



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 361

October/November 2022

Upcoming Events

October/November 2022

Oct 1 . . . 18th Annual Turkey Federation Pheasant Hunt, Flandreau

Oct 7 . . . Annual Banquet, Holiday City Center (Falls East) 5:15 PM

Oct 8 . . . 15th Annual Freedom Hunt, Flandreau, SD

Oct 10 . . . Columbus Day, Ofc closed

Oct 13 . . . Membership Mtg, Chapter Ofc, Noon Luncheon and 1 PM Mtg

Oct 15 . . . Midwest Honor Flight 5th Annual Hangar Dance, Alliance Building, 7:00 PM

Oct 21 . . . Dueling Pianos, Alliance Building, 5:30 PM

Oct 25-27 . . . Fall BOD Meeting, Orlando, FL

Oct 27 . . . SF Veterans Council Meeting, Alliance Building, 7 PM

Nov 3-5 . . . Platte Pheasant Hunt

Nov 6 . . . Daylight Saving Time ends

Nov 8 . . . Election Day

Nov 10 . . . Membership Mtg, Chapter Ofc, Noon Luncheon and 1 PM Mtg

Nov 11 . . . Veterans Day, Ofc closed

Nov 11 . . . Veterans Day Program, Alliance Building, 10:30 AM

Nov 16 . . . SD Veterans Council Meeting, DAV, Sioux Falls, 9 AM - Noon

Nov 24-25 . . . Thanksgiving, Office closed

Nov 24 . . . No SF Veterans Council Meeting at Alliance Building

Annual Membership Banquet

PVA North Central Chapter cordially invites you and a guest to the Annual Membership Banquet:

Friday, October 7, 2022

Holiday Inn City Center (Falls East)

100 West 8th Street, Sioux Falls

5:15 PM Social Hour

6:00 PM Dinner

Entertainment provided by

Kristoffer Olson

Dinner will be Garlic/Herb Prime Rib served with potatoes, vegetable, salad and dessert. Additional tickets may be purchased at \$30.00 each

Following dinner will be the installation of Officers and Awards Presentation.

Please call in your reservations by Thursday, September 29, 2022, to 605-336-0494.

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 individuals with disabilities.

CONTRIBUTION CODE: 54682



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.

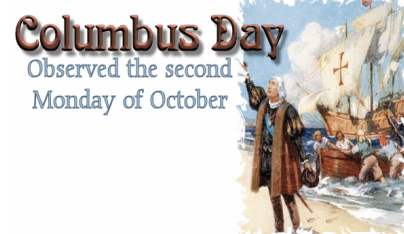
The South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery will be located at the 1-90/I-229 area in Sioux Falls, SD and will encompass up to 50 acres of land donated by the City of Sioux Falls.

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, October 10th
Office will be closed.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

North Central Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

OFFICERS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Duane Biesboer
Perry Grimme Rodney Melcher

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Chapter Hospital Liaison: Chuck Doom
Legislation Director: Terry Paulsen/Gene Murphy
Volunteer Coordinator: Charles Doom
VAVS: Lisa Cummings/Sheri Kloes
Membership Officer: Duane Biesboer
Newsletter Editor: Barbara Priesz
Sports Director: Mike Olson/Charles Doom
P.O.C. Women Veterans Committee: Bonnie Schmidt
P.O.C. MS Committee: Perry Grimme

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 160 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 236 hours for the month of August; YTD 2806 hours. Rodney Melcher and Barb Priesz were August/September 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

Platte Pheasant Hunt, November 3-5, 2022



Members, the Platte Pheasant hunt is scheduled for 03-05 November, 2022. We will arrive in Platte on Thursday, November 3rd, and check into our assigned rooms and then attend the Social at the Legion Hall on main street starting at 6:30 p.m.

Breakfast will be served at the Community Center on the morning of Friday, November 4th and then proceed to the fields for a fun day of hunting. We will then be served dinner at the community center that night along with the silent auction that the community puts on.

Breakfast will be served at the community center on Saturday, November 5, and then proceed to the fields for another day of hunting. Everyone will travel home Saturday afternoon after the hunt.

I would remind everyone that the PVA Chapter will pay for (1) one nights lodging for Friday, November 4th. You will be responsible for your lodging the night of Thursday, November 3rd. Please call the chapter office (605) 336-0494 if you are planning on attending so we can put you on the list and so we can coordinate the lodging.

This hunt fills up fast so we will need to know as soon as possible who is wanting to attend. Any questions can be directed to Terry or Lisa at the chapter office. Once we have the list of attendees, I will send a confirmation letter to those that have been signed up to attend. Thanks. Terry



The PVA North Central Chapter received a wonderful donation of \$5,000.00 through Dakotaland Manufacturing-Erfman Family Charitable Fund.
Thank You!



988 - SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**VA to extend Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers eligibility for “Legacy” Veterans and their Family Caregivers**

WASHINGTON — On September 14th, the Department of Veterans Affairs submitted to the Federal Register an [interim final rule](#) that will extend [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#) eligibility for certain Veterans and their family caregivers through Sept. 30, 2025.

Specifically, this new rule will extend program eligibility for [legacy participants](#), [legacy applicants](#) and their family caregivers, by three years. A legacy participant is a Veteran or servicemember who was participating in PCAFC as of Sept. 30, 2020, and a legacy applicant is a Veteran or servicemember who applied for PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, and was accepted into the program on or after Oct. 1, 2020.

“We will stop at nothing to make sure Veterans and their caregivers get the support they need and deserve, and this extension is a key part of that effort,” said VA Deputy Secretary Donald M. Remy. “As I’ve said before, trust is earned, it’s not given. We hope we can earn the trust of Veterans and caregivers through our continued efforts.”

“This extension allows us to continue supporting this cohort of Veterans and caregivers, while VA separately conducts program improvement initiatives aimed at ensuring the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers addresses the unique needs of Veterans of all eras and their caregivers,” said VA Caregiver Support Program Executive Director Colleen M. Richardson, Psy.D. “Moving forward, we will continue to examine ways to improve this program and make sure it delivers for Veterans and their caregivers.”

PCAFC is a key part of VA’s [Caregiver Support Program](#). PCAFC offers enhanced clinical support for family caregivers of eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, or on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and meet other eligibility criteria. Benefits under PCAFC include education and training, respite care, counseling, technical support, a monthly stipend and access

(continued in next column)

(continued from first column)

to health care through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and certain travel expenses. VA is on track to expand PCAFC eligibility to include eligible Veterans of all service eras effective Oct. 1, 2022. More information about this program can be found [here](#).

For any questions about caregiver support or the PCAFC, please contact local VA facility Caregiver Support Program teams or the Caregiver Support Line (toll-free at 855-260-3274). Find your Caregiver Support team using the [facility locator](#).

VA to Extend Legacy Veterans Program

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs submitted to the Federal Register an interim final rule that will extend Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers eligibility for certain veterans and their family caregivers through Sept. 30, 2025.

Specifically, this new rule will extend program eligibility for legacy participants, legacy applicants, and their family caregivers, by three years. A legacy participant is a veteran or servicemember who was participating in PCAFC as of Sept. 30, 2020, and a legacy applicant is a veteran or servicemember who applied for PCAFC before Oct. 1, 2020, and was accepted into the program on or after Oct. 1, 2020.

“We will stop at nothing to make sure veterans and their caregivers get the support they need and deserve, and this extension is a key part of that effort,” said VA Deputy Secretary Donald M. Remy. “As I’ve said before, trust is earned, it’s not given. We hope we can earn the trust of veterans and caregivers through our continued efforts.”

“This extension allows us to continue supporting this cohort of veterans and caregivers, while VA separately conducts program improvement initiatives aimed at ensuring the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers addresses the unique needs of veterans of all eras and their caregivers,” said VA Caregiver Support Program Executive Director Colleen M. Richardson, Psy.D. “Moving forward, we will continue to examine ways to improve this program and make sure it delivers for veterans and their caregivers.”

(continued on Page 5)

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

(continued from Page 4)

PCAFC is a key part of VA's Caregiver Support Program. PCAFC offers enhanced clinical support for family caregivers of eligible veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, or on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and meet other eligibility criteria. Benefits under PCAFC include education and training, respite care, counseling, technical support, a monthly stipend and access to health care through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and certain travel expenses. VA is on track to expand PCAFC eligibility to include eligible Veterans of all service eras effective Oct. 1, 2022.

For any questions about caregiver support or the PCAFC, please contact local VA facility Caregiver Support Program teams or the Caregiver Support Line (toll-free at 855-260-3274). Find your Caregiver Support team using the facility locator. 01122

Veterans, See What's Brewing!

We invite all veterans to join us for a

"Veterans Coffee and Networking Hour."

Free Coffee and Treats while you chat with new and old friends alike and learn more about veterans benefits from the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

Learn more about the new

Honoring our Pact Act of 2022

(Also note Terry's article on this Pact Act on Page 8)

Monday, October 3, 2022

7:00 PM (CT)

American Legion Post 8

520 South Pierre Street

Pierre, SD

All are welcome to attend!

New Veterans Affairs Life Insurance Program

New Veterans Affairs Life Insurance program (VALI) January 1, 2023, based on Veteran advocacy and recent legislation, the VA will offer a new Veterans Affairs Life Insurance program (VALI) Insurance is foundational in family financial planning as 63% of adults protect their spouse, children, or other beneficiary.

As a person ages, life insurance becomes more popular, but also more expensive or difficult to approve the later someone applies. VALI has fixed premiums for life that are lower the sooner one signs up; an initial two year period to achieve the policy face value; and retains cash value that builds up over time. VALI offers guaranteed acceptance whole life coverage up to \$40,000 for all service connected Veterans age 80 and under with no medical underwriting and no time limit to apply. Some Veterans over age 80 may also be eligible. Some VALI resources include:

- An online fact sheet going over coverage up to \$40,000, premium rates, and FAQs: https://www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/docs/VALI_Information.pdf
- A link to register for email updates on the new program: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAVALI/subscriber/new>
- The VA.gov Life Insurance website: <https://www.va.gov/life-insurance>
- VA Life Insurance Call Center: 1-800-669-8477 (M-F 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM ET)

VA Caregiver Support

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

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

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

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, SPORTS & REC

Annual Trapshoot



The PVA North Central Chapter held its Annual Trapshoot Sept. 9-11, 2022 at the Crooks Gun Club, Sioux Falls. The weekend weather was great for our shoot. We had 42 shooters which included 4 new junior shooters this year.

Winners were: High Overall: Steve Wagner with a score of 284; High Spinal Cord Injury: Dave David with a score of 256.

Team Wisconsin was 1st place team with a score of 1251: Dave David, Lloyd Johnson, Ken Buchholz, Dale Nelson, Steve Wagner.

Team Minnesota took 2nd place with a score of 1189: Scotty Poehler, Doug Eckhoff, Jack Olson, Hank Ebert, Dan Mitchell. For the remaining results, please go to PVA.org under Shooting Sports.

We would like to thank the Crooks Gun Club and volunteers, Tony's Catering, NRA Foundation, North Central's staff and volunteers for all their hard work. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year - Thank you!!



Platte Pheasant Hunt

Platte, SD

November 3-5, 2022

(See Page 3 for further details)

10th Annual Doug Brown Memorial Pheasant Hunt



The 10th annual Doug Brown Memorial Paralyzed Veterans of America Pheasant Hunt was held on 12 September 2022 at the Top Gun hunting lodge outside of Howard, SD. The hunt is a memorial to Doug Brown who served for years as the Veterans Benefits Representative at the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Veterans Administration. Chris Menzie (brother of Doug Brown) and the North Central Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America organized the hunt. Sixteen disabled veterans from South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois participated in the hunt.

The hunt was a huge success with the veterans bagging over 65 birds. Thanks to Kevin, all the volunteers and the veterans that helped make the hunt possible. All the hunters had a great time and are looking forward to attending again next year.



18th Annual Wheelin' Sportsman Hunt

Greetings from SD NWTF! We are excited to invite you to attend our 18th Annual Wheelin' Sportsman Hunt at Sioux River Wildlife in Flandreau on Saturday, October 1st.

The arrival time is at 9:00 AM for registration, coffee, juice and rolls. At 9:40 AM, welcome, introductions by Game, Fish & Parks plus hunter safety. At 10:00 AM, sharpen your skills at trap shooting (bring extra ammo). At 10:45 AM, the hunt begins. At 12:30 PM, Lunch. Back to hunting at 1:30 PM. At 4:00 PM, European Style Hunt, Grand Finale. Banquet Dinner at 5:30 PM and depart for home at 7:00 PM. All meals/beverages are provided and graciously donated by Jeff Gamber, Watertown, SD. For further information and directions, go to siouxriverwildlife@gmail.com or call 605-864-3040.

Ron Schauer/Tad Jacobs

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**Pact Act Now Law**

On August 2, the Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act passed the Senate, and the bill was signed into law by the President on August 10 at a White House ceremony. The PACT Act is the most comprehensive toxic exposure bill for veterans in history. Ultimately, the PACT Act will expand VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act impacts both the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration. It adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions related to burn pits and broadens coverage for Vietnam-era veterans exposed to Agent Orange, radiation exposure, and other toxins. Presumptive conditions are medical conditions that VA presumes to be related to military service. Some of the new presumptive conditions under the PACT Act are brain cancer, glioblastoma, gastrointestinal, lymphatic cancer, as well as several respiratory cancers. Illnesses such as chronic bronchitis, chronic rhinitis, constrictive bronchiolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis have also been added to the list. You can go to this website: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/#whats-the-pact-act-and-how-wil> to determine if you have a condition that is now considered to be related to military service. Additionally, the PACT Act requires VA to provide toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care.

For veterans who have not enrolled in VA health care that separated from the military before October 1, 2013, VA is offering a special enrollment period from October 1, 2022, until October 1, 2023. To be eligible for this enrollment period you must have served in a theater of combat operations on active duty after the Persian Gulf War or during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and were discharged or released between September 11, 2002, and October 1, 2012.

If you have a claim pending with VA that concerns a condition that is now considered to be a presumptive, you do not have to do any additional paperwork, but you should receive a letter from VA recognizing the presumptive status of your claim. If you need help filing a VA claim or have questions about a presumptive condition, reach out to a PVA national service officer (NSO) to assist you.

(continued in next column)

(continued from first column)

Other provisions within the PACT Act will help VA bolster its workforce and enable the department to treat newly eligible veterans. These include requiring the VA to establish standard qualifications and performance metrics for HR positions as well as developing a plan to improve hiring for those positions; expedite the hiring of recent college graduates for certain positions; enhance or create a number of special pay, incentive, bonus, award, and student loan repayment authorities department-wide; and raise pay caps on certain medical positions. Others require training for VA and civilian providers to better understand or treat veterans' exposure concerns and authorize 31 new, major medical health clinics and research facilities in 19 states.

In the coming weeks, VA will be hiring health professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who will specialize in conducting patient assessments regarding the health effects of military exposures. Also, by January 2023, the department expects to have a fully operational call center and network of experts to help veterans concerned about environmental exposure and provide consultative services to veterans in primary care clinics.

Korean War Memorial Rededication

The Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington was first dedicated on **July 27, 1995**. Construction on a long-planned addition to the Memorial began in March of last year and the new extension was officially unveiled recently.

Added to the Memorial is a Wall of Remembrance listing the names of 36,000 service members and 7,174 Korean augmentees to the U.S. Army (KATUSA) who lost their lives defending South Korea from the North. The names are arranged in order of rank and branch of service to demonstrate how the toll fell unevenly across the military.

Record Pay Increase Likely Coming for Disabled Veterans and Military Retirees in 2023

Military retirees and veterans receiving disability pay from the Department of Veterans Affairs are likely to see record monthly check increases for the second year running thanks to the pace of inflation, according to new estimates.

(continued on Page 9)

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN

(continued from Page 8)

The annual VA disability pay and military retirement cost-of-living pay adjustment, known as COLA, is typically tied to the Social Security rate change, which will likely be announced in October. An early projection based on national inflation data by The Senior Citizens League (TSCL), a nonpartisan senior advocacy nonprofit, estimates rates will rise by 9.6%.

That increase would be the highest veterans and seniors have seen since 1981, when it went up 11.2% in response to inflation at the time, according to a TSCL press release. For 2023, that means military retirees would see an average increase of more than \$240 in their monthly retirement checks. Veterans receiving disability compensation from the VA also would see their monthly disability payments increase, with the average monthly amount going up by more than \$150.

The VA says nearly 5.2 million veterans receive disability compensation, with an annual benefit of \$18,858 as of 2021. According to the Defense Department, there are around 1.87 million military retirees, who had an annual average retirement payment of \$30,265 in 2020, the most recent year for which data was readily available.

The annual Social Security COLA increase is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which is measured by the Department of Labor. The department takes a snapshot of the costs of a select group of goods and services and compares those costs to the previous year. If there is an increase, retirees and many others receiving government benefits see a bump in their monthly payments for the upcoming year. If those costs go down, the government payments will remain the same in the upcoming year.

TSCL's estimate is based on the CPI through July. But with several months left to go, the ultimate increase could vary slightly from the projection. For example, if inflation continues to increase, the COLA raise could be as high as 10.01%, they said. If inflation falls below the recent average, the increase could dip to 9.3%. The anticipated record increase would be the second year running of such bumps. For 2022, the raise was 5.9%, which followed an average 1.5% increase over the 10 years prior.

Veteran Flu Shot Program 2022

Drive-Up flu vaccines will be offered during the following times:

Tuesday, Sept 27th - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Wednesday, Oct 5th - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Saturday, Oct 15 - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tuesday, Oct 18th - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Thursday, Oct 27th - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Enter from 26th Street and exit out 22nd Street. All Veterans receiving a vaccination via drive-up need to wear a mask.

Vaccines also are available during routine appointments with providers. Veterans who receive a flu vaccine through a community provider or local pharmacy, please inform your Primary Care Team so they can update your health care records.

For more information or have questions, log into www.myhealth.va.gov and select "Contact" at the top of the screen. For Local Help Desk, call 605-336-3230, Ext 7839.

Veterans Day at the State Fair

The Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter participated along with the other members of the SD Veterans Council for the annual Veterans Day at the State Fair on 1 September 2022. Each veteran's organization had a booth set up to answer questions and provide guidance for the veterans and their families that stopped by the Veterans building.

The SD Veterans Council also awarded this year's "Chet Sorenson" award to Rick Albrecht from Sioux Falls SD. Rick is an associate member of the North Central Chapter and devotes much of his time volunteering on behalf of veterans across the state. Congratulations to Rick!

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Health Issues

From: Brad Friez, National Service Officer

July 27, 2022

I am sure we are all seeing those advertisements on TV encouraging Marine Corps Veterans with service time at Camp Lejeune to file lawsuits. There, I wanted to try and set the record straight

Typically, a Veteran can file a disability claim with the VA or file a lawsuit but you cannot collect on both.

I have included mention of the Camp Lejeune health issues from the VA's own website and how a claim with the VA would work.

First of all, you must have a good discharge from your time in the Marine Corps. Second, you must have proof of your military service of at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune from August of 1953 through December of 1987. Third, you must have a documented diagnosis of at least one of the diseases listed as presumptive from military service at Camp Lejeune. Lastly, these VA claims are only for the service member and not a family member.

However, if you decide to go the route of a lawsuit instead the legal firm you choose to represent you will charge you most likely a contingency fee of a certain percent if they are successful; whereas if you file a VA claim the Veteran Service Organization that assists you will not charge you a fee.

If you understand the lawsuit route correctly the one advantage would be that the lawsuit could cover family members and others who were also exposed to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune during the period of time listed above. But somehow, they would need to show proof of their time also at Camp Lejeune and the documented diagnosis of one of the presumptive conditions as well.

Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Health Issues

If you served at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune or Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River in North Carolina, you may have had contact with contaminants in the drinking water there. Scientific and medical evidence has shown an association between exposure to these contaminants during military service and development of certain diseases later on. If you have qualifying service at Camp Lejeune and a current diagnosis of one of the conditions listed below, you may be able to get disability benefits. (continued in next column)

(continued from first column)

Am I eligible for disability benefits from VA?

You may be eligible for disability benefits if you meet all of these requirements.

Both of these must be true:

- You served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River for at least 30 cumulative days from August 1953 through December 1987, **and**
- You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge when you separated from the military.

And you must have a diagnosis of one or more of these presumptive conditions: Adult leukemia, Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, Bladder cancer, Kidney cancer, Liver cancer, Multiple myeloma, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Parkinson's disease

Who is covered? Veterans, Reservists, Guardsmen

Donated Dental Services (DDS)

Introduction: Hundreds of disabled and elderly citizens throughout South Dakota have seriously-neglected dental problems. Because of their disabilities or ages, many cannot work. South Dakota's Medicaid program provides only limited dental services and Medicare generally does not provide dental treatment. Some people do not qualify for assistance even if they are disabled. As a consequence many disabled and elderly people suffer because they cannot pay for the dental care they need.

The South Dakota Donated Dental Services (DDS) program was established in 1008 to help some of our most disadvantaged citizens: people who are disabled, elderly, or medically compromised. The dentists volunteering for DDS donate services in their own offices. Dental laboratories also contribute services. Since the DDS program was created, South Dakota dentists and dental labs have donated more than \$7 million of free, comprehensive dental treatment to those who cannot afford treatment due to financial limitations associated with their age or disabilities.

Currently, nearly 193 dentists and more than 23 dental laboratories across South Dakota serve as volunteers for DDS.

(continued on Page 11)

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

(continued from Page 10)

Patient Qualifications. To qualify for the DDS program, a patient must: 1) Have a permanent disability or be elderly (over age 65). The disability may be physical or psychological in nature. It must be a permanent condition that prohibits condition that prohibits or significantly limits employment. 2) Have no other means of obtaining needed dental care. 3) Need extensive (comprehensive) dental treatment, i.e. more than a check-up and cleaning.

Application Process. The process for application and treatment under the DDS program is as follows: A prospective patient submits an application for donated dental care that is screened by telephone during intake interview with the program coordinator who determines eligibility for the program. The program coordinator contacts the appropriate social service agency or medical professional for further information if eligibility is questionable.

Matching Process. The applicant is then matched with a volunteer dentist when one becomes available in the applicant's area. The dentist receives a patient profile outlining the applicant's dental needs, health issues, and financial circumstances prior to accepting and treating the patient.

Treatment Process. The applicant receives a letter reporting the phone number and address of the volunteer dentist. The patient schedules an initial appointment with the dentist. After the initial examination, the program coordinator contacts the dentist and confirms that the patient was on time for the appointment and the dentist agrees to continue to see the patient. The program coordinator arranges for the lab work and services by a specialist. During the span of the treatment, the dentist or patient may contact the coordinator at any time if either experiences any problems with the program.

Completion Process. After treatment is complete, the dentist reports the time involved in the case and the value of the services provided. After completion of the DDS process, the patient is ineligible for future services, so the DDS program may treat other eligible persons.

DDS is always in need of dentists and labs willing to assist. Volunteers may elect to see one or more patients per year, and treatment is always at the dentist's discretion.

For more information on the South Dakota DDS program or to obtain an application, please contact the program coordinator at telephone 1-605-224-4012 or 1-866-551-8023.

Smartphone Check-in Now at most VA Health Facilities

Fall is here and with it comes the flu and a lingering threat of a COVID-19 resurgence. VA encourages you to take precaution each time you check in for a health care appointment.

One way to do this is by checking in for your appointments using your smartphone. Smartphone check-in allows you to practice physical distancing more easily, while also offering ease and convenience.

Smartphone check-in when your personal information is up-to-date

If your facility offers smartphone check-in, you'll see signage with a QR code within your appointment clinic prominently on display. To complete check-in, you have two options: scan the QR code or text check in to 53079.

You can check in up to 30 minutes before and 15 minutes after your appointment. If you have more than one appointment in a day, you'll need to check in for each appointment separately.

You have the option to check in with a staff member if you prefer, or if you need to make changes to your insurance carrier, contact information, emergency contact, or next of kin.

Verify your personal information with the tap of a finger

To keep our records up to date, we ask that you verify your contact information, emergency contact and next of kin up to seven days before your appointment. You can verify this information after confirming your appointment through a text message appointment reminder. Once you confirm your appointment, a second message with a link will be sent to start pre-check-in.

If you aren't receiving text message appointment reminders, text "START" to 53079. You will then

(continued on Page 14)

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

From the Office of Brad Friez

National Service Officer

I did not want to duplicate what others have put out on the PACT Act or anything related to service at Camp Lejeune. We are nearing the end of September and thus Fall is upon us. Many Veterans are "snow birds" and will be making their way to a warmer climate soon. With that being said I wanted to help prepare them for their respective journeys down South.

Each VA Hospital has a Traveling Veteran Coordinator on their staff. This person is responsible for coordinating the medical treatment for those Veterans who are away from their primary residence for an extended period of time.

My understanding is that an enrolled Veteran first reaches out to their primary care provider preferably 4 to 6 weeks in advance of their extended travel. The Veteran will need to provide their provider with their travel destination and temporary address, a valid phone number, arrival and departure dates and specific care concerns. The provider then puts in a consult with the Traveling Veteran Coordinator at the local VA where the Veteran is enrolled at. That local Traveling Veteran Coordinator then reaches out to the Traveling Veteran Coordinator at the closest VA facility to where that Veteran is traveling to provide coordination or continuity of care while that Veteran is away from their primary residence. By coordinating with the Traveling Veteran Coordinator during the Veterans' travel the care received at another VA will be documented in that Veteran's electronic record.

Besides the coordination or continuity of care while wintering elsewhere a Veteran should also ensure that their primary residence is winterized or looked after. If a Veteran is driving to their winter destination, they should also ensure that their vehicle is fully maintained as well as their wheelchair or scooter. Lastly, any other equipment, supplies or medications that are required for that Veteran during their stay away from home should be obtained prior to their travels. Our office has been contacted in the past on more than one occasion when a Veteran did not do an adequate job of planning.

The Traveling Veteran Coordinators for our area are:
Sioux Falls VA - Heather Bowers and her number is 1-605-336-3230, Ext #6758; Black Hills VA - Cara Deiss and her number is 1-605-347-2511, Ext #16812; and for the Fargo VA - Robyn Morey and her number is 1-pac701-239-3700, Ext #4315.



**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

Midwest Honor Flight 5th Annual Hangar Dance

Saturday, October 15, 2022

Alliance Building, 7:00 PM

(Alliance Tickets are on Sale Now!)



Daylight Saving Time ends

Sunday, November 6th

Set clocks back one hour

Saturday night before bedtime



Tuesday, November 8th



Friday, November 11th - Office Closed.

Veterans Day Program

Friday, November 11th - 10:30 AM

SD Military Heritage Alliance Building

1600 West Russell Street, Sioux Falls, SD

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



SD Veterans Council

The South Dakota Veterans Council
will hold their meeting on

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

DAV, Sioux Falls, SD

9:00 AM - Noon

You are welcome to attend!



Thursday/Friday, November 24th-25th

Office will be closed.

We wish you and your families a

Happy Thanksgiving!

Keys to Progress

Since 2013, Progressive has been honoring veterans with vehicle donations through the Keys to Progress veteran vehicle giveaway program. The one-day vehicle giveaway happens every November to offer a little relief and improve the lives of veterans and military personnel facing challenging times.

On **Thursday, November 10th**, Progressive will give away vehicles at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance in Sioux Falls. To receive an application, please contact the Alliance at 605-271-1582 or email Rachel at:

info@southdakotaalliance.org.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER**Crossfit FC Fitness Poker Run**

Crossfit FC held a fitness poker run on Saturday, September 10th, and donated the proceeds to the PVA North Central Chapter. Thank you so much to everyone involved!
00550

On the Rocks-Valley Springs Poker Run

Thank you to everyone who participated in raising money for [Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter](#)! We had 32 registrations, all the 50/50 Draw and silent auction items money go this amazing organization!

Thank you, Lisa, for bringing Murphy out to see what On the Rocks helps with. We will see you next year for another poker run!

(continued from Page 11 - Smartphone)

start to receive text message appointment reminders. You can also sign into VA.gov and add or update your contact information in your VA Profile at <https://www.va.gov/change-address> if necessary. Pre-check-in streamlines but doesn't eliminate the need for checking in on the day of your appointment.

Try smartphone check-in on your next visit

Smartphone check-in will be VA's only self-service method of checking in for appointments at most VA health facilities starting in September 2022. Whether you're trying to practice physical distancing or not, commit to learning how it works. As time goes on, you may just discover that you like it.



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 - October/November 2022**

Merlin Evans	Oct 01
Richard Scepaniak	Oct 01
Chad Jacobs	Oct 04
Steve Stanga	Oct 05
Richard Branaugh	Oct 06
Calvin Plien	Oct 08
Ronald Smith	Oct 11
Jerry Painter	Oct 13
Leonard Ellens, Jr.	Oct 15
Scott Bentz	Oct 16
Curtis Bentz	Oct 17
Darrell Craig	Oct 17
Doug Feltman	Oct 19
Jesse Luce, Jr.	Oct 20
Charles Olson	Oct 20
Robert Thiss	Oct 20
Dana Davis	Oct 21
Ken Murphy	Oct 22
Kirk Spell	Oct 22
Andrew Foss	Oct 24
Raymond Berlin	Oct 25
John Effling	Oct 26
Arlis Backhaus	Oct 27
Daniel Kernen	Oct 29
Monica Chesshir	Oct 30
Darrell Christopherson	Oct 30
Robert Dietz	Oct 30
Philip Miller	Oct 31
Leola Klosterbuer	Nov 03

(continued in next column)

(continued from first column)

Michael Olson	Nov 06
Darell Poss	Nov 10
Rodney Melinsky	Nov 11
Corky Thorson	Nov 16
Danny Elston	Nov 18
Michael Needham	Nov 19
Dennis Weideman	Nov 21
Todd Rose	Nov 22
Kevin Weishaar	Nov 22
William Livingston	Nov 23
Dennis Doherty	Nov 25
Barbara Biesboer	Nov 27
Dylan Lesselyoung	Nov 27
Mark Grenfeld	Nov 29
Steven Stewart	Nov 30

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.

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/>.

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

*Give thanks ~ ~
for each new morning with the light,
for rest and shelter of the night,
for health and food,
for family and friends,
for everything thy goodness sends.
Happy Thanksgiving!*

Upcoming Event**December 2022**

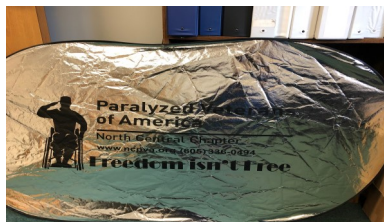
Christmas Luncheon, **Thursday, December 8th,**
at Chapter Office. More details coming!
Save the Date!!

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.

HOME OF THE BRAVE.

Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home

Serving Veterans for 130 years!

Independent Living ★ Nursing Home ★ Large Single Rooms
★ Recreational Programs ★ Chaplain ★ Pharmacy ★ Library ★
Canteen ★ Post Office ★ Barber Shop ★ and More!

2500 Minnekahta Avenue
Hot Springs, SD 57747

vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteranshome

For Admissions information, please contact Lisa Woepffel 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

“DISABLED VETERANS HELPING DISABLED VETERANS”



JOIN THE DAV

*“Our government and our people have no greater obligation than to assure that those who
have served their country and the cause of freedom will never be forgotten or neglected”*
—President Lyndon B. Johnson



Get around safely and confidently

Do You...

- ☐ Have trouble getting in and out of your vehicle?
- ☐ Have trouble navigating stairways in your home?
- ☐ Have trouble entering or leaving your home?
- ☐ Need assistance getting in and out of bed?

Mobility Solutions

Vehicle Lifts, Lifters
and Mobility Seating

Lowered Floor Mini-
and Full-size Vans

Stairlift and Platform
Lift Sales and Service

Modular and Portable
Ramps

Overhead and
Portable Patient Lifts

Veteran
owned and
operated.
Saigon U
Class of
'68.

R&R MOBILITY

Specializing in disabled mobility since 1982

605-335-8646 or 800-765-3458

400 S. Marion Rd., Sioux Falls, SD 57106

www.randrmobility.com



WE BRING THE VAN TO YOU!

SAFE. CONVENIENT. TRUSTED.



For nearly 50 years Rollx Vans has been providing Veterans Nationwide the safest most convenient way to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

We take great pride in serving those who served our country.



SEARCH INVENTORY
SHOP ONLINE
FROM HOME



FINALIZE DETAILS
SKILLED STAFF
TO ASSIST YOU



FREE DELIVERY
TOUCHLESS
HOME DELIVERY



ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM
100% SATISFACTION
GUARANTEE!

Veterans get up to \$3000 off the purchase of your Rollx Van!

Call 800-956-6668 or visit us at rollxvans.com

Connect With What Matters



Being there makes a difference

It could be a simple trip to the mall, a ride to the movies or just a visit to friend's home. The little things in life can make a big difference. It's why MobilityWorks® has been helping veterans connect with who and what matters most since 1997. Veterans have unique needs so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together to find the best solution.

MobilityWorks considers it a privilege to help our nation's veterans. Every day we work with local VISNs and service organizations to make the process of securing accessible vehicles, lifts and driving equipment for veterans as easy as possible.

MobilityWorks has more than 90 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:

- Converted minivans and full-size vans, and SUVs — Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, Honda and Toyota
- Pre-owned accessible vehicles
- The latest in adaptive technology including transfer and turning seats, scooter lifts and hand controls
- Complete maintenance and service on adaptive driving equipment, lifts and conversions
- Daily, weekly and long term rental vans
- Financing options to fit your personal needs
- 24-hour roadside assistance with wheelchair transportation

MobilityWorks is committed to serving you. Contact us today so we can evaluate your needs and find a solution that best fits your lifestyle.



Certified Mobility Consultants Provide Comprehensive Needs Analysis



Scooter lifts, turning seats, and driving accessories

USA's largest accessible van dealer!

MobilityWorks
200 E 1st St.
Tea, SD 57064
605-305-9855
www.mobilityworks.com





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.