



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

North Central Chapter

A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of  
America

# North Central Chapter

209 N. Garfield Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
1-605-336-0494 \* 1-800-505-4782  
Email: [info@ncpva.org](mailto:info@ncpva.org) Website: [www.ncpva.org](http://www.ncpva.org)  
National PVA Website: [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)



October/November 2020

### Upcoming Events October/November 2020

**Oct 8 . . . Membership Meeting,  
Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon  
and 1:00 PM Mtg**

**Oct 12 . . . Columbus Day, Of-  
fice Closed**

**Oct 21 . . . South Dakota Veter-  
ans Council Meeting, Military  
Heritage Alliance Building, 9:00  
AM**

**Oct 22 . . . SF Veterans Council  
Meeting, Military Heritage Alli-  
ance Building, 7:00 PM**

**Nov 1 . . . Daylight Saving Time  
Ends**

**Nov 3 . . . Election Day**

**Nov 11 . . . Veterans Day, Of-  
fice Closed**

**Nov 12 . . . Membership Meet-  
ing, Chapter Office, Noon  
Luncheon and 1:00 PM Mtg**

**Nov 19 . . . SF Veterans Council  
Meeting, Military Heritage Alli-  
ance Building, 7:00 PM**

**Nov 26-27 . . . Thanksgiving,  
Office Closed**

**Because of the coronavirus,  
many of our events may  
have been canceled. Please  
check ahead of time.**

### Additional Canceled Events

Annual Membership Ban-  
quet in October

Annual Christmas Lunch-  
eon in December

### From Executive Director

#### Lisa Cummings

I hope everyone is continuing to stay safe and healthy. As I have said before, if there is anything the Chapter can help you with, please make sure you reach out to us. We can't help if we don't know you have issues or concerns. It's hard to believe fall is here, the trees are changing color and the leaves are dropping!

We have been approved to participate in the upcoming Combined Federal Campaign. We were not able to participate last year as our 501c3 status was messed up with the IRS. I would like to thank all the Federal employees who donated in the past to us and we hope you will choose the PVA North Central Chapter as your charity again. Our CFC code is 54682!

With all the sports and recreation activities canceled for the remainder of the year, I would like to remind you that National PVA holds virtual events that you can participate in from your home. Go to <https://www.pva.org/adaptive-sports/special-events/> and register for events!

Neighborhood Ride has chosen us to be their recipient from the Chili & Bingo Fundraiser. This will be held on October 24 from 11am - 3pm at the Restoration Ministry Center, 1034 N. Spring Ave., Sioux Falls. \$5 chili and \$5 per bingo card. Join us for this fun event!

Just a reminder that the Chapter office is open Monday-Friday with temporary hours of 9am-3pm. The office is closed to the general public during business hours. Until next time, I hope you all continue to stay safe and healthy. Lisa

### 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/>



Daylight Saving time ends Sunday,  
November 1st.

Set clocks back one hour Saturday  
night before bedtime.

## **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  
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

*Temporary COVID-19 Office Hours are Monday  
through Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM*

### **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 179 members and 84 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 172 hours for the month of August, YTD - 2185. Mike Olson and Sheri Kloes were August/September 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!



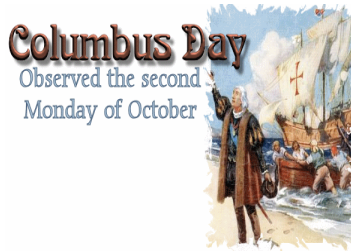
### **“Friends Aiming High”**

**by John Green**

Framed and Matted - \$275

Print Only - \$75

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



Monday, October 12th  
Office will be closed.

### SD Veterans Council



The South Dakota Veterans Council  
will hold their next meeting on  
**Wednesday, October 21st**, at  
Military Heritage Alliance Building,  
starting at 9:00 AM  
*You are welcome to attend!*

### 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.



## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

### VA Notifies Veterans of Compromised Personal Information

**WASHINGTON (9-14-20)** — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Management today announced a data breach involving the personal information of approximately 46,000 Veterans and actions taken by the department to prevent and mitigate any potential harm to those individuals.

The Financial Services Center (FSC) determined one of its online applications was accessed by unauthorized users to divert payments to community health care providers for the medical treatment of Veterans. The FSC took the application offline and reported the breach to VA's Privacy Office. A preliminary review indicates these unauthorized users gained access to the application to change financial information and divert payments from VA by using social engineering techniques and exploiting authentication protocols. To prevent any future improper access to and modification of information, system access will not be reenabled until a comprehensive security review is completed by the VA Office of Information Technology.

To protect these Veterans, the FSC is alerting the affected individuals, including the next-of-kin of those who are deceased, of the potential risk to their personal information. The department is also offering access to credit monitoring services, at no cost, to those whose social security numbers may have been compromised.

Veterans whose information was involved are advised to follow the instructions in the letter to protect their data. There is no action needed from Veterans if they did not receive an alert by mail, as their personal information was not involved in the incident.

Veterans or Veteran next-of-kin that receive notification their information is potentially at risk from this incident can direct specific questions to the FSC Customer Help Desk to [VAFSCVeteransSupport@va.gov](mailto:VAFSCVeteransSupport@va.gov) or writing to VA FSC Help Desk, Attn: Customer Engagement Center, .P.O. Box 149971, Austin, TX 78714-9971.

### VA Expands Veteran Access to Telehealth with iPad Services

**WASHINGTON (9-15-20)** — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today a new collaboration with Apple to increase Veterans' access to virtual care benefits.

VA's iPad program provides qualifying Veterans with cellular-enabled iPads to access telehealth services and currently helps more than 50,000 Veterans across the country connect to VA health care services virtually.

"VA will continue working diligently to provide Veterans with the tools and resources necessary to access quality health care when and where they need it," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "VA's partnership with Apple is an integral step in helping to bridge the digital divide for Veterans everywhere. This is particularly critical during the COVID-19 public health emergency, when telehealth is being leveraged to protect the safety and well-being of both our Veterans and clinicians."

VA has been a leader in telehealth services for decades and began the Connected Tablet program in 2016. A VA [study](#) found Veterans who received tablets, reported high levels of satisfaction with care, were less likely to miss appointments and found it easier and more convenient to access VA care.

To standardize the program and provide Veterans a consistent, quality experience, VA will exclusively distribute iPads to Veterans. iPads offer Veterans the combination of portability, user experience, data privacy and security made possible through Apple's integrated hardware and software platform. The collaboration between VA and Apple, facilitated by the [VA Secretary's Center for Strategic Partnerships](#), provides VA with Apple's expertise to help enhance the platform and ensure Veterans and health care professionals have the best telehealth experience.

"VA's iPad program provides unparalleled convenience and flexibility when attending my VA appointments," said Fiona Garcia, a U.S. Air Force Veteran who served from 2001-2011. "After receiving an iPad in March, I've been able to receive VA care when and where I need it most. The technology also allows me to stay connected with my doctors when I am not near a Wi-Fi connection or near the VA medical center."

As part of VA's commitment to supporting Veteran health care, patients can also securely view and download their personal medical data using the Health Records on iPhone feature from Apple.. Veterans who don't currently have a video-capable device or internet service and are interested in VA's telehealth iPad program should consult their VA health care team to determine their eligibility. Visit [Connected Care](#) for more information about VA telehealth.

## **PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**

### **The Board is Bringing Hearings to Veterans - Virtually**

(9-2-20) - VA is bringing virtual hearings to Veterans who have [disagreed with the decision VA made on a compensation claim](#) and who have appealed the decision to the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA, "the Board").

If you have a cell phone, computer or tablet with Wi-Fi, you can have a virtual BVA hearing anywhere with a Veterans Law Judge (VLJ)! In fact, nearly 3000 Veterans have already requested virtual tele-hearings.

While the Board suspended all in-person hearings in March 2020 due to COVID-19, the Board kept working, and it issued decisions for waiting Veterans and provided hearings through virtual tele-hearings.

On April 10, 2020, President Trump signed [legislation](#) making virtual tele-hearings a permanent option for Veterans. Thanks to the Board and its partners at the Office of Information Technology, we're proud to deliver this technology to waiting Veterans so quickly.

#### **Virtual tele-hearings can happen wherever you are.**

Whether it's eliminating a long drive to the nearest VA regional office, saving money on hotels, not having to take time off work, or providing a more comfortable and safe environment, virtual tele-hearings take the stress out of having a Board hearing.

Many Veterans tell us how much they appreciate the convenience of virtual tele-hearings. For example, one Veteran who recently started a new job was able to participate in his hearing on his cell phone while on lunch break. The Board even held a hearing with a Veteran working overseas who couldn't travel back to the US. Several Veterans have had hearings from their homes for health reasons. And on multiple recent occasions, the Board connected with Veterans in hospitals. In each case, the Board team worked with the Veteran's family and representative to ensure that each Veteran could have a hearing.

#### **How does a virtual tele-hearing work?**

It works similarly to VHA's Tele-health appointment program: If you have access to Wi-Fi with your cell phone, computer or tablet, you can have a virtual tele-hearing. If the technology appears daunting, you can ask a family member or caregiver to assist you. When connected, you and your representative simply talk to the Veterans Law Judge via a computer or cell phone screen. Veterans can test their equipment [here](#). (continued in next column)

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#### **How do I request a virtual tele-hearing?**

If you have elected a hearing, the Board will reach out to you either by phone or letter to discuss your options. Make sure to contact your Veteran Service Organization or private representative and advise them that you want a virtual tele-hearing.

#### **What if I want to wait or I no longer want a hearing?**

If you choose to wait until you can have a video or Travel Board hearing, BVA will hold your place in line. However, please know we don't yet know when the Board will be able to schedule video or Travel Board hearings. Also, this option means that your decision will be delayed until your hearing can be scheduled as soon as public health safety allows. This could mean additional delays of over a year.

If you no longer want a hearing, you can cancel your hearing and submit a written statement. In the meantime, the Board has virtual tele-hearing openings available right now!

### **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.

### **Vet Centers Up Date**

During this pandemic, please remember the Sioux Falls and Rapid City Vet Centers are remaining open and continue to provide the following services:

Individual Counseling (face-to-face, telehealth and phone visits)

Group Counseling (telehealth)

Marital and Family Counseling

Military Sexual Trauma

Please give them a call to schedule an appointment!

- Sioux Falls Vet Center (605) 330-4552
- Rapid City Vet Center (605) 348-0077

## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, SPORTS & REC

Because of the COVID-19, many of our events that would normally be listed on this Sports & Rec page have been canceled. Always check ahead of time if you have questions.

### VA Black Hills Health Care System

#### Drive Thru Flu Vaccine Clinics

To keep you safe, Drive Thru Flu Vaccine Clinics are now offered at the Fort Meade campus. Drive-Thru days/hours are every Tuesday and Wednesday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. To make an appointment for the drive-thru clinic, call the Contact Center at 1-877-339-6837. When you come through the screening station you will be directed where to go. You can stay in your vehicle but don't forget to wear a mask or face covering. Dates and times for these convenient and safe flu vaccine clinics at the Hot Springs and Rapid City sites will be announced soon! You can also receive a flu vaccine during a regularly scheduled appointment or call 877-339-6837 to make an appointment. **Because of COVID-19 precautions, we can not accept walk-ins.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone six months or older should get a yearly flu shot. Flu can be serious among young children, older adults and those with chronic health conditions, such as asthma, heart disease or diabetes. Every year, hundreds of thousands of Americans are hospitalized with the flu. Keep yourself safe and get the flu vaccine!

Other Options for Immunizations: Another option to receive your flu vaccine is through an in-network retail pharmacy or urgent care location. Present a valid, government-issued identification (e.g. Veterans Health ID Card, Dept of Defense ID Card, State-issued driver's license or ID Card, etc.) to receive your flu shot. Eligible Veterans can receive a no-cost, standard-dose (quadrivalent) or high-dose flu shot. For more information or to find a location of an in-network provider, go to <https://www.va.gov/communitycare/flushot.asp>.

### Fargo VA Health Care System

#### Drive Thru Flu Shots

The Fargo VA Health Care System will hold several free drive-through influenza immunization clinics in October for Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. For questions about eligibility, call 1-800-410-9723, Ext 3428.

Veterans should bring their Veteran ID card, wear a mask, and wear appropriate clothing such as a short-

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sleeve shirt to receive a flu vaccine. Veterans experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should present for their flu vaccine when it has been at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms – COVID-19 symptoms need to be improved and at least 24 hours without fever greater than 100.0 F. If you have questions regarding COVID-19 and the flu vaccine, please contact your healthcare provider.

Locations, dates, and times VA-enrolled Veterans can receive their free influenza immunization:

**Fargo VA Medical Center** (2101 Elm St. N):

Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Oct. 7, 15, & 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Bemidji VA Clinic** (1217 Anne St.):

Oct. 2, 15, and 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Bismarck VA Clinic** (Gateway Mall, 2700 State St, Suite F):

Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Oct. 7 and 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Devils Lake VA Clinic** (1031 7th St. NE):

Call to schedule an appointment (701) 662-5801 press 0 to schedule.

**Dickinson VA Clinic** (766 Elks Dr., Suite 6/H):

Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Fergus Falls VA Clinic** (1839 Park St. N):

Oct. 5, 9, and 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Grafton VA Clinic** (1319 11th St. W):

Oct. 9, 16, and 30 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Grand Forks VA Clinic** (3221 32nd Ave. S, Suite 700):

Oct. 2, 7, and 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Jamestown VA Clinic** (2430 20th St. SW):

Oct. 6, 9, and 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Minot VA Clinic** (3400 South Broadway St.):

Oct. 1 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Williston VA Clinic** (1542 16th St. W, Suite 300):

Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, and 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

**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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



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### Newsletter Booster Program Thank you for your support!

Ronald and Darla Shelburg  
Alan & Kathryn Gobiczynski

## 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

### Eligibility Criteria for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers are Changing

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is making changes to improve and expand the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), including changes to the eligibility criteria. These changes are described in VA's Final Rule – *Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Improvements and Amendments Under the VA MISSION Act of 2018*. [Federal Register](#). The Final Rule is scheduled to take effect October 1, 2020. This letter is intended to provide an overview of how these changes may impact you.

### **No immediate action is required if you want to stay in the Caregiver Program**

You and your Family Caregiver(s) were approved and designated by VA as eligible for PCAFC before October 1, 2020. Therefore, you are considered a "Legacy Participant." This means you do not need to complete a new application and will automatically have continued eligibility for PCAFC for one year beginning on October 1, 2020.

### **Reassessments for Legacy Participants**

Between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021, if you wish to stay in PCAFC, an appointment will be scheduled to reassess your continued eligibility and care needs. This reassessment will be based on the new eligibility criteria set forth in the Final Rule.

No matter when your reassessment occurs within that year, you maintain your automatic eligibility for one year – through September 30, 2021.

Your assessment will be conducted by staff from your local VA medical center, and this may include a visit to your home. Your safety is our utmost priority, and during the COVID-19 National Emergency, we may complete visits through video conference or other available telehealth modalities.

Once your assessment is completed, a Centralized Eligibility and Appeals Team will review and make a determination regarding your eligibility beyond September 30, 2021. You will be notified of the eligibility determination results in writing.

Caregiver Support Program Staff will contact you to participate in the required reassessment for the program. In the meantime, please contact your local Caregiver Support Program Staff if you have questions or if there is anything you would like to discuss.

### **What do the changes in the Final Rule mean for me as a Legacy Participant?**

There are several ways these changes may impact you.

- ***We are changing the way monthly stipend payments are calculated in order to make the program more consistent. This is anticipated to result in a stipend increase for many and a decrease for some.***

Under the Final Rule, stipend rates will be calculated differently.

For many Primary Family Caregivers of Legacy Participants, these changes will result in an increase in the stipend payment amount.

For those who may receive a decrease in the monthly payment as a result of these changes, the Final Rule establishes a one-year transition period. No decrease will occur before October 1, 2021, unless: 1) you relocate to a new address, at which point the stipend would be calculated by the new methodology; 2) you are discharged or revoked from the program.

- ***Stipend payments may also change depending on the results of the reassessment.***

For Legacy Participants who **meet** the new eligibility requirements, the reassessment will also determine the Level of Care you need. A higher Level of Care need will be supported by a higher stipend amount.

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**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN**

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- If your determination results in an increased stipend payment, the increase will go into effect as of the date of the reassessment. The Primary Family Caregiver will receive a retroactive payment backdate to October 1, 2020 to account for the increase.
- If your determination results in a decrease in stipend amount, VA will provide advanced notice of its decision on October 1, 2021, and the decrease will take effect no earlier than December 1, 2021.

For Legacy Participants who **do not meet** the new PCAFC eligibility criteria (and who are not discharged or revoked on another basis), VA will provide advanced notice of its decision by October 1, 2021. Participants will stop receiving payments no earlier than December 1, 2021. In addition, the Family Caregiver will receive 90 days of extended benefits following the date of discharge.

- If your determination results in an increased stipend payment, the increase will go into effect as of the date of the reassessment. The Primary Family Caregiver will receive a retroactive payment backdate to October 1, 2020 to account for the increase.
- If your determination results in a decrease in stipend amount, VA will provide advanced notice of its decision on October 1, 2021, and the decrease will take effect no earlier than December 1, 2021.

For Legacy Participants who **do not meet** the new PCAFC eligibility criteria (and who are not discharged or revoked on another basis), VA will provide advanced notice of its decision by October 1, 2021. Participants will stop receiving payments no earlier than December 1, 2021. In addition, the Family Caregiver will receive 90 days of extended benefits following the date of discharge.

**What other changes can I expect under the Final Rule?**

As above, as a Legacy Participant, you do not need to complete a new application. Should you choose to file a new application on or after October 1, 2020, your eligibility determination will be based on the new criteria in the Final Rule. If your new application is approved, you would no longer be considered a Legacy Participant. There are other changes to PCAFC that will impact Legacy Participants and their Family Caregivers, such as the frequency of Wellness Contacts (previously referred to as monitoring). Wellness contacts will be conducted every 120 days. Additionally, the Final Rule defines legal services and financial planning services as additional benefits that will be available to Primary Family Caregivers. Caregiver Support Program Staff will provide additional information about these and other changes.

**Additional Services and Supports Are Available**

PCAFC is just one way that VA supports caregivers of eligible Veterans. Additional services include education and referrals through our Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS) and access to Caregiver Support Program Staff located at every VA medical center. Information on available resources is located on the caregiver website at [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov). Through VA's Caregiver Support Line, the Caregiver Support Program is also enhancing in-person and online caregiving training and education provided by licensed social workers. Important topics include self-care, peer support mentoring, and more. For more information, please contact your local Caregiver Support Program Staff, visit [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov), or contact the Caregiver Support Line at (855) 260-3274.

**Your Right to Appeal**

If you disagree with a decision under PCAFC, you have the right to appeal. Please contact the Patient Advocate at your local VA medical center to discuss the appeal process. Your Caregiver Support Coordinator is also available if you have additional questions.

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**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****From the Office of Brad Friez****National Service Officer**

Maybe this is the month that our COVID 19 numbers will stabilize so that the VA Regional Office in Sioux Falls will open to the public. But until those numbers look better the VA Regional Office will remain closed to the public. We are still in Phase 1 and Phase 2 is the next step. That being said if you need assistance do not hesitate to call or email our office. I have come up with a work around and can present that to you if you connect with our office.

Almost every month we submit these articles I go through some of the same information but here I go again. Please respond to any VA or PVA correspondence in a timely fashion. If the correspondence is not entirely clear to you don't hesitate to reach out to us. Continue to update our office with any changes. This would include any changes to your address, phone, email, banking information and your family. Also ensure that your you have your voice mail box set up on your home and cell phones and that the voice mail box is cleared out occasionally. When leaving a voice mail message on our office phone number many times phone numbers are not given or not spoken clearly and so we do not have the number and have to look it up.

According to the information I received the private contractors LHI, QTC, and VES are doing some in-person compensation and pension exams but not necessarily across the board.

As Service Officers there is a form we use on a regular basis called an Intent to File a Claim Form (VA Form 21-0966) which protects an effective date for one year for compensation and pension claims. But the first claim form submitted after the Intent to File a Claim Form will capture that date if applicable. But if a Veteran files a temporary 100% claim in the interim that effective date gets wiped out. So before you file a temporary 100% claim please check with our office

Another issue we are seeing is that some of our Veterans who require weekly home health hours are getting those hours reduced. VA is utilizing a formula called the Case Mix Tool and we want to fight those reductions whenever we can. If this is your situation please connect with us so we can begin to fight those reductions in weekly home health hours.

Valet parking at the Sioux Falls VA will be discontinued on 9/29/2020; not sure what VA will replace this with. The CLC's are still not taking new patients. Please pray for each other & our Country.



Aaron Filsinger has been serving as the VSCM at the Sioux Falls VBA Regional Office since July 25, 2016. In the VSCM role, Mr. Filsinger is responsible for overall planning, organization, and evaluation of the Veterans Service Center's operation.

Prior to his selection as the VSCM, Mr. Filsinger served as an Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager at the Reno (Nevada) VBA Regional Office from January 2015 through July 2016. He began his VBA career at the Waco (Texas) VBA Regional Office as a Rating Veterans Service Representative (RVSr). Mr. Filsinger advanced through increasingly more responsible positions at the Waco (Texas) VBA Regional Office, which included: Assistant Coach and Coach.

Aaron Filsinger is a graduate of St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Master of Arts degree in International Relations.

Aaron has been a godsend to our VA Regional Office in Sioux Falls. He would be probably about the last person to say this but the VA Regional Office in Sioux Falls is one of the top Regional Offices in the country and has been acknowledged repeatedly of that fact in the awards their staff has received.

We wish him well as he starts his new position being assigned to the Service Center Manager of the Indianapolis, IN VA Regional Office. Brad Friez, National Service Officer, presented him with an appreciation award at the August 27th Board Meeting at the PVA North Chapter Office.

**Power Chair For Sale**

John Effling, Clear Lake, SD, has a Pride Quantum power chair for sale. It has been used 3 years, 7 months, and used 90% of the time in a nursing home. New batteries installed January 2020. It looks like new and the color is light blue. It has flag holders for 6 flags.

If interested, give John a call at 605-237-0133.

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****Flu Shots for Veterans**

Flu Shots for Veterans with an appointment at the Sioux Falls VA medical center or our VA Community Clinics, the flu vaccine is available at any pre-scheduled appointment starting September 10, 2020.

Veterans can receive the flu vaccine at a participating VA Community Care pharmacy provider.

**To locate an in-network retail pharmacy:**

- ☐ Visit <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>
- ☐ Enter your ZIP code
- ☐ Under Facility Type select "Community Pharmacies"
- ☐ Call ahead to confirm the pharmacy services and hours.

**Eligibility**

- **Retail pharmacies:** Veterans must be enrolled in the VA health care system
- **Urgent care locations:** Veterans must be enrolled in the VA health care system and have received care from a VA or in-network community provider in the past 24 months

More information about walk-in flu shot/drive up flu shot information will be available soon at [https://www.sioxfordfalls.va.gov/influenza\\_vaccination.asp](https://www.sioxfordfalls.va.gov/influenza_vaccination.asp)

**2020 Sioux Falls Veterans Stand Down****Friday, October 2, 2020****11:00 AM to 2:00 PM****VoA Veterans Service Center,  
1113 14th Street, Sioux Falls, SD**

Due to social distancing concerns, we had to revise how services will be offered this year. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have our typical vendor booths. Grab bags will be put together to hand out to Veterans in a outdoor drive by/walk through scenario.

*For further information, call 605-679-0898.*

(continued from Page 9 -Terry Paulsen)

**VA to Begin Reassessing Post-9/11 Veterans and their Caregivers**

On July 31, VA published a final rule that makes changes to VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. A provision in the rule sets forth reassessment criteria for veterans and their caregivers who submitted a joint application that was approved by VA *before* October 1, 2020.

Between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021, VA will conduct the reassessment process. The reassessment will be based on the new eligibility criteria set forth in the final rule. No matter when a veteran's reassessment occurs within that year, the veteran will maintain automatic eligibility for one year – through September 30, 2021.

The assessment will be conducted by staff from the veteran's local VA medical center, and may include a visit to his or her home. VA staff may complete visits through video conference or other available telehealth modalities.

Once the reassessment is complete, a Centralized Eligibility and Appeals Team will review and decide the veteran's eligibility beyond September 30, 2021. VA will notify veterans of their eligibility determination results in writing.

Caregiver Support program staff will contact veterans who must be reassessed for the program. In the meantime, veterans should contact their local Caregiver Support program staff if they have questions.

Also, VA is changing the way monthly stipend payments are calculated in order to make the program more consistent. VA believes that for many primary family caregivers of current participants (post-9/11), these changes will result in an increase in the stipend payment amount. For those who may receive a decrease in the monthly payment as a result of these changes, the final rule establishes a one-year transition period. No decrease will occur before October 1, 2021, unless: 1) the veteran relocates to a new address, at which point the stipend would be calculated by the new methodology or 2) the veteran is discharged or revoked from the program.

(continued on Page 12)

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**

(continued from Page 11 -Terry Paulsen)

**Social Security Payroll Contributions Deferral**

On August 8, the President directed the Secretary of the Treasury to defer Social Security contributions (i.e., payroll taxes) from September 1, 2020, until December 31, 2020, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code provisions authorizing the disregard of tax liability of taxpayers determined to be affected by federally declared disasters, terrorist attacks, or military actions. These payroll contributions are the primary funding mechanism for Social Security retirement, survivors, and disability benefits. The deferred contributions amount to about \$100 billion plus all interest earned on those deferred funds.

Because employers would still be responsible for the funds in 2021, and the government has not provided clear instructions about implementation, it is possible that employees will have double what is normally withheld for Social Security in order to pay back the deferral. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has expressed concern over this action and it is expected that many companies may simply continue to withhold the money but not transmit it to Treasury until 2021.

Meanwhile, the Administration announced in early September that it would proceed with the payroll tax deferral for federal employees and members of the military. According to the President's memorandum, the deferral follows the original August 8 order in which employees will have their taxes deferred if they make less than \$4,000 per pay period or \$104,000 annually.

Social Security has an accumulated reserve of \$2.9 trillion. Consequently, if the deferred funds are paid back in 2021, Social Security would have lost the interest income, but all benefits will continue to be paid in full and on time.

However, the IRS code section gives the President the authority to extend the payroll contributions deferrals for up to one year under a federally declared disaster. If no action is taken to pay back the trust funds and the deferral continues after December 31, 2020, the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration has estimated that Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits would end sometime in the middle of 2021. Should that deferral be extended further or other actions taken to end payroll contributions, the retirement trust fund would be unable to pay benefits two years later in 2023. (continued in next column)

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In a press briefing soon after the August 8 order, the President expressed an interest in permanently terminating the payroll contributions and replacing them with monies out of the government's general fund, which would require a transfer from general revenues to Social Security of over \$1 trillion every year. According to the Congressional Budget Office, that would represent about a 30 percent increase in general revenue spending over what the general fund spent in 2019. Moreover, that additional \$1 trillion would have more than doubled the FY 2019 deficit.

Proposals to permanently end Social Security's current financing would fundamentally alter this 85-year-old system of financial security for millions of Americans. Congress can act to reverse the deferral but would likely need a veto proof majority in both the House and Senate to do so.

PVA has endorsed legislation to overturn the deferral of payroll contributions and will be following developments closely to ensure that the Social Security system remains strong for the millions of Americans who rely on its critical retirement, survivor, and disability benefits.

**Committee Studying Wheelchair Securement Systems on Airplanes Convenes**

The Board, in partnership with the Transportation Research Board (TRB), is studying the feasibility of installing wheelchair securement systems on commercial aircraft as directed by Congress under the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. A Committee of experts TRB organized to conduct this assessment held its third public meeting on August 11.

At the meeting, the Committee members received presentations from airline engineers on technical issues and aircraft interior design considerations; wheelchair manufacturing and design experts; and Heather Ansley, Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, who addressed how securement systems could provide passengers with disabilities an equivalent level of service and safety in air travel. During her remarks, Ms. Ansley stated that an equal level of service would be the ability to board an aircraft in a safe, dignified manner in the way the passenger chooses, while receiving assistance as needed from trained assistants. The meeting also included a panel on the operational implications of using wheelchair securement systems, which included speakers representing airlines, flight attendants, and contract service providers who routinely assist passengers with disabilities in the boarding process.

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**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****Gene Murphy recognized by Governor Noem**

Governor Kristi Noem presented the 2020 Governor's Awards Tuesday, September 15th, to South Dakota businesses and individuals who have made significant contributions to improving independent living and increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Eugene "Gene" Murphy has made it his life's mission to help fellow veter-

ans and individuals with disabilities. His attitude and personal example are major factors in the growth and recognition of veterans and disability related issues in South Dakota. His involvement and empathetic care for veterans experiencing wartime injuries was and continues to be invaluable to veterans returning home. For this, Murphy received the Distinguished Service Award.

The 2020 Governor's Awards ceremony was co-sponsored by the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the South Dakota Department of Human Services.

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Telehealth allows Vet Centers to "go into" veterans homes or workplaces which has offered some benefits and allowed for flexibility in scheduling around work, school, or other life events. It also allows for other family members to be involved in sessions or groups that may not otherwise have been able to happen.

Telehealth also has its challenges. Not all people have access to technology or internet or are just unfamiliar or uncomfortable with technology. Vet Center staff are able to offer assistance or practice appointments for those who would prefer that, and they can connect with a tech support team to trouble shoot other issues that may arise.

Vet Centers recognize the challenges of telehealth and prefer to be able to meet with people in person whether it is at the Vet Center or at one of the CAPs. Face-to-face sessions that are taking place at the Sioux Falls Vet Center require strict screening protocols including pre-screen questions, taking temperatures, and wearing face coverings.

COVID-19 has certainly brought about many changes in our lives, but what hasn't changed is the Vet Center's desire to serve veterans, service members and their families.

**Update from Sioux Falls Vet Center**

Work has been different since COVID-19 for the Sioux Falls Vet Center and the veterans, service members and their families served. Before COVID-19, their primary mode of services was through face to face appointments and groups. They did some phone sessions and were working towards implementing and increasing use of telehealth for sessions. COVID-19 made it more important to increase their telehealth services quickly.

Telehealth sessions have yielded some benefits for their counselors and for our veterans and service members over their traditional face to face in-office sessions. Before COVID, they traveled to Community Access Points (CAPs) to meet with their veterans face to face, which has not been possible during this interim period. A reduction in windshield time has made it possible to serve more veterans and service members. The use of telehealth for appointments should also make it easier to continue services. (continued in next column)

**Hunting Opportunity for Female Veterans**

Ranch Ministries, near Pierre, is hosting a hunting outing for female veterans. The hunt is opened to the first eight that apply and will be held October 27-29.

The rules for the hunt are simple: must be a veteran or the wife of a veteran, and must be able to acquire a South Dakota hunting license.

If interested, please contact Darren Kinney at 402-430-5876.

The Ranch Ministries is a ranch located on the Korkow properties in South Dakota. It is a place for rest, relaxation and fun, and with a bit of work thrown in at times.

**STAY SAFE**

## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

### **Protect Yourself. Protect Your Family. Protect Your Community. Get Your Flu Shot Today!**

Eligible veterans can now receive their seasonal flu shots at more than 60,000 Community Care Network (CCN) retail pharmacies and urgent care locations. This replaces the Walgreens Retail Immunization Care Coordination Program, which ended in March 2020.

Click here to learn more about these CCN locations. You can access a map to all community in-network locations and a chart indicating what type of locations veterans can go to in their regions to receive their flu shots.

No appointment or VA referral is required. Veterans need to present a valid government-issued identification (e.g. Veterans Health ID Card, Department of Defense ID card, state-issued driver's license or ID card, etc.).

Veterans can also use the VA Locator to find a VA facility, in-network retail pharmacy, or urgent care location near them by using this link: <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>.

#### **Eligibility:**

**Retail Pharmacies:** Veterans must be enrolled in the VA health care system.

**Urgent Care Locations:** Veterans must be enrolled in the VA health care system and have received care from a VA or in-network community provider in the past 24 months.

***Get Recommended Immunizations:***

***"Preventing the Flu Begins with You!"***

### **We Need Your ADA Stories!**

PVA would like you to share your story about the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on your life or that of your family and friends. To share your story, please visit: [www.PVA.org/ADA](http://www.PVA.org/ADA). At that site, you can also check for information to mark the 30th anniversary of this landmark civil rights law.

In addition, you can find more information about how to celebrate the ADA from the ADA National Network, including how you can share what the ADA has meant to you through the #ThanksToTheADA social media campaign.

If you are a federal government employee or your employer offers a charitable giving campaign through United Way, you can help us to continue our programs and services we offer to our members, veterans and other individuals with disabilities.

**CONTRIBUTION CODE: 54682**



Tuesday, November 3rd



Wednesday, November 11th

Office will be closed.

### **Veterans Day Program**

**Wednesday, November 11, 2020 - 10:30 AM**

**SD Military Heritage Alliance Building  
1600 West Russell Street, Sioux Falls, SD**

Sponsored by the Chamber's Military & Veterans Affairs Committee and other veterans organizations, this annual program recognizes those who have served.

*Free and Open to the Public*

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****PVA North Central Chapter****Birthday Roster - Oct/Nov 2020**

Merlin Evans	Oct 01
Richard Scepaniak	Oct 01
Chad Jacobs	Oct 04
Steve Stanga	Oct 05
Richard Branaugh	Oct 06
Calvin Plienis	Oct 08
Ronald Smith	Oct 11
Jerry Painter	Oct 13
Leonard Ellens, Jr.	Oct 15
Scott Bentz	Oct 16
Curtis Bentz	Oct 17
Darrell Craig	Oct 17
Doug Feltman	Oct 19
Jessa Luce, Jr.	Oct 20
Charles Olson	Oct 20
Daryl Schutte	Oct 20
Robert Thiss	Oct 20
Dana Davis	Oct 21
Ken Murphy	Oct 22
Kirk Spell	Oct 22
Andrew Foss	Oct 24
Raymond Berlin	Oct 25
John Effling	Oct 26
Arlis Backhaus	Oct 27
Francis Gage	Oct 28
Daniel Kernan	Oct 29
David Cartner	Oct 30

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Monica Chesshir	Oct 30
Darrell Christopherson	Oct 30
Robert Dietz	Oct 30
Philip Miller	Oct 31
Leola Klosterbuer	Nov 03
Michael Olson	Nov 06
Darell Poss	Nov 10
Rodney Melinsky	Nov 11
Leo Misialek	Nov 14
Corky Thorson	Nov 16
Danny Elston	Nov 18
Dennis Weideman	Nov 21
Kevin Weishaar	Nov 22
William Livingston	Nov 23
Dennis Doherty	Nov 25
Barbara Biesboer	Nov 27
Dylan Lesselyoung	Nov 27
Larry Miller	Nov 28
Gary Salverson	Nov 28
Mark Grenfeld	Nov 29
Steven Stewart	Nov 30



Thursday/Friday, November 26-27th

Office will be closed.

*We wish you and your families a  
Happy Thanksgiving!*

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****Beneficiary Travel Program Launch Date**

In November 2020, the VA Beneficiary Travel Program will offer eligible veterans, caregivers, and other beneficiaries the ease of submitting travel reimbursement claims through a new online claims reimbursement tool called the **Beneficiary Travel Self Service System (BTSSS)**.

- Veterans can submit and track beneficiary travel reimbursement claims online from a computer or mobile device 24/7/365 days a year through the secure, AccessVA website at <https://access.va.gov/accessva/>, using a DS Logon Level 2 account or VA PIV card to authenticate the identity of the user.
- BTSSS ensures timely processing and payment of travel reimbursements and reduces manual intervention and improper claim payments through automated features.
- BTSSS replaces the kiosk method and reduces the kiosk method and reduces the need for completing hard copy claim and in-person claim submissions.

**All C&P Exam Locations Now Open**

VA has partnered with specialized contract examiners to resume in-person Compensation & Pension (C&P) exams related to disability benefits at their designated contract facilities and not at VA medical facilities. Your local VA Medical Center (VAMC) will still conduct VA medical appointments and testing related to your health care. Specific safety requirements are still in place for Veterans' health. While specialty exams are only performed when it is safe, certain areas have allowed removal of personal protective equipment (PPE) in order to complete the appointment.

**Final C&P exam location has reopened**  
Through a joint collaboration with VA contract medical examiners, VA has opened its final location in central Alabama to create a 100% re-opening of locations now scheduling in-person C&P exams for disability compensation claims.

For more information regarding locations in your area, please visit: <https://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claimexam.asp>.



Wherever we are,  
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Join the CFC community to help those in need. As a federal employee, you can give to the charities you care about through payroll deduction, sign up to volunteer, and Be the Face of Change.



**SUPPORT THE PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER!  
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***TIS THE SEASON TO BE THANKFUL!***

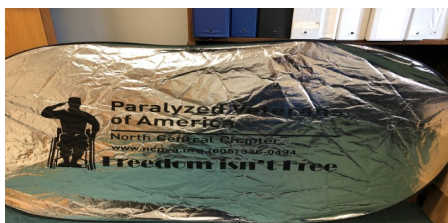
**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**

***LEAVES ARE FALLING,  
AUTUMN IS CALLING!***

**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.

**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.

**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:

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209 North Garfield Avenue,  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

**QUESTION:****HAVE YOU CONSIDERED INCLUDING  
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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.

We pick up anywhere in the U.S.A.



### ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

BE SURE TO LOOK FOR YOUR  
VOLUNTEER NUMBER OR VAVS  
VOLUNTEER NAME SOMEWHERE  
IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND CON-  
TACT THE CHAPTER OFFICE IF  
YOUR NAME OR NUMBER IS  
LISTED.

CHUCK DOOM  
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR

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[www.davsd.org](http://www.davsd.org)    [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

***“DISABLED VETERANS HELPING DISABLED VETERANS”***



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***—President Lyndon B. Johnson***



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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  
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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.**