

PARALOG Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



OPVA's GOLF TOURNAMENT



June 23, 2017 - Tee off 1 p.m.

Title Sponsor



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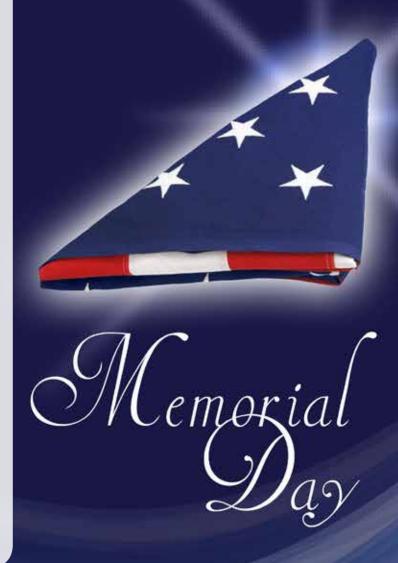
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Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 503-362-7998 800-333-0782 www.oregonpva.org Email - oregonpva@oregonpva.org

> OPVA is a 501(c)(3) Tax ID# 93-0713859

The views and opinions expressed in the Paralog are not necessarily a direct representation of the views or ideas of the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America who hereby disclaims any responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors and printed in the Paralog.

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Patient Advocates Katina Collins, Trish Hafer

Kelly Williams

OPVA Mission Statement

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA), incorporated in 1976, is a chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. OPVA serves the needs of its Members – U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) – and helps them enjoy the highest possible quality of life. OPVA, Members, Associate Members, Family Members, Volunteers, and allied organizations work to provide leadership and advocacy in

- Improving health care and SCI/D research and education
- Protecting veterans rights and benefits
- Improving awareness of disability rights
- Offering sports and health-promotion activities
- Increasing accessibility and removing architectural barriers in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Idaho.

A 501(c)(3) charity, OPVA relies on grants and donations from members of the public.



Two locations to serve you:

Ability Center of Portland 9770 SW Wilsonville Rd. Ste. 440 Wilsonville, OR 97070 (971) 224-5895

Ability Center of Eugene: 3574 Marcola Rd. Springfield, OR 97477 (541) 726-4001

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President NEWS



Photo courtesy Paralyzed Veterans of America



Daniel Service – President

I have been a member of the Oregon chapter (OPVA) since the summer of 2004 when I lived in South Central Washington. During that time, I learned about the sports activities, the recreation fund, and that I can volunteer to help at the different events put on by OPVA. But I figured I was too far away from Salem to be of much good. My wife and I discussed our medical situation and felt we should move to Salem where we would be able have our medical needs met for both of us.

I have always felt a desire to help others and since that move my wife and I decided to volunteer at different functions. It wasn't until I got involved as a volunteer on the Board of Directors as the Treasurer that I learned about so much more.

Here are some of the things I have learned. As a member, our OPVA mission statement says:

"OPVA, Members, Associate Members. Family Members. Volunteers, and Allied Organizations work to provide leadership and advocacy in

- Improving health care and SCI/D research and education
- Protecting veteran's rights and benefits
- Improving awareness of disability rights
- Offering sports and healthpromotion activities
- Increasing accessibility and removing architectural barriers in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Idaho.

A 501(c)(3) charity, OPVA relies on grants and donations from members of the public."

To meet our Mission Statement, OPVA has provided financial assistance to Nurses for additional SCI Nursing Education and donations to different organizations for medical research.

We meet with our state & federal leaders to promote the needs of our members and other disabled constituents throughout the country. (See article under Government Relations by Dan Service)

OPVA has voluntarily been involved in going out and explaining to businesses our challenges when their property is not meeting government building codes to meet the needs of all disabled people. We have assisted in establishing laws in different cities to make their signals, crosswalks, and sidewalks ADA compliant. We assist parking enforcement volunteers who help the public learn they need to follow the law and park only where authorized. We have gone into public meetings to teach how difficult it can be for some disabled people to get around with or without assistance and what it is like to have people and businesses discriminate against the disabled.

The sports program is here for you to participate in, if you desire. We want every one of you to enjoy life to its fullest.

OPVA donates to Oregon Adaptive Sports for their "Heroes In Sisters" winter skiing event & "Heroes in Summer". I didn't know I could sit ski until I was assisted doing just that at Mt. Bachelor for the "Heroes in Sisters". I have fished for many years, but at the "Heroes in Summer" I learned how to fly fish & that I can use a hand cycle just fine and not get hurt.



Photo: Abilities Expo 2017

All it cost me was transportation there. The sit ski, fishing pole and bicycle were provided along with the rooms and food for the weekend, FREE by Oregon Adaptive Sports.

Important

Life Members have gone to the National Wheelchair Games participating in different events without having any experience in any of them. For your first trip 100% of lodging & travel are paid for and if you want to do it again, we pay 50% of your lodging & travel (check with the office for specific details and clarification).

There are other activities you are entitled to enjoy but you need to let us know your desires. As you read the Paralog, which is sent out every two months, you will find what others have done for themselves and their families with the help of the Recreation Fund.

As you can see, OPVA uses the donated money they receive to benefit you our members, and others who are disabled as well. There is so much more going on behind the scene than we as a public are aware of. OPVA is working to get this information out for others to see.

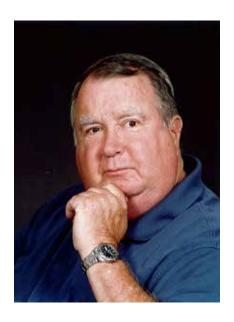
We would like to see new faces volunteering to help at our different events and using life's skills acquired to be part of the Board of Directors.

If you live outside the Salem area, with your assistance we can get involved in a function in your city, neighborhood, school or other organizations. This will get the word out about OPVA and what we can do in your area. Contact the OPVA office at 503-362-7998, or email your thoughts or desires at oregonpva@oregonpva.org. Oh, and don't forget to visit the website at, www.oregonpva.org.

Thanks for the phone calls I have enjoyed our visits and have been happy to help you. We look forward to hearing from each one of you.

In Memory of William "Bill" Blake

September 15, 1946 – April 6, 2017



Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA) is mourning the loss of Immediate Past President Mr. William "Bill" Blake who passed away on April 6, 2017. He was 70.

Bill dedicated several years of his life to OPVA, serving the organization as Chapter President, Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Director. His service to veterans, people with disabilities and others in the community will be missed by all that knew him.

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William "Bill" Blake passed away peacefully at his Salem home on the morning of April 6, 2017. Bill attended North Salem High School and continued his education at Oregon State University. Following graduation from Oregon State University in 1968 he went to Officer Candidate School. Bill served as a junior officer in the Navy (1968-1971) doing two tours to Viet Nam on the USS Oriskany (CVA-34) an attack aircraft carrier.

Following the Navy, Bill worked in the nursery business and was co-owner of Willow Lake Nursery a Salem/Keizer garden center. Bill also remained faithful to Oregon State University and was an avid Beavers fan.

Bill was loved by many. His wit and the warmth of his heart have touched numerous people. He will forever be remembered as a great friend, husband, father, brother and grandfather.







June 23, 2017 - Tee off 1 p.m.

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8th Annual Golf Tournament

Registration Form



Tournament Information:

Date: Friday, June 23, 2017

Registration: 11:30 a.m. and team photos

Tee Time: 12:30 p.m. Introduction/1:00 p.m. shotgun

Location: 155 McNary Estates Drive N, Keizer, Oregon 97303

Format: Four-Person Team Scramble

Cost: \$400 Team - \$125 Individual Golfer. Includes green fees, golf cart & banquet

Banquet: Begins at 5:30 p.m. **Awards:** Begins at 5:45 p.m.

Silent Auction: 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Must to be present to win)

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\$250.00	Business n	ame on all OPVA golf printed r	material.	
Opportunity to setup table on designated hole & green.				
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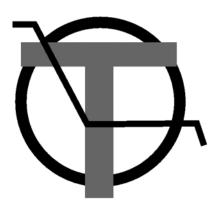


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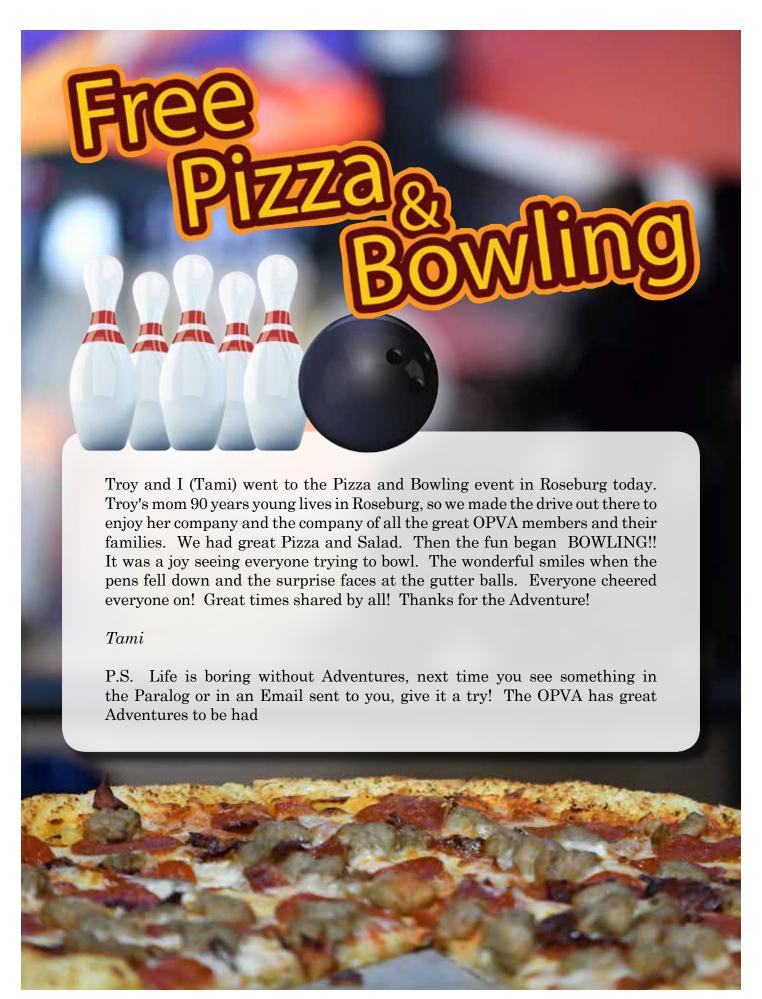
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Information: 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305. Tel: 503-362-7998 www.oregonpva.org



Dear Oregon PVA,

Thanks a million for scheduling the OPVA meeting at the Roseburg 10 Down Bowling Alley in Roseburg, Oregon: for the meeting, pizza feed, and bowling. It was a great meeting, good eating (I love pizza), and it was a blast getting to bowl. It was good seeing some of the folk that I had met at previous meetings, and enjoyed meeting a few new folk as well. The meeting was very informative about what is going on at PVA both nationally and in our Oregon Chapter. I learned a lot about what is available to us disabled veterans as well as what we can be involved in to help our fellow veterans. I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and fellowship, and would like to encourage other veterans to come to future meetings and events. You may come to the meeting feeling a bit discouraged, but I do believe, you will leave the meeting feeling quite encouraged! It is good for the soul to see other disabled veterans giving it their best to live full and active lives; not letting their disabilities hinder them from living life to the fullest.:)

Don Boss Sutherlin, Oregon





I wanted to thank your organization for such a wonderful outing. It was a great time to bowl and catch up with the current events. It was nice to see all again. Thanks.

Dennis Hooper



I just wanted to let Oregon PVA know how glad I am that you contacted my husband, Leslie Bruce Woods, and ask him to attend. I have not seen him interact with other paralyzed veterans in a long time. There were several of the veterans that have MS as does Bruce, and it was good to see them talking about how good it was to have a brother at arms to visit with.

Though Bruce and I don't bowl, we did cheer them on, gutter balls and strikes alike. The comradeship was good to see. My hope is to see more of them at the next get-together. Thank you again for contacting us.

Sincerely, Nadine Woods







Lava Lanes Bowling 1555 NE Forbes Rd. Bend, OR 97701 May 6, 2017 at 11:30 am

RSVP Tel: 503.362.7998 oregonpva@oregonpva.org



News Release

Office of Public Affair Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600 www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2017

VA Makes Wait Times Transparent for Veterans

New online tool first of its kind

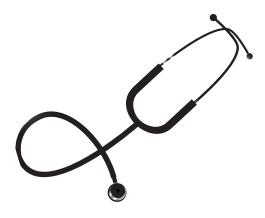
WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking unprecedented steps to increase transparency. Today, VA launched a new Access and Quality Tool that provides Veterans with an easy-to-use, easy-to-understand way of accessing patient wait time and quality of care data. This tool not only provides Veterans with more information about VA services, it increases accountability and ensures VA is held to a higher standard.

"Veterans must have access to information that is clear and understandable to make informed decisions about their health care," said <u>Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin</u>. "No other health-care system in the country releases this type of information on wait times. This allows Veterans to see how VA is performing."

The tool allows Veterans to access the average times patients are waiting to be seen in their local area; how Veterans describe their experiences scheduling primary- and specialty-care appointments at specific VA facilities; timeliness of appointments for care needed right away; and the quality of health care delivered at VA medical centers compared with local private-sector hospitals. The Access and Quality Tool is the most transparent and easy to understand wait time and quality data website in the health-care industry.

"This tool is another example of VA leading the way," said Acting Under Secretary for Health Dr. Poonam Alaigh. "No one in the private sector publishes data this way. This tool will instill a spirit of competition and encourage our medical facilities to proactively address access and quality issues while empowering Veterans to make choices according to what works best for them and their families."

VA will continue to make improvements to this tool based on the feedback it receives from Veterans. For more information visit our website: http://www.oregonpva.org/news-releases.html



Sports NEWS Alert



Larry Gardner—Sports Director

Well the rain is finally slowing down and we are starting to see a little sunshine breaking thru the clouds, and that is good for our upcoming events.

We have our 4th member meeting on May 6th in Bend Oregon at the Lava Lanes Bowling Alley, with free bowling and pizza for all members and spouses, so please mark your calendars and come on down to join us to visit and have a great afternoon.



Then on May 20th - ARMED FORCES DAY - at the Willamette speedway in Lebanon Oregon we are going to set up our table for the 50/50 drawing and hopefully like last year we plan to have the young marines selling tickets throughout the grand stands. So if anyone is interested in dirt car racing at one of the best tracks on the west coast come on down and enjoy the day of speed. These cars are very fast and really put on a great show.



As a reminder keep an eye on our event schedule for May and June, we have Free Fish day on June 3rd up at Detroit Lake, then the big car show at Spirit Mountain casino parking lot on June 17th, on the 23rd of June is OPVA's annual Gold Cup Golf Tournament at McNary Golf Club.

This year we have 3 Deep Sea fishing trips scheduled for August, September, and October. So for all who like deep sea fishing get signed up early for the date that works best for your schedule. Just call the office and let us know.

Also we have several trap shoot events planned this year, so if any of you members are interested in joining our team or would just like to try it out, you are always welcome. We also can provide you with a shot gun if needed. If you're interested or have any questions call the office or my cell at 503-930-9589.



I am also open to any suggestions that will help make our events more successful, again, we can always use more volunteers at the events, just for you to be there helps. Also don't forget to use your recreation fund which helps a lot with the cost of having a fun weekend. Thank you everyone





Recreation Fund Reports

On February 15, 2017 my wife (Jan) and I left from Albany, Oregon on a 33 day adventure. Driving south on Hwy 101 and Hwy 1. We took 10 days to get to Long beach California where we boarded a carnival cruise ship for a 7 day Mexican tour along the Baja Peninsula, stopping at Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, and Puerto Vallarta. It's always nice to be spoiled with great food, entertainment, exotic adult beverages and 80+ degrees weather Sun bathing by the pool when it is still snowing back home felt so good.



On March 4th, after disembarking from the ship, we drove to Indio, California where we spent 6 days visiting old friends, attending a Paul Anka concert and enjoying the amenities of the beautiful Worldmark resort like floating the lazy river pool in 90 degrees sunshine.

A short drive on March 12th brought us to Anaheim, California and anther Worldmark resort just a few blocks from Disneyland. We enjoyed Disneyland, riding all the fun rides, seeing all the Disney characters, listening to great music and watching the light parade. The next day we took an R&R by the pool, and the day after that we went to California Adventure, waiting in very long lines to ride rides, see attractions, and we especially liked the live shows like Frozen. We notice that the Disney parks have great accessibility for wheelchairs users and the staff and all the workers are trained in assisting people with special needs.



After another gorgeous day of R&R in sunny southern California it was time to drive home. We choose to come home on I-5 and took four days to drive from Anaheim back to Albany. We appreciate the OPVA and the Recreation fund for again helping us with our trip south. We drove 2,500 miles and had a great time, but it's always nice to get back home safe and almost sound.

Sincerely, Joe Heidrick



Recently spent the weekend in Yakima, Washington, visiting with my Marine Corps League brothers.

Bill Hauser

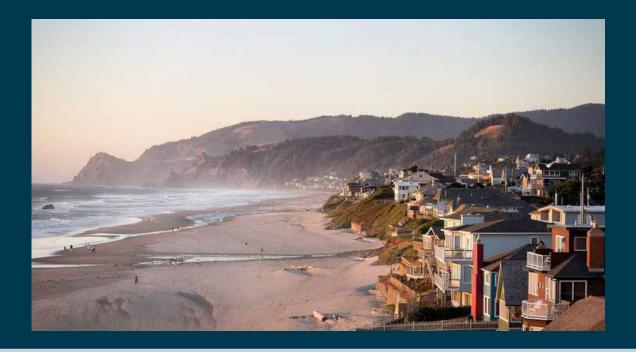
On our yearly "Spring Break" vacation, we rented a big house for ten on the Beach in Lincoln City. Since I don't drive anymore at 91 and my wife only drives for medical appointments, etc., we had a friend take us out to the Coast.

Our family shared with us. Our daughter from Boise and her family came with our grandson's wife and their boy. Our youngest son and his wife came from Everett, WA. Another daughter from Sherwood came for a few days.

Since my walker doesn't work well in the sand, I had to stay on the street above but I could spend a lot of time watching them from the balcony. The stairs were a little difficult, but with my wife's help, I managed to get up and down.

I especially enjoyed playing games with my six year old great grandson.

Ted Geck



We took this trip to celebrate our 46 years of being married. Had a wonderful time in the sun. It was nice to leave the rain. Thank you OPVA.





Dear OPVA,

March 28th was my 52nd BD, on March 31st was my daughter 22nd BD. We all went to "Red Lobster" on Tuesday. My mom, wife, daughter & my 2 granddaughters. We had a great time, I love lobster. I had 2 lobsters, plus a new item Red Shrimp. It all was the best. Thanks to all of you another great BD.

Steve Grogan



Oregon PVA members are eligible to **receive \$250 each fiscal year** through the Member Recreation Reimbursement Fund.

It begins October 1st and runs through September 30th each year.

Simply send in your receipts along with a one to two paragraph description of what you did to have fun with your friends and family. We like pictures too, they may make it into the Paralog.

Eating Out ♦ Movies ♦ Games ♦ Hobby Supplies ♦ Motel ♦ Sports ♦ Event Tickets ♦ OPVA Events ♦ Guns ♦ Trips ♦ Vacation Expenses, etc.

All receipts must be dated within this current fiscal year and used within this current fiscal year (10/1/16 - 9/30/17). - Mail to: **Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305**

Your request must be received in the office no later than September 30th Special Thank you to our Recreation Fund Sponsors

- Marie LamFrom Charitable Foundation
- The Edward+Romell Ackley Foundation



Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 or 1-800-333-0782 if you have any questions or require additional information.





April 10, 2017

VA Names New Executive Director of Spinal Cord Injury System of Care

Paralyzed Veterans Welcomes Dr. I. Manosha Wickremasinghe to oversee SCI/D veterans' care

Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) today expressed immense relief that the VA position of Executive Director, Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders (SCI/D) System has been filled after remaining vacant for more than one year. The VA announced this week that I. Manosha Wickremasinghe, MD has been appointed to the position, effective immediately.

"This position is critical to the quality of care that Paralyzed Veterans of America members and all veterans with spinal cord injury or disease receive at the VA," stated Associate Executive Director of Medical Services Lana McKenzie, RN, BSN, CCM, MHA. "The oversight and operational direction this position provides is intended to safeguard the care of a contingent of veterans with the most complex and acute medical needs. We have placed great urgency on having this position filled, and we are pleased to see Secretary Shulkin's action in appointing Dr. Wickremasinghe."

Dr. Wickremasinghe most recently served as Chief of the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Center at VA North Texas Health Care System (VANTHCS), and was its SCI Medical Director for three years after practicing as a staff physician in the Center. She also holds an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at UT Southwestern Medical Center, and board certification in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and sub-specialty certification in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine.

"My vision is for every veteran with a spinal cord injury or disorder (SCI/D) to have the support of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) SCI/D System of Care in optimizing their health and well-being," stated Dr. Wickremasinghe. "The VHA SCI/D System of Care will support each veteran to participate in life's activities as fully as possible."

The VHA system of care is comprised of 23 designated acute Spinal Cord Injury Centers, 7 Spinal Cord Injury Long term care units and trained SCI Primary Care Teams located at more than 100 VA facilities. It is the only healthcare system in the United States that provides lifetime care for persons with SCI/D, expanding the continuum from the time of new injury to end of life care.

"I look forward to accomplishing my vision by advancing a strong partnership with Paralyzed Veterans of America that includes frank and open discussion, collaboration, and close communication," continued Wickremasinghe.

"As the only veterans service organization that conducts annual site survey visits to the VA SCI Centers, Paralyzed Veterans has worked closely with Dr. Wickremasinghe in her previous position as Chief of the SCI Center in Texas," concluded McKenzie. "We look forward to continuing that collaboration to ensure every SCI/D veteran is gaining access to the comprehensive life care model the VA has to offer."

TREASURER NEWS



Carolyn Hamstreet Shores - Treasurer

Hello everyone. As you are reading this I hope the sun is shining, the birds are singing and your garden is growing.

My name is Carolyn Hamstreet Shores and I am your new Membership Director and Treasurer. This is all new to me so I hope you will all have patience with me.

I was a Navy Nurse during the Viet Nam War, stationed first in Newport, RI Naval Hospital after Officers' Training and then out in San Diego CA at Balboa Naval Hospital. I served from 2 JAN 65 through 15 NOV 67. I had signed up to extend my commission to volunteer to serve on one of the Hospital Ships stationed off of Viet Nam because at the time, female Navy Nurses could not be sent to a war zone. However, I was turned down because I had injured my back diving while in Newport, had reinjured it in San Diego and had my first surgery there. They said I would never be able to stand on a steel deck for 24 hrs. at a time, which shipboard nurses had to do. I was really disappointed. They said I didn't have to honor my reenlistment but I stayed in the Navy anyway for another year.

Fast forward 6 ½ yrs and one fusion later.

I was on my way home to Oregon from Texas, driving through Arizona, when I was hit from behind, fracturing my back at the level of my original fusion, L-4 tough S-1. After two more fusions, years of hospitalizations, many bridges crossed...here I am.

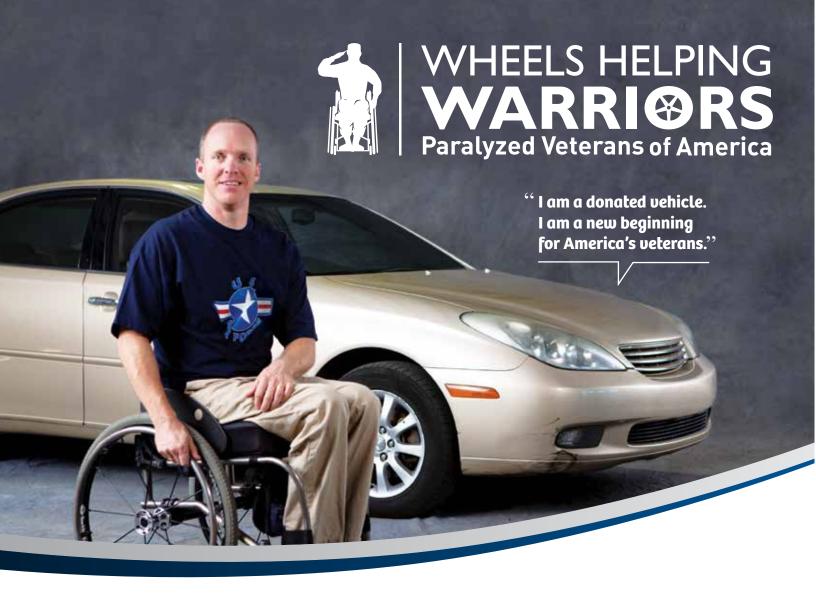
I joined OPVA in 1999 during one of my stays on CRU. Since then, I knew a few of the guys though deep sea fishing and showed up to a couple of functions, but by and large didn't do much, if anything, for the organization.

That all changed this year when, after surgery, Dan Service, our president, and his wife, Beverly, offered their home to me while I recuperated so I didn't have to go into a nursing home. Being around Dan, who had recently elected our distinguished presidency, we naturally talked a lot about OPVA. He asked if I would like to be the new Membership Director and I thought what a great way to learn more about OPVA and especially meet more people that I might be able to help through more education on my part.

Then with the sudden passing of our dear friend and colleague, Bill Blake, whom I had known since the beginning and was our Treasurer, I said I would take over his duties until elections this fall.

As your Membership Director and your Treasurer, I will do the best possible job I can and, at one time or another, I plan to try to talk to each one of you and meet as many of you as





It's more than just a car.

It's a difference you can make by donating your vehicle to Paralyzed Veterans of America. Scheduling a pickup is FREE. Regardless of the condition, all donated vehicles will be sold at auction and proceeds will benefit Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Through your vehicle donation, you'll make a difference to veterans suffering from spinal cord injury or disease.

You may even earn a tax break, too!

Donate today!

Call or visit us online to donate your vehicle today:

866-841-2023

wheelshelpingwarriors.org



GOVERNMENT Relations





Roger C. Robinson – Membership Director

Measure 96

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America is an active member of UVGO (United Veterans Groups of Oregon). Please read below the decision of UVGO relating to the priority of bills to be introduced to the state for consideration during their session. We also are waiting for the Governors decision to allow the full lottery funds be used for the above purpose.

UVGO Measure 96 Funding Priorities

Guiding Principles:

- 1. Expenditure of lottery funds should have a state-wide impact.
 - No veteran should be denied access to benefits because of his or her geographical location
- 2. All lottery funds should have an audit measure to record outcome of expenditures.
 - All lottery funds should flow through ODVA for accountability and transparency.
 - UVGO is proposing the creation at ODVA of a committee/group responsible for establishing the priority of potential projects being submitted for consideration of lottery funds on which UVGO will have a voting member
- 3. All lottery funds should be used in support of Oregon veterans and their families, and not duplicate federal funds
- 4. No lottery funds should replace ODVA's General Funds
- 5. All lottery funds should be used in support of all veterans and their families and not designated for one sub-group.
- 6. A large percentage of lottery funds should be allocated for direct veteran support and not allocated for administrative support.

Suggestion for Expenditures of Lottery Funds

Priority	Description	Biennial Amount
1	Increase the number of Service Officers statewide (ODVA, counties,organizations i.e. DAV, American Legion, etc.)	\$12,000,000
2	State Van Transportation Network. The DVA Department of Oregon operates a state-wide fleet of vehicles driven by volunteers drivers to transport veterans free of charge to Veterans Affairs medical facilities across the state. From 1/1/2016 to 9/30/2016, the network transported 15,487 veterans 504,260 miles to and from the three VA Medical Centers	\$500,000
3	Increase level of funding for the ODVA Emergency Assistance Fund	\$2,000,000
4	Provide funding for Lines for Life	\$350,000
5	Veterans Transitional Housing	\$2,000,000
6	Central Oregon Veterans' Ranch	\$452,000
7	Veterans' Contingency Fund	\$2,000,000
8	Veterans' Educational Aid Program	\$500,000

There has been a lot of complaints relating to the prosthetics' service and the vendors they are forcing upon the veterans to use. Please send me a note of your experiences getting supplies and equipment; include the vendor you use frequently.

Please send your comments at 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 or by email at *oregonpva@oregonpva.org*. You don't have to reveal your name.



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Photo courtesy Paralyzed Veterans of America



Photo courtesy Paralyzed Veterans of America

Daniel Service - President

I was able to attend the PVA Advocacy Legislation Seminar in Washington DC March 6th - 9th. This year's theme was "Become A Voice For Veterans # VeteransMatter". After several meetings and much encouragement, we then met with our Congressional leaders to explain our needs in such a manner that they will understand what affects our members also affects other disabled constituents in their state. This year while in Washington DC we shared our concerns and our stand to:

 Strengthen and Protect Social Security and Medicare, urging Congress to keep Social Security out of any deficit and debt reduction plans;





Photo courtesy Paralyzed Veterans of America

- Air Carrier Access Act encouraging in part that airplanes be designed to accommodate people with disabilities;
- ADA Notification Legislation, to ensure people with disabilities continue to have the ability to enforce the ADA public accommodations provisions through the courts;
- Protection of Specialized Services asking Congress to provide sufficient funding for VA to hire additional Clinicians, Physicians, Nurses, Psychologists, Social Workers and Rehabilitation Therapists to meet demand for services in the SCI/D system or care;

- Improve Benefits for Catastrophically Disable Veterans to include the most severely disabled veterans and increasing the rates of Special Monthly Compensation as well as Aid and Attendance benefits;
- Expand Eligibility for the VA Comprehensive Caregiver Program to have Congress introduce and pass legislation that would expand eligibility for VA's comprehensive caregiver assistance benefits to seriously ill and injured veterans, regardless of the era in which they served:
- Provision of IVF (In-Vitro Fertilization), asking Congress to pass legislation to repeal the ban on IVF and make the service a permanent part of the medical benefits package at VA.



Photo courtesy Paralyzed Veterans of America



"Cline's Condo for Charities" sends donations to the charities of their guest choices



per paid night of their visit

Supporters book vacation nights at our condo and then designate their chosen charity in our guest book during their stay (e.g. Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America). At the end of each quarter, "Cline's Condo for Charities" (CCC) sends checks to the charities designated. To book a stay, just check the website

www.keystonevacationsoregon.com

then go to Pacific Winds Condominiums and then to "Sand & Sunsets". You can also phone our manager, Chris Walson, at 503-443-1414.

Tell him you want to stay at CCC, also know as "Sandcastles and Sunsets". YOU'LL LOVE IT!



Hospital Liaison Report





Mike Rosenbalm - Hospital Liaison

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, April 23-29, the PVA Oregon chapter thanks the efforts of all our volunteers.

In 1961, our 35th president John F. Kennedy stated in his inauguration speech:

"My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Those were brave words spoken by a brave man. But, I challenge our membership. Have we lost the willingness to contribute, to serve those that serve us? Should we not work as a collective membership to ask what we as members can bring forth together so all can enjoy what we as a group collectively and individually provide one another? Without a mantra of collective service, the few that contribute are left to provide for the rest.

We are better than that. I urge our membership to volunteer, attend a chapter event. Bring forth an event idea, a program opportunity or something they would like to see the chapter engage in. We will work with you, bring that idea to our Board of Directors and see if we can make it happen.

PVA volunteers do invaluable work that makes a real difference to veterans, their communities and PVA chapter. Volunteering can change your life, too. Why is it so rewarding:

- Volunteers make their communities a better place to live.
- You can work for an organization and mission you believe in.
- Having a positive impact on others feels great.
- You can meet new people and develop new leadership skills.
- Family volunteering lets you spend time with loved ones while helping others.

We could use volunteers in the following events:

Date	Events
June 17	Oregon PVA booth-Spirit Mountain Casino Car Show
June 23	Oregon PVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament
July 6-9	Oregon PVA booth-Marion County Fair
July 15	Oregon PVA Members Picnic
August 12	Oregon PVA Show & Shine Car Show
August 25 - September 4	Oregon PVA booth-Oregon State fair
September 8	Oregon PVA The Dalles Veteran Home Hot-dog Feed

If you would like to volunteer and don't have transportation we may be able to help. In addition, you can volunteer from home for many of our projects such as calling other members.



Becoming an Oregon PVA volunteer has never been more important than now. With the recent death, medical issues and aging of many steadfast Oregon PVA volunteers our volunteer pool is shrinking.

For Oregon PVA to survive, our members need to be willing to volunteer at events and/ or be willing to serve as board members and/ or officers in the upcoming elections. We would love to have more of our members come attend our monthly membership/board meetings held the last Thursday of every month. Attending the monthly membership/board meeting is a great way to find out more about serving in an Oregon PVA leadership position. Most positions require minimal commitment.

Becoming an OPVA volunteer has never been more important than now

Becoming an Oregon PVA volunteer has never been easier. Oregon PVA volunteer programs offer a variety of opportunities to contribute, plus you can commit to as many or as few hours as you choose. Call the Chapter at 503-362-7998 or visit the website *www.oregonpva.org* for a Volunteer Activation Form and get involved.

Volunteers, board members, and executive committee officers receive mileage reimbursement for travel to and from meetings and volunteer sites as well as other authorized travel expenses. More important, you will have a good time while serving others.

If for some reason you're unable to volunteer, attend PVA sponsored events such as the Oregon PVA Abilities Expo that was held April 8th, the upcoming Members Picnic, July 15th and/or the Members Banquet, September 17th. Read the Paralog and visit the Oregon PVA website calendar to see other upcoming events.

Development Report





Tom Hurt – Development Coordinator

March and April have been pretty busy around your Oregon Chapter office.

We started out in March with the Portland Roadster Car Show, I want to give a BIG thank you to the Volunteers who came out to work the OPVA booth at the car show. This year we sold a record amount of Car Raffle tickets and a ton of military hats. The volunteers that come out to work these events like this make all the difference in the world.

Member meeting Pizza & Bowling events, WOW what a great time has been had by all who came to the meetings. We just had the Roseburg (Southern Oregon) meeting. My hat goes off to Don Boss, man can that guy bowl. The Bend Member Meeting is scheduled for May 6th at Lava Lanes in Bend OR at 1555 NE Forbes Rd.

You should have received a flyer if you are in the Bend area. PLEASE RSVP that you will be able to make it to the meeting.

Abilities Expo was on April 8th. This was a great success this year. It is held every year at the Double Tree in Portland. If you were not able to make it this year, you will want to plan on getting to it next year for sure. It is well worth the travel. We had Vendors with equipment, transportation services, recreation and even the Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association. There was something for everyone.

If you are a Motor Sport Enthusiast, you are going to want to come out to Willamette Speedway on May 20th in Lebanon. All military will get in for \$5.00 each on Armed Forces Night.

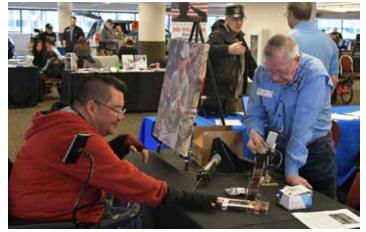


Photo: Abilities Expo 2017

OPVA will have a table at the races selling hats, 50/50 raffle tickets and Car & Gun Raffle tickets as well. If you like watching dirt track racing you will love this.

June 23rd the OPVA will be holding the 8th annual Gold Cup Golf Tournament at McNary Golf Club in Keizer again this year. Our title sponsor for the event this year is Bonaventure Senior Living. Also, Hi-School Pharmacy is sponsoring the banquet after the tournament. If you are a golfer or you know a golfer, now is the time to register your foursome.

Registration forms are available on the OPVA website, www.oregonpva.org.



As summer is approaching, don't forget that the recreation fund is available to all the members.

We have MANY opportunities to come participate with the chapter at events that we are holding as well as many that we are participating in. As always we are in need of more volunteers to help support the events.

Up Coming Events

May 6th

Pizza & Bowling/ Bend

May 20th- Willamette Speedway / Lebanon **Jun 3rd** - Free Fish Day at Detroit Lake

Jun 17th - Spirit Mt Car Show

Jun 23rd

OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament

Jul 6th - 9th - Marion County Fair Jul 11th - First Tuesday in Sublimity

July 15th

Marion County Fair

Jul 22nd - MOPAR Cruise In

Jul 23rd - MOPAR at Woodburn Drag

Aug 1st - First Tuesday in Sublimity

Aug 12th

OPVA Show & Shine Car Show & Car Raffle

Aug 22nd

Deep Sea Fishig

Aug 25th - Sep 4th - Oregon State Fair

Sep 16th

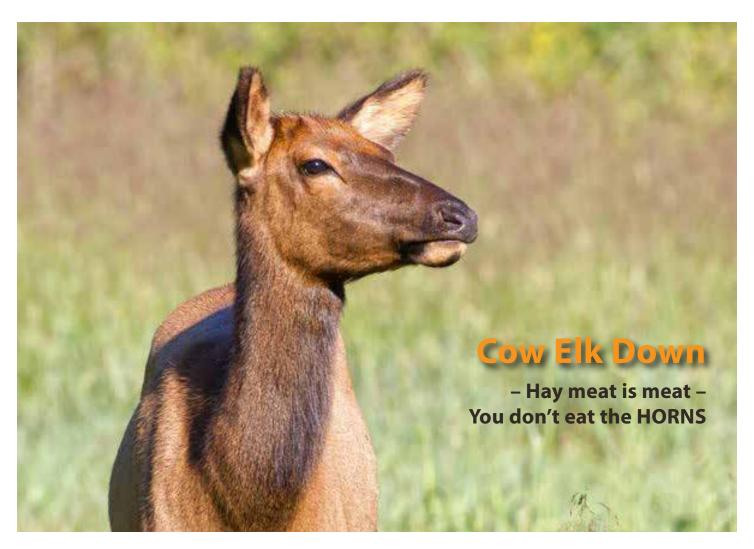
Albany Fun Shoot & Gun Raffle

Sep 15th

Deep Sea Fishig

As always, for any of the events to be a success I am asking for your assistance. The most successful events we have or participate in are the ones where the members are attending and volunteering. So as you read through the Paralog and you see something we are doing or attending, check your schedule. I look forward to seeing you there.

Wheelchair Adventures





Louie Grimmer - Vice President

One might think that when an elk is downed by a hunter it would be easy to find because they are so big. On the contrary, the area we hunted was very large. As soon as one trekked off looking for the downed animal he'd immediately find himself swallowed up by the immensity of the landscape.

A very important component of a hunting party is the SPOTTER. When the person who is doing the shooting is so focused on making sure of a clean kill there is no time to remember everything about where the animal was located.

On the other hand the spotter has to be focused on the location in every little detail and NOT get distracted by anything until the animal is found.

When the hunter goes into the brush he will be depending on the spotter to guide him to the exact location. If this is not done right there are many hours or even days lost in hunting trying to locate the animal. One very interesting thing to remember is that rarely are the downed animals located in a convenient location like near a road or on a flat spot. They are where they are and sometimes one might want to think first before pulling the trigger.

Let me tell you that yelling across the canyon on a good day is almost impossible and when you add in wind, snow or rain it is virtually unachievable. That is why we adopted the use of little two way radios with a range of approximately two miles. With this technology in hand the frustration level almost disappeared completely.

The most difficult thing for the spotter is remembering WHICH stump you noted for the location of the downed animal. If you want to experience total frustration on the other end of your 2-way radio just say, "Gee I thought it was there," or "Try the other stump just above you."

There were times as a spotter I wanted to crawl into a hole because I was sure I marked the correct spot and it turned out to be WRONG.

This can be frustrating for your partner who is struggling through deep brush, prickly pear cactus, vine maple, steep canyon walls, falling rocks, deep snow, etc., etc., etc. While this is happening the spotter needs to keep sight of the person in the brush for many reasons. First off you need to guide him to the exact location which is the goal and then there are other hunters who heard the shot who will be coming to find out what is going on.



NOTE: There are people who want to steal your quarry. The way they do that is by finding the animal first. They then tag it, leaving you empty handed.

A very important component of a hunting party is the SPOTTER

Chuck and I agreed to be closed mouthed about anything because we never know who we were talking to. The person could be a game warden or a thief. The thieves would even steal camping equipment or gasoline from a good ol' hunter. Whatever they were, we treated them the same but, when we met someone we knew all of the friend shipping returned.

The hunting trip was scheduled as always in October before I had a mountain rig of my own. I was not really converted to that type of hunting so I would share (bum) a ride with Chuck. That year I told him I was going to go up to the camp site early using my own rig. At that time I had a 1984 2-door Chevy Celebrity that I bought new in 1984. I figured that if I needed to go home (35 miles) or get gas or whatever there would be no disruption to the group. I never expected the next thing to happen.

YUP, we got an elk in the morning. I was the spotter and had to use all my skills (whatever they were) to remember where the downed animal was.

The elk was located and hauled down to a road below and four men started field dressing it. About 1:00 p.m. they started thinking about the evening hunt that was coming. They all wanted to hunt so I was to take the whole dead elk in my Celebrity car down to the meat locker because it was a fairly warm day. The trip off the mountain took me about three hours. I was dragging bottom most of the way on the nasty, rocky and rutted roads.

(to be continue)





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
-	0	0	4.0	4.4	40	40
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 BOD 10:00 a.m.	26	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			



Office closed

Save the Date



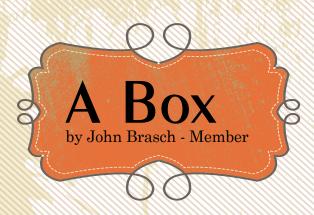


June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament	24
25	26	27	28	BOD 10:00 a.m.	30	

Save the Date

7/11	First Tuesday - Sublimity	8/25-9/4	State Fair
7/15	Members Picnic	9/15	Deep Sea Fishing
7/22	Mopar Cruise In - Roberson	9/16	Albany Fun Shoot
	Motors	9/16	OPVA Ruger Gun Raffle
7/23	Mopar Woodburn Drag	9/17	Members Banquet
8/1	First Tuesday - Sublimity	10/4	Deep Sea Fishing
8/12	Show & Shine Car Show	11/11	Albany Vets Day Parade
8/12	OPVA Barracuda Car Raffle		•
8/22	Deep Sea Fishing		
0,	2 ccp 2 ca : 139		



There's a box somewhere, probably under the stairs.

It's not important, just to be fair, because what's in it probably isn't there.

Just a worn out cardboard box, most likely held memories of my marbles and rocks.

If you were to stumble upon it, perhaps unwittingly see, nothing special to it just an old box marked "me".

There's a box somewhere probably under stairs. It just sits there collecting dust. It once meant the world to me, in it I put all my trust;

Scattered dreams. Trains and planes. Boyhood laughter and songs I sang.

It's scattered with others boxes under the stairs, with other dreams and boxes bare.

Yup. Somewhere under the stairs. Probably hidden. Probably lost. Mostly probably I just forgot.

Most likely in time, somewhere it got tossed; where all my childhood memories got cross-crossed.

In these winter years I need a fire to warm the air, so I can settle down in my favorite comfy chair.

I've now become a bit unorthodox. Oh Look, over there, an empty box.

It'll start my fire in one quick flair, I think the box came from under the stairs...



OPVA Birthday List



	, '	V		
	George Gratzer	5/5/1940	Rex Stevens	6/3/19 5 3
	Clifford Maxwell	5/6/1941	Gene Stuart	6/3/1967
	Alexander Smith	5/6/1960	Kelly Jordan	6/6/1968
	Thomas Geary	5/7/1940	Michael Cowan	6/7/1949
\	Anne Wyatt	5/ <mark>7</mark> /1954	Russell Goffin	6/9/1962
	Donald Linwood	_5/9/1949 <mark> </mark>	Larry Whitmire	6/10/1949
	Corwin Wunn	5/11/1948	Leslie Fleming	6/12/1931
	John Caldwell	5/13/1929	Miguel Vera	6/12/1981
	Edward Curtis	5/18/1950	Chris Studwell	6/13/1952
	William Russo	5/21/1949	Patrick Rivelli	6/13/1954
	Douglas Hostetler	5/22/1956	Daniel Chytka	6/13/1955
	Lonnie Morgan	5/22/1962	Kevin Parker	6/13/1966
	Melinda Cohen-Huntley	5/23/1949	Frederick Parker	6/14/1942
	Donald Lambert	5/24/1949	Borden ("Butch") Hessel	6/14/1968
	Toby Newton	5/24/1965	Gerald Sandlin	6/15/1944
	Thomas Hartzell	5/25/1944	Fritz VonAllmen	6/16/1928
	Michael O'Connor	5/25/1951	Kenneth Swiderski	6/16/1968
	John Solomonson	5/26/1943	Terry Ogan	6/17/1949
	Steve Hubley	5/26/1953	William Gray	6/19/1953
	Michael Miner	5/26/1954	Gary Tucker	6/21/1957
	Susan Hruza	5/28/1953	Michael Lavelle	6/22/1948
	Matthew Allmaras	5/28/1960	Peter Parsons	6/23/1966
	Michael McAlvage	5/31/1947	Michelle Morris	6/25/1976
	Carl Jensen	6/ <mark>1</mark> /1960	Joel Satoris	6/27/1934
	Nels Hadden	6/1/1965	Robert Moore	6/27/1947
	Justin Larson	6/1/1986	Gordon Pike	6/29/1948



Consider adding

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
to your Will or Trust

Donated Items Testimonies





You don't know what this means for my father!

Carole S. Bova-Rice

Thank you, so very much, from the bottom of my heart, to Gary and the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America!

My role is to get families and patients connected to community resources, and sometimes this means finding them gently used medical equipment, at no cost. Gary, and the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, has been there every time I call on them, and has provided medical equipment to many, many families in need.

These families do not have the funds, nor the means, to get the equipment, and would have nowhere to run. Gary, and the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, are both a huge blessing, to me, and all the families I have touched, along the way. Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart.

Kelli Morgan Transition Coordinator. Willamette Valley Hospice





Donated Items

OPVA has many items that have been donated to us for the purpose of giving to someone who needs it.

Check with us before you purchase. All these items are given out **FREE** of charge.

If you or someone you know needs one of these items, contact Gary Atwood, Donation Coordinator, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at 503.362.7998

All items are "As Is" No Warranty

CareGuard Hydraulic Lift INVACARE Model No. 9805









TiLite TR Wheelchair

Polar Care Kodiak

Shower Chair







CPAP Machine ResMed S8



Dolphin Mattress



Manual Wheelchairs



Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

April 18, 2017

Volume 23, No 4

PRIORITY

The Government Relations staff is still looking for stories about problems that our members have experienced during air travel. Please visit www.AirAccess30.org and share your story.

House VA Health Subcommittee Considers Pending Legislation

On March 29, 2017, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, held a hearing on pending legislation. Sarah Dean, Associate Legislative Director, testified on behalf of PVA. This testimony was Sarah's first opportunity to testify before Congress.

Of particular importance to PVA was H.R. 95, the "Veterans' Access to Child Care Act." This legislation, introduced by Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA), would make permanent the provision of child care for a veteran receiving covered health services at VA. PVA knows child-care is critical to expanding access to care. When veterans have reliable child care their participation in their own health increases, no-shows and cancelations decrease. Women veterans particularly report the inability to obtain child-care as one of their greatest barriers to VA.

PVA also supported H.R. 907, the "Newborn Improvement Act," introduced by Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA). This bill would authorize hospital stays of up to 42 days for newborns under VA care. Currently, only seven days after birth is covered, after which the veteran takes on the cost. As the average hospital stay for a health newborn is two day, any newborn needing additional coverage is likely to be facing serious

complications. PVA is specifically concerned about veterans with catastrophic injuries that can cause or exacerbate high-risk pregnancies or pre-term deliveries. A seven day limit arguably impacts veterans with disabilities at a greater rate than other veterans.

PVA also offered support for H.R. 1545, the "VA Prescription Data Accountability Act of 2017," introduced by Rep. Ann Kuster (D-NH). All VA facilities now share prescription information of veterans and their dependents with state Prescription Database Monitoring Program (PDMP). However, due to technical oversight in the law the information of non-dependent, nonveteran, VA beneficiaries is not shared. This bill would rectify the flaw. While PVA strongly supports the bill, we expressed concern that the PDMPs may not be capturing those veterans who travel across multiple states to receive care from the SCI/D Centers. PVA encouraged Congress to ensure state PDMPs are able to share information across multiple state lines to offer all veterans the benefits that will come from these opioid safety measures.

All of the bills considered in this hearing were later passed by the subcommittee and sent to the full committee for consideration.

To read PVA's full written testimony, please visit www.pva.org.

House VA Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Holds Legislative Hearing

On April 5, 2017, the House Veterans Affairs' Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a legislative hearing to consider a number of bills. Among them were two provisions affecting the annual cost-ofliving allowance (COLA). PVA supported both measures. The first bill would authorize a cost of living adjustment effective December 1, 2017 equal to the percentage increase implemented by Social Security. The second provision being considered would make the annual adjustment automatic, not requiring Congressional action. Historically, the annual COLA bill has been important legislation that must pass each year. During times of particularly contentious relations in Congress, this legislation has been used as a vehicle to pass other important veterans legislation. While we have voiced this concern in the past, PVA did not object to making the COLA adjustment automatic going forward, as it would add a level of certainty for veterans expecting annual increases.

PVA also supported Ranking Member Tim Walz's (D-MN) legislation which would prevent VA from demanding redundant compensation and pension (C&P) exams when veterans provide private medical evidence. While VA has the legal authority to rely on private medical evidence, too often it seems that VA requires a second medical exam from the veteran with a VA doctor despite having quality evidence already in hand. The pattern suggests a prejudice toward private medical evidence and the possibility that VA is seeking further evidence solely to avoid granting a claim.

Rep. Brownley (D-CA) offered a bill, H.R. 105 that would add greater protections to veterans who are fraudulently deprived of benefits being administered by a fiduciary. Currently, VA may only reissue lost benefits to veterans who are harmed by fiduciaries who administer benefits

to more than ten veterans or if the fiduciary is an institution. If the veteran is not served by a qualifying fiduciary, VA can only reissue benefits to the extent that it recoups money from the bad actor. PVA supported this measure because it would allow VA to reissue benefits under all circumstances, regardless of whether it recoups the funds.

PVA also continues to support a service-connected presumption for Blue Water Navy Veterans who are claiming exposure to herbicides containing dioxin, including Agent Orange. We stressed that as more evidence and information becomes available on the connection that Congress take appropriate steps to ensure these veterans receive the appropriate care and compensation.

Finally, PVA supported H.R. 1390. Currently, VA is only authorized to transport veterans' remains to the nearest national cemetery with available burial space. This proposal, though, would extend the options to state and tribal cemeteries. It would limit, however, the amount of reimbursement to the cost of the nearest national cemetery so as not to increase the financial burden on VA.

To view PVA's full statement, please visit www. pva.org.

Congress Passes Choice Program Extension

With the Choice program set to expire on August 7, 2017, Congress recently passed a law eliminating the mandatory expiration date for the program, allowing it to continue to deliver health care services to veterans in the community and use up the remaining funds in the program. Without the extension, the projected remaining funds would be returned to the Treasury. This extension now provides extra time for Congress to address the shortfalls of the current program and move toward a wider and more permanent health care reform in VA. The bill now awaits the President's signature.

Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Leadership Holds Round Table on Appeals Reform

On March 28, 2017, PVA participated in a widely attended round table sponsored by Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Mike Bost (R-IL) and Ranking Member Elizabeth Esty (D-CT) to discuss moving forward with plans developed over the last year to modernize the disability claims and appeals process. The legislation proposed during the last Congress reflected the work product of numerous veterans' service organizations. organizations representing private attorneys practicing veterans' law, and leadership from the Board of Veterans Appeals and the Veterans Benefits Administration. The legislation ultimately failed to secure passage due to a number of concerns, primarily related to the necessity of further discussions on how the new system would be implemented without hurting veterans who have current claims pending. A renewed effort by stakeholders to push the legislation forward during this Congress is gaining traction, and a hearing on an updated version of the legislation is expected to take place in the coming months.

ACA Repeal and Replace Health Care Reform Effort Fails

In early March, the House of Representatives took up legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and replace it with the American Health Care Act (AHCA). While portrayed as an effort to reduce health care costs for American consumers, the bill also proposed major changes to the Medicaid program through per capita caps and block grants and to repeal many provisions of the ACA that are critical to people with disabilities. In addition, the AHCA continued several problematic policies for veterans left over from the last effort to reform the health care system and created a potential roadblock

for veterans to take advantage of tax credits offered in that measure.

The AHCA included cuts in Medicaid of some \$880 billion along with caps on federal spending for the program. In return for greater flexibility for designing their own Medicaid programs. states would have received a lump sum—either in the form of block grants or a per capita spending formula—to provide services to their residents. Under the cap and cut proposal, the federal government would no longer share in the costs of providing health care services and community services beyond the capped amount. This would eliminate the enhanced federal match for the Community First Choice Option under Medicaid that provides attendant care services in the community. Thanks to this program, many poor veterans with serious nonservice-connected disabilities have been able to move from nursing homes into their communities. The AHCA would also have ended the ACA Medicaid expansion at a date earlier than current law. Data from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation shows that the Medicaid expansion has helped thousands of veterans and caregivers obtain affordable health insurance coverage.

During its time under consideration in the House, the AHCA went through a number of changes in an effort by the leadership to garner sufficient votes to ensure its passage. However, each successive version made the bill even more challenging for people with pre-existing health conditions.

Loss of essential health benefits: One proposed change was to give states the option to waive important consumer protections in current law. For example, states could choose to ignore the essential health benefits rules that ensure that health plans cover basic services, many of which are particularly important to people with disabilities. Without a requirement that basic services be included in health insurance plans, insurers are likely to drop coverage of therapies or medications that support people with more health care needs.

• No more protections for pre-existing conditions: Another troubling change being discussed was to let states waive the requirement for community rating. This would allow insurance companies to charge people with pre-existing conditions including people with disabilities -- whatever they wanted, essentially making any pre-existing condition protections meaningless. The combination of these changes would make it nearly impossible for people with pre-existing conditions to find affordable plans that cover basic health care services.

For veterans and PVA members in particular, the AHCA would have continued several problematic policies of the ACA as well as troubling new provisions that could affect the ability of many veterans to afford health insurance in the private market. The AHCA:

- Continued to exclude CHAMPVA beneficiaries—dependents of the most catastrophically disabled veterans—from the dependents' coverage policy up to age 26.
- Failed to remove the prohibition on enrollment into the VA health care system for Priority Group 8 veterans, thus denying these veterans access to the principal health care system for veterans.
- Denied access to tax credits making health insurance affordable to anyone eligible for a host of other federal health programs, including those "eligible" for coverage under Title 38 health care programs. This would prevent many veterans who may be "eligible for" but not enrolled in the VA health care system from accessing these tax credits intended to help people buy insurance.

On March 24, 2017, House Speaker Paul Ryan declared that there were not enough votes for the bill to pass the House of Representatives and the bill was pulled from the calendar. Nevertheless, discussions have continued between the Congressional leadership and the

White House to craft a version of the AHCA that will be acceptable to a majority of Republicans in the House and Senate. PVA plans to continue monitoring developments in the health care reform debate to ensure that veterans and people with disabilities are not harmed by changes to vital health care programs on which they depend.

Update on the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017

The "ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017," H.R. 620, continues to gain co-sponsors. PVA opposes this legislation because it would limit the ability of people with disabilities to enforce their rights under Title III of the ADA. It was introduced by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX). Original cosponsors include Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA), Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA), Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA), and Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX).

H.R. 620 has gained nine additional co-sponsors since it was introduced on January 24th:

- Representative Pete Aguilar (D-CA)
- Representative Ralph Lee Abraham (R-LA)
- Representative J. Luis Correa (D-CA)
- Representative Doug Collins (R-GA)
- Representative Bill Foster (D-IL)
- Representative Jeff Denham (R-CA)
- Representative Krysten Sinema (D-AZ)
- Representative Paul Mitchell (R-MI)
- Representative Darrell E. Issa (R-CA)

Please contact your Representatives to let them know that PVA opposes this legislation because it would require a person with a disability to send a letter of notification to the business that it was out of compliance with the law giving it a grace period before one could file suit. Instead of complying with the law now, businesses (large and small) could employ a "wait and see" approach, continuing to violate the law with impunity. Instead, businesses should be proactive in complying with the ADA and work with the ADA National Network and other entities for any needed technical assistance.

The bill is pending before the House Judiciary Committee and may be marked up by the full committee in the coming weeks.

The "Social Security 2100 Act" Reintroduced

On April 5, 2017, PVA Senior Associate Advocacy Director Susan Prokop ioined Members of Congress, disability advocates and representatives of the aging community at a Capitol Hill roll out of H.R. 1920, the "Social Security 2100 Act," introduced by Rep. John Larson (D-CT). Rep. Larson is Ranking Minority Member on the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee. Citing polling data that shows 72 percent of Americans believe that Social Security benefits should be increased, not cut, Rep. Larson described provisions in his bill favored by 7 out of 10 Americans. Among those provisions are:

- Adoption of the CPI-E for inflation increases: Using the CPI-E for the annual Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA) would better reflect the costs incurred by seniors and people with disabilities who spend a greater portion of their income on health care, utilities and other necessities.
- Protections for low income workers: To ensure that low income working people who pay into the system over a lifetime don't retire into poverty, the bill establishes a new minimum benefit set at 25 percent above the poverty line.
- Adjustments in the payroll tax wage base to help finance the system: Presently, payroll taxes are not collected on annual wages over \$127,000. H.R. 1902 would apply the payroll tax to wages above \$400,000 which would affect the top 0.4 percent of wage earners.
- A gradual increase over 20 years in the payroll contribution rate to keep the system solvent: Beginning in 2018, FICA taxes would rise 0.05 percent annually so that workers and employers would pay

an additional 1.2 percent by 2041. For the average worker this would mean paying an additional 50 cents per week to ensure the system's longevity.

In addition, HR 1902 would provide a modest increase in benefits for all beneficiaries equivalent to 2 percent of the average benefit, cut taxes for upper income beneficiaries by raising the thresholds at which benefits are taxed to \$50,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for couples and combine the old age and survivors and disability insurance trust funds to foreclose future arguments over the disability insurance program by eliminating the artificial separation of the trust funds.

PVA supports H.R. 1902 because of its more realistic cost-of-living-adjustment for beneficiaries, enhanced protections for low income workers, and long overdue adjustments in the financing mechanisms for the system. Indeed, an independent analysis by the Social Administration's Chief indicates that this legislation will extend the financial health of the system beyond the next 75 years. PVA believes this legislation demonstrates that preserving and strengthening Social Security can be done without causing harm to beneficiaries.

U.S. Access Board Issues **Guidance on the International Symbol of Accessibility**

The U.S. Access Board has released guidance on the International Symbol Accessibility (ISA) to address questions that have arisen on the use of alternative symbols. Some cities and states have adopted a different symbol that was created to be more



dynamic and suggestive of movement.

The Board's guidance explains how use of a symbol other than the ISA impacts compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Standards issued under the ADA require that the ISA label certain accessible elements, spaces, and vehicles, including parking spaces, entrances, restrooms, and rail cars. Similar requirements are contained in standards issued under the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) for federally funded facilities. The ISA, which is maintained by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), has served as a worldwide accessibility icon for almost 50 years.

"Consistency in the use of universal symbols is important, especially for persons with limited vision or cognitive disabilities," states Marsha Mazz, Director of the Board's Office of Technical and Information Services. "In addition to the ADA and ABA Standards, many codes and regulations in the U.S. and abroad also require display of the ISA."

While the ADA Standards do not recognize specific substitutes for the ISA, they do generally allow alternatives to prescribed requirements that provide substantially equivalent or greater accessibility and usability under a provision known as "equivalent facilitation." However, in the event of a legal challenge, the entity pursuing an alternative has the burden of proof in demonstrating equivalent facilitation. Under the ABA Standards, use of a symbol other than the ISA requires issuance of a modification or waiver by the appropriate standard-setting agency.

The ISA bulletin is posted on the Board's website along with other issued guidance on the ADA Standards and the ABA Standards.



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Government Relations Department 801 Eighteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006 (800) 424-8200 • (800) 795-4327 • www.pva.org





"Serving Those Who Served"

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



Annual Tualatin River Bird Festival

Celebrate wildlife and wild places at the annual Tualatin River Bird Festival. Spend the day outdoors at this free, family-friendly event with activities for everyone.



Start the day with one of several bird walks beginning at 5:30 a.m.. Listen to the "dawn chorus" and learn to identify birds by sight and sound with experienced birders. Family activities start at 10 a.m. and will include hands-on educational arts and crafts to help children learn about nature, building a bird and butterfly house for their backyard, and painting a duck decoy. Visitors can learn to catch a fish, try their hand at archery, practice shooting a BB gun or play migratory fish puttputt golf. The always popular and exciting Audubon Education Birds will be featured, and Conestoga wagon rides around the Refuge will run 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Check out the conservation exhibits presented by local environmental groups and browse in the Nature Store.

Festival parking available at the office building at 12205 S.W. Tualatin Rd., corner of SW 124th and Pacific Highway. Free ADA compatible shuttle buses will provide continuous transportation to the Refuge starting at 5 a.m. until 5 p.m. There will be no on site parking at the Refuge.

For complete information on this event, please visit http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/or call 503-625-5944, ext. 227.



The Tualatin River Bird Festival is sponsored by the Friends of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in partnership with the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. The Friends is a volunteer, non-profit organization. All money donated is tax-deductible and donations help with refuge programs.

When: Saturday, May 20, 2017

Where: Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

 $19255~\mathrm{SW}$ Pacific Hwy, Sherwood, OR 97140

Contact: Bonnie Anderson – 503-625-5944, ext. 227

Web site: http://www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org





SAlem 2017



Daniel Service - President

This year's MS Walk was the best for Oregon Paralyzed of America. Thanks to the support of so many we donated over \$1,400.00 for research to the MS Foundation. There is always hope that a cure will be found for Multiple Sclerosis. All donations are of great worth toward that cause and we look forward to an even greater response next year.











Walk to create a world free of MS



"Serving Those Who Served"

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

An individual is eligible for membership by meeting the following criteria: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) was regularly enlisted, inducted or commissioned for active duty service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States, or our allies as evidenced by other-than-dishonorable character of service documented by a verifiable DD-214 or DD-215 (entry-level separation not acceptable); (3A) was separated from the service in the Armed Forces under conditions other than dishonorable; or (3B) is on active duty or must continue to serve after the cessation of hostilities; and (4) has suffered a spinal cord injury or disease (such as MS, ALS), whether or not service connected in origin. Membership is free. **Complete and return application to the chapter or by mail, email, or fax to:** Paralyzed Veterans of America Membership Department, 801 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; (E) ChristiH@pva.org; (F) 202.416.1250. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chapter Name: Oregon Chapter							
First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:					
Date of Birth: / / Soc	cial Security Number:		☐ Male ☐ Female				
Race/Ethnicity:							
☐ Asian/Pacific Islander	☐ African American	/Descent □ Hispanic/Latino					
☐ Native American/Alaskan Native ☐ Caucasian							
Address:	Cit	y:					
State:	Zip:	Email:	·				
Home Phone:	Othe	r Phone:					
VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION Please submit the following with application:							
 Proof of U.S. or U.S. Territorial Citizenship (Birth Certificate, Passport, INS Form, or Voter's Registration Form). DD214 showing character of discharge. Medical evidence of spinal cord injury or involvement (medical records or physician's statement). Proof of active duty status must be verified prior to membership approval. 							
Have you been discharged under cond	ditions that are less th	an honorable? ☐ Yes ☐ No					
If yes, please explain:							
Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cor	d disease service conr	nected? □ Yes □ No					
DISABILITY CLASSIFICATION Injury or diseases involving the brain but not the spinal cord do not qualify.							
SPINAL CORD INJURY		SPINAL CORD DISEASE					
Complete only if you have a traumatic	spinal cord injury.	Complete only if there is no spinal cord injury.					
Date of Injury: / /		Date of Diagnosis/Onset of O	Condition: / /				
Cause of Spinal Cord Injury:		Specific Disease Involving Sp	inal Cord:				
☐ Vehicular (car, motorcycle, aircraft,	etc.)	☐ Multiple Sclerosis (involvir	ng bowel & bladder)				
☐ Violence (gunshot, explosion, etc.)		□ Poliomyelitis					
☐ Flying/Falling object		☐ Syringomyelia					
☐ Sport/Recreation (swimming, diving	g, etc.)	☐ Amyotrophic diseases					
□ Pedestrian (car accident, etc.)		(lateral sclerosis, transvers	e myeltis)				
□ Unknown		□ Other:					
Other traumatic injury:							



MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

The Veterans Benefits Department advocates for quality health care for our members and can assist you to obtain the appropriate benefits available as a result of your military service.

Is Paralyzed Veterans of America presently your accredited representative? \square Yes \square No

If yes, I hereby request that my eligibility for membership in the Paralyzed Veterans of America be certified. I consent to process my submitted medical documentation to a confidential review by a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Medical Staff, to validate that my condition presents as having spinal cord involvement and to allow official Certification by the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Secretary. I have no objection and hereby permit Paralyzed Veterans of America Service Officers to provide information to the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Membership Department that pertains to my qualifications for membership/certification.

I declare that I have read and meet the qualifications. I understand that my membership/certification could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant Signature:	_ Date: / /
☐ I do not wish to become a certified member	

OFFICE USE ONLY

CAUTION TO ANYONE HAVING ACCESS TO THESE DOCUMENTS

The documents provided by the requester are personal in nature and are for membership eligibility and certification only. Information contained within these documents shall be treated with extreme confidentiality and released only to those employees of Paralyzed Veterans of America authorized to access.

I certify that I have personally examined the documents provided by the requester and find him/her to be eligible for membership/certification.

National Secretary's Signatur	e:
Date Received://	Date Acted Upon: / /
Member ID Number:	
Date Received: / /	Date Processed: / /



Donation Form

Oregon PVA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit. Federal Tax I.D. # 93-0713859

To mail in your donation, fill out this form and make checks payable to *Oregon PVA* or visit our website, www.oregonpva.org to set up a payment or reoccurring payment.

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Address:		
Program requested support:		
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□ Sport	☐ General Donation	☐ Membership
☐ Hospital Liaison	☐ Advocacy	-5. 1

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