

Nebraska Western-Iowa Health Care System
VAVS Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2023; 1330 – 1500
Telephone Conference Call

Welcome: Megan Spath – Chief, Center for Development and Civic Engagement

Pledge of Allegiance

Discussion:

- **Updates:**
 - **New Hospital-** Structure may be built where the handicap parking lot is.
 - Will be a several year process
 - The current “main” hospital will remain and become additional office and other useful space
 - Additional levels will be added to the parking structure
- **Campus/CBOC Updates:**
 - Pt/Prosthetics Area- State of the Art Facility attached to the ACC expected to be open August 1!
 - New “Bellevue” CBOC- 72nd & Giles
 - Upgrades being made to Norfolk & Lincoln CBOC's
 - NWI is wanting 2 new clinics: one in Fremont and one Council Bluffs- Proposal by end of calendar year
 - Sterile Processing Building – Will be proposing for a building again
- We need Volunteers at the hospital. If you are interested in volunteering, or know of someone who might be interested, please contact our office at (402) 995-5563.

- **Old Business**
 - Kari has retired.
 - Stand Down completed, thanks to all who volunteered/donated!

- **CDCE Updates: Thank you for all that you do!!**
 - Donations – Updated Needs Lists Attached. We were number one in the VISN for item donations in FY22, and that is thanks to you and your organizations!!
 - We are already beginning the planning for our Stand Down this fall. Since we are in the very early stages of planning, if you would like to contribute or donate consider donating to either the Stand Down Fund (**GPF 1628**) or the General-Purpose Fund (**GPF 1602**). We will then use the funds to purchase items we need for Veterans such as coats, shoes, clothing, hygiene items, bus passes and food just to name a few.
 - Handbook renewals went out, we sent three reminders to folks to get their sheets returned to us prior to deactivating. If you or someone you know did not get yours turned in, we will no longer be able to log volunteer hours and will need you to contact staff to get re-established in our system.
 - Thank you to everyone who participated in our Giving Tree. We were so happy to be able to have the Giving Tree Program back up and running this year, and next year we expect to go even bigger! We raised almost \$5000 for veteran families in need this holiday season. What an AMAZING event!!
 - **Women Veteran Donation Drive:** January 10th-February 10th. Hosted by DAV and Easy Company 2nd Battalion 377th Infantry Regiment. Collecting diapers, wipes, and baby formula for the Spring Veteran Baby Shower. Donations are accepted at the DAV Hall on 4515 F St, South door, 11 am –

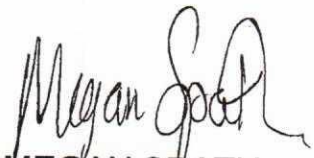
7 pm. For more information, contact Mikey Barrett (402) 517-6447.

- **National Salute** to Veteran Patients is February 13th-17th. Please let us know if your organizations plan to be involved. We received some gift boxes to hand out already.
 - Will likely need to limit the numbers of outsiders in the hospital but we can have limited groups coming in to hand out things. Current guidance is 5 or less and vaccinated visitors only.
 - **Spring Baby Shower** is set for 3/25/23. There are 11 veterans invited. Please have your donations for that in **no later than 2/28/23**.
 - **Patient Experience** week is the last week of April. Will need volunteers to assist with events that week: handing out refreshments and serving at a possible PACT Act BBQ.
 - **Service Organizations that have events planned will need to coordinate with our CDCE Staff.** Last year items consisted of stockings, gift cards, chap stick, socks, shorts, t-shirts, etc.
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- Our Staff would be happy to come out and visit with your organization at your next meeting or gathering. If you are interested in having one of us attend, please contact our office at: (402) 995-3283.
 - **DONATIONS:** ALL donations need to come to our office directly. Fisher House/CRRC/CLC have gotten donations lately that did not come through our office. We cannot allow this as it's against VHA policy. We are the only office/staff in VA allowed to accept donations. If CDCE does not know about the donation, your Organization is not getting credit for it.

- **Future Meetings** (location to be determine)
 - 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – VAVS
Committee Members
 - 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 26, 2023 – VAVS
Committee Members
 - 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – VAVS
Committee Members
 - 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 24, 2024 – VAVS
Committee Members



EILEEN KINGSTON, DNP, MPA, BSN, NE-BC
Director



MEGAN SPATH,
Chief, CDCE

**Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System, Omaha, NE 68105
VAVS Committee Meeting, Cumulative Attendance Record - FY 2023**

JENNY ROSENBALM, MOL, BS, RHIA
Associate Director

MEGAN SPATH
Chief, CDCE

	AJR Month	Certification Expires					
				Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul

Air Force Association

David Skilton	N/A	Unk	Rep	A	A		
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American Legion

James Zach (Nebraska)	APR	Ind	Rep	P	P		
Vacant (Iowa) *							

American Legion Auxiliary

Jean Brown (Iowa)	NOV	Ind	Rep	P	A		
Ann Crawford (Iowa)		Ind	Rep	P	P		
Paula Pillen (Nebraska)		Pending	Rep	P	P		
Trish Schnack (Nebraska)		Pending	Dep	P	P		
Donna Smith		Unk			A	A	

American Red Cross

Louis Wagner	APR	Ind	Rep	E	P		
Kevin Zuroski		Ind	Dep	P	A		

AMVETS Auxiliary

Vacant (Nebraska) *	SEP						
Janice Holtz (Iowa)		Unk	Rep	A	A		

Combat Vet Motorcycle Ass'c

Kurt Busch	N/A	N/A	H	P	A		
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Daughters of Union Vets Civil War

Bonnie Burdine (Nebraska)	JAN	Ind	Rep	A	A		
Sue Mize (Iowa)		Ind	Rep	A	A		

Disabled American Veterans

Jamie Jakub (Nebraska)	APR	Ind	R	E	A		
Chuck Cooper (Nebraska)		#####	D	E	A		
Vacant (Iowa) *							

AJR Due	Certification Expires	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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Elks

	AJR	Ind	Rep	P	P		
Richard Klinger	APR	Ind	Rep	P	P		
Mia Newell		Ind	Dep	P	P		

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

	AJR	Ind	Rep	P	P		
Martha Didamo	APR	Ind	Rep	P	P		
Rita Gardner *		PENDING	Rep	P	P		

Military Order of the Cootie

	AJR	Ind	Dep	P	P		
Gary Steckelberg	FEB	Ind	Dep	P	P		

Military Order of the Cootie Aux

	AJR	Ind	Rep	P	P		
Marcia Jones	SEP	Ind	Rep	P	P		
Dorothy Steckelberg		Ind	Dep	P	P		
Janice Davis		Ind	Dep	P	P		

Military Order of the Purple Heart

	AJR	Unk	Dep	P	A		
Jerry Eledge		Unk	Dep	P	A		

Military Order of the Purple Heart Aux

	AJR	Unk	Rep	P	P		
Barbara Counihan	OCT	Unk	Rep	P	P		
Linda Eledge		PENDING	Hon	P	A		

Nat'l Masonic Services Assc

	AJR	Ind	Rep	E	A		
Anthony Johnson	JAN	Ind	Rep	E	A		
Jess H. Winn II		Ind	Rep	A	A		

Nat'l Soc Daughters of American Rev

	AJR	Unk	Rep	P	P		
Ann Cox	OCT	Unk	Rep	P	P		
Marta Dempsey		Unk	Dep	P	E		
Karen Fitzgibbons		Unk	Dep	P	P		
Glenda Irish		Unk	Dep	P	P		

Nat'l Soc Col Dames of XVII Century

	AJR	Ind	Rep				
Vacant	N/A	Ind	Rep				

AJR Month	Certification Expires	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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Nat'l Soc U.S. Daughters of 1812

Sandra Spicer	JAN	Unk	Rep	E	A		
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Sons of American Legion

Doug Washburn	JAN	Ind	Rep	P	P		
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The Salvation Army

Stephanie Sawka	MAR	Ind	Rep	P	P		
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Veterans of Foreign Wars

Richard "Dick" Ryba (Iowa)	APR	Ind	Rep	P	P		
Francis Durham		Ind	Rep	P	P		

Veterans of Foreign Wars Aux

Paulette Marquez (Nebraska)	NOV	Ind	Rep	A	P		
(Vacant) (Nebraska) *							
Nora Clark (Iowa)		Ind	Dep	P	A		
Marilyn Robinson (Iowa)		Ind	Dep	A	P		

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc

Thomas Brown	MAY	Ind	Rep	P	P		
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P	PRESENT
A	ABSENT
*	NO CERTIFICATION
E	EXCUSED
Ind	INDEFINITELY
////	REP REPLACED
N/A	No meeting COVID-19 Pandemic

R	Representative
D	Deputy Representative
AR	Associate Representative
DA	Deputy Associate Representative
H	Honorary Representative
Unk	UNKNOWN

3 consecutive unexcused absences will result in termination of Rep/Dep status

* Need formal appointment in writing

Omaha Veterans Affairs Local **VETERAN CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION**

Top 3 finalists in each category will have the opportunity to compete in the
2023 National Veterans Competition & Festival

The Local Competition

All forms and works must be submitted electronically (.jpg, .doc, .pdf or similar).

A panel of judges from the local creative arts and veteran community will determine the top three finalists.

Entry forms and all submissions are due:
August 4, 2023.

For rule packets and entry forms, contact Cati DeMasi at catherine.demasi@va.gov or scan the QR code below.

Creative Arts Competition Contact:

Cati DeMasi
402-995-6600
catherine.demasi@va.gov

The National Competition

Top 3 finalists in each category at the Local Competition will be submitted to the National Creative Arts Competition in October. National winners are invited to attend the National Festival, a weeklong celebration of learning, friendship, and the healing power of the creative arts, which culminates in an art exhibit, creative writers' meet-and-greet, and live stage show, held in the Spring of 2024.

Art workshops, writing seminars, and opportunities to explore the host city are also offered to participants during their week at the Festival.

More information about the National competition can be found on the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NVCAF/>



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

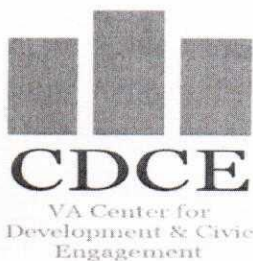
Veterans Health Administration;
Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System



VA Papillion Community Living Center
11111 S 84th St
Papillion, NE 68046

Items that ARE needed:

- Stamps
- Nintendo Switches
 - Amazon.com: Nintendo Switch with Neon Blue and Neon Red Joy-Con : Video Games
- Amazon Fire Sticks
 - Amazon Fire TV Stick 4K Max streaming device
- Holiday decorations
- Large Print crosswords and word searches
- Used books (all sorts)
- Gift cards to Papillion restaurants and shopping (HyVee, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Target)
- Robot Dogs & Cats (see Amazon link)
 - Amazon.com: JOY FOR ALL - Freckled Pup - Brown and White Soft-Touch Coat - Realistic and Lifelike Interactive Companion Pets : Everything Else
 - Amazon.com: JOY FOR ALL - Orange Tabby Cat - Interactive Companion Pets - Realistic & Lifelike : Hasbro: Toys & Games
- Handyman Activity Box for Dementia
 - Handyman Tinker Latch Box | Dementia + Alzheimer's Activity | Activities for Men with Dementia | MindCare Store
- Tactile Matching Game
 - Tactile Matching Game for Dementia | Relish US (relish-life.com)
- "Someone to Love" Baby Doll Liam
 - Someone to Love Baby Dolls | Baby Doll Therapy | Alzstore
- "Someone to Love" Baby Doll Izzy
 - Someone to Love" Baby Doll Izzy | Baby Doll Therapy | Alzstore
- Wii Bundle w/Wii Spots & Wii Sports Resorts
 - Amazon.com: Wii Bundle with Wii Sports & Wii Sports Resort - White (Renewed) : Video Games
- Large Print Play Cards



402-995-3283



- Amazon.com: Fanwer Playing Cards Large Print for Adults - 2 Packs, Large Print Playing Cards for Seniors, Vision Impaired, Low Vision Crowd, for Blackjack, Euchre, Canasta Card Game : Toys & Games
- Braille Dominoes
 - Amazon.com: The Braille Superstore Double-Six Dominoes; Plastic (with Raised Dots) : Toys & Games
- Tic Tac Toe Large Print
 - Amazon.com: BSIRI Tic Tac Toe Game for Kids and Family Board Games 3D Travel of Living Room Decor and Coffee Top Table Games Decor Family Games Night Classic Board TicTacToe : Toys & Games
- Magnifying Glass Large Fully Page
 - Amazon.com: Hands-Free Magnifying Glass Large Full-Page Rectangular 3X Magnifier LED Lighted Illuminated Foldable Desktop Portable for Elder : Arts, Crafts & Sewing
- 4x Magnifying Glass w/Antiglare
 - Amazon.com : [Rechargeable] 4X Magnifying Glass with [10 Anti-Glare & Fully Dimmable LEDs]-Evenly Lit Viewing Area-The Brightest & Best Reading Magnifier for Small Prints, Low Vision Seniors, Macular Degeneration : Health & Household
- Music Player/Audiobooks
 - Amazon.com: SMPL One-Touch Music Player, Audiobooks + MP3, Quality-Sound, Durable Wooden Encloser with Retro Look, 4GB USB with 40 Nostalgic Hits Included, Live Technical Support (Red, Music Player) : Electronics
- Easy Word Search for Dementia/Alzheimer's
 - Amazon.com: Keeping Busy Level 1 (Easy) Word Search Dementia and Alzheimer's Grab & Go Engaging Puzzles/Activities/Games for Older Adults : Toys & Games
- Jet Fighters of the US Marine/Navy Book
 - Jet Fighters of the U. S. Navy and Marine Corps: Part 2: Mach 1 and Beyond: Kinzey, Bert, Roszak, Rock: 9798688948257: Amazon.com: Books
- Military History: Guide to Objects of Warfare Hardback Book
 - Military History: The Definitive Visual Guide to the Objects of Warfare: DK: 0790778036089: Amazon.com: Books
- Picture Book of Patriotic Sounds for Alzheimer's/Dementia Patients



402-995-3283



- Farm Life, A No Text Picture Book: A Calming Gift for Alzheimer Patients and Senior Citizens Living With Dementia (Soothing Picture Books for the Heart and Soul): Happiness, Lasting: 9798709938359: Amazon.com: Books
- Farm Life Book for Alzheimer/Dementia Patients
 - Farm Life, A No Text Picture Book: A Calming Gift for Alzheimer Patients and Senior Citizens Living With Dementia (Soothing Picture Books for the Heart and Soul): Happiness, Lasting: 9798709938359: Amazon.com: Books
- National Geographic Rarely Seen Photos
 - National Geographic Rarely Seen: Photographs of the Extraordinary (National Geographic Collectors Series): Geographic, National, Alvarez, Stephen: 9781426219795: Amazon.com: Books
- Eschenbach Smartlux Digital Portable Magnifier
 - Amazon.com: Eschenbach SmartLux Digital Portable Magnifier - Handheld HD Video Magnifier for Low Vision w/Image Capture - (5X, 7X, 9X, 12x Magnification & 5 Viewing Modes) w/Liberty Cleaning Cloth : Health & Household
- ULEAD Facilitation Cards
 - ULEAD Facilitation Cards (square.site)
- ULEAD Junior Facilitation Cards
 - ULEAD Junior Facilitation Cards (square.site)
- Karaoke Machine w/Lyric Display Screen
 - Amazon.com: MASINGO Professional Karaoke Machine with Lyrics Display Screen for Adults and Kids - Bluetooth Portable Singing PA Speaker System with WiFi, Built-in 15-inch Tablet + 2 Wireless Microphones - Alto X6 : Musical Instruments

We are registered on Amazon. For your convenience, items purchased will ship directly to our office. You can find the registry by searching the following: Amazon.com -- Registrant name: Registry; Omaha VA; Custom Gift List; Search or clicking on the this link: [Amazon Custom Gift List](#)



402-995-3283



Updated: October 1, 2022

Thank You for Supporting Our Nation's Heroes



402-995-3283



Amazon:

Skip Hop bottle bags (Gray Chevron print) - [Amazon.com: Skip Hop Baby Bottle Bag, Grab & Go, Grey Melange : Everything Else](#) (x10)

Boon Grass Countertop Baby Bottle Drying Rack with Stem & Twig Accessories - [Amazon.com:](#)

[Boon Grass Countertop Baby Bottle Drying Rack, Gray : Baby](#) (x10)

Boon Portable Bottle Brushes - [Amazon.com : Boon Travel Drying Rack, Green & White, Multi,](#)

[B11015A : Baby](#) (x10)

Mommy Hook - [Amazon.com: The Mommy Hook Stroller Accessory Silver : Baby](#) (x10)

Boppy Shopping Cart Cover - [Amazon.com : Boppy Shopping Cart and High Chair Cover | Sunshine](#)

[Gray and Yellow Chevron with Sun Book Toy | 2-Point Safety Belt | Wipeable, Machine Washable |](#)

[6-48 months : Baby](#) (x2)

Minky Baby Blankets - [Amazon.com: Annlaite Unisex Children's Soft Baby Blanket Minky Dot- Sherpa](#)

[Fleece Baby Blanket 30 by 40 Inch \(Arctic Blue\) : Baby](#) (Blue x3, Gray x3, Pink x3)

Buy Buy Baby:

[Johnson's® Baby 4-Piece Welcome Baby Gift Set | buybuy BABY](#) (x10)

VA Nebraska – Western Iowa Health Care System Center for development and Civic Engagement

Omaha VA – NEEDS LIST

Socks and blankets are **NOT** needed at this time.

Items that ARE needed:

Clothing:

- Men's Shoes – various sizes 9 – 13.5
- Men's Belts – sizes medium – 2XL
- Protein rich snacks (tuna & crackers, beef jerky, P3 snacks, etc.)
- NEW Sweatpants and sweatshirts: sizes M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- NEW Long sleeved T-shirts in various colors: sizes L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
- NEW Short T-shirts in various colors: sizes L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL
- NEW Jeans/Khakis: men's: waist sizes 30, 32, 34, 44, 46, 48 lengths 30 or 32
- NEW Men's underwear various sizes
- Long winter underwear M – 2XL
- 20 Winter coats (size L, XL, 2XL)
- 20 Winter gloves and 20 winter hats and 20 winter scarves
- 20 Winter boots (various sizes)

Cold Weather Gear:

- Hand warmers and Foot warmers
- NEW Duffel Bags or Back Packs
- Tents

Misc:

- Can Openers
- Wet wipes
- Razors
- Hand towels
- Gift cards \$25 and \$50
- Bus passes

Food: We are in need of shelf stable items to support the Food Pantry

Peanut butter	Canned meat (tuna, chicken, vienna sausages)	Crackers	Soup (pop top)
Snack bars	Any non-perishable food items (Cereal, rice, pasta, nuts, etc.)	Gatorade	Pop top individual meals

Updated: October 20, 2022

Fisher House Wish List



Individually wrapped snack items including:

Snack size chips (variety)

Trail mix or nuts

Grab and go snack packs

Dry cereals and instant oatmeal packs

Disposable Coffee Cups

Paper plates and Bowls

Lip balm and travel size skin moisturizer

Clorox Wipes

Paper Towels

Aerosol Air Fresheners

Hy-Vee and Visa gift cards (used to purchase groceries and essential guest items)

Checks can be made out to "Omaha Fisher House"

For questions regarding donations or how to get involved,

please contact:

Miles Brown

Fisher House Manager

402-930-7116

Fisher House Wish List



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