



## 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)



North Central Chapter

February/March 2022

### Upcoming Events February/March 2022



**Feb 10 . . . Membership Meeting, Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon and 1:00 PM Meeting**

**Feb 13 . . . Super Bowl Sunday**

**Feb 14 . . . Valentine's Day**

**Feb 21 . . . Presidents' Day, Office Closed**

**Feb 24 . . . SF Veterans Council Meeting, Alliance Bldg, 7:00 PM**

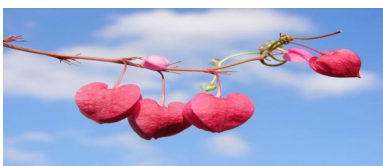
**Mar 10 . . . Membership Meeting, Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon and 1:00 PM Meeting**

**Mar 13 . . . Daylight Saving Time begins**

**Mar 17 . . . St. Patrick's Day**

**Mar 20 . . . First Day of Spring**

**Mar 24 . . . SF Veterans Council Meeting, Alliance Bldg, 7:00 PM**



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

*Monday, February 14th*

### Notice of PVA North Central Chapter Election

#### Election Timeline

#### February 1

Nominations Open. Nominations may be made in person or by any other electronic means. **Submit bio/photo and why you would be a good candidate by March 18th.**

#### April 19

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 9

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:

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



Monday, February 21st  
Office Closed

## **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

*Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 - 4*

### **Sioux Falls VA Health Care SCI Coordinator**

Melissa Suter, 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**

Danielle Reichert, 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 167 members and 86 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 168 hours for the month of December. Chuck Doom and Steve Wagner were Dec 2021/January 2022 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

### **South Dakota Vietnam Veteran's & Era Reunion**

**February 26-27, 2022**

Ramada Inn - \$79.95 + tax per night

Mitchell, SD 605-996-6501

### **Saturday, February 26th:**

Ramada Inn Registration 9:00 AM

Lunch at VFW/American Legion 12:00-1:30 PM  
(Goodwill Donation)

Happy Hour/Auction 4:30 -5:30 PM

Banquet 5:30 -7:00 PM

Dance to *Something New* 7:00 - 10:00 PM

Candle Light Ceremony 10:00 PM

### **Sunday, February 27th:**

MEMORIAL SERVICE

10:00 AM

~ ~ ~

\$50.00 per person

Contact number for more information and registration

605-996-2211 or 605-999-2321

### **CFC 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 individual with disabilities.

**CONTRIBUTION CODE: 54682**



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

North Central Chapter



**1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1**



**Online**  
My Health, My Care: 24/7 Access to VA

## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

### VA seeks Feedback to Guide New Copayment Waiver Program for Veterans at Risk for Suicide

WASHINGTON (1-5-2022) — To encourage outpatient mental health care and reduce any potential barriers associated with seeking it, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to eliminate copayment requirements for outpatient mental health visits and reduce the copayments for medications dispensed to Veterans who are identified as high risk for suicide by a VA clinician.

VA [published a notice](#) in the Federal Register Jan. 5, to solicit public feedback to guide implementation of the new VA program modifying copayments for Veterans at risk of suicide.

“Research shows increased frequency of outpatient mental health encounters for high-risk Veterans reduces their risk of suicide,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Through these efforts, VA will continue to address this national public health crisis by further eliminating financial burdens on Veterans which may negatively influence their engagement in mental health treatment and their critical medication availability.”

Currently, there is no exemption from outpatient care copayments for Veterans who are at risk for suicide, and such Veterans have to pay a \$15.00 or \$50.00 copayment for each outpatient visit, depending on whether the visit qualifies as primary care or specialty care.

In addition, to decrease the risk of overdose on prescribed medications, prescription-based lethal means safety programs often focus on limiting the supply of medications that may, intentionally or unintentionally, contribute to an overdose. An example of this would be to prescribe a seven-day supply of medication with four refills rather than a prescribing one 30-day supply of the medication.

This proposed rule would reduce the financial burden of multiple co-payments associated with both increased outpatient visits as well as more frequent, but limited supply of prescribed medications.

The public notice requests feedback at the [Federal Register](#). The public comment period ends March 7. For more information, contact <https://www.va.gov/reach/lethal-means/#safe-med-storage>.

### Live Up to their Legacy



Each December, millions of Americans come together across the country to remember the fallen, honor those that serve, and teach the next generation about the value of freedom. The freezing cold temperature did not deter hundreds of South Dakotans from paying tribute December 18th to veterans buried at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

It's been said, “we stand on the shoulders of heroes that have gone before us, and really what we strive to do is live up to their legacy,” so it was fitting that “Live Up to Their Legacy,” was the 2021 theme.

“Laying the green wreaths with red bows at Christmas is a fitting way to honor those buried on our sacred grounds,” said SDVC Director Erin Brown. “Our special thanks to Midwest Honor Flight and their partners for sponsorship of this great program.”

This year's program will be held again at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery, on Saturday, December 17, 2022.

### VA Designates Flexible Funding to Support Homeless Veterans

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs disbursed \$20 million in American Rescue Plan funds, Dec. 21, 2021, to VA Medical Centers to provide critical and life-saving emergency assistance to veterans experiencing homelessness or those enrolled in the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program](#) during the coronavirus pandemic.

Through a time-limited congressional authority, VAMCs can use these funds to bring help required for safety and survival and to support stability and health for transportation and communications equipment and services.

“This unprecedented authority allows the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to meet the immediate needs of veterans who lack stable housing, transportation to medical appointments, food and other essentials

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**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**

(continued from Page 4)

- all while helping them to achieve long-term housing and financial stability,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “COVID-19 transmission continues to rise this winter in many communities and these resources will help the VA use these flexibilities to protect the health and safety of homeless and at-risk veterans.”

In 2021 VAMCs across the country helped more than 24,000 veterans from May through November thanks to the expanded authorization described in section 4201(a) of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315). VAMCs have purchased groceries, meals, apartment start-up kits, furniture, merchandise vouchers, and laundry vouchers for veterans experiencing homelessness. In addition, these funds have allowed for the creation of a nationally coordinated rideshare program which offers support to veterans who need transportation to meet health, housing, legal, and employment needs.

Veterans experiencing homelessness should visit their local VAMC for assistance and to take advantage of the support made possible by this authorization. These life-saving services are available to eligible veterans who are experiencing homelessness or those participating in the HUD-VASH program.

For immediate assistance contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838).

**Vet Centers Expand Eligibility**

Doug McCuddin, outreach specialist with the Sioux Falls Vet Center, has notified the Department that the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2021 extends Vet Center eligibility to current members of the Reserve Component assigned to a military reserve command in a drilling status, to include Active Reserves, who have a behavioral health condition or psychological trauma that is related to the individual’s military service and has an adverse effect on their ability to have a desired quality of life or hinders their adjustment to civilian life.

These benefits are effective January 1, 2022. Questions and referrals can be directed to the Sioux Falls Vet Center at 605.330.4552.

**New Director Named at VA Black Hills Health Care System**

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa R. Curnes, MHA, BSN, RN, as the new director of VA Black Hills Health Care System effective January 30, 2022.

“Ms. Curnes brings strong leadership qualities and proven experience,” said Mr. Robert McDivitt, VA Midwest Health Care Network Director. “I am certain she will be an asset to our Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN), our employees and volunteers, our health care partners, the community, and most importantly, for the veterans of South Dakota we are honored to serve.”

Curnes has been with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for over 27 years. She currently serves as the associate director for the Eastern Kansas VA Health Care System, Leavenworth/Topeka, Kansas. Ms. Curnes holds a Bachelor of Science and Nursing from the University of Iowa, and a Master of Health Administration from Des Moines University.

**Changes to Visitation at Sioux Falls VA Health Care System (January 7, 2022)**

Dear Sioux Falls VA Health Care System Stakeholders:

Due to the significant increase in COVID infections in the local community, the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System is temporarily suspending visitation to inpatient units and the Community Living Center. The Sioux Falls VA Health Care Systems Emergency Operations Team and leadership have determined that the significant increase in COVID infections in the local community requires this temporary suspension of visitation to best protect our vulnerable hospitalized Veterans. Staff will facilitate virtual visitation between hospitalized Veterans and their families during this period. End-of-life in-person visitation will be allowed with coordination.

Veterans coming to the Sioux Falls VA and CBOCs for out-patient appointments may be accompanied by one care-giver or assistant if needed.

VA remains committed to honoring our Nation’s Veterans by ensuring a safe environment to deliver exceptional health care. We appreciate your continued support of our mission.

Respectfully, Damian T. Donahoe  
Supervisory Health Systems Specialist  
Patient Experience Office  
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

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

## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, SPORTS & REC

### Annual Oahe Hunt a Continuing Success!



This year's 29th annual Oahe Hunt sponsored by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks had nine hunters in wheelchairs join the special two-day event at Oahe Downstream Recreation Area starting on November 20th.

Hunters, and any family members who were with them, joined the volunteers and were based from deer blinds built specifically with wheelchairs in mind, with firing lines were carefully planned so no shooting overlapped another hunter's position.

"The hunt was very successful this year, as the nine hunters harvested eight deer this past weekend," Game, Fish and Parks District Supervisor Pat Buscher said. "Of the nine hunters, eight were from South Dakota, while one traveled from Wisconsin."

end," Game, Fish and Parks District Supervisor Pat Buscher said. "Of the nine hunters, eight were from South Dakota, while one traveled from Wisconsin."

The annual success rate, depending on the shooting ability of the person, is often around 60 percent or greater, and harvested deer range in size from does to 6-by-6 bucks.

This year, 21 volunteers, workers and family members assisted with the hunt. "The hunt couldn't take place without our wonderful volunteers, and we had another great crew this past weekend," Buscher said. "Volunteers and workers transport hunters to the blinds, some sit and assist the hunters in the blinds. Other drag deer from the field, while others dress the animal for the successful hunters."

The hunt allows hunters with wheelchairs to enjoy not only the outdoors and other wildlife such as fox and eagles but also hunting for deer. The Oahe Hunt takes place one weekend each year and is only available to hunters who require a wheelchair. It is the only time hunting is allowed within Oahe Downstream Recreation Area. To ensure safety, entrance into the area is limited to participating hunters, hunt volunteers and staff. The roads entering the recreation area are closed.

The hunt is appreciated, not only by the hunters but also by their family members. "Thanks to everyone who makes this hunt possible," Pierre resident Catherine Brandner said. "So many volunteers give their entire weekend and more to give the hunters a great outdoor experience." Brandner's husband, Greg, harvested a buck during this year's hunt.

According to Buscher, the event's first few years saw about five or six hunters, though now the numbers are sometimes more than twice that figure. The hunt includes antlerless tags and any-deer tags—most going to South Dakotans and the others going to non-resident hunters with mobility issues.

"The individual hunters apply and purchase their hunting licenses," Buscher said. "Hunters generally provide their own firearms, as they are actively engaged in hunting. By far most of the hunters take home the meat for their consumption. In some cases we have an isolated deer donated. This continues to be a great opportunity to provide a real hunt for those with mobility issues."

According to Buscher, last year's hunt was considerably different due to the coronavirus pandemic, with many new safety protocols put in place. The volunteer numbers were limited, as some had the virus, and some didn't participate since they had older parents in their care.

By Reporter Del Bartels, November 26, 2021

(Above picture shows Greg Brandner and his wife, Cathy, showing off the buck he got during the Annual Oahe Hunt in November 2021)

**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](http://thrivent.com/generosity)

**Qualified****Charitable****Distributions**

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 first allowed taxpayers age 70½ or older to make tax-free charitable donations directly from their IRAs. Technically, these taxpayers were allowed to exclude from gross income otherwise taxable distributions from their IRA ("qualified charitable distributions," or QCDs), up to \$100,000, that were paid directly to a qualified charity.

These gifts are also known as "Charitable IRA rollovers." The law was originally scheduled to expire in 2007, but was extended periodically through 2014 by subsequent legislation, and finally made permanent by the Protect Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015.

### **Newsletter Booster Program**

### **Thank you for your support!**

Ronald and Darla Shelburg  
Alan & Kathryn Gobczynski  
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**

# 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

#PushingAccessForward

## Protect Access to VA's Specialized Health Care Services



### System Access

Congress must preserve access to VA's specialized services, including its SCI/D system of care, and provide funding to ensure the system continues meeting the needs of SCI/D veterans.



### Staffing

VA must have the authority to provide additional pay, compensation, and retention incentives to make it more attractive to health care and related support professionals.



### Infrastructure

VA must receive funding for maintaining and expanding its health care infrastructure, including specialty facility-based long-term care that is in line with its actual needs. VA must also have the ability to hire additional staff to manage the construction process and implement needed reforms.

## Expand Access to VA Long-Term Services and Supports



### Facility-Based Long-Term Care

VA must adequately assess the number of veterans who need facility-based long-term care and receive funding to provide a safe margin of specialty VA long-term care capacity for veterans with SCI/D.



### Home and Community-Based Services and Caregiver Supports

Veterans with catastrophic disabilities must have access to a full range of supports and services that allow them to remain independent in their homes and communities. VA must expand access to its Veteran Directed Care program and ensure its Homemaker and Home Health Aide program provides the level of support veterans require to live full, productive lives.

Congress must continue strong oversight of VA's implementation of the expansion of its Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. Eligibility determinations must be consistent and the appeals process fair. Final expansion of the program to all eras of eligible veterans must not be delayed beyond October 1, 2022.

VA must work with other federal agencies and Congress to ensure veterans have access to home care workers by increasing pay and providing incentives for workers to provide these important services. Veterans with catastrophic disabilities must also receive payment for their caregivers even when the veteran is hospitalized due to the type of assistance these veterans need, even in acute care settings, and to make sure they have assistance following discharge.

## Improve VA Health Care Services and Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans and their Survivors



### Assisted Reproductive Technologies

Congress must repeal VA's ban on IVF and authorize VA to provide assisted reproductive technology, including IVF, surrogacy, and gamete donation at VA for any veterans enrolled in VA health care.



### Survivor Benefits

Congress should increase the rate of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for surviving dependents, and lower the threshold of eligibility to allow more survivors to receive this benefit who currently do not meet the requirements. Congress must also ensure survivors of veterans who die from ALS receive full benefits, including access to the additional DIC benefit.



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

## 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**#PushingAccessForward**

### Adapted Automobile Benefits

Congress must increase the number of times eligible veterans can access the Automobile Allowance Grant, ensure veterans receive appropriate Automotive Adaptive Equipment (AAE) reimbursements, and authorize veterans who have non-service-connected catastrophic disabilities to receive the same type of AAE as veterans whose disabilities are service-connected.



### Home Modification Grants

Congress must raise the rate of funding available through VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alterations grant program to improve access to housing adaptations for all catastrophically disabled veterans.

## Increase Access to VA Health Care and Benefits for Women Veterans with SCI/D



### Health Care

VA must fully meet the needs of women veterans with catastrophic disabilities and consider their unique needs in developing programs and providing services targeted to the broader women veteran population; and when necessary, implement additional training to VA staff to ensure standards of care align with the needs of severely disabled women veterans.



### Benefits

Veterans with catastrophic disabilities who have experienced military sexual trauma (MST) must have access to the services and benefits needed to address MST-related issues and have assurance that any issues related to their catastrophic disabilities are considered when evaluating MST claims and the provision of related services.

## Protect the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities



### Improve Access to Air Travel

Congress must make systemic changes to improve air travel for people with disabilities, particularly wheelchairs users, by reforming the Air Carrier Access Act to add standards for aircraft accessibility and improve enforcement of the law.



### Increase Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance

Congress must support increased compliance with the ADA by improving tax incentives that help businesses remove access barriers and increasing funding for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) ADA mediation program. DOJ must investigate more individual complaints and issue long-overdue regulations governing non-fixed equipment and furniture, including hotel bed height and medical equipment.

## Strengthen and Enhance Social Security Benefits



Congress must strengthen and enhance the Social Security system without harming beneficiaries by improving benefits for low- and middle-income beneficiaries; eliminating the five-month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI); replacing the abrupt termination of SSDI benefits with a phased reduction as earnings rise; offering caregivers credits under Social Security; and ending pension penalties for public servants.

## Increase Employment Prospects for Veterans with Disabilities



Congress must protect and strengthen employment rights for veterans with disabilities through tax incentives for employers; enhanced entrepreneurship opportunities; and improvements to federal hiring and promotions. Congress must also increase oversight of VA's Veteran Readiness and Employment program, ensuring severely disabled veterans are not unjustly denied enrollment to these critical benefits.

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****2022 South Dakota Legislative Session**

The 97th Session of the South Dakota Legislature convened at approximately 1:00 PM on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, with Governor Noem's State of the State Address. This year's session is scheduled for 38 legislative days, with the main run concluding March 10th. March 28th is reserved for considering gubernatorial vetoes. Legislative Research Council's website can be viewed at: <https://sdlegislature.gov/>. There are 105 legislators - 35 in the Senate and 70 in the House of Representatives.

**97th SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE SESSION CALENDAR**

2022 38 Legislative Days

Please refer to the Joint Rules, Chapter 17 for complete information.



	Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
January 2022							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11 Session Opens 12 Noon(CST) State of the State	12 State of the Judiciary	13 State of the Tribes	14	15
			L.D. 1	L.D. 2	L.D. 3	L.D. 4	
	16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 Executive orders filed (Constitution, Art. IV, Sec. 8)	19	20 Jt. Memorial Service 3:00pm	21 Concurrent/House/Senate Resolutions limited introduction deadline (J.R. 6B-3) (TWO HOURS prior to session)	22
			L.D. 5	L.D. 6	L.D. 7	L.D. 8	
	23	24	25 Bill and joint resolution draft requests submitted to LRC by 5:00pm (for unlimited introduction)	26	27 Last day for unlimited bill & joint resolution introduction (J.R. 6B-3) (TWO HOURS prior to session)	28	29
			L.D. 9	L.D. 10	L.D. 11	L.D. 12	
	30	31 All bill and joint resolution draft requests submitted to LRC by 5:00pm	1 Committee bill and joint resolution requests due to LRC by 5:00pm	2 Last day for introduction of individual bills and joint resolutions (TWO HOURS prior to session)	3 Last day for introduction of committee bills and joint resolutions (TWO HOURS prior to session)	4	5
		L.D. 13	L.D. 14	L.D. 15	L.D. 16	L.D. 17	
February 2022	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		L.D. 18	L.D. 19	L.D. 20	L.D. 21		
	13	14	15 Last day for JCA selection of general fund revenue targets (J.R. 7-11.1)	16	17 Last day to use J.R. 5-17	18	19
		L.D. 22	L.D. 23	L.D. 24	L.D. 25		
	20	21 Presidents' Day	22 Concurrent resolution requests due to LRC by 5:00pm, AND Last day to move required delivery of bills or resolutions by a committee to the house of origin	23 Last day to pass bills or joint resolutions by the house of origin (Crossover Day)	24 Last day for final introduction of concurrent/House/Senate resolutions (TWO HOURS prior to session)	25 Last day for JCA to move required delivery of special appropriation bills to house of origin (JR 17-1)	26
			L.D. 26	L.D. 27	L.D. 28	L.D. 29	
March 2022	27	28 Last day for house of origin to pass special appropriation bills referred from JCA (JR 17-1), AND Commemoration requests due to LRC by 5:00pm	1	2 Last day for introduction of commemorations (TWO HOURS prior to session), AND J.R. 5-13 in effect	3 Last day to move required delivery of bills or joint resolutions by a committee to the second house	4	5
		L.D. 30	L.D. 31	L.D. 32	L.D. 33		
	6	7 Last day for a bill or joint resolution to pass both houses	8	9	10	11	12
		L.D. 34	L.D. 35	L.D. 36	L.D. 37		
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28 Reserved for consideration of gubernatorial vetoes	29	30	31	1	2
		L.D. 38					



## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

### PVA Creative Arts Photography Class

Whether you are an aspiring professional, want to improve your social media feed, or you just want to better capture memories with family and friends, the PVA Creative Arts Photography class is for you! Taught by experienced professional photographer Roger Wollenberg, this program will enhance your skills no matter the type of camera you use. From cell phone to digital, DSLR and mirrorless, this class has you covered.

This four-month program will be taught once per week, on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm ET. Topics will include:

- Camera Types and Best Uses
- Photography Basics
- Composition & Focal Length
- File Types & Workflow
- Camera Accessories – What do they do and when do you need them?
- Understanding Light Direction & Sources
- Photo Editing
- Intellectual Property & Why it Matters
- Types of Photography

Throughout the course, there will be challenges and opportunities to share your work with your classmates. PVA will provide one printed and framed photo for each regular attendee as a capstone project. At the end of the course, PVA will select one participant to attend the annual PVA Wheelchair Rugby Invitational as a guest photographer.

About the Instructor: Roger Wollenberg is a contract photographer for the Department of Defense's Military Adaptive Sports Program and previously worked as a photo-journalist for United Press International and other wire services. Roger has covered many sporting events, including the Olympics and DOD Warrior Games, as well as political events on Capitol Hill and the White House. Throughout his career, he has enjoyed mentoring young photographers. He has found a great sense of purpose working with recovering service members and Veterans as they adapt and overcome injury and illness.

Registration Link: <https://app.bookabl.io/pvaartexperience>

If you have any questions, please contact Vickie Lincks at [VickieL@pva.org](mailto:VickieL@pva.org).

### Dedication and Unveiling of the POW/MIA Chair of Honor



Veterans gathered in Pierre the week of January 10th for the dedication and unveiling of the POW/MIA chair of honor. The chair, donated by Rolling Thunder Inc. Chapter 2 of Brookings, is located on the west wing of second floor of the South Dakota Capitol.

Speakers for the celebration included Governors Kristi Noem, SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard, BG Michael Oster, Bruce Jones, David Forsythe, Michael Bekaert, Byron Callies, and Bob Foster and Steven Wallen from the Rolling Thunder.

In his remarks that day, Deputy Secretary Pollard said, "Today we remember.....Remember the names and faces of prisoners of war.....Remember the names and faces of those still missing in action.....We remember.....and reaffirm.....the pledge to account for every service member who did not come home."

"With this beautiful display we commit to remembering sacrifice.....and commit to recognizing the obligations we have not only to those who personally sacrificed, but also to their loved ones," said Pollard.

Special thanks to Bob Foster and the members of Rolling Thunder Inc. Chapter 2, Governor Noem, the Bureau of Administration, and the members of the Capitol Complex Restoration and Beautification Commission for their support of this display.

14582

**HAPPY  
SPRING  
3-20-2022**



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

It does not happen often but there are times when clients of this office decide on their own to file a claim or benefit and not keep us informed. We all need to be on the same page and in the loop when it comes to what is going on with our clients and the VA. Even if you feel it is not worth our time please inform our office of what you intend to do before you attempt to accomplish some task in reference to the VA. An email or call can many times eliminate wasted time and actions and prevent an actual decreasing of benefits or delays in getting some action accomplished or some issue resolved.

During the Stakeholders' call we found out that patient visitation at the Sioux Falls VA is being eliminated for the current time due to the spike in COVID numbers except for end of life situations.

We were also informed that the Kiosks used for processing beneficiary travel in VA facilities will be shut down perhaps as early as March of 2022 but no definitive date yet. For those (such as myself) who are not tech savvy there will be assistance available in the processing of those travel benefits if Veterans are not able to do them electronically on their own.

There was also a briefing of the Caregiver Support Program. A couple of numbers mentioned are concerning but perhaps understandable. Of the 19,000 Veterans nationwide, who are currently on the legacy version of this program VA predicts only 6, 700 of them will be able to continue due to one issue or another. It seems when the program was rolled out there was much confusion and misunderstanding both on the VA's part and the Veterans' part as well. Going forward about 80% of new applications for the Caregiver Support Program will be denied because of some of the same problems. Currently this program is for Veterans on active duty on or before May 7, 1975 and others who were active duty on or after September 11, 2001. For those Veterans between those dates the program will expand in October of 2022. Eligible Veterans need to have a 70% disability rating and need assistance with their ADL's (activities of daily living) or daily assistance with their safety. Those legacy participants in the program who are now denied will have until March of 2023 to appeal. If denied for this benefit Veterans can exercise two VHA appeals before appealing to the Board of Veterans Appeals which takes considerably longer. *May 2022 be a better year than 2021 was!*

**A Christmas Poem for the North Central Chapter***by Brad Friez*

We gather as the North Central Chapter to celebrate the season of Christmas,

The reason for this season is the birth of the dear baby Jesus!

As a Service Officer if warranted by VA we need to make a fuss,

But even in anger we probably shouldn't cuss!

PVA as an Organization is turning seventy-five,

During that time, we hope we've impacted many lives!  
Members are inspirational and somehow seemed to thrive,

We are so very thankful after many years they are still alive!

The chapter has many who know it is better to give than receive,

They include Casey, Chuck, Perry, Greg, Gene, and Steve.  
Others include Rick, Bonnie, Harlan, and Scott, we perceive,

And finally there is Mike, long term board member we believe.

PVA has pushed for the ADA and the Air Carrier Access Act,

They have even petitioned for the SCI/D Hubs and that's a fact!

The independent Budget is from VFW, DAV, and PVA as a pact,

Our job with PVA in a nutshell is to keep the VA on track!

Locally, we hunt, trap shoot, fish, and play Boccia ball,  
Yes, the Paralyzed Veterans of America makes it fun for all!

Whatever the season, winter, summer, spring or fall,

The North Central Chapter is standing tall!

It has been a very challenging time and year,

Time to reflect and to look in the mirror!

We can be anxious and full of fear,  
But the better path is to be thankful and full of good cheer!



## 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](http://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

#### Travel Pay

1-605-373-4196

Beneficiary Travel Help Desk

1-855-574-7292

[www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay](http://www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay)

### To Request a Ride

#### Veteran's Transportation

1-605-977-4400

#### DAV

1-605-336-3230 x6551



#### Help Desk

1-877-327-0022

#### To Enroll

1-605-336-3230 x7839

[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

## PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

### Links to Get Free COVID Tests and N95 Masks

Just to assist everyone, here is the link to order your **4 free COVID at home tests** through the government:

[https://www.covidtests.gov/?fbclid=IwAR2Y8xZ38\\_2iHCcjwWraBBRhs0uVdd8lrb-IFSMJ6Nz5E\\_UeaorXzDYi9j0](https://www.covidtests.gov/?fbclid=IwAR2Y8xZ38_2iHCcjwWraBBRhs0uVdd8lrb-IFSMJ6Nz5E_UeaorXzDYi9j0)

It has been announced, the current administration will also begin giving out **N95 face masks** next week. This link allows you to see where you're able to get them:

[You can get free N95 masks next week—here's where to find them \(cnbc.com\)](#)

Stay safe and well!

Megan Turner Dailey  
Executive Office, PVA  
801 18th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
January 20, 2022

### Vet Centers Up Date

The Sioux Falls and Rapid City Vet Centers are 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

### New Law gives Veterans, Gold Star Families Free Lifetime Access to America's National Parks

A new law is giving Veterans and Gold Star Families free lifetime access to national parks and federal recreational lands. The [Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks \(VIP\) Act](#) was rolled into the [National Defense Authorization Act](#), which was [signed into law](#) over the holidays.

"When you take your oath, if you go into the service, to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, you really are protecting the homeland," the National Park Service's new director and Navy veteran Chuck Sams told USA TODAY. "I think this is a great recognition of that responsibility you took on to serve your nation."

In 2020, the National Park Service announced that Veterans and Gold Star Families, who've lost loved ones in the line of service to this country, would receive [free access](#) to the park service's 423 sites around the country. This new law makes the move permanent and also cements the [free annual passes](#) available for active-duty military. 00009

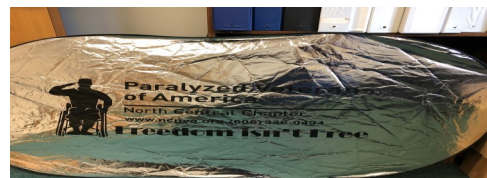


Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 13th**. Set clocks ahead one hour Saturday night before bedtime.



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>



### Car Sunshades for Sale

Proceeds will benefit the Chapter's programs and services! Contact the Chapter Office (605) 336-0494.



**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****PVA North Central Chapter****Birthday Roster - February/March 2022**

Eugene Ridenour, Jr.	Feb 02
Terry Bacon	Feb 06
Carl Berg	Feb 06
Dennis Meinen	Feb 06
Harlan Schmidt	Feb 07
Judy Hauck	Feb 08
Julie Squires	Feb 08
Douglas McCuddin	Feb 09
Andrew Watson	Feb 09
Chad Maxon	Feb 11
Cathy Brandner	Feb 12
Jonathan Englund	Feb 13
Mark Johnson	Feb 13
Ralph Martin	Feb 13
Allan Trautman	Feb 14
Vernon Johnson	Feb 22
Mark Wolf	Feb 22
Ernest Milliron	Feb 24
Saundra Tryner	Feb 25
Randall Thornburg	Feb 28
Caron Morris	Feb 29
Gary Reineke	Feb 29
Glenn Broski	Mar 09
Linda LeBorgne	Mar 09
Ronald Remer	Mar 12
Tom Shields	Mar 12
Kurt Lysne	Mar 14
John North	Mar 15

(continued in next column)

(continued from first column)

Vern Anderson	Mar 16
Steve Barrett	Mar 17
Tim Ruppert	Mar 19
Willard Miers	Mar 20
Donald Sjostrom	Mar 20
Anthony Steensgaard	Mar 21
Dennis Adams	Mar 22
Brad Friez	Mar 25
Lance Anderson	Mar 26
Warren Zweifel	Mar 26
Terrence Kohler	Mar 27
Fred Nielsen	Mar 28
Douglas Cook	Mar 29
William Northrup	Mar 29

**Mobile App for 2022 National Veteran Wheelchair Games**

The app for the 2022 National Veteran Wheelchair Games is currently for download on your Android or iOS device.

Download the app or log in online to access information about the games, medical forms, notifications and more! You can search the app store for *NVWG* or *National Veterans Wheelchair Games*.

Use the link below to access the web version of the app or download the app to your mobile device.

Web Version: <https://crowd.cc/41nwg>

App Version: <https://crowd.cc/s/43PRv>

If you have any questions regarding the online or mobile app, contact Jennifer Blyther at [jen-ni-ferm@pva.org](mailto:jennifer@pva.org).

Jennifer Blyther

Meetings Project Coordinator

Paralyzed Veterans of America

801 18th Street NW

Washington, DC 20006

[JenniferM@pva.org](mailto:JenniferM@pva.org)

**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH!**

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- Prevent painful and life-threatening pressure injuries (bed sores)

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WEB: [WWW.PRO-BED.COM](http://WWW.PRO-BED.COM)





**PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER****Quilters from Westside Lutheran Church**

The PVA North Central Chapter received a wonderful donation of 50 lap quilts from Quilters with Westside Lutheran Church. These were donated to us right before Christmas and we felt it would be great to take these to our local Sioux Falls VA and donate these to our Veterans who would be in the hospital over the holidays.

These lap quilts were beautifully made and the Veterans appreciated receiving them. Thank you lady quilters!

**SUPPORT PVA****NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**

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

Please support our mission through a direct donation to:

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

**QUESTION:****HAVE YOU CONSIDERED INCLUDING  
PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER IN  
YOUR WILL OR TRUST?**

This type of donation will serve as an investment in our organization that will reap our members benefits for many years to come.

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2500 Minnekahta Avenue  
Hot Springs, SD 57747

[vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteranshome](http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteranshome)

For Admissions information, please contact Lisa Woepfel 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

# 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](mailto:www.dav.vbasux@va.gov)  
[www.davsd.org](http://www.davsd.org) [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

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



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have served their country and the cause of freedom will never be forgotten or neglected”*

*—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  
Phone: (307) 672-3473 or (866) 822-6714  
Fax: (307) 672-1900

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