

To honor all
who stand up
and speak out
for freedom &
liberty!



Liberty Express

January 2024

Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, 4510 E. 56th St., Kearney, NE 68847 (308) 865-6000

A Start of 2024 at Central Nebraska Veterans Home -Jessica Modlin, Activity Manager

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As we move into the month of January we close out 2023 here at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home and start the New Year of 2024! We are excited to kick off the 2024 activity programming and to see what is in store for us this year!

Here are some of the Facility Activities that will be happening in January:



Tuesday, January 2nd at 2:00 pm Merrymakers-Ben Tomasello-Freedom Hall-Sponsored by the ALA

Monday, January 8th at 7:00 pm Bingo-Freedom Hall- Sponsored by Loup City American Legion

Tuesday, January 9th at 2:30 pm Barista Hour-Freedom Hall-Sponsored by the ALA



Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 pm Bingo-Freedom Hall-Sponsored by Kearney VFW

Saturday, January 13th at 10:00 am Bingo-Freedom Hall-Sponsored by Kearney VFW

Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 pm Bingo-Freedom Hall-Sponsored by Kearney Legion



Monday, January 22nd at 7:00 pm Bingo-Freedom Hall-Sponsored by the Kearney Elks

Tuesday, January 23rd at 2:30 Happy Hour and Appetizers-Freedom Hall-Sponsored by ALA and SALs

Tuesday, January 30th at 2:30 Bingo-Freedom Hall-Sponsored by Anonymous Donor

**Activity Professionals Week—
January 22nd-28th— Take
time to thank your Activity staff
for the great job they do all
year!**

From all of us at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home we would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!



GOVERNOR
JIM PILLEN

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
JOHN HILGERT

CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR
DORIN C. VAIPAN



Message from the Administrator

Right before the end of 2023, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) was invited to participate in a two-year pilot project titled Geriatric Mental Health Pilot. Out of 164 State Veterans Homes (SVH) in US, four such SVHs were invited to participate in this pilot project: besides CNVH, our State Veterans' Home in Norfolk, Nebraska will participate as well as the SVH in the State of New Hampshire and the SVH in the State of Maine. Here is a succinct overview and background of the project.

The Law (Cleland-Dole Act of 2022)

On December 29, 2022, the Joseph Maxwell Cleland and Robert Joseph Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022 (Cleland-Dole Act) was signed into law. Section 163 of the law, Geriatric Psychiatry Pilot Program at State Veterans Homes, requires USVA to conduct a two-year pilot program (December 2023 – December 2025) of geriatric psychiatry assistance to eligible Veterans residing at State homes.

Pilot Program Model - *Geriatric mental health teleconsultation (via an iPad)*

The implementation of a geriatric psychiatry pilot program in state veteran homes (SVHs) aligns with the Veteran Health Administration's (VHA's) ongoing efforts to expand access to limited geriatric mental health expertise via various regional and national consultation models. The Cleland-Dole Act §163 statutory requirements will be met through virtual, inter-professional geriatric mental health consultative services. This model allows access to geriatric mental health specialists who, due to workforce shortages and uneven geographical distribution, are generally not available to provide care in rural or other underserved areas. In addition to board certified geriatric psychiatry specialists, the pilot program will include contributions by geriatric psychologists, clinical geriatric pharmacy specialists, registered nurses, and/or clinical social workers.

Target Population

The target population includes any Veterans with specialized geriatric mental health concerns residing at CNVH. Geriatric mental health concerns encompass a wide range of presenting problems including neurocognitive, mood, anxiety, PTSD, substance use disorders, and distress behaviors affecting a member's care or quality of life. This service will be provided at no cost to the veteran. If at any time you have any questions for me, feel free to contact me by email or by phone.

Thank you!

Dorin C. Vaipan, CNVH Administrator



Member Council Employee of the Month Jo Ewoldt of Nursing

Jo Ewoldt is a long-time employee at CNVH. She began her employment on June 1978 at 17 years old at the Grand Island Veterans' Home and made the transition to Kearney. Her job title is Admissions' Facilitator and assists as an office specialist on our Assisted Living unit. She tracks new member applications and arranges all of their screenings. She is our go-to person when new members apply or if their family/friends have questions. She is a valued asset to our facility and you can hear her happy voice throughout the facility helping with tours, working with members or just greeting guests and teammates. We appreciate Jo so much and cannot express how happy we are that the members nominated her for this award.

Member of the Month: Doug Graul



Doug was selected as the “Member of the Month” by the CNVH Member Council. Doug served in the Army and is a WW II Veteran. A foot soldier in Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe and Rhineland, Doug received the combat infantry badge and good conduct medal.

Doug was born in Lincoln and lived in Fairbury throughout his life. He has fond memories of being on the fire department while he was a junior and senior in high school. Doug has five daughters and one son. He worked for the Union Pacific Railroad, served as a Post Master, painted houses and was a deposit agent.

Doug enjoys spending his leisure time going on walks, exercising and greeting everyone in the halls with a special handshake and a witty saying. Doug belonged to the VFW, American Legion and was a mason. His favorite food is a T-bone and favorite color is red.

When Doug was asked what do you like best about living at CNVH he stated, “It’s a nice facility and great staff”.

Congratulations, Doug on being selected “Member of the Month”!

In Memoriam

Ronald Tennant

Marvin Simon

Sharon Maret

Douglas Berglund

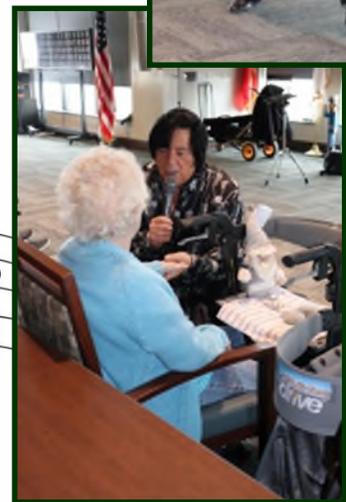
Wilma Kellogg



Christmas Music

Merrymakers Concert

Bill Chrastil had everyone dancing in their seats to the tunes at this Merrymakers concert! This event was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



Hand Bells Christmas Program

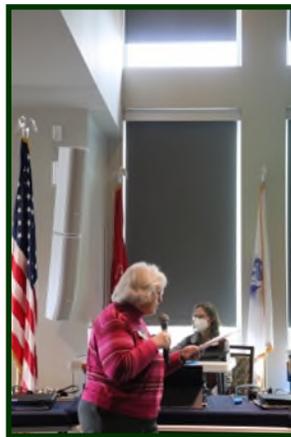
Members enjoyed a Christmas Program by the Holy Cross Hand Bells Group!



Christmas Caroling with DAR



Beautiful music was heard as members joined in with Daughters of the American Revolution for some Christmas caroling. The DAR also provided cookies for this event.



Gifts For Yanks

Gifts for Yanks Parties were sponsored by the Nebraska American Legion Family for our members. They enjoyed bingo and cookies together!



Christmas Time at CNVH

Christmas Trees

Sponsors that provided Christmas Trees this year:

- *Heartland Bank Riverdale
- *Knights of Columbus
- *Kearney The Buckle
- *Sampson Construction
- *Tasha and crew
- *Gold Star Mothers and Wilcox ALA
- *Nancy Klimek
- *Chris Broadwell

Thank you to all of our sponsors for making CNVH look wonderful for the holidays!

Christmas Activities



From decorating trees to Christmas Bingos, Christmas parties and much more, December was full of festive and cheerful atmosphere!



Christmas at CNVH Continued...



Our members were blessed by different organizations with their Christmas Gifts this year! The organizations ensured that every member had a Christmas Gift!



The Sponsors that provided member gifts this year were:

YRTC Office Staff, Kearney; Staff members of First National Bank of Omaha, Kearney Branch Staff; Members of IconPoly, Gibbon; Kearney Staff members of Nebraska Public Power District, Kearney; St. James Catholic Church; Kearney Staff members of Ashley Furniture, Kearney; Veterans First Organization Members; Kearney Staff members of Bruning Bank, Kearney Branch; Staff members of The Sporting Edge and Sports Village, Kearney; Staff members of Pathway Design Group, Kearney; Staff members of Miller & Associates; Staff members of Trius Federal Credit Union; Kearney VFW Auxiliary



Thank you to all of our sponsors for making it a wonderful time of year for our members!



New Years Eve Activities at CNVH



Members brought in the New Year at a New Years Eve Happy Hour event, complete with appetizers, sponsored by the ALA and SAL.



CNVH Member Council Honors:

Doug Graul

Member of the Month



CNVH Member Council Honors:

Joann Ewoldt

Employee of the Month



Mail To:



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