



LIBERTY EXPRESS

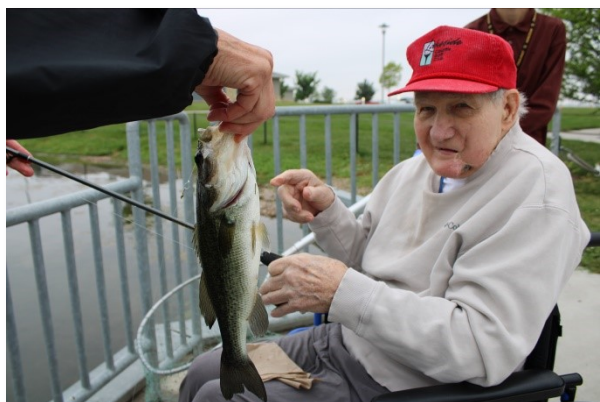
July 2025



Thomas Pribnow Memorial Fishing Tournament

This year the annual fishing tournament was held on Tuesday June 24th. The members had the opportunity to fish from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to have their catch qualify for the tournament. Twenty-nine members participated in the fishing tournament whether it was to fish and try to get the best catch or if they were the cheering section for the tournament.

We had several volunteers that came out to help with this annual event also. This activity was sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit #52, VFW Auxiliary Unit #759, Department of Sons of American Legion, VFW Post #759, American Legion Post #52, and DAV Chapter 14.



Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers for making this a great activity for our members. We also had help from other departments to make the fishing tournament a meaningful activity for our members.

There were a lot of smiles and laughter around the lake for the event. Members later received their awards on Friday evening during the Patriot Celebration to kick off the Independence Day events.

Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan,
CNVH Administrator

Summer is here and the heat is in full swing! Nevertheless, after a somewhat dry spring, Mother Nature gave us some good rainy days so our beautiful Nebraskan river – Platte River – is once again filled with water from bank to bank.

As you read the other articles of the Liberty Express, you will notice some major events and activities that took place at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) in the month of June.

I am asking you to focus your attention on two major events that brought lots of joy and participation to the CNVH members:

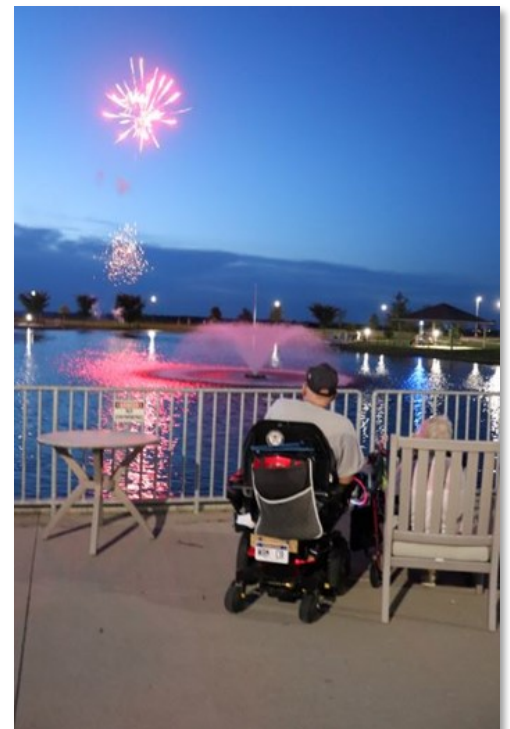
The annual fishing tournament, formally titled "The Thomas Pribnow Memorial Fishing Tournament", which was named after an employee of our Dietary Department who tragically lost his life in a traffic accident on his way to work. Twenty-nine of our members entered the tournament, both men and women, veterans and non-veterans. As you review that article and its photographs, you will be pleasantly surprised by the variety of fish species that were caught from our own little lake, and for sure, the sizes of those fishes are impressive: the longest catch was 24.5 inches, and the heavier one was 4.2 lbs.! Priceless though is the joy on our members' faces!



The second major event was the Patriot Party Celebration (see Jessica Modlin's article). Every year, Kearney Elks Lodge and Kearney Volunteer Fire Department sponsor and man this event, celebratory of the Independence Day. This event always starts in the evening, with a well-attended bingo followed, after dark, by beautiful fireworks launched from across the Patriot Lake by the firefighters. I am happy that our members have the opportunity to participate in such activities and I am very grateful to the Kearney community who have used their time, money and talents to organize such events for our veterans!

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Dorin C. Vaipan, CNVH Administrator



Member Council: Member of the Month - Dan Petersen

Dan Petersen has been at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home (CNVH) since April of 2019. He has two sons Bryan and Chad, one of which lives in Bennet, Nebraska and the other lives in Morland, Kansas.

Dan went to school in Lincoln, and he got into the usual kid troubles. It was during that time that he picked up his love of Ford Automobiles.

Dan then joined the Navy in 1964 serving during Vietnam. He was stationed on the USS Constellation (CVA-64), an Aircraft Carrier, during the war which took him



Dan Petersen

all over the world. After his time in the Navy, Dan worked for Brunswick Corporation in Lincoln.

During his down time Dan enjoyed helping his community as much as he was able or volunteering with local charity groups.

Dan enjoys attending the Chosen movie events and helping in church during his time here in the home. Dan has been greatly thrilled living here

at CNVH. So, when you see Dan, be sure to reach out a congratulate him!

Member Council: Employee of the Month

Helen Bockerman in the Business Office



Helen originally started at CNVH in Food Services. She left for a while but missed the members and decided to return to CNVH in 2022, joining the Health Information Management department. Always being up for a challenge and learning new things, Helen then transferred to the Business Office. Her time in different departments has helped her have a better understanding of facility operations and provided her a great opportunity to know our members better.

She has been a wonderful addition to the Business Office team. She is very customer service oriented and enjoys working with our members. Congratulations Helen!

Merrymakers—Mike McCracken

The featured singer from the Merrymakers this month was Mike McCracken. He was playing a Dobro Guitar, also known as a resonator guitar.

This differs from a standard guitar primarily due to its resonator, a metal cone that amplifies the sound and its playing style which often uses a slide on the strings. The Dobro gets its name from the brothers who created the instrument the “Dopyera Brothers” and they fused that into Dobro.

Mike played the Dobro while it was sitting on his lap as he worked his way through songs from the 50’s, 60’s, and 70’s. He played songs such as Can’t Help Falling in Love by Elvis, He’ll Have to Go by Jim Reeves, and King of the Road by Roger Miller.

Mike was an excellent performer and had members singing along with every song. The music he played was well known and very popular. With a charming personality, Mike was a delight to listen to and made the performance one to remember.



POTENTIAL BURN RISK FROM CHAIR HEATING ELEMENTS

Did you know that chairs with heating elements can pose a significant burn risk? This is why they are not permitted at CNVH. If you are seeking heat for comfort or pain relief, please let your Charge Nurse know so they can assist you with some possible alternatives!

Member Trust Funds



Lance McKenney,
Business Office Manager

Did you know that the money in your Trust Fund here at CNVH earns interest? In May, you earned 2.73% APR interest on all the money kept in your Trust Fund. The amount of interest you earned is

based on the amount of money you keep in the Trust Fund on a daily basis or your average daily balance, not the balance at the end of the month.

I know a lot of our members keep outside bank accounts and that is great! I hope that you are earning interest in your outside account. I know

outside accounts have perks like debit cards, that CNVH is unable to provide to access your Trust Fund. For those of you that are looking at consolidating accounts or wanting to change your banking institution, we provide access to your money through our Member Finance Desk.

You can purchase items from online retailers through Andrea or Connie with purchase requests. You also have access to charge against your Trust Fund at the Foxhole convenience store. So please remember that the larger your average daily balance in the Trust Fund, the more interest you receive monthly.

4th of July Craft in Library with Vicki and Kathy



Members enjoyed a festive Independence Day crafting activity in the library to prepare for the holiday. The craft was sponsored by the VFW auxiliary and our volunteers Vicki and Kathy came in to work with the members to complete the craft.

These crafts are offered in the library with Vicki

and Kathy on a regular basis. They make wonderful room displays or gifts for loved ones. Please refer to your neighborhood calendars for the dates and times that these are taking place.



Patriot Party Celebration



By Jessica Modlin,
Activities Director

On Friday, June 27th, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home held their annual Patriot Party Celebration that was sponsored by the Kearney Elks

Lodge! This event helps kick

off the week for the Independence Day celebrations that will happen leading to the 4th of July.

We are able to celebrate all the freedoms that we have due to the scarifies that our Veterans have made for all of us. Freedom Hall was packed with members, families, and volunteers to kick off the evening. The evening started off with bingo. Bingo is one of our member's favorite activities. The members enjoyed the opportunity to play and win at Bingo each time it happens.

Bingo was followed with an ice cream social featuring the ever-favorite sundaes! Then we presented the members with their awards from the fishing tournament that took place earlier in the week (*See page 7 for the Thomas Pribnow Fishing Tournament Awards*). We ended the evening by moving outside onto the patio and around the lake to enjoy the Fireworks Show. The members had an amazing view by the lake to watch the fireworks.



The Kearney Volunteer Fire Department came out and set the fireworks off for us! Thank you to our sponsor The Kearney Elks Lodge and the Kearney Volunteer Fire Department for making it a great evening for our members. Also thank you to all the families that joined us as well to celebrate with your loved ones!

Upcoming Independence Day Celebrations

- Tuesday July 1st at 2:30 p.m., a Merry-makers Concert with Billy Troy playing Patriotic Music in Freedom Hall.

- On Wednesday, July 2nd at 10:30 a.m., the annual Patriot Celebration Parade will be in the circular drive to each neighborhood. Don't forget to wear your patriot gear!

- Wednesday, July 2nd at 2:30 p.m., be sure to come to Freedom Hall to enjoy a Banana Split Social sponsored by the American Legion Department.

- Friday, July 4th at 10 a.m. will be 4th of July Bingo in Freedom Hall!

The Recreation department looks forward to seeing everyone at these celebrations!



Thomas Pribnow Fishing Tournament Awards

On the evening of Friday, June 27th, at the Patriot Celebration the members were awarded for their catches at the fishing tournament that took place earlier in the week. The members didn't know the results of the fishing tournament until they were announced at the Celebration.

This year we had three new master anglers that were added to our plaque. The Champion was Roger Welch with a bluegill weighing 1.3 pounds. As the top winner, Roger (photo right) won a new fishing pole and reel.

The 2nd place award was Wilfred Medinger with a bluegill weighing 1.2 pounds. The 3rd place master angler was Greg Ewing with a catch of a bluegill weighing 1.0 pounds.

Members received medals for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each category of fish, these were awarded by neighborhood. The categories were bluegill, catfish, bass, best catch, king of flight. Categories that were awarded for the whole facility were king of all flights, top hauler of the day, and top angler.

Congratulations to all winners!



Check us out on the web!

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cnvh>

Special Points of Interest Next Month:

- 4th of July Celebrations
- Merry makers Concert - Billy Troy
- Kearney Cruise Night Parade

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