



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 Website: www.ncpva.org
National PVA Website: www.pva.org



North Central Chapter

April/May 2021

Upcoming Events

April/May 2021

4-1 . . . VAVS Mtg, 1- 2 PM, Zoom

4-4 . . . Easter Sunday

4-8 . . . Membership Meeting,
Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon
and 1:00 PM Meeting

4-22 . . . SF Veterans Council Meet-
ing, Military Heritage Alliance
Building, 7:00 PM

5-9 . . . Mother's Day

5-13 . . . Membership Meeting,
Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon
and 1:00 PM Meeting

5-15 . . . Armed Forces Day

5-18/22 . . . 75th PVA Annual
Convention, Las Vegas

5-27/28 . . . 18th Annual NCPVA
Walleye Fishing Event, Chamber-
lain

5-27 . . . SF Veterans Council Meet-
ing, Military Heritage Alliance
Building, 7:00 PM

5-31 . . . Memorial Day, Office
Closed

5-31 . . . Ribbon Cutting at SD
State Veterans Cemetery, 2:00 PM



Monday, May 31st
Office will be closed

Notice of PVA North Central Chap- ter 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 19th.

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 10

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/>



Upcoming Event!

Prairie Dog Hunt

June 10-11

Chamberlain, SD

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**North Central Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of America****OFFICERS**

President, Casey Davidson
 Vice President, Chuck Doom
 Secretary, Greg Brandner
 Treasurer, Gene Murphy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Duane Biesboer
 Rodney Melcher Harlan Schmidt

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 174 members and 87 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 134 hours for the month of March; YTD 702. Steve Wagner and Gene Murphy were Feb/March 2021 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

Message from SDDVA Secretary Whitlock

Recently Smart Asset™ named South Dakota as the top state for veterans in the nation. Much of this decision focused on veteran population, low unemployment rates, low housing costs, and access to healthcare facilities.

This recognition is great news, but it is not new to us! South Dakota has two remarkable VA Healthcare systems, nine Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) and hundreds of healthcare facilities who partner with the VA to provide care in the community. South Dakota is a safe place to live and raise a family. We have no state income tax and we offer property tax exemptions for veterans with disabilities. South Dakota awards a bonus for those who meet certain qualifications for active duty service.

For veterans wishing to grow their educational footprint, South Dakota exempts 12-month residency requirements, veterans can receive credit for military training when obtaining licenses, and there is no time limit on when veterans have to use tuition benefits at South Dakota colleges and universities. Veterans also have the option to participate in apprenticeship programs and on-the-job-training programs. South Dakota has federally accredited and state certified veterans service officers and county and tribal veterans service officers who are subject matter experts in federal VA law and provide claims and counseling advocacy for veterans and their families.

It is no surprise to us that South Dakota ranks as the best state for veterans to live and work. We are extremely proud of all who have honorably served our country over the centuries. Providing quality and effective service to veterans and their dependents is, and always will be, our number one mission. We draw on the rich history of American veterans and their unique contributions to our nation for inspiration and direction.

GSA Awards Lease for New Rapid City CBOC

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) recently awarded a 20-year lease to Dream Design International, Inc. to build a new Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) planned to be accepting patients in early 2023. GSA will provide the VA with a high quality outpatient clinic built to address the specific needs and requirements for the more than 7,000 veterans that live in the area. (continued on Page 4)



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**FREE LIFELINE PHONE SERVICE****SIM CARD with MONTHLY TALK, TEXT, & DATA BRING THE PHONE YOU LOVE**

Apply for Lifeline program with **Allied One Solutions** to qualify for **FREE** phone service consisting of **1,000 Minutes of Talk, Unlimited Text, 3 GB of Data** and Unlimited Calling to Mexico, China, Korea, Vietnam, and Canada each month!

METHOD 1 ELIGIBILITY "PROGRAM"

Qualifications for Lifeline program include:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps/Food Assistance)
- Medicaid (NOT MEDICARE)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)*
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension or Survivors Pension Benefit

*Social Security benefits and/or Social Security Disability benefits are not program-based qualifiers. Instead individuals receiving these funds may qualify under income requirements.

METHOD 2 ELIGIBILITY "INCOME"

You may also qualify if your total annual household income is at or less than the following guidelines: Households with

1 MEMBER - \$17,226	5 MEMBERS - \$41,418
2 MEMBERS - \$23,274	6 MEMBERS - \$47,466
3 MEMBERS - \$29,322	7 MEMBERS - \$53,514
4 MEMBERS - \$35,370	8 MEMBERS - \$59,562

Add an additional \$6,048 for each additional member of your household.

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY TODAY VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

<https://www.alliedonesolutions.com/apply-here.html#/>

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The approximately 49,000 sq ft of space facility will include a wide range of capabilities such as primary care, mental health, specialty care, women's health, pharmacy care, audiology, laboratory services, and physical therapy. "We are excited to work with the VA to accommodate the growing health care needs for the veterans living in and around Rapid City," said acting Regional Administrator Penny Grout for GSA's Rocky Mountain Region. "This project will deliver the right work-space for our VA partners to provide high quality services to the area."

"This announcement marks a significant milestone in this exciting project," said Sandra Horsman, Director of the VA Black Hills Health Care System. "The new clinic will double the space of our current location, giving veterans and staff a spacious, efficient, and healing environment for care." This new facility will be located at 6565 Mount Rushmore Road in a convenient and accessible location. The new CBOC will also have more than 300 on-site parking spaces to accommodate patients.

GSA provides centralized procurement for the federal government, managing a real estate portfolio of more than 370 million rentable square feet nationwide and overseeing approximately \$68 billion in annual contracts.

GFP Commission Proposal

The SD Game, Fish and Parks Commission proposed an avenue for nonprofit organizations to apply for deer licenses for disabled veterans and purple heart recipients.

The proposal would allow nonprofit organizations to obtain up to 10 (any deer) licenses that would be valid on private lands only. The proposal would require sponsoring nonprofit organizations to complete and submit an application to Game, Fish, and Parks (GF&P) stating the name, address, and phone number of the sponsoring organization; the requested date of the season; the location of the hunt; and the name of any landowner providing private land access for the hunt.

The proposal would also require the sponsor to provide a report with results of the hunt to GF&P after the event. Individuals can comment on this proposal by visiting gfp.sd.gov/forms/positions. Comments can also be mailed to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, FUNDRAISING

We're proud to be a Thrivent Choice®-enrolled organization. Through the Thrivent programs, we are eligible to receive grant dollars, fee-free donations, and support from Thrivent Action Team service projects.

To learn more about Thrivent's membership benefits and generosity programs visit thrivent.com/generosity



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
Alan & Kathryn Gobjczynski
Paul Hanson
Dennis Hahnemann
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**South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery Update**

The progress on the first South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery has resumed this spring and will continue until the final Dedication scheduled around the Memorial Day time frame. A schedule of events will be provided as soon as possible. Erin Brown has been named director of the State Veterans Cemetery and will assist in the completion of the 1st phase of the cemetery and will then over-see the day-to-day operations.

Once complete, the cemetery will consist of many burial options including traditional in-ground burial, in-ground burial of cremains, columbarium niches for cremated remains as well as a scatter garden.



To date, there are 511 Veterans and 385 spouses that have already pre-applied to be laid to rest in the Veterans Cemetery. To pre-register or find out more information about the cemetery, go to <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteranscemetery/default.aspx> or you can call (605) 773-3269 for more details. The State Veterans Cemetery will be open to all eligible veterans and their eligible spouse.



Finally, there is still a need to bring the State Veterans Cemetery endowment fund to completion. If you would like to donate to the Veterans Cemetery Endowment Fund, please follow this link to donate.

<https://www.sdcommunityfoundation.org/giving/support-an-existing-fund/south-dakota-state-veterans-cemetery-fund>

**Ribbon Cutting at the South Dakota State
Veterans Cemetery**

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021, at 2:00 PM

Meet at the SD Military Heritage Alliance Building,
1600 West Russell Street, Sioux Falls,
to take shuttles to the Cemetery.

Everyone is Welcome

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN**2021 State Legislative Recap**

The 96th South Dakota Legislative Session ended on 29 March 2021. The following State Veterans bills that were supported by the PVA and signed by the Governor are as follows:

Senate Bill 180:

ENTITLED An Act to revise certain provisions regarding revenues generated by and donations to the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery, and to declare an emergency. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA: Section 1. That § 33A-5-11 be AMENDED. 33A-5-11. State veteran's cemetery operating fund--Fee for burial-- Promulgation of rules. There is hereby created in the state treasury the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery operating fund, into which shall be deposited disbursements from the endowment fund created in § 33A-5-12, donations to the cemetery, and revenues generated by the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery. The Department of Veterans Affairs may promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 to establish a fee for burial of an eligible spouse or dependent at the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery. The fee may not exceed the United States Department of Veterans Affairs maximum plot allowance for a non-service-connected death of a veteran.

Senate Bill 181:

ENTITLED An Act to make an appropriation for road improvements leading to the State Veterans Cemetery and to declare an emergency. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA: Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$1,500,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs, for purposes of making improvements to Slip Up Creek Road and 477th Avenue, from the intersection of Slip Up Creek Road and 476th Avenue to the entrance of the South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery on 477th Avenue in Minnehaha County. Section 2. The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall approve vouchers and the state auditor shall draw warrants to pay expenditures authorized by this Act.

House Bill 1020:

ENTITLED An Act to make an appropriation to continue the veteran's bonus program and to declare an emergency. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA: Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$400,000 to the Department of Veterans Affairs, for purposes of continuing payment of the bonuses authorized in §§ 33A-2-10 to 33A-2-33, inclusive. Section 2. The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall approve vouchers and the state auditor shall draw warrants to pay expenditures authorized by this Act. Section 3. The provisions of § 4-8-21 do not apply to the funds appropriated by this Act. Section 4. Whereas, this Act is necessary for the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Act shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

From the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

SAVE LIVES Act allows VA to soon provide COVID-19 vaccinations to all Veterans, their spouses and caregivers. Washington—3-24-2021. President Joe Biden signed the SAVE LIVES Act into law today, expanding VA's legal authority to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all Veterans, regardless of their VA health care enrollment status, as well as Veteran spouses, caregivers and some beneficiaries. The SAVE LIVES Act removed some of the legal limits on the medical care VA can provide to Veterans, based on health care eligibility and priority groups. The expanded authority depends on readily available COVID-19 vaccine supply and requires VA to continue to prioritize vaccinations and healthcare delivery for our nation's Veterans enrolled in VA care.

"The SAVE LIVES Act increases the number of individuals who are eligible to get lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines from VA from 9.5 million to more than 33 million," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "Meeting the task of vaccinating this expanded population will be a tremendous undertaking for the VA and will require a significant increase in our allocation of vaccine supply, but I am confident that VA's workforce is up to the task." VA is providing COVID-19 vaccinations to Veterans and employees per its COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. As of March 24th, VA has fully vaccinated 1,594,812 individuals, including Veterans, VA employees and federal partners. The next steps in VA's prioritized expansion efforts are to offer the vaccine to all enrolled Veterans - approximately 9.5 million - followed by those outlined in the bill, as vaccine supply permits.

In March and April 2021, VA will conduct pilots of COVID-19 vaccination for individuals specified in HR 1276 at select VA medical centers. These pilots will work through critical steps in the process including communications, operations including space and staffing, systems for registration, enrollment, and scheduling documentation, and data transmission.

VA currently receives approximately 200,000 first, or single doses, of COVID-19 vaccine each week. VA estimates that it will need a minimum of 300,000 first or single doses of COVID-19 vaccine weekly to offer COVID-19 vaccination to an additional three million Veterans who are enrolled but not currently using VA health care. VA estimates that it will need approximately 600,000 first, or single doses, of COVID-19 vaccine each week to further expand vaccination to all individuals outlined in HR1276. First or single dose supply is the best indicator of VA's capacity to offer expanded COVID-19 vaccination. Updates will be provided.

Independent Budget sets Priorities for the 117th Congress

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has upended much of the past year, the Independent Budget (IB) partners—DAV, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Paralyzed Veterans of America—remain committed to elevating critical veterans issues spanning from veterans health care and benefits to employment and education. In February, the group—as it has for the past three decades—released *The Independent Budget Veterans Agenda for the 117th Congress* along with recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs' fiscal year 2022 budget.

The past year has presented new challenges for veterans, impacting their access to VA health care, benefits and transition services. As the disruptions from the pandemic are expected to stretch into much of 2021, the IB's budget recommendations and critical issues reflect a cautious approach, urging flexibility in meeting unprecedented and unpredictable needs.

"Given the public health crisis and the amount of uncertainty in the year ahead, it is imperative that the new administration and VA leadership work closely with the 117th Congress and veterans organizations to ensure that there is full transparency about VA expenditures throughout fiscal year 2021," said the IB partners.

For FY 2022, *The Independent Budget* recommendations include approximately \$102.2 billion in total medical care funding and approximately \$109.2 billion for FY 2023; however, the IB cautions that the VA must be prepared to request—and Congress should be prepared to approve—supplemental appropriations in the event that VA appropriations fall short of what is needed to provide veterans timely access to medical care. Similarly, the group says, the "VA and Congress must be ready to adjust fiscal year 2022 budget requests and appropriations to ensure full funding for all veterans benefits, programs and services."

The impact of the pandemic on demand for VA services both at present and into the future, the IB partners believe, must be accounted for, including the likelihood that deferred care and demand by veterans will increase VA health care usage as 2022 approaches. Additionally, the group believes the VA will likely experience a period of new, unique patient growth—estimated to be roughly 80,000 patients—partially due to pandemic-related job losses and economic turmoil.

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The Independent Budget tackles a number of issues—including VA claims reform, benefits for toxic exposure, mental health care and suicide prevention efforts, refinement of services for underserved and minority veterans, and veterans education and employment. It also provides lawmakers and the administration with a series of recommendations for improvements.

“The 117th Congress will be responsible for continuing to oversee the completion of modernization efforts begun under the VA MISSION Act, as well as confronting the ongoing health and economic challenges associated with the pandemic,” said National Legislative Director Joy Ilem. “*The Independent Budget* is an important guide to help this new Congress identify and tackle these issues, building on the wealth of historical knowledge and expertise the IB partners bring to the table.”

Travel Pay Claims Made Easy

Guide to Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System

Eligible Veterans and caregivers, you can now file reimbursement claims for travel related to your medical appointments from your PC, tablet or smart phone. With VA’s launch of the [Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System \(BTSSS\)](#), you can enjoy fast payments, more convenience, and a new ability to track in-process reimbursement claims.

“If you go to the BTSSS website and file your claim, you will get paid faster. And everyone wants to be paid immediately,” said Kerrie Sanders, a Veteran who has been using the system since it first launched in July 2020. “It might go to manual review, but if there are no issues, it automatically pays out in 72 hours in my experience.”

In addition to being a regular user of BTSSS, Sanders is a VA employee who helps others understand the Beneficiary Travel program and the process for filing a reimbursement claim at the [Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center](#) in Houston, Texas.

The Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System (BTSSS), you can enjoy fast payments, more convenience, and a new ability to track in-process reimbursement claims.

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Advantage: Just a few days vs. 45 days ... or longer

BTSSS is VA’s preferred method to receive travel reimbursement claims and related documentation, but submitting a claim using [Form 10-3542](#) remains an option. However, if you want a faster payment, BTSSS has the clear advantage. Paper claims may take 45 days or longer to be processed, while BTSSS claims take just a few days.

According to Sanders, other advantages of BTSSS over paper claims include the ability to:

- See your appointment details in one place,
- Track a claim to see if it has been paid, incomplete or in manual review,
- Ask questions of the travel office in your claim notes.

Like Sanders, other Veterans have been using BTSSS since it first became available. They’ve reported that it’s a very easy system to use and is user friendly.

BTSSS can be used on android or Apple phones or other devices to file and check on claims. You just need to log in to the [Access VA](#) website, choose “I am a Veteran,” and select “Veteran Travel Claim Entry.”

Once you are signed in, you can pull up your appointments, answer a few questions, and snap photos of your receipts if needed. If you make a mistake, you can just hit “back.” You can also find out you how much you’ve been reimbursed year to date..

Four easy steps to get started

Veterans and caregivers using the system for the first time can get started in four easy steps:

Step 1: Set Up Direct Deposit. Make sure that you are set up to receive payments directly into your bank account. If you do not have direct deposit set up already, you will need to complete and fax or hand deliver [VA Form 10091](#) to your local beneficiary travel office.

Step 2: Get a DS Logon. Veterans will need a Department of Defense (DoD) DS Logon Level 2 (Premium) account. Simply go to [DoD DS Logon Access Center](#) to register, verify or upgrade your DS Logon account.

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

As of **Monday, April 5th** the VA Regional Office Building in Sioux Falls will be **open from 7:30am to 5pm each day Monday through Friday excluding federal holidays**. The **public contact office** within the VA Regional Office Building will be **open from 8am to 4:30pm each day**. We would encourage Veterans and family members to each wear a mask and be prepared to answer screening questions related to COVID 19 and much like the airport and courthouse you will go through a scanner and your possessions will be run through an x-ray machine.

Many months ago the Veterans Benefit Administration took away the VSO's ability to review Rating Decisions for 48 hours. We had to plug in reminders to check for the decisions. Many times we were not aware of a Rating Decision until informed by our Veterans. As of mid-April the VBA will mail the Rating Decisions to the local VA Regional Office and they in turn will place them in a location for us to obtain and give us an opportunity to once again review the decisions.

The Hearing Room at the VA Regional Office will be opened once again soon and thus Veterans will then be able to have their BVA Video Hearings conducted in person alongside their Advocate.

President Biden signed the **Save Lives Act on Wednesday, March 24th** which provides **COVID 19 vaccinations for all Veterans (including those not enrolled in the VA Health Care System) along with Veteran spouses and certain caregivers of Veterans**. But the VA has not yet released the guidance of these additional individuals so please stand by.

The VA is also **suspending collection of any overpayments owed the VA through September 30, 2021. This will include overpayments incurred from April 6, 2020 through September 30, 2021. In addition medical care and prescription drug charges incurred during this same time from April 6, 2020 through September 30, 2021 will be cancelled and any payments for this period of time will be refunded.**

If any of our clients have concerns about a reduction of home health hours or of their monthly benefits because of an extended stay at the VA please reach out to our office. Lastly, please identify yourself and leave your number when calling our office number. Yesterday as an example of the 8 phone messages we took, 5 didn't leave their phone number.

02170

Additional Information from Brad Friez
regarding Clothing Allowances**March 24, 2021**

Here's the latest on clothing allowances from the Sioux Falls VA Prosthetics Department. As usual Brian Kaiser and his staff go the extra mile.

I spoke with Brian Kaiser, Prosthetics Chief and he was aware that VBA sent off letters to Veterans who had rec'd the clothing allowance in prior years encouraging them to apply for this year's clothing allowance.

He wanted to inform us that the prosthetics department has a supply of the VA Form 10-8678 to give out at the front desk downstairs where the Veterans are screened in case they need one.

Thus, they do not have to venture all the way up to prosthetics to get that form. They can also turn it in there at the front desk when completed and signed and prosthetics will pick it up from the front desk and process it.

These application forms have to be returned prior to August 1st.

Thanks,

Brad Friez, National Service Officer
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Sioux Falls, SD
(605) 333-6801

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Step 3: Login to BTSSS. Once you have a DS Logon, go to <https://access.va.gov> and use it to log in and review or create your profile.

Step 4: File your claim. Now that your account is all set, file your first claim.

**CAREGIVER
SUPPORT LINE**
 **1-855-260-3274**

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**PVA North Central Chapter****Birthday Roster - April/May 2021**

Oscar Ewing	Apr 02
Carl Oleson	Apr 03
Frederick Ellwein	Apr 06
Rodney Melcher	Apr 08
Christine Speirs	Apr 08
Cliff Koele	Apr 09
Thomas Olson	Apr 12
Victor Kienitz	Apr 13
Terry Williams	Apr 16
Bruce Hoffman	Apr 20
Shaun Rupe	Apr 26
David Allen	Apr 29
Carl Stricherz	Apr 29
Barbara Priesz	Apr 30
David VanHorn	Apr 30
Ken Laughlin	May 01
Larry Johnson	May 03
Gary Nordean	May 07
Don Westberg	May 07
Travis Kasten	May 09
Richaard Parsons	May 13
Bob Uecker	May 14
Roger Holtzman	May 15
Grant Elvik	May 17
Dennis McNulty	May 17
Eric Vetter	May 19
John Kuhlman	May 20

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Scott Petersen	May 21
Dennis Moldrem	May 24
Merle Kjer	May 25
Steve Whitney	May 25
Perry Grimme	May 26
Gary Howey	May 27
Sarah Bierman	May 28
Robert Buchanan	May 30
Vernon Howie	May 30
Michael McGinnis	May 30

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.


PVA North Central Chapter
"Darrell Jepsen Memorial
Scholarship" Program

The PVA North Central Chapter has established a scholarship program to provide financial assistance for PVA members and their families so that they may achieve their goals in the academic arena. Scholarships will vary according to the number and merit of applications received and the total funds available. At no time will a grant exceed \$1,000 per academic year.

Applications are now available for 2021-2022. Please contact the Chapter Office for an application or you can download it at www.ncpva.org.

Applications must be postmarked by **July 1st**, no exceptions.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**Veterans Resources**

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

1-800-316-8387 or 605-336-3230

Follow us on Social Media for the most up to date information @VASiouxFalls www.sioxfalls.va.gov**Care in the Community**

Sioux Falls VA CITC Scheduling

1-605-333-6800

CITC 72 Hour ER Notification

1-844-724-7842

CITC Billing

1-877-881-7618

VA Billing

Services rendered at the VA

1-866-347-2352

VA Caregiver Support

Questions or to Apply

1-800-316-8387 x5080 or

605-336-3230 x5080

Travel Pay

1-605-373-4196

Beneficiary Travel Help Desk

1-855-574-7292

www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay**To Request A Ride**

Veteran's Transportation

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CONTRIBUTION CODE:**54682**

**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

North Central Chapter

**SUPPORT THE PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER!
CODE #54682**

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**Acorn Stairlift**

The PVA North Central Chapter has received a generous donation of an Acorn Stairlift in excellent condition. If you are a disabled Veteran and interested in this, please contact Lisa at the Chapter Office for more information, 605-336-0494.

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

**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. 14677

QUESTION:**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED INCLUDING
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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

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
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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.