



LIBERTY EXPRESS



March 2026

CNVH Winter Olympics a Golden Success!

Our CNVH Winter Olympics Walking Series on our Echo neighborhood was an incredible success, bringing energy, motivation, and connection to our halls! Throughout the duration of the event, members walked and wheeled their way to victory earning Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals based on the number of laps around the home that they completed.

Members proudly worked toward their goals with many earning medals for completing 2, 4, or 6 laps during each session. Members shared how much they enjoyed walking with one another and alongside staff.

The encouragement, laughter and teamwork turned exercise into a truly special experience. Several members also expressed that the Winter Olympics gave them extra motivation to exercise. Having a fun theme and a goal to work toward inspired many to push themselves just a little further.

By the end of the program, our CNVH Echo Olympians had walked or wheeled over 549 laps- totaling more than 20 miles! This remarkable achievement reflects their dedication, determination, and team spirit.

We are so proud of every participant and look forward to continuing our wellness journey together- one lap at a time!



Message From the Administrator



By Dorin C. Vaipan,
CNVH Administrator

February 2026 was a bit of a different month for this time of the year. Not because it is the shortest month in the year with only 28 days, but it had unusual hot days for February, in Nebraska, some days having record temperatures of 70+ F! It seems that, at least for us Nebraskans, Punxsutawney Phil's prediction of six more weeks of winter was not very accurate, unlike last year's!

During the month of February and despite the busyness of our work-days, our teammates and their supervisors connected to review together the 2025 employee performance evaluations. This is an important annual activity that allows the teammates to self-review their 2025 work performance as well as to be reviewed by their supervisor. As part of the performance reviews, the employees and their supervisors are asked to reflect on the employee's competencies as well as on the level of accomplishment of what we call "SMART Goals".

March will be the month when the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USVA) will conduct their annual survey checking on our overall compliance with the USVA policies & procedures, Life Safety Code compliance as well as other regulations. In preparation for this survey, our teammates conducted audits, helping us to identify regulatory issues that need corrected or improved. For the exact same reason, teammates from our central office conducted on February 9th - 12th a mock survey, helping us to identify those regulatory non-compliance issues for which we designed corrective plans.

I would like to end by sharing two good pieces of news related to how well the business at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home is going. The first one is that the 12 beds in Alpha home 1 are back in use and filling up quickly with veterans in need of skilled care.

The second one is that, Megan Gomez, RN accepted the permanent position of Neighborhood Director for Delta Memory Care unit. If she looks familiar to you, she has been with us since 2022 and had been one of our MDS Coordinators. She also serves as the Admissions Coordinator for the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home. Congratulations Megan!

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 - Doug Deneui

This month we are featuring Doug Deneui as our Member of the Month. Doug was born in River Grove, Illinois as the seventh of eight children. His father was a preacher, so they moved around some with him spending time in Hill City, South Dakota and Golden, Colorado until he left for the Navy in 1956.



post Korea and got out at the beginning of Vietnam.

Doug served as an ordained Baptist Minister for 50 years. Doug still enjoys doing bible study, marrying couples, and other special events for the church. Although Doug found schooling tough, he takes great pride in how he stuck to it, graduating bible

Doug was married to his first wife, and widowed. He had five children and one of his daughters had a neighbor who had a single mother and that resulted in an introduction which is how Doug met his second wife Sharon.

college to become an ordained preacher, allowing him to work full time while being married, and serving his country.

During his time in the Navy Doug was an electrician on the U.S.S. Princeton from 1956 to 1962

Congratulations Doug for being member of the month!

Member Council: Employee of the Month

Bill Noller in Food Services



Bill Noller has been an employee at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home for six years. Bill does a wonderful job cleaning and fixing things in the Dietary Department. Bill is very much missed when he is taking time off or helping in other locations. Bill is always willing to help his coworkers wherever he is needed.

Bill goes above and beyond daily to ensure every kitchen is clean and has items in working order. When Bill is on break you can find him interacting with members in the Foxhole. He is truly dedicated and deserving of this honor.

Congratulations Bill on being the Member Council Employee of the Month!

District 10 American Legion Auxiliary Valentine's Party

The District 10 American Legion Auxiliary joined the members on a Saturday afternoon to have their annual Valentine's Party here at CNVH. Freedom Hall was decorated with love to welcome all the members to the party. During the Valentine's Party the members played bingo and had special treats.

The bingo game was paused briefly so names could be drawn for the royalty court. The members that won the royalty court were so excited! The royalty court also received a gift bag of items from the District 10 American Legion Auxiliary. The members enjoyed the afternoon celebrating one last Valentine's Day Party for the month of February.

Thank you to the District 10 American Legion Auxiliary for showing the love and sponsoring the activity.



In Memoriam

Thomas Prasch

Dennis Studley



Meet the Leadership - Melissa Calderon

By Ralph Healey, Editor

This month we will be learning more about our Infection Control Nurse, Melissa Calderon. She has been with the home for four and a half years.

Melissa was born and raised in Kimball Nebraska. She then spent time in Gering and Grand Island before she settled here in Kearney.

Melissa earned a master's degree in nursing from the University of Phoenix. Earning her master's degree while raising her successful son as a single mother is Melissa's favorite accomplishment. Melissa's son Kadince is now twenty-one years old and he has



*Melissa Calderon
Infection Control Nurse*

also worked here in the home.

Prior to working in the home Melissa worked in hospitals, hospice, home health, and has done teaching in nursing college. During her down time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, camping, and going on vacation.

Melissa's favorite part of working at the home is the members she works with and the memories they have shared with her over the everyday interactions she has had with everyone.

Merrymakers - Mary Link

This month Merrymakers presented Mary Link here at CNVH. Mary spends much of her time singing and performing comedy in the duo group The Links, and that was apparent with her performance. She was singing up a storm and telling jokes in between.

Merry played a guitar for us and had recordings of a piano for backup this month. She often had the audience singing along to the music. Mary grew up going dancing with her parents every Saturday. Her parents enjoyed dancing so much, if their favorite song came on the radio they would stop and dance even if it was in the middle of the grocery store. This got her love of music going at a young age.

Mary did a great job getting the audience involved in the show and made it an experience to remember.



Mardi Gras Bingo Party

The members enjoyed an afternoon celebrating Mardi Gras and playing bingo this month. The members gathered in Freedom Hall for this event.

We had some special visitors from the Kearney Public School - Horizon Middle School band here to play some music and entertain the members. This was both a show for the members and practice for the middle school band preparing for their big spring show. This gave everyone something to enjoy prior to the start of the bingo game.

After they were done entertaining us, the students stayed and helped the members with their bingo cards. The members played regular bingo and then followed with a special Mardi Gras Bingo card for the finally. The members enjoyed this party with live performance, and the band students also enjoyed their time here working with all of you. This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



District 6 American Legion Auxiliary Valentines Day Bingo Party



The members enjoyed an afternoon of love in honor of St. Valentine! The members played bingo with the ladies of the District 6 American Legion Auxiliary! During the bingo party, the members also enjoyed their favorite cookies from Eileen's Cookies. Bingo is always one of the hottest events in the home as many discuss who wins big with the final blackout round each time. Freedom Hall was decorated in the love theme and the tables had Valentines Day cards provided to every member for their enjoyment. Thank you to the District 6 American Legion Auxiliary for showing the members love and sponsoring this activity.



JROTC Social Hour

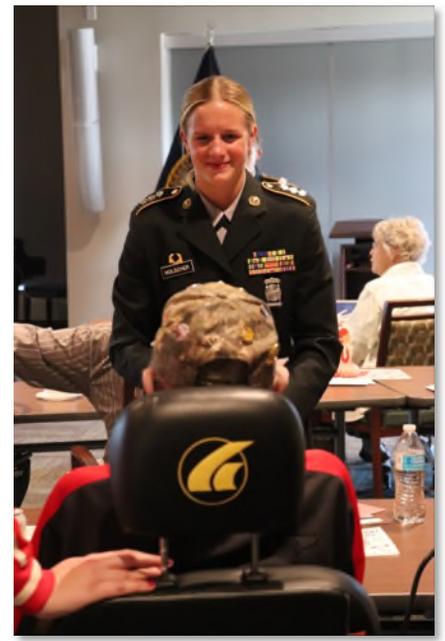
For this month for Social Hour and Appetizers at CNVH we had some special visitors. We had the Kearney Public High School JROTC come out and spend time with our members. The members enjoyed the afternoon visiting with the students. The students brought thank you cards to pass out to the members that thanked them for their service. The thank you cards were created by the 4th and 5th graders at Kearney Public Schools.



There was a lot of visiting taking place between the members and the students. The students asked the members what Branch of Service they were in and about their time in the service. The students shared with the members what branch of service they were thinking about going into as well.



This was a great intergenerational activity for the members and the students. The members thanked the kids for coming and the kids thanked the members for visiting with them. At the Social Hour, the members enjoyed BBQ smokies, cheese and crackers, and drinks. This activity was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.





Special Points of Interest Next Month:

- St. Patrick's Day Bingo Party
- Merrymakers/Dreamweaver Concert-Tom "Woody" Strohmeyer

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