple of weeks and you will be able to review the financials in this report.

The Board approved in April 2019 that our Chapter Elections will be held solely by mail. What does this mean for you? Now is your time to submit a photo/bio/ and why you would be a good candidate. Closing of nominations will be April 20, 2020 and the ballots will be mailed out May 1, 2020. We would like to add at least two more members to our Board. As I have stated before, this is your Chapter and we need your support! Maybe you have fresh ideas that we could incorporate into our organization.

If anyone is in need of a powerchair, we have an overabundance of them here at the office. We also have a couple of vehicle wheelchair lifts (they hook up at the end of your vehicle in the hitch). These are all in great shape. If interested, stop by the office and see what we have.

Are you looking for a pen pal? If you are interested, I have an individual who would like to connect with you! Please contact me at the Chapter Office for more information.

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday, October 3rd. We will be moving this from the Chapter to a venue and will be including entertainment this year! This will be a noon event. Watch for more details!

If anyone is having issues with your healthcare or any issues at your local VA, PLEASE reach out to the Chapter or NSO Brad Friez. We cannot help you if we don't know there are issues. We are here to help you!

Take care and watch the newsletter/emails for upcoming events (there are plenty of them)!

Lisa Cummings, Executive Director

New Pension Program Benefit Phone Number

(from Brad Friez, National Service Officer)

DeWayne Standifer, Western Region Director, has advised that Pension & Fiduciary (P&F) Service will begin using the same VA Benefits phone number as Compensation Service for all correspondence, with the exception of Fiduciary Hubs.

Effective immediately, all Pension related correspondence should include the phone number 1-800-827-1000. Please discontinue to use the 1-800-294-6380 number; calls to this number will be temporarily rolled over to the 1-800-827-1000 number.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**Drop-In Legal Service for Veterans**

USD Veteran Legal Education Group invites you to participate in a no-charge Drop-In Legal Service for Veterans.

Wills/Benefits/Income Taxes/Estate Planning

Employment Issues/Debt Collection

Tenant Rights/Disability Rights

When:

Friday, March 6, 2020, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Where:

DAV - Sioux Falls Chapter

1519 West 51st Street, Sioux Falls, SD

Licensed attorneys, USD law students, USD Federal Tax Clinic (student assistance does not constitute legal advice), Veterans Service Officers, VA Benefits and VA Homeless Program staff will be available throughout the day to assist Veterans with questions, legal forms, and counsel.

This program is funded, in part, by the State Bar of South Dakota Veterans Committee, and South Dakota Young Lawyers.

For more information, contact:

Levi Mitchell, VLEG President,

Telephone: (605) 658-3530

Email: Levi.Mitchell@coyotes.usd.edu

VA Caregiver Support

With VA's Caregiver Support Line, assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you are in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

- Tell you about the assistance available from VA.
- Help you access services.
- Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.
- Just listen, if that is what you need right now.

**Non-Profit Group Purchases Badlands Pawn Buildings and Property**

A new veteran, military and civilian non-profit corporation has purchased the former Badlands Pawn building on West Russell Street. Officials from the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc., a 501(c)3 corporation, say the building will bring multiple veteran and military-themed organizations under one roof, led by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. It will also provide a state-of-the-art location for entertainment, events and meetings, as well as an eventual military museum.

"The Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting veterans, military servicemembers, and their families, all while integrating the civilian community into the process. Anyone with a love of country is welcome and encouraged to support and participate in this unprecedented endeavor," states Ken Teunissen, the vice-chair of the Alliance.

Teunissen describes the Alliance initiative as the most innovative in the nation, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to support military and veteran organizations and causes. He added that much of the building's cost was paid through private donations, but that fundraising is under way to pay the balance and ensure the building is ready to open in early 2020.

"We are extremely excited to provide this type of opportunity," Teunissen said. "I'm not aware of any facility in the nation that brings together multiple veteran and military organizations, celebrates and preserves their individual identities, yet also joins forces for other causes such as helping homeless veterans and ensuring honor guards for military and veteran funerals."

Teunissen noted that the honor guard issue is particularly important considering the pending arrival of South Dakota's first state veterans cemetery. "The Alliance will be unlike anything in the nation, but also exactly what our veterans, military members and their families deserve. It will demonstrate how our community and state lead the way in taking care of those who protect us."

Teunissen said the building purchase is the first of many steps needed to open the doors. If all goes as planned, the building would be fully-operational in the spring of 2020.

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PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act Claims Now Being Determined**

Washington (12-31-2019) - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will begin deciding claims for the [Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019](#) at 12:01 a.m., Philippine Standard Time, Jan. 1, 2020. The Philippines is the farthest east VA regional benefits office. The Act extends the presumption of herbicide exposure, that include toxins such as Agent Orange, to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Signed into law Jun. 25, the law specifically affects Blue Water Navy (BWN) Veterans who served no more than 12 nautical miles offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 6, 1962 and May 7, 1975, as well as Veterans who served in the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between Jan. 1, 1967 and Aug. 31, 1971. These Veterans can now apply for disability compensation and other benefits if they have since developed one of [14 conditions](#) that are presumed to be related to exposure to herbicides. Veterans do not need to prove that they were exposed to herbicides. The specific conditions can be found by searching the term "Agent Orange" on www.va.gov.

"For six months, VA worked diligently to gather and digitize records from the National Archives and Records Administration to support faster claims decisions," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "These efforts will positively impact the claims process for Veterans filing for these benefits."

To be eligible a Veteran must have served in the identified locations during the specified time period and currently have a [condition\(s\) associated](#) with herbicide exposures, such as Agent Orange. Blue Water Navy claims are being processed under current prioritization criteria; however, special priority is being given to Veterans who are over the age of 85 or have a terminal condition. Qualifying recipients include affected Veterans who are still living and certain survivors of deceased BWN and Korean DMZ Veterans.

Survivors can file claims for benefits based on the Veteran's service if the Veteran died from at least one of the 14 presumptive conditions associated with herbicides such as Agent Orange. The law also provides benefits for children born with [spina bifida](#) if their parent is or was a Veteran with certain verified service in Thailand during a specific period. (continued in next column)

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The Act includes provisions impacting the VA Home Loan Program. Veterans have more access to obtain no-down payment home loans, regardless of loan amount, and the home loan funding fee is reduced for eligible Reservists and National Guard borrowers who use their home loan benefits for the first time. VA's website describes the eligibility of certain Purple Heart recipients who do not have to pay a funding fee as well as [other benefits](#).

Veterans who want to file an initial claim for an herbicide-related disability can use VA [Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits](#) or work with a VA-recognized [Veterans Service Organization](#) to assist with the application process. Veterans may also contact their [state Veterans Affairs Office](#).

BWN Veterans who previously filed a claim seeking service connection for one of the 14 presumptive conditions that was denied by VA may provide or identify any new and relevant information regarding their claim when reapplying. To re-apply, Veterans may use [VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim](#). As a result of the new law, VA will automatically review claims that are currently in the VA review process or under appeal. Visit [Blue Water Navy Veterans benefits](#) for more information or call 1-800-749-8387 for special issues.

VA Introduces New Direct Deposit Option for Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in partnership with the [Association of Military Banks of America \(AMBA\)](#), launched the [Veterans Benefits Banking Program \(VBBP\)](#), available starting December 20th. The program will provide veterans and their beneficiaries the chance to safely, reliably, and inexpensively receive and manage their VA monetary benefits through financial services at participating banks.

"VBBP offers another way to simplify banking choices to help eligible veterans select the right bank for themselves and their families," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The VA and AMBA are proud to provide this opportunity to connect veterans with banks that understand their needs."

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VA's collaboration with AMBA will leverage its consortium of military-friendly financial institutions that cater to service members. AMBA is the only trade association representing banking institutions specializing in providing services for military personnel, veterans, and their families around the world. VBBP leverages participating AMBA institutions and banks operating within the gates of installations of all branches of service and National Guard and Reserve components.

The current available banking options include direct deposit into an existing bank account, electronic funds transfer into a Direct Express pre-paid debit card and mailing of a paper check for pre-approved beneficiaries. VBBP introduces new financial resources to veterans and their beneficiaries.

The program is an effort to address the problems some veterans experience using these payment methods. VBBP offers these VA beneficiaries - including many who have been unable to open bank accounts in the past - the opportunity to deposit their benefit funds directly into existing or new bank accounts offered by participating AMBA member banks.

Neither the VA nor AMBA is endorsing any particular bank or requiring veterans and other beneficiaries to use them. It does not require veterans who are satisfied with their current financial situation to change how they receive their VA monetary benefits. VA's Veterans Banking Benefits and AMBA's Veterans Benefits Banking Program websites have details for identifying participating banks.

For further information call 1-800-827-1000 with relevant banking information.

**Car Sunshades for Sale - \$10.00**

Proceeds will benefit the Chapter's programs and services! Contact the Chapter office (605) 336-0494 for further information.

From the Office of Brad Friez,**National Service Officer**

We continue to learn of Veterans who have either left for the warmer climates down South or have plans to do so shortly. Another reminder to inform the VA of your travel plans and work with your primary care provider to inform the Veteran Travel Coordinator at your local VA facility so that another VA facility closest to your destination is aware of your plans as well to provide continued appropriate care.

The VA began processing of claims associated with the **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019** on January 1st. Even if you had filed a prior claim we are encouraging you to refile those claims.

The Sioux Falls VA Medical Center hired Lisa J. Simoneau as their Director and she recently began her duties. We do not have any updates on any candidates for the vacant SCI Physician or for a Neurologist to be assigned to the ALS Clinic.

For those Veterans who have filed disability claims a reminder that if you receive a phone call from **LHI, QTC or VES** these are legitimate as these are the private contractors whose task it is to line you up for a Compensation and Pension Exam. It will delay your claim if you decline those exams.

If your VA provider does authorize private treatment through Care in the Community please ensure that you connect with the Care in the Community Schedulers to set up those authorized dates and times. It is our understanding that it can be 90 days or more before the Care in the Community Scheduler will be able to call you. The best option is once your VA provider has authorized private treatment to meet with the Care in the Community Schedulers in person which will drastically speed up the process of getting those appointments lined up.

For Veterans who are rated at 100% Total and Permanent or are paid at the 100% rating level due to individual Unemployability there is the potential for a property tax rollback on the amount of property taxes these Veterans will have to pay. Each state has their own laws regarding any potential property tax savings. We encourage any Veteran who is rated at 100% Total and Permanent or is paid at the 100% rate due to Individual Unemployability to check with their local Board of Equalization at their County Courthouse for this potential benefit. We are aware of one Veteran whose recent rating went back several years but was decided in 2019. He was able to get a retro property tax reduction for the past four years.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**PVA North Central Chapter****Birthday Roster - Feb//Mar 2020**

Eugene Ridenour, Jr.	Feb 02
Hollis Brewer, Jr.	Feb 05
Carl Berg	Feb 06
Dennis Meinen	Feb 06
Terry Bacon	Feb 06
Harlan Schmidt	Feb 07
Judy Hauck	Feb 08
Julie Squires	Feb 08
Andrew Watson	Feb 09
Douglas McCuddin	Feb 09
Chad Maxon	Feb 11
Cathy Brandner	Feb 12
Ralph Martin	Feb 13
Mark Johnson	Feb 13
Jonathan Englund	Feb 13
Allan Trautman	Feb 14
Vernon Johnson	Feb 22
Mark Wolf	Feb 22
Ernest Milliron	Feb 24
Saundra Tryner	Feb 25
Randall Thornburg	Feb 28
Gary Reineke	Feb 29
Caron Morris	Feb 29
Glenn Broski	Mar 09
Linda LeBorgne	Mar 09
Tom Shields	Mar 12
Ronald Remer	Mar 12
Harold Muilenburg	Mar 13

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Kurt Lysne	Mar 14
John North	Mar 15
Vern Anderson	Mar 16
Steve Barrett	Mar 17
Donald Sjostrom	Mar 20
Willard Miers	Mar 20
Colin Reisner	Mar 21
Anthony Steensgaard	Mar 21
Dennis Adams	Mar 22
Brad Friez	Mar 25
Warren Zweifel	Mar 26
Lance Anderson	Mar 26
Terrence Kohler	Mar 27
David Paintner	Mar 27
Fred Nielsen	Mar 28
William Northrup	Mar 29
Douglas Cook	Mar 29

Wills for Heroes

Wills for Heroes is a free monthly legal clinic for veterans and their spouses to receive simple wills and powers of attorney. This clinic is for income-qualifying individuals and by APPOINTMENT ONLY.

You must call and schedule an appointment to meet with an attorney on the day of the clinic. Call East River Legal Services (605-336-9230) for the next scheduled time.

Upcoming Vet Center Groups

Sioux Falls Vet Center, 3200 West 49th Street

Eligibility: Vet Center - RCS Eligible Veteran

Facilitator: Morris Patzlaff, MSW

Financial Peace-Military Edition

Tuesday, Feb 4, through Tuesday, Mar 31; 10 AM to 11:30 AM

Emotional Self Care Group

Tuesday, Feb 4, through Tuesday, Mar 10; 1 PM to 2:30 PM

Sign up early as class size is limited

For further information, contact Morris Patzlaff at 605-330-4552

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

VA receives High Marks for Communicating with the Public

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) received an “A” grade in November from a nonpartisan organization that evaluates the ability of federal agencies and businesses to communicate clearly with the public. In its [2019 Federal Report Card](#), the Center for Plain Language recognized the excellent “writing quality” of VA’s online resources and singled out [VA’s suicide prevention resource site](#) as an “[exemplary urgent help page](#).”

“This recognition validates our laser focus to provide Veterans quality customer service,” VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said. “Generating timely and clear communication about VA’s suicide prevention programs, as well as information on other vital benefits for Veterans, is among our highest priorities.”

Judges at the Center for Plain Language praised the VA’s suicide prevention resource site for following “plain language presentation principles and delivering important information up front and a clear message,” adding that “visitors will know within seconds what to do if they need to prevent a suicide.” The suicide prevention page exemplifies Secretary Wilkie’s commitment to prioritizing critical information for veterans by making it clear and accessible.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is the only other federal agency in 2019 to receive an “A” for writing quality.

The Center for Plain Language also awarded VA a “B” for organizational compliance. The grade was based, in part, on a review of VA’s Plain Language web page, which allows users to understand the VA’s efforts to achieve its plain writing goals. The Plain Writing Act of 2010, which requires agencies to communicate clearly so the public can understand and use information, calls for every agency to have a plain language page.

A nonprofit group founded in 2010, the Center for Plain Language evaluates the communication qualities of federal agencies based on two categories: organizational compliance and writing quality. Since 2012, the center has issued a yearly report card that indicates how well agencies are following the Plain Writing Act. The Center for Plain language supported passage of the Plain Writing Act, which mainly evaluates agencies that provide a benefit or service to the public, such as VA, SSA and the Internal Revenue Service.

To learn more about VA’s suicide prevention services and other essential veteran health and wellness information, benefits and resources, visit the Veterans Health Administration.

VA’s Patient Statement Portal Now Available Online

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced December 18th, that veterans now have digital access to patient statements through [AccessVA](#) using their secure information for DS Logon, ID.me or MyHealtheVet Premium.

Veterans receiving VA care for non-service connected conditions can view, download and print their patient statements using the [Veteran Patient Statement](#) selection on the AccessVA homepage.

“The VA is committed to leveraging technology to help veterans access their patient information quickly and conveniently,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “We believe these advancements will help veterans manage their healthcare in more efficient ways.”

Patient statements are available on AccessVA for up to six months and include a summary of services veterans receive at any VA medical facility. The VA will continue to mail veterans paper statements.

(continued from Page 9)

Virtual Appeal Hearings Coming - Terry Paulsen

(BVA) and VA’s Office of Information and Technology have been working on a system to provide nationwide availability of virtual hearings that veterans can access using their mobile phone or laptop via the VA Video Connect app. The virtual hearings are based on the [Veterans Health Administration's Tele-health Platform](#) which eliminates the need for travel and lets veterans participate in their appeals hearings from the comfort of their homes.

PVA endorsed the use of telehearings by the Board in testimony to the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee earlier this year. It can be very challenging for many veterans to travel to a VA Regional Office and the use of telehearings may increase the likelihood of veterans making their BVA hearings as scheduled. It could be particularly advantageous for veterans whose travel options are impeded by catastrophic disabilities.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Special Dividend Rumor

Rumors that Congress approved a "Special Dividend" for veterans who do or do not have Government life insurance have been spread for over 30 years. **These rumors are false.** The only dividends being paid by VA are on active Government life insurance policies. Dividends on active policies have been paid annually for many years and policyholders do not need to apply for them.

"Special Dividend" rumors are spread by well-meaning people who want to help veterans but fail to check out their sources before passing the information along to others. Notices have appeared in veterans' magazines, union newspapers, fraternal publications, newspapers and every other publication imaginable.

The hoax has appeared in many forms and seems to change to fit the times. It started in the 1960's as a rumor about veterans with WWII insurance.

More recently, it has been adapted to state that a dividend is being paid on Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) or Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) coverage.

The VA has done everything possible to stamp out the rumor but it still persists.

You can help by returning the false information you received to its source and telling whoever gave it to you that you know for certain there is no such dividend.

Scooter Lift: If anyone is interested in a scooter lift which attaches to the hitch on the back of a vehicle, we have two available.

Contact the Chapter Office (605-336-0494) for further information.

SUPPORT PVA

NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter relies solely on private donations and receives NO government funding! Your contribution is 100% tax deductible, as we are a 501(c) (3) corporation. Support by individual donors and businesses enable us to make our services FREE to members.

Please support our mission through a
direct donation to:

PVA North Central Chapter
209 North Garfield Avenue,
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

QUESTION:

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vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteranshome

For Admissions information, please contact Lisa Woeppel at 605-745-5127 Ext 1500115



How to Donate Property

Please donate that Auto, Boat, Yacht, Truck or RV that's no longer needed to NCPVA! Receive the maximum legal tax deductions and possibly a partial cash payment.

For more information about car, boat, RV and other property donations or to receive a "no obligation" evaluation of your potential vehicle or other property donation, please call toll free: (866) 2-GIVING or (866) 244-8464.

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BE SURE TO LOOK FOR YOUR
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YOUR NAME OR NUMBER IS
LISTED.

CHUCK DOOM
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

1519 W. 51st Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

(605) 332-6866 / Fax: (605) 338-5489

National Service Office: (605) 333-6896 NSO Email: www.dav.vbasux@va.gov
www.davsd.org www.dav.org

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Paralyzed Veterans of America
North Central Chapter
209 N. Garfield Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

VA Health Care Systems Contact Information

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

2501 West 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Phone: (605) 336-3230 or (800) 316-8387
Fax: (605) 333-6878

VA Black Hills Health Care System - Fort Meade Campus

113 Comanche Road
Fort Meade, SD 57741
Phone: (605) 347-2511 or (800) 743-1070
Fax: (605) 720-7171

VA Black Hills Health Care System

500 North 5th Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747
Phone: 605-745-2000
Fax: 605-745-2091

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

One Veterans Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55417
Phone: (612) 725-2000 or 866-414-5058
Fax: (612) 725-2049

Fargo VA Health Care System

2101 Elm Street
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: (701) 232-3241
Fax: (701) 239-3705

VA Montana Health Care System

1892 Williams Street
Fort Harrison, MT 59636
Phone: (406) 442-6410
Fax: (406) 447-7916

Cheyenne VA Health Care System

2360 E. Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: (307) 778-7550
Fax: (307) 778-7336

Sheridan VA Health Care System

1898 Fort Road
Sheridan, WY 82801
Phone: (307) 672-3473 or (866) 822-6714
Fax: (307) 672-1900

The PVA North Central Chapter proudly serves the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Southwest Minnesota, and portions of Montana and Wyoming.