



North Central Chapter

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

North Central Chapter

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



Volume 360

August/September 2022

Upcoming Events

August/September 2022

**Aug 5-13 . . . Sioux Empire Fair,
Sioux Falls, SD**

**Aug 11 . . . Membership Meeting,
Chapter Office, Noon Luncheon
and 1:00 PM Meeting**

**Aug 17 . . . Sioux Falls VA Car
Show, 5:30-8:30 PM**

**Aug 25 . . . SF Veterans Council
Meeting, Alliance Building, 7:00
PM**

**Aug 28-31 . . . 2022 Healthcare
Summit Expo, Dallas, TX**

**Sept 1-5 . . . SD State Fair, Huron
SD**

**Sept 1 . . . Veterans Day at SD State
Fair, Huron, SD**

Sept 5 . . . Labor Day, Office Closed

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

**Sept 9-11 . . . NCPVA Trapshoot,
Crooks Gun Club**

**Sept 12 . . . Doug Brown Memorial
Pheasant Hunt, Howard, SD**

**Sept 16 . . . POW/MIA Recognition
Day Ceremony, Veterans Memorial
Park**

Sept 22 . . . First Day of Autumn

**Sept 22 . . . SF Veterans Council
Meeting, Alliance Building, 7:00
PM**

**Sept 23 . . . Veterans Stand Down,
Alliance Building, 9 AM - Noon**

**Sept 28 . . . SD Veterans Council
Meeting, American Legion, Rapid
City, 9 AM - Noon, Mountain Time**

Notice of PVA North Central Chapter Election of Officers 2022-2023 (Effective 10-1-2022)

PVA North Central Chapter held their Annual Election of Officers and the newly elected officers are as follows:

President Chuck Doom, Vice President Harlan Schmidt, Secretary Greg Brandner, and Treasurer Gene Murphy.

Our Board of Directors are: Duane Biesboer, Perry Grimme, and Rodney Melcher.

Our National Director is: Mike Olson.

Congratulations to all of you and we look forward to another great year of leadership!

PVA North Central Chapter Scholarship Awards



We are pleased to announce that Tya Weideman (daughter of PVA member Dennis Weideman), Jemini Cantalope (daughter of PVA member James Cantalope) and Cayden Paulsen (grandson of our Government Relations Director, Terry Paulsen) were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic school year.

We are pleased to announce that Cody Novotny (son of our bookkeeper, Sharon Novotny) was awarded \$500 for the 2022 academic school year.

Congratulations and we wish the best of luck to you in your studies!

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, September 5th
Office will be closed.**

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

OFFICERS

President, Chuck Doom
Vice President, Vacant
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

Amber Jones, SCI Coordinator
605-347-2511 ext. 17003

— 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 164 members and 83 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 308 hours for the month of June; YTD 2286 hours. Jack Gill and Donna Deutsch were June/July 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

Trauma Survivors Encouraged to Self-Screen for PTSD

WASHINGTON (6-23-2022) - Veterans, service members and civilians are encouraged to take a [50-second self-screen](#) for posttraumatic stress disorder. The short, five-question screen can be answered alone, with a friend, family member or health care provider.

PTSD Screening Day is an opportunity to encourage self-screens and discussion of results with health care providers. Many who suffer from PTSD may be unaware of their symptoms or reluctant to get care due to mental health stigmas. Only a trained provider can diagnose PTSD.

“Taking the self-screen is the first step to recovery; results can help Veterans learn if their feelings and behaviors are related to PTSD,” said Executive Director of the National Center for PTSD Paula Schnurr, Ph.D. “The message we want to share is one of hope. PTSD is treatable and is a normal response to trauma, not a sign of weakness. If you have PTSD, you can get help.”

PTSD is a mental health problem some develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, car accident or sexual assault. Regardless of the trauma or when it was experienced, VA offers [PTSD treatments and other services](#) to support Veterans who have experienced trauma or are experiencing symptoms of PTSD.

A Veteran may have PTSD if they [answer](#) “yes” to three or more questions on the self-screen. The next step is to schedule an appointment to speak with a health care provider. Everyone, regardless of their answers, can reach out to a health care provider if they feel bothered or negatively affected by their symptoms.

Veterans and others who have experienced trauma or who have PTSD can learn more about the [National Center for PTSD](#) and its efforts to enhance care for Veterans.

988 - SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

PVA Expands Membership, Invites All Veterans with MS to Join

WASHINGTON, D.C., (May 31, 2022) – With more than 28,000 cases of multiple sclerosis reported to the Department of Veterans Affairs annually, [Paralyzed Veterans of America](#) – the nation’s premier nonprofit of choice for disabled veterans, their families, and caregivers – is expanding its membership as medical technology advances early detection of MS, inviting all veterans with MS to join.

According to Charles Brown, national president of Paralyzed Veterans of America, “PVA has long helped veterans with MS involving the spinal cord who needed quality health care and disability benefits due to their diagnosis. Our National Service Officers are experts in securing their benefits, navigating the VA system, and helping these veterans throughout their continuum of care. It’s important we keep pace with the improvements in MRI technology, which provides more precise imaging resulting in the early detection of MS. We want to help even more veterans living with the disease and become their go-to resource.”

The membership expansion means all Veterans with MS are now eligible to become a PVA member and obtain the same vital benefits as their counterparts with spinal cord injuries and diseases, like ALS. Among the benefits now available are: access to educational materials specific to MS; support from on-staff licensed architects who can review plans and provide subject matter expertise for making their homes more accessible; admission to PVA’s private, members-only Facebook Groups that keep members abreast of important news that impact them; engagement with over 33 chapters across the country that support advocacy efforts specific to the MS community; and opportunities to take part in important surveys and webinars, as well as participate in sports and recreation events both virtually and in-person around the country.

“Every case of MS reported is a person... a mother, a father, a son, a daughter, a proud Veteran, who selflessly served our nation, and they deserve our care and support now,” continued Brown. “By expanding PVA’s membership, we are not only help-

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ing more veterans but also honoring our roots, recognizing veterans like Gilford Moss – PVA’s first president, who also had MS. We want all veterans with MS, from those actively serving to those who already served, to know that PVA is here and they are not alone.”

In August 2021, PVA created its first-ever MS Committee – a permanent committee of the Board of Directors – made up of eight PVA members from across the country who represent the everyday interests of veterans with MS. The committee acts as a voice on legislative issues concerning veterans with MS; provides first-hand input from its members with MS; puts out a weekly podcast on issues specific to those with MS; and serves as an expert resource for all veterans living with the disease. In addition to its committee and advocacy efforts, PVA also partners with expert groups in the field of MS, including the [National MS Society](#) and the VA’s [Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence](#).

To become a member, please contact the PVA North Central Chapter Office at 605-336-0494.

VA Suspends Annual Reassessments in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Washington (June 9, 2022) -The Department of Veterans Affairs is suspending annual reassessments for participants of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers while the department continues its review of PCAFC.

This applies to all Veterans and family caregivers participating in the program; additionally, VA will not discharge or reduce stipends based on a reassessment.

“President Biden has made clear ‘because Veterans are the backbone, the spine of who we are as a country,’ we have a sacred obligation to care for them, their families, caregivers and survivors,” said VA Deputy Secretary Donald Remy. Although we’ve come a long way in supporting caregivers through the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, we have much more work to do. In our effort to uphold our sacred obligation to families of Veterans, VA continues its review of PCAFC to ensure department requirements and procedures meet the needs of caregivers and Veterans participating in the program.”

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Facility Caregiver Support Program staff will however continue to initiate reassessments for Veterans and family caregivers for certain purposes, such as when a Veteran or caregiver requests to be considered for an increase in stipend level or if there is evidence of an increase in need for personal care services. VA will also continue to conduct wellness visits. Appeal and review options for those who disagree with a PCAFC determination remain the same.

Visit VA's reassessment updates for more information or contact your local CSP team with additional questions.

Convenience and Self-Service Appointment Check-In at your Fingertips

[Check-in](#) for your next VA appointment might be different next time you come in. Beginning this summer, some VA facilities will allow Veterans to do one or both of these:

- Start the check-in process up to seven days in advance of the appointment.
- Check in at the clinic using your smartphone on the day of your appointment.

As part of how VA is modernizing the way Veterans receive care, VA received extensive feedback from Veterans and caregivers about how the checking-in process can be made better, especially for those who use assistive technologies to access their benefits online.

VA's Office of Information and Technology, partnering with VHA, has applied this feedback to the design of the new, modernized patient check-in application coming soon to your location.

At all VA locations by the end of August 2022

VA is deploying the application at facilities geographically. Deployment within all VISNs will occur by the end of August 2022.

Five facts Veterans should know about VA's patient check-in application

1. Veterans will always have the option to check in for an appointment with a staff member. Using the new mobile app therefore is not a requirement. VA staff are

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honored to check Veterans in for appointments and to answer questions.

2. Veterans will need to check-in at the facility with a staff member on appointment day if they require changes to demographic (contact, next of kin, emergency contact) or insurance information.

3. The patient application has two options:

- Pre-check-in helps Veterans confirm demographic information is up to date prior to an appointment. If a clinic offers pre-check-in, Veterans will receive a link through a text message appointment reminder after confirming an appointment.

- Mobile check-in allows Veterans to check-in for an appointment on a smartphone when they arrive at the facility. Upon arrival at a clinic offering mobile check-in, Veterans should locate the poster titled, "Have an appointment? Check in with your phone" prominently on display. They should then text or scan the QR code as directed in the poster to start the process.

4. To use the mobile app, Veterans must have a smartphone that is connected to Wi-Fi or cellular service and the phone number on file with VA, as this is how VA verifies your identity. Veterans can [update their contact information online](#).

5. The national contract for VetLink kiosks will expire at the end of September 2022. After that date, Veterans should:

- Use the patient check-in application for self-service check-in or check in with a staff member.
- Submit your travel reimbursement claims through the [Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System \(BTSSS\)](#), mail, fax and/or in-person at a VA medical center.

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

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, SPORTS & REC

19th Annual Walleye Fishing Event - May 26/27

What a fantastic two-day fishing event we had this year! We couldn't have asked for better weather on both days and most everyone catching their limits. This is the first year that the weather completely cooperated with us. We had 36 participants and 40 boats were provided. The VFW Post 628 once again provided a wonderful Thursday evening meal for everyone involved.



NCPVA North Central Chapter Trapshoot

September 9-11, 2022

The PVA North Central Chapter Trapshoot will take place at Crooks Gun Club, September 9-11, 2022. The entry fee is \$225.00 which includes 300 competition targets Saturday and Sunday (100 singles, 50 pair of doubles, and 100 handicap), competition ammunition, 2 breakfast, 1 lunch and Sunday's noon banquet ticket. You may purchase additional meal tickets during the event. Competition Open to All Shooters.

The Doug Brown Memorial Pheasant Hunt will be held Monday, September 12th, at the Top Gun Hunting Ranch, LLC near Howard, SD for any out-of-state wheelchair individuals that participated in the Trapshoot. This hunt will be limited to the first 15 people who indicate they would like to participate.

For further information, please contact the Chapter Office at 605-336-0494 or 1-800-505-4782.



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE FAIR, HURON, SD

Thursday, Sept 1st, thru Monday, Sept 5th

VETERANS BUILDING OPEN FOR VETERANS

Free Admission for Veterans, Thursday, Sept 1st

Veterans Day - **"HEROES DAY"** - will be held Thursday, September 1st, during the South Dakota State Fair in Huron. The SD Veterans Council will host a program at 10:00 AM with presentation of the "Chester Sorenson Veterans of the Year Award."

SALUTE TO VETERANS PROGRAM

at the SD State Fair in Huron, Freedom Stage,

September 1st, 10:30 AM

You are welcome to attend!

Upcoming Events

September 2022

Chapter's Annual Trapshoot - September 9-11, Crooks Gun Club
Doug Brown Memorial Hunt - Monday, September 12th, Howard, SD

October 2022

Annual Banquet - To be determined
18th Annual Turkey Federation Pheasant Hunt - Saturday, October 1st, Flandreau, SD
15th Annual Freedom Hunt - Saturday, October 8th, Flandreau, SD
Midwest Honor Flight 5th Annual Hangar Dance - Saturday, October 15th, Alliance Building, 7:00 PM
Dueling Pianos - Friday, October 21st, Alliance Building, 5:30 PM

November 2022

Platte Pheasant Hunt - To be determined

December 2022

Christmas Luncheon - Thursday, December 8th, More details coming
Wreaths Across America - Saturday, December 17th, SD Veterans Cemetery, 11:00 AM

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

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**VA Survivors Pension**

A VA Survivors Pension offers monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime Veterans who meet certain income and net worth limits set by Congress. Find out if you qualify and how to apply.

Am I eligible for a VA Survivors Pension as a surviving spouse?

You may be eligible for this benefit if you haven't remarried after the Veteran's death, and if the deceased Veteran didn't receive a dishonorable discharge and their service meets at least one of these requirements.

At least one of these must be true:

The Veteran entered active duty on or before September 7, 1980, and served at least 90 days on active military service, with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period, or

The Veteran entered active duty after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period or

The Veteran was an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months.

And this must be true for you:

Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth equals the value of everything you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe.

Am I eligible for a VA Survivors Pension as the child of a deceased wartime Veteran?

You may be eligible for this benefit if you're unmarried and you meet at least one of these requirements.

At least one of these must be true:

You're under age 18, or

You're under age 23 and attending a VA-approved school, or

You're unable to care for yourself due to a disability that happened before age 18.

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What wartime periods do you recognize for pension benefits?

Under current law, we recognize these wartime periods to decide eligibility for pension benefits:

- Mexican Border period (May 9, 1916, to April 5, 1917, for Veterans who served in Mexico, on its borders, or in adjacent waters)
- World War I (April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918)
- World War II (December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946)
- Korean conflict (June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955)
- Vietnam War era (November 1, 1955, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. August 5, 1964, to May 7, 1975, for Veterans who served outside of the Republic of Vietnam.)
- Gulf War (August 2, 1990, through a future date to be set by law or presidential proclamation)

With the help of a trained professional

You can work with a trained professional called an accredited representative to get help applying for VA survivors pension benefits. <https://www.va.gov/disability/get-help-filing-claim/>

Online: Use the direct upload tool through AccessVA to upload your form online. <https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspSelectFor=dmhs>

By mail: Fill out an Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits (VA Form 21P-534EZ). <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-21p-534ez/>

Mail your completed application to this address:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Pension Intake Center

P. O. Box 5365

Janesville, WI 53547-5365

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN**VA Watchdog Looks at Staffing**

The VA's bureaucratic hiring process poses a big challenge for the department and the persistent lack of staff has been one of the biggest barriers for veterans seeking care at VA facilities. Despite the use of relaxed hiring rules during the pandemic, the department's MISSION Act Section 505 Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Second Quarter staffing report shows the VA currently has 61,182 vacancies. To put things in perspective, at the beginning of FY 2020, there were about 49,000 openings, so the staffing problem is not improving.

A recent VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) report captures the extent of the staffing problem. VA OIG found 2,622 roles with "severe occupational shortages" across the department, a 22 percent jump from FY 2021. The position of "practical nurse" (LPN) experienced the most shortages among clinical positions, with 62 percent of facilities reporting an insufficient staffing level. For non-clinical positions, custodial services reported shortages at 69 percent of facilities.

In the meantime, PVA continues to work with Congress to protect access to VA's specialized health care services and has endorsed a number of initiatives which would help the department address some of these shortages. These include the recently passed, PVA-supported RAISE Act which increased pay caps for some nurses and physician assistants and S. 4156, the WISE Act, which would provide increased pay and benefits for other parts of VA's workforce. The WISE Act also seeks to expand opportunities in rural VA facilities, support training for current and future VA clinicians, and provide greater oversight of VA's Human Resource operations and their use of hiring authorities.

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discharge qualifications. It would also eliminate the three-year-income-monitoring period for borrowers who receive loan discharge that was determined by a doctor or SSA. The Department of Education (DOE) says they are concerned that the income monitoring requirements have caused too many borrowers to lose their loan discharges even though they are eligible under income restrictions.

DOE also hopes to see the elimination of capitalized interest for student loans. Interest capitalization occurs when accrued interest is added to the principal balance of the loan which causes future interest to accrue on the higher amount.

Another important part of the proposed changes impacts students who attended schools that closed during their enrollment. Students who enroll in schools that close often get saddled with high debt, receive no degree, and therefore, have no way to pay off the loans. The proposed change would automatically discharge the debt of a student who was enrolled within 180 days of the school closing. These are proposed rule changes and if passed they should take effect next year.

July is Disability Pride Month

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), passed on July 26, 1990, prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities by state and local governments, public accommodations and commercial facilities, and in employment. July is Disability Pride Month. Although not a nationally recognized holiday, cities around the country celebrate the passage of the ADA with parades and festivities. The first parade was held in Boston in 1990. This year, several cities are hosting their own parades, such as Chicago, New York City, and multiple cities in Pennsylvania. The Disability Pride Flag is a charcoal gray flag crossed diagonally with a lightning bolt band of five colors: light blue, yellow, white, red, and green. The red band represents individuals with physical disabilities. The inclusive approach of the flag honors the meaning behind Disability Pride.

Celebrating the 32nd anniversary of the passage of the ADA, the White House is hosting Disabled Stakeholders Calls weekly through the month of July. The calls discuss the Administration's efforts to address issues impacting individuals with disabilities.

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Administration Announces Additional Changes to Student Loan Forgiveness Program

On July 6, the Administration proposed further changes to the student loan system, particularly around forgiveness for borrowers living with significant disabilities. The proposed regulation seeks to help more borrowers who are totally and permanently disabled receive and keep the discharge they are eligible for under the new provision. It would allow the Social Security Administration (SSA) to allow a broader set of disability statuses to be recognized for

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PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**MS Educational Program****Guest Speaker:** Jonathan Calkwood - MS Neurologist

Mpls Clinic of Neurology, Ltd - Golden Valley

plus Guest Speaker Emily Blosberg, Executive Director,
Mr. Oscar Monkey, a courageous MS advocate**Program Date:** Saturday, August 27, 2022**Check-in:** 10:40 AM - Program begins at 11:30 AM
with Complimentary Lunch**Location:** Hilton Garden Inn, Sioux Falls South
5300 South Grand Circle - Sioux Falls, SD 57108**Please Register (RSVP) Online:** www.eventsmsvn.orgAfter the website opens, please select the program location to RSVP. If you do not have internet, please call (888) 871-1664 - Ext 105. **Program limited to the MS Patient plus (1) guest.** No walk-ins will be permitted.*The wearing of a facemask is at the discretion
of the person attending***Protect your Benefits: Beat Pension Poachers
to the Punch**Have you received a suspicious call from an organization claiming to represent or have affiliation with VA? Did the caller guarantee a lucrative payout for your disability compensation or [pension](#) claim for a "small fee?"

If so, you may be a target of a scam. Recently, VA has seen an increase of fraudsters and non-accredited representatives who are targeting the pension benefits of elderly Veterans, their dependents and survivors.

VA is committed to defeating fraudsters by educating elderly Veterans, their families, and all partners about the types of fraudulent tactics being used against them, including [Pension Poaching](#).Pension Poaching is the financial exploitation by an advisor who profits by artificially qualifying a claimant for VA pension benefits. The scheme often involves financial maneuvers such as advising claimants to hide their assets in trusts or annuity products sometimes resulting in lost investments and lucrative fees paid to the advisor. Pension Poaching is rapidly evolving as a preferred method used by criminals to defraud elderly Veterans, survivors and their families who are eligible for VA benefits.
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To avoid being a victim to these tactics, here are some helpful tips to remember when protecting yourself from fraud:

- Be suspicious if someone offers to shift your assets around to qualify for VA pension. You may be required to repay benefits to the government.
- NEVER share eBenefits, VA.gov, or other VA log-in credentials with anyone.
- DO NOT deposit VA benefits directly into a third-party bank account unless the person is court appointed or a VA accredited fiduciary.
- Remember, VA does not charge for processing a claim or request a processing fee. Use VA accredited [organizations](#) to help file your claim.
- VA does not threaten or take adverse actions such as jail or lawsuits on claimants. If in doubt, call VA directly at 1-800-827-1000.

To report suspected activity, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) by calling 1-800-488-8244. You may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by visiting www.consumercomplaints.fcc.gov

Protecting Veterans' benefits against fraudulent activity is one of the best things everyone can do to honor them, their service and sacrifice.

**Veterans Stand Down 2022**

This year's Veterans Stand Down will be taking place at the SD Military Heritage Alliance Building in Sioux Falls, located at 1600 West Russell Street.

The event is to run from

**9:00 AM to Noon on
Friday, September 23, 2022**

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**4th Annual Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat****JW Marriott Resort, San Antonio, Texas*****September 24-27, 2022***

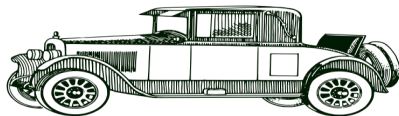
Join us for PVA's 4th Annual Women Veteran Empowerment Retreat. Come enjoy three days in beautiful San Antonio with other women member of PVA. This event is limited to 40 attendees so be sure to register ASAP!

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS***AUGUST 1, 2022******Registration Link: <https://cvent.me/mM9BMX>***

Participants will enjoy an inclusive, supportive environment with other women Veterans with sessions that focus on: 1) VA Benefits and Services, 2) Self-Advocacy, 3) Leadership Skills, 4) Resilience, and 5) Empowerment.

A few thing you can expect if you attend the Women Veteran Empowerment Retreat: 1) Three days of education, opportunities, and camaraderie, 2) Interact and learn from experts, and 3) Meeting other women members.

PVA and our sponsors are proud to cover all expenses related to travel, hotel accommodation, meals, and programming. Additionally, we will have several fun activities that will be no cost to any of our attendees.

Caregivers Welcome!***For additional information contact: WVER@PVA.org*****Sioux Falls VA Car Show****2501 West 22nd Street*****19th Annual VA Cruise Night******Wednesday, August 17th
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM***

Local car enthusiasts meet at various locations in Sioux Falls on Wednesday nights during the summer months. They graciously add Sioux Falls VA to their cruise schedule each year in appreciation of Veterans' service and sacrifices.

Mark your calendars and come join the fun event at the VA Medical Center!

Construction to Start on Road Leading to State Veterans Cemetery

(6-16-2022) -During the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs received funding to pave the road leading to the state veterans cemetery from the south. The road will improve access to the cemetery.

During construction, all traffic going to the cemetery will need to access the cemetery entrance from the north coming off 258th Ave.

Work will be starting next week and the targeted date for completion of the road project is the end of November 2022.

To access the cemetery during construction when traveling I-90 Westbound: Take exit 402. At the intersection turn right (north). Travel northbound reaching 258th St. Turn left (west). Traveling westbound, turn left at 477th Ave. (South). Follow 477th Ave. until you reach the entrance of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to your right.

To access the cemetery during construction when traveling I-90 eastbound: Take exit 399. Stay left. Travel northbound on Cliff Ave. to 258th St. At the intersection turn right (east) on 258th St. Traveling eastbound turn right at 477th Ave. (South). Follow 477th Ave. until you reach the entrance of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to your right.

To access the cemetery during construction when traveling northbound or southbound on I-29: Take exit 86. Travel eastbound on 258th St. Traveling eastbound turn right at 477th Ave. (South). Follow 477th Ave. until you reach the entrance of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to your right.

To access the cemetery during construction when traveling I-229 northbound: Continue north on I-229 until it ends and Jim Zweep Highway begins. Follow Jim Zweep Highway to 258th St. Turn right (east). Follow 258th St. until you reach 477th Ave. Turn right at 477th Ave. (South). Follow 477th Ave. until you reach the entrance of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery to your right.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15
Golf Tournament!

On August 16th the 1st Annual American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 15, Golf Tournament will be held at Elmwood Golf Course in Sioux Falls.

This will be 18 Holes, 4 Person Scramble and will be Flighted with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in three flights. Registration will be from 8 – 9 with a 9 a.m. Shotgun Start. Pin prizes will be on front and back nine for men and women.

The cost is \$440 per team. Golf, Cart, Coffee, Rolls, Lunch and Team Souvenir Photo is included. Driving Range will also be included prior to the Shotgun Start.

Proceeds from the tournament will go to assist with the furnishings of the Veterans Community Project (Tiny Homes). Groundbreaking for this project will be held on June 30th at 11:30 a.m. and construction on the first phase will begin right away. The American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 15, is very honored to be a part of this project!

For more information about the golf tournament contact:

Kasey Jacobson, 605-270-9289

Karen Dunham, 605-366-3291 or

Deb Metzger, 605-366-7379

We invite all golfers to bring a team and be a part of this day of fun as we

“Chip In For The Vets!”



The PVA North Central Chapter
will be hosting a special fundraising event on
Friday, October 21, 2022, at
South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance, Inc.
(1600 W. Russell Ave, Sioux Falls)
featuring the
Dueling Pianos International!

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for social hour, appetizers will be provided along with a cash bar that will be open throughout the evening. **Entertainment will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp!**

Tickets are available at \$30.00 per person or a table sponsor (8 people) \$350 or Supreme table sponsor (8 people) for \$500 .

Proceeds from the event will help support our programs and services we provide to our Veterans and other individuals with disabilities.

Dueling Pianos International is America's premier source for top-line sing-along entertainment. For 19 years, Dueling Pianos International has specialized in top-flight dueling piano entertainment, and has developed a national reputation as the source for polished, professional artists who never fail to get audiences singing, cheering, and calling for more.

Please join us for a fun filled evening! If you have any questions or want to purchase tickets, please call the Chapter Office at 605-336-0494 or email info@ncpva.org.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!!
Bring your family and friends!

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**From the New PVA North Central Chapter
Women Veteran Point of Contact**

Hello. My name is Bonnie Schmidt and as the new PVA North Central Chapter Women Veteran Point of Contact, it is an honor to welcome you and bring the voices of women to PVA.

A little about me...I enlisted in the Women's Army Corp in 1971 and served as a Personnel Specialist until 1978. Basic and AIT were at Ft McClellan, AL, then from 1972 to 1975 I was at White Sands Missile Range, NM. I was then assigned to the 210th AVN BN in Panama until 1977 when Ft Sam Houston, TX became my last enlisted duty station. In 1978, I was discharged and moved to my husband's hometown with our son and began Nursing School.

In 1981, I began my nursing career in Sioux Falls. I worked one year in NICU, then transferred to the OR – my nursing calling. In 1998, I took a position with the Sioux Falls VAMC working in OR, but also floating to other areas of Same Day Surgery, Minor Surgery, Specialty Clinics and finished my nursing career working in Endoscopy until I retired in 2009.

In 1990, I once again joined the military. I got my commission in the USAR Army Nurse Corps. My Reserve unit was in Omaha and our Annual Training sites were Ft Hood, TX and Ft Bliss, TX. In 2003 to 2004, I was mobilized. First, to Ft Leonard Wood, MO as OR head nurse for 8 weeks, then on to Ft Huachuca, AZ as OR nurse and head nurse of the Specialty Clinics for the remainder of my 15-month mobilization. After demobilization, I returned to my Reserve unit and worked at the VA. In Nov 2004, I retired from the USAR ANC as a Major with almost 21 years of service.

As a member of PVA, I help with fund raisers, events, attend member meeting, and generally support the organization. I am active in helping veterans file claims, getting them in touch with the PVA Service Officer to guide their claims. I recently became aware of PVA Women Empowered – a branch of PVA. I encourage you to check out their Facebook page, and join as they offer retreats, events, activities, zoom meetings, female comradery.

Do you receive the monthly chapter newsletter? If not, please update your contact information (email),

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telephone, address) with Lisa (telephone: 605-336-0494, email: lisac@ncpva.org) at the Chapter office. Take time to visit the PVA.org website to learn about PVA, what it does, the goals/mission of the organization, services provided. And think about becoming a member of the PVA Women Empowered FB page.

As the Women Veteran's POC, I am looking for your input and ideas as to what PVA/PVAWE can do for you. Also, what can you do for PVA? I look forward to meeting and getting to know the North Central Chapter PVA Women Veterans, bringing your voices and concerns to PVA and recruiting more women veterans to the organization.

Feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, suggestions at: 605-929-7485, email: bonnie.schmidt@hotmail.com, or the chapter office at: 605-336-0494.

POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony

Friday, September 16, 2022

Veterans Memorial Park, 901 West Bailey St, Sioux Falls
The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 959 will host the 9th Annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony.

We invite all veterans and their families to honor our POW/MIA and pay respect to their courage and commitment to duty.

SD Veterans Council

The South Dakota Veterans Council
will hold their meeting on

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

American Legion, Rapid City, SD
9:00 AM - Noon, Mountain Time

You are welcome to attend!

Midwest Honor Flight 5th Annual Hangar Dance

Saturday, October 15, 2022

Alliance Building, 7:00 PM

(Alliance Tickets are on Sale Now!)

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**Rounds, Thune, Colleagues Announce End of VA Air Commission**

(6-30-2022) U.S. Senators Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), member of the United States Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC), and John Thune (R-S.D.), along with SVAC Chairman Jon Tester (D-Mont.), and U.S. Senators Joe Manchin (D-W. Va.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Patty Murray (D-Wash.), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) released the following joint statement announcing their collective opposition to the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission process moving forward in the Senate.

The statement, led by Chairman Tester, Senators Manchin and Rounds signifies the end of the AIR Commission. This announcement stops the recommended reduction in services at VA facilities in Hot Springs, Sioux Falls, Sturgis, and Wagner.

"As Senators, we share a commitment to expanding and strengthening modern VA infrastructure in a way that upholds our obligations to America's veterans. We believe the recommendations put forth to the AIR Commission are not reflective of that goal, and would put veterans in both rural and urban areas at a disadvantage, which is why we are announcing that this process does not have our support and will not move forward. The Commission is not necessary for our continued push to invest in VA health infrastructure, and together we remain dedicated to providing the Department with the resources and tools it needs to continue delivering quality care and earned services to veterans in 21st century facilities—now and into the future."

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Background:

- In 2018, Congress passed the Asset and Infrastructure Review Act as part of the VA MISSION Act.
- The VA MISSION Act established a new process for the development, review, approval, and implementation of a list of recommendations for the modernization and realignment of VHA medical facilities. The VA MISSION Act requires the VA Secretary to develop an initial list of recommendations, including the acquisition of new space, the modernization of existing space and the disposal of unneeded space. The Secretary was required to publish these recommendations in the Federal Register by January 31, 2022.
- The VA MISSION Act also established an AIR Commission, a panel comprised of nine members nominated by the president and approved by the Senate, which is meant to review the recommendations submitted by the VA Secretary.
- However, the panel does not yet exist as all of the nominees have yet to be confirmed by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and voted on by the full Senate.
- Without the Senate's approval of the nominees, no Commission will be established and the process as outlined by the VA MISSION Act will not move forward.

14960

WREATHS across AMERICA

On **Saturday, December 17, 2022, at 11:00 AM**, Wreaths across America will be held at SD Veterans Cemetery to remember and honor our Veterans through the laying of remembrance on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every Veteran aloud.

All are welcome to attend!



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>

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**PVA North Central Chapter****Birthday Roster - August/September 2022**

Brian Fritzie	Aug 01
David Schlinkert	Aug 05
Daniel Fritz	Aug 06
Don Klingbale	Aug 06
Mark Ducheneaux	Aug 07
David Vanmiddendorp	Aug 07
Bonnie Schmidt	Aug 10
Timothy Ellis	Aug 11
Robert Hunter	Aug 11
Leonard Livingston	Aug 13
Wanda Siver	Aug 13
Patrick Lynch	Aug 15
Thomas Sunde	Aug 15
Dennis Bridenstine	Aug 16
Sheri Kloes	Aug 17
Vince Bartmann	Aug 20
Todd Bitz	Aug 21
Casey Davidson	Aug 21
Michael Reed	Aug 21
James Cantalope	Aug 22
Scott Nelson (Mansfield)	Aug 22
Leo Lesselyoung	Aug 22
Martin Kruse	Aug 24
Murray Smith	Aug 24
Kurt Kruger	Aug 25
Arthur Lampert	Aug 25
Terry Paulsen	Aug 25
Angelina Enrique	Aug 27
John Lian	Aug 29

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Ernest Bixby	Aug 30
Robert Schacherer	Aug 30
Jerry Dale	Sept 02
Michael Selvage	Sept 02
Mickey Dennis	Sept 05
William Larson	Sept 06
Richard Aaron	Sept 08
Terrill Myers	Sept 10
Dale Werner	Sept 13
Scott Nelson (Mitchell)	Sept 14
Douglas Fenstermaker	Sept 16
Kristina Allen	Sept 17
Dennis Hahnemann	Sept 17
Rodney Eite	Sept 18
Timothy Fox	Sept 18
Beverly North	Sept 20
Jerry Bonnstetter	Sept 21
Paul Groeneweg	Sept 21
Rick Albrecht	Sept 22
Paul Hanson	Sept 23
Doug Knight	Sept 26
Dennis Schoffelman	Sept 26
Dale Wormstadt	Sept 26
Charles Thomas	Sept 27
Anthony Farrell	Sept 28
John Lynch	Sept 28
Ronald Shelburg	Sept 28

988 Suicide Crisis Line

On July 16, 2022, 988 became the national three-digit phone number for all mental health, substance use, and suicide crises. 988 will be routed to South Dakota's only National Suicide Prevention Lifeline center, **The Helpline Center**, transitioning from the current Lifeline number, 1-800-273-8255. 988 will offer rapid access to behavioral health support through connection with trained crisis specialists. (continued on Page 17)

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER



Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton*

Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?

**Contact ReWalk for more Information:
rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2**

*Chun A, et al. Changes in bowel function following exoskeletal-assisted walking in persons with spinal cord injury: an observational pilot study. Spinal Cord. 2020;58(4):459-466.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER(continued from Page 15) - **988 Suicide Crisis Line**

How will 988 differ from 211? 211 is a non-emergency number for finding community resources, such as food banks and shelters. 911 is currently used for all emergencies, including mental health emergencies. 988 will be a mental health crisis number, and calls will be handled by National Suicide Prevention Lifeline counselors.

When should you call 988? Anyone in need of crisis support for themselves or someone else should call 988 which started on July 16th. 988 is an opportunity to transform our country's behavioral health crisis system to respond to anyone in need.

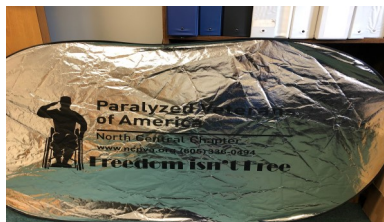
Is 1-800-273-8255 going away? No. Moving to 988 does not mean the 800 number goes away. Dialing either number will get people to the same services, no matter which number they use. In the end, 988 is an easier-to-remember way for all Americans to access a strengthened and expanded network of crisis call centers. For more information about 988, click on: <https://sdsuicideprevention.org/988-2/>.

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**

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

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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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
www.davsd.org www.dav.org

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—President Lyndon B. Johnson



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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.