



Nebraska State Fair Outings

It's Nebraska State Fair time once again! We had a perfect week with cooler temperatures making the outing that much more pleasant for everyone - from visitors, to exhibitors, workers and volunteers at the event. Members at CNVH had the opportunity to attend the State Fair in Grand Island during the last week of August.

They enjoyed spending their day at the Fair checking out all the fun things to see. From the 4-H pieces, the animals, and last, but not least of course, Fair food. There were blocks of food trucks for the members providing a wide variety of options to pick from! Many of the members enjoyed a funnel cake because it isn't a fair without a funnel cake! The members also thoroughly enjoyed the ice cream stands.

Many of the members sent their craft pieces to the State Fair once again. Some members even had pieces on display for the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition. Some members will also attend on Labor Day this year to attend

the Veterans Program and the see the parade to close out the 2025 Nebraska State Fair!



Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan,
CNVH Administrator

I was able to attend the National Association of State Veteran Homes Conference, where best practices in caring for veterans were shared. We met with USVA representatives who provided us with updates in the regulatory changes. Also, they summarized the national projects designated to address the veterans' and their families' wellbeing. We also met with vendors and other healthcare professionals who presented innovative ways of caring for the veterans living in state veteran homes.

On the very last day of July, our community organized the Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet, where the guest speaker was the Nebraska native and famous astronaut – Mr. Clayton Anderson. The community of Kearney reserved a centrally located table to eight of our members who were honored and recognized right at the beginning of the ceremony. Thank you, community of Kearney, for inviting our members!

The month of July was not the last month rich in patriotic activities for our members. On August 7th, the Activity

Department organized meaningful activities in celebration of the Purple Heart Day, followed a week later by outings to the Younes Center here in Kearney, where some of our members choose to attend the Vietnam War Veterans Reunion.

On the last week in August, many trips were organized for members to attend the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island. There was a clear interest in our members attending different shows as well as participating with crafted ceramics in the State contest. Even more important, on the last day of the State Fair, most of the shows and the parade were in honor of Nebraska's 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 - Bessie Shada

Bessie has been selected as this month's Member Council Member of the Month. Bessie has been living at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home since April of 2019.

She was born and raised on a farm outside of Gothenburg, Nebraska and went to the local country school. After high school she attended two years of college.

She was married to Tony Shada until his passing in 2018. They have three daughters and two sons. Bessie was a farmer, homemaker, teacher, and a waitress during her working



Bessie Shada

years. On the farm she helped with the milking cows and the family garden. Bessie's family never missed church on Sundays.

In her free time, Bessie enjoys playing pitch, pinochle, and bridge which she got to enjoy during her Bridge Club. She was also involved with local veterans' organizations, specifically the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and the American Legion (AL).

Congratulations Bessie for being Member of the Month!



Member Council: Employee of the Month

Kellyn Koch in Scheduling

Kellyn is the first shift Scheduler for the Nursing Department. She does an excellent job of following the values of CNVH.

One of Kellyn's best qualities is her ability to be a team player by helping to guide staff when there are questions or changes. Her ability to be fair and follow the guidelines has earned her the respect of the team she works with. As Kellyn's supervisor I appreciate her dedication to detail, integrity, and attendance!

Please stop by to congratulate her!

Merrymakers Concert by Othy “Modern Kowboy”

This month we had a brand-new performer come play for us from Merrymakers. Our performer for August was Othy “Modern Kowboy”. Othy has been performing for over 35 years!

He had a great show for the members to enjoy, he even brought a backup singer, his dog “Halen”, who enjoyed the show from the front of the room. Othy performed songs from the 40s up to the present both Country and Rock’n’Roll.

Othy is also able to play multiple instruments including the piano which he played while members arrived, and guitar during the performance. Othy loved getting the members involved during his performance by asking questions and having the members sing along.



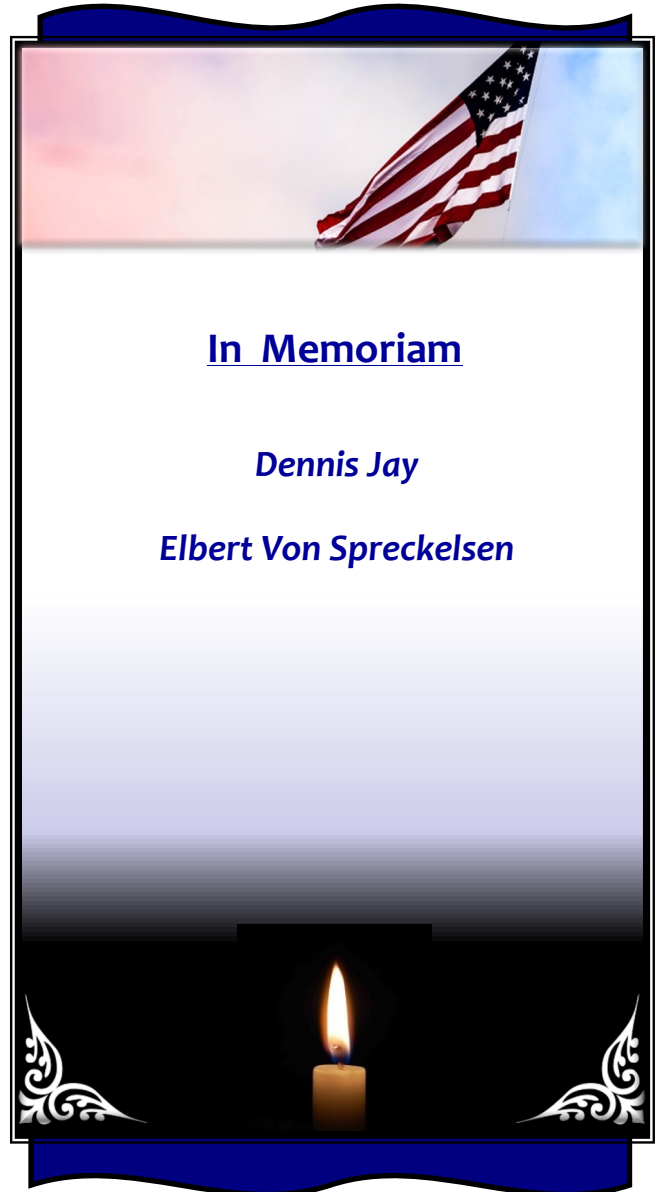
The show provided a step back in time as the members enjoyed listening to some of the oldies he played for them. During the concert he also had a light show running behind him that went along with the music he was playing. Othy closed out the show by showing a video of one of the last songs performed by Elvis Presley.



In Memoriam

Dennis Jay

Elbert Von Spreckelsen



Meet the Leadership - Dave Kreutzer

By Ralph Healey, Editor

Dave Kreutzer was born and raised right here in Kearney, Nebraska. Dave has a bachelor's and a master's degree in social work.

Dave and his wife have a son and daughter, along with four grandchildren. Dave has lived in Kearney, Grand Island, and Hastings and has been with the home for 34 years now.

He started out as a social worker before he moved up into the Director of Social Work position. While still working at the home he also had a private practice for 15 years where he worked as a counselor. He also taught at the University of Nebraska at Kearney as an adjunct professor.



*Dave Kreutzer,
Director of Social Work*

During his free time, he enjoys working on cars, camping with family, hunting, watching Star Trek, and working on his home. Dave is a member of his local church and a member of the National Association of Social Workers. Dave feels his family is his greatest accomplishment.

Dave's favorite part of working at the home is the members, and the ever-changing challenges the home provides. He feels it is the best place to work because it lets him serve America's Heroes and their families.

Lastly, here's a fun fact...Yes, Dave can do the Vulcan hand gesture for Live Long and Prosper. Ask him for a demonstration!

Corn Hole Tournament

In August, we had our first ever Cornhole Tournament at CNVH. The members enjoyed an afternoon playing cornhole in Freedom Hall. We had three sets of boards running for the tournament, and the members had a fixed partner during the competition.

The teams played to 21 and the members that won their round moved on in the bracket and played the next round. The teams that got 1st, 2nd and 3rd place received prizes. The members enjoyed trying their hand in the tournament.

This activity was sponsored by the America Legion Auxiliary! The members enjoyed this activity so much, they asked if we could do it again, so stay tuned for the next cornhole tournament this winter.



Members go Hog Wild at Mechanical Pig Races at CNVH!

By Carlie Skiles, Activity Specialist

When you think of the state fair, a few traditions come to mind: the smell of funnel cakes, the sound of music and of course the famous pig races. This year, even though not everyone could make it to the fairgrounds, our members still got their fill of fair fun. With a little creativity, staff brought the oink-tastic excitement right here to Central Nebraska Veteran's Home with our very own mechanical pig races!

The dining area was transformed into a race-track, complete with festive decorations and plenty of cheering. Members gathered with anticipation as the pigs lined up at the starting line.

With the push of a button, the pigs wiggled,

squeaked, and zigzagged their way to the finish line. Each race had the members squealing with laughter and clapping as they cheered on their favorite pig. The pigs' unpredictable paths kept everyone guessing- and sometimes the under-hog stole the show!

To make it even more fun, members pre-selected which pig they thought would win (just for bragging rights), and little prizes were handed out to the top Hogs! The biggest reward of the day was the joy and laughter that filled the room. This event not only captured the festive spirit of the state fair but also

created lasting memories for members and staff alike. Sometimes it doesn't take a trip to the fairgrounds to experience the magic of the fair- it just takes a little creativity, some mechanical pigs, and a whole lot of heart.



Left: Pigs entered in the race included Pork Chop, Chewbacon, Hamlet, Miss Piggy, Porky Pig, and of course, Hogzilla.

Right: Marian K. displays prize-winning Hamlet's blue ribbon.



Kool-Aid Stand & Bingo

In August we celebrate Kool-Aid Days here at CNVH. The members enjoyed an afternoon celebrating this event! The event kicked off with a mix of regular bingo and Kool-Aid bingo for the members to have a chance to win an extra bingo coupon. In the middle of bingo, members enjoyed some Kool-Aid themed treats including a Kool-Aid cookie from Eileen's Colossal Cookies. The members also had the opportunity to try different flavors of the colorful beverage from the Kool-Aid cart in their special smiley face cups!

They look forward to this activity each year! The Kool-Aid cookies from Eileen's are a special item only available during the month of August. They must be ordered super early because Eileen's run out so quickly. The members started sharing stories about enjoying Kool-Aid in their childhoods throughout this activity. Kool-Aid Days was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



Pinewood Derby

By Ralph Healey, Editor

Good members of the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, start your engines! The Recreation Department with the assistance of the Crafts Department wood shop will be putting on a pinewood derby race event here at the home. If you are interested in participating stop by the wood shop during your homes assigned craft days and you can start making your very own car for the event.

The car kit is provided at no cost to you and only requires you to put in some time picking a shape, hand sanding, and painting the car. These cars are only 7 inches long by 2 and 3/4 of an inch wide, so they are very beginner friendly if you would like to give the event a try.

These cars, once made, will be pitted against the other cars made here in the home as we



Pictured above, are three sample cars. At the bottom of the photo is a blank car ready to mold into something creative like the three on top of the box.

have them go down the gravity driven track. The cars let you express your creative side, and the race should be a fun afternoon spent with your fellow members and recreation staff. We hope to see you in the Woodshop or supporting the event on race day!

Check us out on the web!

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

Special Points of Interest Next Month:

- Merrymakers Concert-Mary Link
- Music Concert with Lyle Goddard
- Pinewood Derby

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