

Nebraska Western-Iowa Health Care System  
VAVS Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 26, 2022; 1330 – 1500  
Telephone Conference Call

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

**Discussion:**

- **Executive Staff: Dr. Eileen Kingston**
  - Background as a nurse executive for 26 years
  - Director for 1 ½ years: has a love for the mission
  - Very thankful for our volunteers. Our jobs are not possible without you!
- **Executive Updates:**
  - VHA's new Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Shereef Elnahal announced VHA's priorities and key areas to focus time and resources on.
  - Here at NWI, our focus is to become the Healthcare Provider of choice for our Veterans. Trying to reach more of the rural population.
  - Currently hard to hire Providers- hinders the Focus but AMPLIFIES the need for Volunteers!
  - We are doing more outreach in the community.
  - We are working on a student initiative. We have students from Omaha Public Schools who are close to graduation. The students are volunteering and getting groomed throughout various departments in the hospital, seeing how wonderful VHA is.
  - The need for Volunteers is so important.
- **Campus/CBOC Updates:**
  - Pt/Prosthetics Area- State of the Art Facility attached to the ACC expected to be open at the end of the calendar year
  - New "Bellevue" CBOC- 72<sup>nd</sup> & 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
  - Mental Health Building- Has been proposed: awaiting funding by end of calendar year
  - Sterile Processing Building – Will be proposing for a building again
  - LASTLY: We need a new hospital. There will be a new proposal in February. Three things need to occur.
    - Get approved

- Get funding (approximately \$800 million)
- Determine location

Thank you, again, for all that you do!

- **VA CDCE Updates:**

- Player Piano for Papillion CLC has been delivered.
  - Thank you, Rita Gardner for the generous donation in Memory of your husband.
  - Baby Shower was a success! Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in this wonderful event.
  - CRRC- in need of food items for the Food Pantry. Please contact our office if you have any donations so we can get them entered
  - Papillion CLC is requesting phone charging cords (Popular sizes)
  - The Stand Down account needs to be replenished for next year!  
**GPF#1628**
  - Veteran's Day is 11/11. We have events scheduled for each day of the week.
    - 11/7: 10am-1pm (ACC Hallway) – MOCA/VFW Aux Give Away
    - 11/7: 1pm (ACC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) – 100-year Veteran Birthday Celebration
    - 11/7: 3:30pm (ACC Hallway) – Veteran's Day Ceremony
    - 11/8: 10am- 2pm (Hospital Wide) - Home of the Brave
    - 11/10: Nothing Bundt Cakes Give Away (Time TBD)
    - NO EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR THE OMAHA NATIONAL CEMETARY.
  - Giving Tree: We are going to try and get a tree this year. We would like to get the names of 20 Veterans in need. We will put tags on the tree with the name and wish list items of the Veteran, and anyone can grab a name off and provide items on the list. Stay tuned!
  - National Salute week is February 13-17. Please have any ideas you would like to do or donate to our office January 31.
  - Chuck Cooper: DAV Coordinator, recertified for another 2 years
  - There is going to be a VSO Rep in the hospital 2-3 times a week to help Veterans with their claims. This should happen in the next couple of months.
  - Dr. Kingston is asking for a second Veteran Food Pantry. This one will be located at the VA. Please watch for more information on that. It might increase our food donation requests!



- **Events:**
  - Holiday Events will be limited this year. Small groups of 5 vaccinated people are tentatively allowed.
  - We have approximately 80 patients all together right now.
  - **Service Organizations that have events planned will need to coordinate with our CDCE Staff.** Last year items consisted if stockings, gift cards, chap stick, socks, shorts, t-shirts, etc.
  
- **Other Discussion:**
- Chapel Volunteers are not needed at this time due to attendance.
- Covid Vaccine Clinic: 11/5 (8-12) – Appointments preferred, but will take a walk-in. Spouses can get vaccinated if they have already been registered through eligibility. This is not a Flu clinic. The walk-in Flu clinic is over.
- Our Staff would be happy to come out and visit with your organization at your next meeting or gathering.
- **DONATIONS: Please make sure you notify our office of all donations, regardless of where they go. If we are not aware of them, your organization does not get the credit for them! Thank you!**

**Please return your Annual Training Form as soon as possible. If we do not receive it by December 31, 2022, you will be deactivated from the HUB.**

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



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



MEGAN M. 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				
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**American Legion**

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

**American Legion Auxiliary**

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

**American Red Cross**

Louis Wagner	APR	Ind	Rep	E				
Kevin Zuroski		Ind	Dep	P				

**AMVETS Auxiliary**

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

**Combat Vet Motorcycle Ass'c**

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

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

**Disabled American Veterans**

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



AJR Due	Certification Expires	Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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**Elks**

Richard Klinger	APR	Ind	Rep	P			
Mia Newell		Ind	Dep	P			

**Epsilon Sigma Alpha (Alpha Nu Chapter)**

Kristen Genier	N/A	Unk	Rep	A			
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**Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.**

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

**Military Order of the Cootie**

Gary Steckelberg	FEB	Ind	Dep	P			
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**Military Order of the Cootie Aux**

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

**Military Order of the Purple Heart**

Jerry Eledge		Unk	Dep	P			
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**Military Order of the Purple Heart Aux**

Barbara Counihan	OCT	Unk	Rep	P			
Linda Eledge		PENDING	Hon	P			

**Nat'l Masonic Services Assc**

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

**Nat'l Soc Daughters of American Rev**

Ann Cox	OCT	Unk	Rep	P			
Marta Dempsey *		PENDING		P			
Karen Fitzgibbons		#####	Dep	P			
Glenda Irish		#####	Dep	P			

**Nat'l Soc Col Dames of XVII Century**

Suzanne Jarman	N/A	Ind	Rep	A			
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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			
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**Sons of American Legion**

Doug Washburn	JAN	Ind	Rep	P			
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**The Salvation Army**

Stephanie Sawka	MAR	Ind	Rep	P			
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**Veterans of Foreign Wars**

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

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Aux**

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

**Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc**

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

<b>R</b>	Representative
<b>D</b>	Deputy Representative
<b>AR</b>	Associate Representative
<b>DA</b>	Deputy Associate Representative
<b>H</b>	Honorary Representative
<b>Unk</b>	UNKNOWN

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

**\* Need formal appointment in writing**