



North Central Chapter

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



North Central Chapter

Volume 3 of 4

July/August/September 2024

Upcoming Events

July 2024

- Jul 4-5.. Holiday, Office Closed
- Jul 11.. Membership Mtg 1:00 pm
- Jul 17..SD Veterans Council Mtg
VFW Post 17 Aberdeen SD 9:00
- Jul 24.. Chapter Annual Picnic
11:45-1:00

August 2024

- Aug 8.. Membership Mtg 1:00 pm
- Aug 21.. SD Veterans Council Mtg
VFW Post 791, Yankton, SD 9:00
- Aug 29.. Veterans Day at the SD
State Fair
- Aug 29-Sep 2.. SD State Fair

September 2024

- Sep 6-8..PVA Trapshoot
- Sep 9.. Doug Brown Pheasant Hunt
Howard, SD
- Sep 12.. Pheasant Hunt, Howard
SD
- Sept. 12...NO MEMBERSHIP
MTG
- Sep 18.. SD Veterans Council Mtg
Rapid City, SD
- Sept. 28...NWTF Pheasant
Hunt. Flandreau, SD

October 2024

- SD Freedom Hunt, Flandreau,
SD
- PVA Annual Banquet-TBD

Message from

Lisa Cummings, Executive Director

Hello Everyone, I hope you are enjoying the warmer weather now that summer is here.

This will be my last message as I am leaving the PVA Chapter in July.

I plan to move to Arizona. This has been a decision I've been kicking back and forth for the last couple of years and I have decided it's finally time to start fresh!

My career with the Chapter these last 28 years has been truly a blessing to me. I started out as the Administrative Assistance and moved into the Executive Director position. You all have been such a huge part of my life and you are like my family. I'm going to miss each and everyone of you!

Terry Paulsen, our GRD. is transitioning into my position. I know he will be a great fit in leading this organization.

We are currently looking for an office manager to work 30 hours a week. If you happen to know of anyone, please send them our way!

Thank you everyone for being such an important part of my life and it has been my pleasure working with each and everyone of you! Take care, Lisa

In Search Of!!

We have a Veteran in need of hand controls. If you have any you could donate, please contact Brad at 605-333-6801.

PVA Chapter Annual Picnic July 24, 2024

11:45 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

PVA North Central Chapter
Office

Hamburgers, brats, salad,
chips, &
refreshments will be served.

Come join us for great food &
great friends!

RSVP by Friday, July 19

Call 336-0494

Or email the Chapter office!



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
Rodney Melcher

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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

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

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:30 - 4:00

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 151 members and 95 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 346 hours for the month of May and YTD - 1875. 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!



I am pleased to announce the appointment of Spencer Mion, MHA, MBA, FACHE, CPO, as the new Director of the VA Black Hills Health Care System/Fort Meade VA Health Care System.

Mr. Mion holds a Master of Business Administration and Master of Health Care Administration from Minnesota State University Moorhead, a Post Bachelor Certificate in Prosthetics from University of Hartford, and a bachelor's degree in business administration from American Public University. He holds a certification from the American Board of Certification as a Certified Prosthetist/Orthotist. Spencer obtained Fellow designation from the American College of Healthcare Executives and is Board Certified in Healthcare Management.

Mr. Mion has been with the VA for 11 years. He has held multiple leadership positions across VISN 23.

Mr. Mion's sound leadership qualities and proven experience will continue to support efficient operations, transparency, and consistency. With a strong sense of governance structure and ability to focus on customer experience, I am certain he will be a continued asset to our VISN, our employees and volunteers, our health care partners, the community and most importantly, to the Veterans we are honored to serve.

Thank you for your continued support during this transition of Directors. I know that you will join me as we welcome Spencer Mion.

Robert P. McDivitt, FACHE
Network Director



“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



988 - SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN

We Are Hiring

Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Part-time (30 hours per week)
Range: \$ 28.00 – 31.00 per Hour

Position: Office Manager

Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter is looking for a people-oriented, self-motivated individual to work as an Office Manager for the North Central Chapter

Ability to:

- work independently
- interpret policy and make sound decisions
- communicate information clearly and concisely in oral and written form
- perform multi-tasks with frequent interruptions
- establish and maintain effective and cooperative working relationships with others
- utilize computers for database generation and word processing

Qualifications:

- High School Diploma or equivalent required.
- Excellent computer literacy of Microsoft Outlook, Excel and Word.
- Working knowledge of office equipment
- Great organizational and communication skills.

If interested in applying for this position, please contact the Chapter Office at 605-336-0494 or email terryp@ncpva.org

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER, ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION-TERRY PAULSEN

Chapter Office Manager

Position Description

1. In general, and in conjunction with the treasurer, acts as the organization's Office Manager, and in pursuit of that responsibility (for example) keeps day to day account of the financial affairs of the organization; writes or oversees the writing of checks; maintains custody of Corporation checks; cooperates with the auditors hired by the Board of Directors; makes recommendations to the Finance Committee for the outside audit; reviews and approves or rejects invoices, requests for reimbursements, and other bills and accounts submitted to the organization for payment; work with the bookkeeper for monthly financials; a format approved by the Board of Directors, and submits same to the Treasurer and to the Board; meets and consults with the Finance Committee and Treasurer when requested, and makes recommendations to them; looks after the financial affairs of the organization; weekly deposits or as needed.
2. Prepares an annual budget and submits same as a recommendation to the Finance Committee for presentation to the Board of Directors for adoption.'
3. With the President, Program Managers, Manager of Volunteers and Board Members, recruit's volunteers; supports and encourages volunteers and monitors their work.
4. Requests volunteer assistance from the Board of Directors when necessary.
5. Acts as office receptionist and maintains the office in a neat, orderly, and businesslike manner.
6. Answers incoming telephone calls in a professional manner. Responds to routine non-technical inquiries from the public, members, and others. May direct inquiries to appropriate person.
7. Receives and opens incoming mail and date stamps all mail. Routes mail to appropriate person.
8. Maintains working files and updates chapter manuals, publications, and office records.
9. Assists in preparation of letters, reports, forms, and other correspondence.
10. Prepares bulk mailings and delivers to post office.
11. Operates standard office equipment and computers.
12. Arranges for printing of Chapter newsletter and other material.
13. Responsible for office petty cash account and associated records.
14. Responsible for submitting all grant requirements as necessary.
15. Performs other duties as assigned by the Chapter Executive / GRD Director and President.
16. Responsible for all Chapter Fund raising
17. Responsible for all Event Coordination i.e. Fishing, Hunts, Chapter Events
18. Responsible for keeping and maintain all minutes for Chapter Meetings
19. Represent the NCCPVA at all SD Veteran Council meetings

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Male Osteoporosis

Healthcare screenings are pretty much generic in some aspects...BP, Cholesterol, height, weight, heart sounds, lung sounds, colonoscopy, etc.

But most people attribute osteoporosis ONLY to women.

So, here is the question: Are males getting osteoporosis screenings?

Osteoporosis is when bones become brittle or fragile from loss of minerals as a result of decreased hormones (in men testosterone) and/or vitamin D or calcium deficiency. 02170

Approximately, 8 million women and 2 million men in the U.S. have osteoporosis. Some 27 million women and 16 million men have osteopenia (less progressed than osteoporosis).

30%-40% of ALL osteoporosis fractures (vertebrae and hip) occur in men. Males have a 2x higher mortality risk after fracture than women. Males have hip fractures on average 10 years later than women due to their increased bone and muscle mass and slower decrease in testosterone levels.

Birth to 25 years of age is when we build more bone density than we lose. Bone density loss usually starts in the 40s. Women's loss is accelerated with sudden hormone decrease at onset of menopause, but men's is from a gradual hormonal loss.

Symptoms for male osteoporosis are usually silent and go unnoticed. 3 common symptoms are loss of height, postural changes, pain.

Causes and risk factors for osteoporosis include diet, activity levels, hormones, certain cancer medications, long term steroid use, anticonvulsants, smoking, alcohol, family history, chronic diseases (rheumatoid arthritis, thyroid/parathyroid disorders, liver or kidney disease, type 1 and 2 diabetes, COPD), malabsorption (such as IBS, celiac disease, bariatric surgery).

Monitoring/screening recommendations by the Endocrine Society include DEXA scan at age 70 if there are no risk factors, and between 50 and 69 if there are risk factors. PCPs can also monitor specific blood levels, liver function, mobility, gait, and balance.

Management/treatment of osteopenia/osteoporosis include lifestyle changes (diet, exercise, smoking, alcohol use), fall precautions, supplements (vitamin D and calcium), and even prescription medications to strengthen bones and slow down thinning along with hormone therapy to increase bone mineral density.

Osteoporosis is a growing problem worldwide in men, but it is often overlooked in men because it is considered a post-menopausal women's issue; even though men experience higher mortality and morbidity following fractures. PCPs should be screening for, evaluating, and providing treatment to male patients as necessary. Early intervention is key to prevention of further bone loss and maintaining an active lifestyle.

Thanks.

Bonnie Schmidt, POC PVAWE



CFC Campaign

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

CONTRIBUTION CODE: 54682



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER,

VA expands access to care and benefits for some former service members who did not receive an honorable or general discharge

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs posted a final rule amending its regulations regarding character of discharge determinations, expanding access to VA care and benefits for some former service members discharged under other than honorable conditions or by special court-martial. When former service members with other than honorable discharges and bad conduct discharges (adjudged at special court-martial) apply for VA benefits and services, the VA reviews their records to determine if they can provide them the requested care and benefits. This process helps ensure that the VA can provide services to deserving former service members – including certain individuals who faced discrimination, survived sexual assault or harassment, struggled with their mental or physical health, or faced other challenges while serving in the military. The VA’s new regulation will expand access to care and benefits for certain former service members by:

- Eliminating the regulatory bar for “homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affecting the performance of duty” as a bar to benefits. While the VA had already taken steps to ensure full and fair access to benefits for former service members discharged based on homosexual conduct, gender identity, or HIV status, this move further solidifies the VA’s commitment to reducing disparity for these groups in the adjudication process.
- Creating a “compelling circumstances exception” for certain former service members: For certain former service members discharged for “willful and persistent misconduct” or an “offense involving moral turpitude,” the VA will now consider and determine if a compelling circumstances exception will permit the VA to nonetheless provide care and services. Under this exception, the VA will consider the former service member’s length and character of service, mental and cognitive impairment, physical health, combat-related hardship, whether the person was the survivor of sexual abuse/assault or discrimination, and more. This new exception creates a new path for the VA to provide benefits and services to deserving former service members.

- Opening the door for previously denied service members to reapply: Because of these changes, former service members previously found ineligible for VA services may now be eligible for benefits and are encouraged to re-apply. The VA encourages former service members with other than honorable discharges and bad conduct discharges (adjudged at special court-martial) to apply for VA care and benefits today. Over the past 10 years, VA’s eligibility determination rate for these former service members has been 75% – meaning that VA provided care or benefits to 75% of them (57,000+ former service members). “We encourage former service members with other than honorable discharges to apply for VA care and benefits today,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Although the VA cannot change your discharge status, we want to provide you with any health care or benefits we can – and we will work with you every step of the way to do exactly that.” “Too often, former service members believe that they cannot come to the VA due to their discharge status – but the truth is that many former service members who were not discharged honorably can get health care or benefits from VA,” said Under Secretary for Benefits, Josh Jacobs. “When you apply – as with all VA benefits – we will do everything in our power to get to yes.” The VA has conducted extensive outreach to service members with other than honorable and bad conduct discharges adjudged at special court-martial in recent years, increasing the number who applied for VA care or benefits from approximately 1,700 in 2012 to more than 10,000 in 2023. The VA character of discharge determination does not change the Armed Forces’ characterization of service and has no effect on the former service member’s military discharge status. The VA’s determination is for VA benefits and services eligibility purposes only. Any discharge characterized as “honorable” or “general – under honorable conditions” satisfies the character of discharge requirement for basic eligibility for most VA benefits. Former service members who did not receive those discharges are not automatically disqualified from receiving VA care or benefits. However, barring a ruling of insanity, the VA does not provide benefits to service members who are discharged with a “dishonorable discharge;” service members who were discharged for desertion, mutiny, going AWOL for 180 continuous days, or espionage; or service members discharged by sentence of a general court martial, discharged in lieu of trial, discharged as a “resignation by an officer for the good of the service,” or discharged as a conscientious objector. VA does apply a compelling circumstances exception for AWOL when appropriate.

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

From the Office of Brad Friez National Serviced Officer

The VA has changed the process of the annual clothing allowance application. Veterans who are in receipt of this annual benefit were sent a letter in late May explaining the change where they are considered static and will continue to receive their same level of clothing allowance as last year. This means unless you were submitting for an increase in the amount of your clothing allowance or this would be your first year in receiving that benefit you would not have to submit the annual clothing allowance application.

I wanted to give a quick overview for the compensation or service connection process. First of all, a Veteran would typically need to have a good military discharge or have the VA review their military service to grant them eligibility for benefits, or perhaps obtain a military discharge upgrade. VA will grant service connection of a condition that is chronic and, in most cases diagnosed (exception would be certain symptoms which occurred after service in the Gulf War), if they deem it to be related to that Veteran's military service.

There are typically 7 ways a Veteran can receive compensation. First they include direct or original claims if the condition was found to have occurred while in the military; second, if the condition was found to be in a service member's health records prior to military service but was found to be aggravated during that time in the military; third, would be if there is a secondary condition that happens from an original condition that is already deemed service connected (many times this would involve a joint issue such as one knee becomes service connected and later the other knee is damaged and that would be then the secondary condition); fourth, would be a presumptive condition such as those from exposure to Agent Orange, exposure to hazardous materials (among them burn pits), exposure to hazardous water at Camp Lejeune, Gulf War Illnesses, or from issues during a service member's time as a Prisoner of War; or within one year of military discharge, a fifth way is 38 USC 1151 which is where care from VA medical treatment causes an injury or aggravation of an injury; the sixth way would be an injury or aggravation of an injury during VA sponsored training such as Vocational Rehabilitation or CWT and finally the seventh way would be 38 USC 1160 for disabilities involving certain paired organs or extremities, one service connected and the other nonservice connected, provided the non-service connected disability is not the result of the Veteran's own willful misconduct. Some conditions require a certain length of military service to be found service connected and others require the diagnosis or at the very least early symptoms within a certain amount of time within the service member's discharge from the military. For the most part, when a disability claim is submitted .

the VA has privatized the examinations and Optum LHI, QTC, and VES are the three private contractors who are responsible for lining up providers to perform the compensation exams. If, for some reason you can not attend the compensation exam please inform the contractor and your Veterans advocate ASAP so we can attempt to resolve this issue if we need to.

Perhaps we have all heard by now that Lisa Cummings, the Executive Director of the North Central Chapter is retiring after 28 great years of leadership with PVA. We want to wish her all of life's best as she starts a new chapter in her life

New Laws Impacting Veterans

SDDVA Secretary Greg Whitlock shares this message with veterans in South Dakota. As an advocate for veterans, it is the responsibility of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to review all legislative bills that will impact veterans. This year, the department introduced two bills and monitored 29 pieces of proposed legislation. Here's a look at veteran related legislation that was approved and will become law July 1: • State tuition assistance benefit for the airmen and soldiers of the South Dakota National Guard was expanded to allow them to utilize this benefit at an in-state private, nonprofit post-secondary university; • March 25 has been designated as a state Medal of Honor Recognition Day; • Veterans that are eligible for a disabled veteran plate and the benefits that accompany the issuance of the plate, but do not wish to have to have the designation of being disabled, now have the option to receive the same fee schedule for regular plates on their vehicle; • The exempt value of property tax relief for disabled veterans and surviving spouses was increased to \$200,000. This will apply for the 2025 assessment for taxes payable in 2026; • A special motor vehicle license plate is now available for recipients of the Legion of Merit award; • Residency requirements for admission to the State Veterans Home were removed; and, • Counties and tribes who encounter prolonged veterans service officer vacancies can contract with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to provide those services. As always, we encourage all veterans to visit their county or tribal veterans service officers (CTVSO's) to learn more about all benefits. These men and women have worn the boots, walked the trenches, conducted maneuvers, commanded troops, sustained missions, and protected our freedoms. Who better to have on your team? To locate the CTVSO nearest you visit: <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov/veteransserviceofficers/locatevso.aspx> Now, more than ever, we need to continue to deliver on our promise to take care of our veterans. We will keep our sleeves rolled up and work collectively to ensure our veterans have a successful journey after their service.

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!

- Alan & Kathryn Gobjczynski (2)
- Paul Hanson (2)
- Dennis Hahnemann (2)
- Jim and Marilyn Arneson (2)
- Paul Groenweg

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:

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

Through 2027, Veterans no longer need to pay copays for their first three outpatient mental health care visits of each year

WASHINGTON — Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that Veterans no longer need to pay copays for their first three outpatient mental health care and substance use disorder visits of each calendar year through 2027. This benefit expands Veterans' access to mental health services and lowers their out-of-pocket costs.

This copayment exemption benefits dates back to June 27, 2023 and—by law—will end Dec. 29, 2027. To be eligible for this exemption, the outpatient visit must be with a qualified mental health professional at VA or provided through VA's network of community care providers. VA will automatically refund Veterans for any copays paid to VA on or after June 27, 2023 for these appointments, with no further action required by those Veterans.

VA and the entire Biden-Harris administration are committed to providing all Veterans with the timely, world-class mental health care they deserve. VA is currently delivering mental health appointments to more Veterans, while reducing mental health wait times for new appointments. Additionally, Veteran trust in VA outpatient care is currently at 91.8% — an all-time high — and VA has recently outperformed non-VA care in peer reviewed studies, hospital ratings, and patient satisfaction surveys.

“We want every Veteran, regardless of their financial status, to have access to the mental health care they deserve—and that’s what this copayment exemption is all about,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “We are constantly working to expand access to mental health care, and we won’t rest until every Veteran has access to care whenever and wherever they need it.”

In addition to this copayment exemption, VA launched a new policy in 2023 allowing eligible Veterans and certain former service members in acute suicidal crisis to go to any VA or non-VA emergency facility for no-cost emergency health care. Since then, more than 60,000 Veterans and former service members have used this benefit — providing them with lifesaving care and saving millions of dollars in health care costs. The policy increased access to no-cost emergent suicide care for up to 9 million individuals, because eligible individuals do not need to be enrolled in the VA system or go to a department facility to use this benefit.

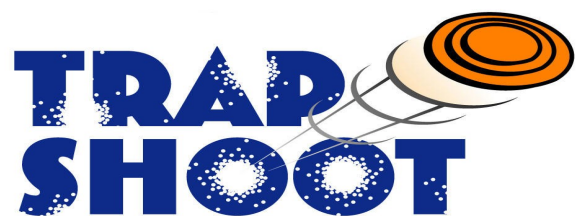
To maximize access to world-class mental health care, VA has been aggressively hiring mental health professionals nationwide. Over the last three fiscal years, VHA hired more than 9,000 mental health positions including psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, licensed professional mental health counselors, peer support specialists, mental health nurses and mental health physician assistants — including 2,000 hires during fiscal year 2024. Additionally, our retention rates for VHA employees — including mental health professionals — are at all-time record highs and outperform private sector benchmarks.

NCPVA Trapshoot

The PVA North Central will host our Annual Trapshoot on September 6-8 at the Crooks Gun Club. Registration Fee will be \$225 for all three events which includes all meals, ammunition and targets.

Separate events will be \$75 and does not include meals.

Registration will start around noon on Friday and Saturday morning. Please contact the Chapter Office if you have any questions!



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

Disaster Relief for members affected by the recent flooding

If you have been affected by the recent flooding and have storm damage, we encourage you to fill out this form and mail back to the Chapter Office.



Full Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ SSN: _____ *no dashes*

Second point of contact or location where you can be reached: _____

PVA Member: Yes No

PVA Chapter (if member): _____

Are you service-connected: Yes No

Branch of service: _____

Nature of disability: _____

Name, address, and phone number of insurance company: _____

Reason assistance is required (check all that apply):

Accessibility Modifications Temporary Shelter Prosthetic Appliances

Transportation Medical Supplies Food

Please attach on a separate sheet an explanation of the damages sustained from the natural disaster and an itemized list of the cost of damages to include expenses paid for replacement items, i.e., cost of repairs to roof, food expenses, etc. Also include the following statement:

I certify that the assistance requested is the result of _____, and that I am not receiving reimbursement of expenses from other sources. If funds are received (from insurance, etc.) to cover loss, I will reimburse PVA. By signing this application, I authorize agents of Paralyzed Veterans of America to independently verify the truth of the statements I have made both on this application and orally during the application process. I also understand that any misrepresentation of material fact may result in the voiding of my eligibility for funds. I understand that such misrepresentation will require me to reimburse Paralyzed Veterans of America the funds given to me.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED BY THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT AND NSO.

Chapter/President/Designee Approving: _____

National Service Officer Approving: _____

PVA OFFICIAL — Briefly describe how assistance was verified (i.e., pictures, visited applicant's residence, etc.):

PVA OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Approved Denied Amount Approved: _____ Date: _____

Approved By: _____

Associate Executive Director, Veteran Benefits Department

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER



NATIONAL VETERANS
**WHEELCHAIR
GAMES**
JULY 25-30, 2024 • NEW ORLEANS, LA

REGISTER TODAY!

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Co-Presented by:



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER



PVA North Central Chapter

Birthday Roster

July 2024

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Arlind Williams | Norwood Baybridge |
| Brian Wallin | Brenda Teunissen |
| Brenda Loneman | Greg Brandner |
| Dan Stapleton | Lisa Cummings |

August 2024

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Martin Kruse | Art Lampert |
| Robert Schacherer | Leo Lesselyoung |
| David Vanmiddendorp | Robert Hunter |
| Michael Reed | Dan Fritz |
| Bonnie Schmidt | Casey Davidson |
| David Schlinkert | Leonard Livingston |
| Dennis Bridenstine | Scott Nelson |
| Kurt Kruger | Tim Ellis |
| James Cantalope | Mark Ducheneaux |
| Pat Lynch | Sheri Kloes |
| Terry Paulsen | Brian Fritzie |
| Angelina Enrique | Todd Bitz |
| Don Klingbile | |

September 2024

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Jerry Dale | Doug Fenstermaker |
| William Larson | Dale Wormstadt |
| Dennis Schoffelman | Doug Knight |
| Mickey Dennis | Dennis Hahnemann |
| Terrill Myers | Tim Fox |
| Michael Selvage | Beverly North |



September Continued—

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ron Shelburg | Rick Albrecht |
| Richard Aaron | Paul Hanson |
| Anthony Farrell | Michael Minnick |
| Jerry Bonnstetter | Charles Thomas |
| Paul Groeneweg | Scott Nelson |
| Rodney Eite | Kristi Allen |

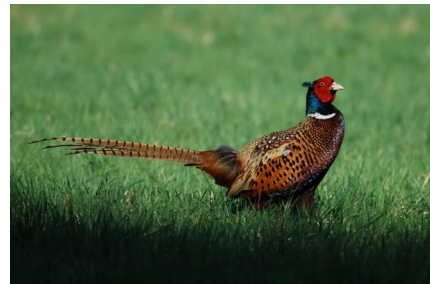
Upcoming Pheasant Hunts

**September 9....Doug Brown Pheasant Hunt
Howard, SD**

**September 28...NWTF Pheasant Hunt
Flandreau, SD**

**October 5...SD Freedom Hunt
Flandreau, SD**

Platte Pheasant Hunt....TBD



PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

VA extends presumptions of service connection for three new cancer types

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is including three new cancer types in the list of presumed service-connected disabilities due to military environmental exposure under the PACT Act. This announcement marks the continued commitment under the Biden-Harris administration's Unity Agenda and the Biden Cancer Moonshot to support the nation's Veterans.

Through a sub-regulatory policy letter published to the Federal Register, the following three cancer types have been included in the list of presumptive diseases:

Male breast cancer.

Urethral cancer.

Cancer of the paraurethral glands.

This policy establishes presumptions of service connection for eligible Gulf War and post-9/11 Veterans who deployed to Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan, and the entire Southwest Asia theater of operations, which includes Iraq. Presumptive service connection means VA automatically assumes service connection for the disease and provides benefits to eligible Veterans who have submitted claims with evidence of a diagnosis.

“We are working with urgency to deliver on the promise of the PACT Act to provide health care and benefits to as many toxic-exposed Veterans as possible — we’re leaning in wherever we can,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “VA is working with one goal in mind: getting today and tomorrow’s Veterans and their families the benefits they deserve as fast as possible.”

Any Veteran who currently has or previously had one of the listed cancers at any time during military service or after separation may be entitled to disability compensation benefits dated back to Aug. 10, 2022, the date the PACT Act was signed into law. VA will review all claims from impacted Veterans and survivors who previously filed and were denied for these three conditions on or after Aug. 10, 2022, to determine if benefits can now be granted. Veterans enrolled in VA health care can obtain cancer screening and treatment at VA, which recently announced expansion of cancer care services closer to where Veterans are.

VA has granted its 1 millionth PACT Act-related disability compensation claim and awarded over \$5.7 billion to Veterans and survivors since President Biden signed the bill into law.

Veterans and survivors can apply or learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA.gov/PACT or by calling 1-800-MYVA411.

There is no charge to file a claim with VA. For further assistance with the disability claims process, Veterans are encouraged to work with a VA-accredited representative or contact their state Veterans affairs office.

For more information about VA cancer care, visit cancer.va.gov. 14582

Midwest honor flight sets dates for Missions 21-23

Midwest Honor Flight has set their dates for Fall missions as follows: September 25—Mission 21 October 8—Mission 22 October 15—Mission 23 Each of the respective tours will consist of a visit to The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to witness the Changing of the Guard located in Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima (Marine), the Air Force Memorials, Navy Memorial, and the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Memorials.

Welcome home celebrations will be held for each respective mission at 9:30 pm at the Sioux Falls Arena (1201 N. West Avenue). Doors open at 7:30 pm. More information on Midwest Honor Flights can be found at: <https://www.midwesthonorflight.org/>



**The Chapter Office will be closed on
July 4-5**

PVA NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

SD State Veterans Cemetery Endowment Fund

With the passing of SB 91, the South Dakota Veterans Council established an Endowment Fund with the South Dakota Community Foundation. This fund will be used for the maintenance and operations of the veterans cemetery in Sioux Falls, SD

The South Dakota State Veterans Cemetery is located at the 1-90/I-229 area in Sioux Falls, SD and encompasses 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.

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

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NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

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

Please support our mission through a direct donation to:

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209 North Garfield Avenue,
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

QUESTION:

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For Admissions information, please contact Lisa Woepffel at 605-745-5127 Ext 1500115



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ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

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

CHUCK DOOM
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

1519 W. 51st Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

(605) 332-6866 / Fax: (605) 338-5489

National Service Office: (605) 333-6896 NSO Email: www.dav.vbasux@va.gov

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Paralyzed Veterans of America
North Central Chapter
209 N. Garfield Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

VA Health Care Systems Contact Information

Sioux Falls VA Health Care System

2501 West 22nd Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Phone: (605) 336-3230 or (800) 316-8387
Fax: (605) 333-6878

VA Black Hills Health Care System - Fort Meade Campus

113 Comanche Road
Fort Meade, SD 57741
Phone: (605) 347-2511 or (800) 743-1070
Fax: (605) 720-7171

VA Black Hills Health Care System

500 North 5th Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747
Phone: 605-745-2000
Fax: 605-745-2091

Minneapolis VA Health Care System

One Veterans Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55417
Phone: (612) 725-2000 or 866-414-5058
Fax: (612) 725-2049

Fargo VA Health Care System

2101 Elm Street
Fargo, ND 58102
Phone: (701)232-3241
Fax: (701)239-3705

VA Montana Health Care System

1892 Williams Street
Fort Harrison, MT 59636
Phone: (406) 442-6410
Fax: (406) 447-7916

Cheyenne VA Health Care System

2360 E. Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: (307)778-7550
Fax: (307) 778-7336

Sheridan VA Health Care System

1898 Fort Road
Sheridan, WY 82801
Phone: (307) 672-3473 or (866) 822-6714
Fax: (307) 672-1900

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