

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



# Liberty Express

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

April 2021

## Transitioning to the Other Side of the Pandemic "Storm" -Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

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"And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about." - **Haruki Murakami**



The COVID-19 Pandemic has certainly been a challenging "storm" that our entire country has faced together. At the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, we closed our campus to protect our members from this deadly virus in mid-March of 2020, which has now been over a year of seclusion from families, visitors, volunteers, entertainers, and the general public.

We basically "sheltered in place", implementing a variety of directed precautionary measures to minimize the opportunity for the virus to get into the facility or to lessen its spread if it did. However, due to the nature of this virus, staff would sometimes by "asymptomatic" and unfortunately this resulted in some outbreaks during this past year. The majority of the members who became ill made it through their individual "storm" and safely to the other side. We deeply grieve the loss of those individuals that did not. Throughout it all, we faced the battle together.

The "storm" of the COVID-19 virus has slowly abated (although we can't be sure the "storm" is quite over yet!). As it recedes, we will make exciting transitions!

One of the most important milestones we achieved was the vaccination of our members and staff in the past few months, which has led us to the next milestone of being able to safely allow a limited number of pre-scheduled visitors in to see their loved one in person. This first major transition is being implemented just as the April edition of the newsletter is being completed. We are transitioning from scheduled "Window Visits" to scheduled "In-Room, In-Person Visits"!!!!

Members and families have been notified on how they can pre-schedule their in-room visits (our campus is still closed to the public, with the exception of these scheduled visits). The reunions have been so heartwarming and we so thrilled that we are able to offer this opportunity! Our hope is that we can continue to lessen restrictions throughout the upcoming months, so stay "tuned" for updates!



This Pandemic has deeply affected everyone at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home. We are deeply grateful for our teammates that have been unwavering in their dedication of providing quality care and services to our members throughout his challenge. We are grateful for our families, volunteers and advocates that have supported us in so many ways. And we are grateful for our members, who have demonstrated how to face adversity with strength and grace!



*The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it.* - Moliere



GOVERNOR  
PETE RICKETTS

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR  
JOHN HILGERT

CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR  
VAIL OLESON

# Administration Notes

Vail Oleson, LNHA, MHA, Administrator

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## Visits have smiles growing on campus!

April may be known for rainy showers, but this month is off to a sunny start with a lot of extra big smiles! Scheduled In-Room/In-Person Visits have rolled out for our members and excitement is high!

### Central Nebraska Veterans' Home



Central Nebraska Veterans' Home  
4510 E 56th Street  
Kearney, NE 68847

Schedule a Visit

Administrator  
Vail Oleson

Stop by the CNVH website at <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cnvh> and click on the "Schedule a Visit" button for the most current visit information and protocol to schedule your In-Person/In-Room visit.

If you do not have internet access, please call our main facility phone number at (308) 865-6000 and ask to schedule a visit.

## CNVH Celebrates Centenarian Club!

The month of March had a lot of great happenings, but getting a photo opportunity with these three centenarians was priceless.

Seated together to celebrate this achievement, left to right are Ken Lovejoy, Wilma Kellogg, and Carl Hagan. Congratulations!



## Supporting Big Red Responsible



Staff at the Central Nebraska Veterans' Home support the "Big Red Responsible" mask wearing campaign in our fight against COVID with our precautionary measures to keep our members and teammates safe during this Pandemic.

Pictured left to right are Jenna Weber (Lab Tech), Vail Oleson (Administrator), Jacki Connery (Infection Control Nurse), and Elizabeth Johnson (Pharmacist).

## *Member of the Month: Pauline McCleery*

Pauline McCleery was selected as the “Member of the Month” by the Member Council. Pauline was born in a log cabin in southern Illinois (the cabin has been in the family for 150 years!). She grew up on a small farm and has also lived in St. Louis, Missouri, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Hastings and Grand Island, Nebraska.



Pauline attended U.S. Cadet Nurse Corp from 1943-46 at DePaul Hospital in St. Louis. She worked as a registered nurse for 30 plus years with the U.S.V.A. Medical Center. Her husband was in the U.S. Army from 1942-45 during WWII, serving in France and Belgium. Pauline has two sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Pauline is a lifetime member of the United Methodist Church. She was involved in the ANA, Red Cross, Women’s Club, St. Francis Hospital Volunteers, Liederkrantz, Platt Duetsche and a bridge club.

Pauline enjoys talking books, bingo and life long learning. She participated in over 25 Elderhostal programs in a variety of states, which were her favorite types of vacations. Her other favorites include Oldsmobiles and Buicks (she always wanted a yellow car, but never got one). Pauline’s favorite things about CNVH are how well organized the rooms are, and she enjoys the long hallways for walking exercise.

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



## *In Memoriam*

**Dorothy Von Spreckelsen**

**Richard Lonowski**

**Walter Kreeger**



## *Veterans' Home's 134th Anniversary Observed*

*A special display of photos from the original "Soldiers and Sailors Home" which was established in Nebraska in 1887, was set up in the Hearth Room in the Juliet Building.*



*Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager (and unofficial "Historian" about the origins of the Veterans' Home) gave presentations to the members about the facility. These historical photos are being placed on the walls in our facility for everyone's ongoing enjoyment to view.*

# M & M Parties and Sandhill Crane Tours



Members enjoyed learning about the origins of M&M's, playing an M&M Bingo, and most importantly eating this tasty treat! The American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of NE was the sponsor of this fun event!



Spring has sprung, and the annual magnificent migration of the Sandhill Cranes through Central Nebraska provided Members with a great countryside bus tour experience! Programs were also implemented in each Neighborhood about this unique migration.



# St. Patrick's Day Featured Fun Festivities!

March 17th featured many fun festivities. Members spent the weeks leading up to the holiday making tie-dye green masks in Crafts. Staff were encouraged to also dress up for the day. The American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of NE sponsored parties in all the Neighborhoods, complete with Irish music, treats, and prizes!



# *Mini-Runza Sandwiches A Member Favorite!*



**Yum!**



*Members enjoyed the mini-Runza sandwiches which were served at a recent meal, sponsored by the Kearney Elks!*



# *Generous Donations Always Appreciated!*



*The American Legion Auxiliary generously donated a variety of items on our "Wish List".*

*Some of these items were put together by members in the Woodshop - a shooting gallery (top left photo) and six small greenhouses, for each Neighborhood (top right photo—thanks Allen!).*



*Remote control cars, binoculars, and other great items will be enjoyed by everyone, as we move into spring weather!*



**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Pauline McCleery**

**Member of the Month**

**CNVH Member Council Honors:**

**Elizabeth Johnson**

**Employee of the Month**



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