

May/June 2018
Volume 22, Issue 3



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



"Serving Those Who Served"
www.oregonpva.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

3700 Silverton Rd. NE,
Salem, OR 97305
503-362-7998

www.oregonpva.org

Email - oregonpva@oregonpva.org

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

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503-220-8262 ext. 31665 (Portland)
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After Hours Number

888-233-8305

Portland VA Contact Phone Number

503-273-5308

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.

PARALOG CONTENTS

- 4** President News
- 8** Vice President News
- 10** Executive Director Report
- 12** Sport News Alerts
- 14** Government Relations
- 18** Rec Fund Reports
- 22** Donated Items
- 24** Hospital Liaison
- 28** Wheelchair Adventures
- 32** MS News
- 34** Washington Update
- 40** Classified Ads

Thank you to all our Sponsors!



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

VETERANS OF AMERICA'S ADVOCACY/LEGISLATION TRAINING SEMINAR



Photo courtesy of PVA



Daniel Service – President

In March member Dennis Hooper & I attended the Paralyzed Veterans of America's Advocacy/Legislation Week Training Seminar, in Washington, D.C.

During our time there we met with the other Chapters of PVA to discuss and gain greater knowledge of the challenges all our members have that need to be presented to our Congress and Senate. On Thursday and Friday Dennis and I discussed these challenges with our Congressmen and Senators from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. We expressed our favor or opposition to some of the bills.

We asked that they support our concerns for the members of Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, as well as other disabled individuals throughout the United States, and the world. As leaders of this great Nation other countries look to us. Hopefully they will see the importance of helping those who are disabled and follow our positive actions.

We left them a booklet and following is a quick recap of our concerns;

- Protection of Specialized Service. Congress must provide sufficient funding for VA to hire

additional clinicians, including physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers, and rehabilitation therapists, to meet demand for services in the SCI/D system of care.



Photo courtesy of PVA

- **Expand Eligibility for The VA Comprehensive Caregiver Program.** Congress must pass the bipartisan S.2193, the “Caring for our Veterans Act”. This legislation would incrementally expand the caregiver program to veterans seriously injured during and prior to the Vietnam War. After a two-year period, the program would be open to all eras. H.R. 1802, the “CARE for all Veterans Act” would expand eligibility to the caregiver program to include veterans of all eras with service-connected illnesses.
- **Air Carrier Access Amendments Act.** Congress must pass the H.R.5004/S. 1318.
 - Strengthening ACAA enforcement by requiring referral of certain complaints to the U.S. Attorney General, increasing civil penalties for damaged wheelchairs, and establishing a private right of action.
 - Ensuring airlines acquire airplanes that meet broad accessibility standards.
 - Improving training for air carrier personnel and their contractors, including those who assist with passenger boarding and deplaning.
 - Requiring the Secretary of Transportation to work with stakeholders to develop an Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights.
 - Creating a U.S. Department of Transportation Advisory Committee on the Air Travel Needs of Passengers with Disabilities.

- **ADA Notification Legislation.** Congress must oppose any ADA notification legislation, including H.R. 620. This legislation would require a person with disability to give notice to a public accommodation of an architectural barrier under the ADA and allow the accommodation time to cure the problem prior to being able to enforce his or her civil rights through the legal system. Title III of the ADA was intended to balance the interests of small businesses along with the accessibility concerns of people with disabilities.
- **Improve Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans.** Congress needs to improve benefits for the most severely disabled veterans, to include increasing the rates of Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) as well as Aid and Attendance benefits, maintaining appropriate Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) reimbursement, and ensuring access to prosthetics as VA considers rule changes.



OPVA President Daniel Service, Congressman Kurt Schrader and member Dennis Hooper

- **Automobile Adaptive Equipment.** Congress must ensure that VA quickly proceeds with updating and rewriting the AAE Directive by establishing a task force of VA and VSO experts to rewrite the AAE, review recommendations for reimbursement of AAE, and develop a process to conduct a yearly review and update of the AAE Directive.
- **Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP).** After a veteran opts in to the program, veterans will have two choices; higher level review an/or supplemental claim.



A higher-level review is very similar to a Decision Review Officer review; however, no further evidence may be submitted. The supplemental claim route allows the claimant to submit more evidence. Veterans must be aware that, to take part in RAMP, they must withdraw all claims from the Board of Veterans' Appeals. In other words, they must give up their current appeal. Furthermore, if veterans receive an unfavorable decision through RAMP, they are unable to appeal to the Board again until February 2019. Paralyzed Veterans of America does not believe it is necessarily advantageous to our members, however, all determinations must be made on a case-by-case basis after thoroughly reviewing the veterans claim. With the complexity of Paralyzed Veterans members' claims, thoughtful consideration is most important.

- Congress Targets Safety Net Programs. Paralyzed Veterans opposes any efforts that would undermine insurance protections in the private market that could make it hard for veterans and people with disabilities to obtain affordable, quality health care coverage. Paralyzed Veterans supports removing the institutional bias of Medicaid but opposes

block grants, per capita caps or other measures that would radically restructure the program. Paralyzed Veterans acknowledges that steps must be taken to ensure the long-term solvency of the Medicare and Social Security trust funds.



No matter how you look at it, we are concerned about the welfare of our members and other disabled individuals throughout the world. We are working to build and maintain a good relationship with our government leaders, and help them to see.



GIFT YOUR OLD WHEELS FOR GOOD.



Paralyzed Veterans of America

WHEELS HELPING WARRIORS

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans. Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too!



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VICE PRESIDENT NEWS



Larry Gardner—Vice President

Hello everyone,
First of all I would like to say thank you very much to all our members; their spouses; volunteers; sponsors; partners; everyone at the Chapter, and especially to National PVA, without their support OPVA would not exist.

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America is located in Salem OR. We cover Oregon, Idaho, and SW Washington. Every year our Chapter has several member meetings around the state. We meet with our members and their families to get acquainted with each other and to let them know what the Chapter is doing.

We do understand that our members are so spread out that it is very hard for you to attend our meetings and to participate in our sports programs. This has been one of our topics of conversation at our planning meetings.



Member Ken Thousand

OPVA is working on an Ambassador Program. Our first ambassador is member Ken Townsend from Prineville, OR. Ken's first event was the MS Walk in Bend. Ken's next events are the Deschutes County Fair August 1st - 5th and the Crook County Fair August

8th - 11th. If you are in the area stop by and introduce yourself and get to know Ken.

The OPVA is working on Ambassador Program to represent our Chapter in your area

Once we know that this ambassador program is successful we will contact members in other areas of Oregon, SW Washington and Idaho to add to the ambassador program.

If you have an interest in being our next ambassador call the office for more information and we will be more than happy to answer any questions or help you get started 503-362-7998.

Don't miss the Sports article in this Paralog, Sports Director Ray Thompson is doing a great job. The bowling league for members just started and no matter where you live you can enjoy bowling at your local bowling alley.

We also have trap shooting and fishing trips available. We will soon be contacting our members to update our surveys we keep on file. We then know who to contact about the activities they have interest in. This way we know where to spend our time.

So for now I hope everyone who can will get out and enjoy the spring and summer, and if anyone has any questions please don't hesitate to call us. Thank you very much and take care.



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Wilsonville, OR 97070
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Springfield, OR 97477
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**WE HAVE
HUNDREDS
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Moving Your Life Forward www.AbilityCenter.com

WE WANT YOU TO BE ON THE NOMINATION BALLOT



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Greeting from your Chapter Office, the event season has kicked off in a big way. In March we participated in the Portland Roadster Show, which turned out to be a fantastic awareness event for OPVA. We were able to make thousands of people aware of who OPVA is and what we are doing. We also sold raffle tickets for the Chev PU and gun raffles along with military hats for our fundraisers. The promoters of this show have a heart for OPVA and donated the booth space to the Chapter, not only did they donate the space they placed us in the most prime location, right in front of TV Personality Dave Kindig (Bitchin Rides) space.

Your Board of Directors has chosen to start a direct mail campaign for fundraising. For the last several decades OPVA has relied on tel-marketing for a large percentage of monies coming into the Chapter to fund the various programs. As of March 31st in accordance with new PVA rules OPVA will no longer have that resource available. So long story short we will utilize the tel-marketing list and start a direct mail campaign.

This is a very labor extensive process. These are new waters for us to be entering so time will tell how successful it will be. Rest assured we are always working on new events to be able to fundraise to support the programs you are active in.



We also had a visit from the PVA National office in April. They came out to do Board of Director training, this was great so that everyone is on the same page.

Speaking of the Board of Directors, it is that time of year. We are looking for Members who want to make a difference in the lives of our members.

If you have a heart for OPVA, WE NEED You!!!

As we look forward to the up coming months, the schedule is getting full. Even with that being said we can put 10lbs of potatoes in a 5lb sack.

So if you have an event in your area that you would like the Chapter to participate in give me a call at the office 503-362-7998 or drop me an email at development@oregonpva.org.



Thank you to all our exhibitors



PERFORMANCE
MOBILITY



Portland Vet Center



Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Oregon Chapter

The Oregon Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America is committed to the re-integration of our nations spinal cord impaired and diseased veterans.

SPORTS NEWS ALERT



Ray Thompson—Sports Director

Hi again, we started a new sports program on April 1st, our bowling league. Opening day we had a great turn out. I will give you more details in the next Paralog. Also I want you to remember to keep your bowling receipts and scores, turn them in to the office at the end of the month for reimbursement and I can then track your scores; who is doing the best; most improved; high score and so on.



We also had our first trap shoot of the season and had a couple of new shooters, one of them being me. I really didn't think I was going to like it as much as I did, I really had a great time shooting' and all of the people at the range gave a lot of good pointers on how to hold the gun and how to aim at the birds, they helped me a lot, I can't wait till the next shoot.

I also took my trailer as well as a couple of the other members and we were able to stay the whole weekend, I wasn't aware that most trap ranges have the trailer hookups with water and electric. We had a great time as we shot 500 rounds. I thought I was going to be sore but these new shotguns are made with a recoil built in them so you can't hardly feel the kick back.

Thank goodness for the nice weather and a good time with all the other shooters. I am currently looking for new sport options for our members who don't wish to bowl or shoot trap. I have a meeting this month with the City of Salem to talk with them about getting Bocce Ball started in the Willamette Valley, this is a sport that can be played indoors as well as outside, I am looking into the other areas who already have the courts that we can use.

We had a great time as we shot 500 rounds

I have also been talking with a local pool hall about opening up a section of the hall our members to use, air guns are also in my cross hairs as another activity for the membership. Let me know if there are any other games that you the members would like to play.

I would sure like to hear from you. Please remember to keep September 16th open so that you can attend the Members Banquet at Spirit Mt Casino, we will be presenting the awards and trophies from the bowling leagues as well as the Trap events.





Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Oregon Chapter

OPVA Bowling Leagues



Spring & Summer

Spring League: April 2nd - June 16th
Summer League: July 2nd - August 16th



Splitz
FAMILY GRILL



Walnut City Lanes
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**Sign Up
Now!**











OPVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 503.362.7998

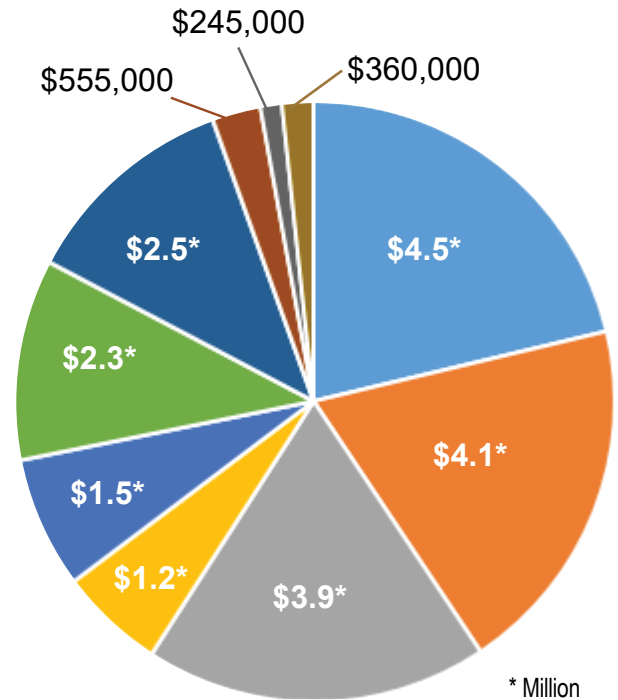
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Roger C. Robinson – Government Relations



Measure 96 (Lottery Funded) 2017-18 Legislation Sessions

-  To double the current level of funding for county Veteran Service Office and National Service Organizations
-  To secure Oregon's veteran loan programs for future generations
-  To sustain county Service Office funding and enhance statewide veteran service
-  To establish a grant program student veteran success on campus
-  To support veterans' housing and homelessness prevention efforts
-  To establish reserve balance in the veteran service fund
-  Invested through Oregon Health Authority to improve veterans' access to mental health resources
-  To establish a grant fund to support non-profit and community partner efforts
-  To establish a veteran volunteer program
-  To support veterans' crisis and suicide prevention hot line



Wounded Warriors sponsored SB 1506 relating to parking permits; creating new provisions; amending ORS 811.602 and 811.635; and declaring an emergency. OPVA did not support this bill because there's conflicts between state and local statues.

SB 1517 sponsored by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife passed effective January 1, 2019.

This bill authorized Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to annually issue limited number of hunting tags without charge to nonprofits for use by veterans qualifying as disabled veterans. We supported this bill.

A new veterans' home to be constructed in Roseburg, OR in the near future. That's all folks!



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

June 23, 2018
Tee Off 1 pm
McNary Golf Club

Sponsorship
Opportunities
on the Back



**Individual \$125
Foursome \$400**

Best Price - Great Cause

Prizes

- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Putt
- Longest Drive

More Prizes and Awards

- Teams
Mens, Womens & Mixed
- Prizes on holes
4, 7, 8, 10, 15, 17 & 18



**KEIZER
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE**



Register Online:
www.oregonpva.org

Thank you to our sponsors

155 McNary Estates Dr N, Keizer, OR 97303
Information: 503-362-7998 ♦ email: oregonpva@oregonpva.org

Registration Form

9th Annual Gold Cup Golf Tournament



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**
Oregon Chapter

Date: Saturday, June 23, 2018
Registration: 12 p.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
BBQ: 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)

Tournament Registration

Team Captain

Captain's Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Additional Golfers

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Check All that Apply:

- | | | |
|--|-------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team Fee | \$400 | 18 holes of golf, cart, and Banquet & Auction for 4 golfers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Golfer | \$125 | 18 holes of golf, cart, and Banquet & Auction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet Only | \$45 | Banquet & Auction |

Sponsorship Opportunities

- | | | |
|--|---------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title Sponsor | \$4,500 | Table at Registration & Business name on all OPVA golf printed material, website and link
2 months of free advertising on digital billboards.
Full Page advertisement in Paralog for one year
2 Golf teams plays for free
Swag in the bag
Staff the hole of your choice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle Sponsor | \$1,000 | Table at Registration & Business name on all OPVA golf printed material, website and link
1 month of free advertising on digital billboards
3 issues Full Page advertisement in Paralog
1 Foursome Team
Swag in the bag
Staff the hole of your choice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hole Sponsor | \$250 | Business name on all OPVA golf printed material, website and link
Opportunity to setup table on designated hole & green
BBQ dinner |

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check to receive invoice (by email only supply address above)

Mail registration and payment to: OPVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305
Email to: oregonpva@oregonpva.org - To pay with Debit/Credit card call: 503-362-7998
Please make checks payable to: OPVA - Federal ID # 93-0713859



Happy Birthday

D. Alexandra Wolfe	5/3	Matthew Allmaras	5/28
George Gratzner	5/5	Michael McAlvage	5/31
Walter Hull	5/6	Carl Jensen	6/1
Clifford Maxwell	5/6	Nels Hadden	6/1
Alexander Smith	5/6	Justin Larson	6/1
Thomas Geary	5/7	Rex Stevens	6/3
Anne Wyatt	5/7	Sandra Petersen	6/5
Donald Linwood	5/9	Kelly Jordan	6/6
Sandra Heaton	5/9	Russell Goffin	6/9
Clifford Svoboda	5/10	Larry Whitmire	6/10
Corwin Wunn	5/11	Leslie Fleming	6/12
Burk Todd	5/12	Miguel Vera	6/12
John Caldwell	5/13	Patrick Rivelli	6/13
Terri Gardner	5/15	Daniel Chytka	6/13
Edward Curtis	5/18	Kevin Parker	6/13
Gloribel Casaldue	5/20	Frederick Parker	6/14
William Russo	5/21	Butch Hessel	6/14
Douglas Hostetler	5/22	Gerald Sandlin	6/15
Lonnie Morgan	5/22	Fritz VonAllmen	6/16
Melinda Cohen-Huntley	5/23	Kenneth Swiderski	6/16
Donald Lambert	5/24	Terry Ogan	6/17
Toby Newton	5/24	William Gray	6/19
Thomas Hartzell	5/25	William Bishop	6/19
Michael O'Connor	5/25	Gary Tucker	6/21
Jamila Maries	5/25	Michael Lavelle	6/22
John Solomonson	5/26	Peter Parsons	6/23
Steve Hubley	5/26	Michelle Morris	6/25
Michael Miner	5/26	Joel Satoris	6/27
Erik Berg	5/26	Robert Moore	6/27
Susan Hruza	5/28	Gordon Pike	6/29



RECREATION FUND REPORTS

Florida Keys Fishing Trip

By Jay Jabson

I entered my name in the drawing for a Florida Keys fishing trip with National PVA. My name was chosen and I had a wonderful trip.

There were approximately twenty other PVA members and veterans from Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC. The guys from DC are recent war veterans with various disabilities from recent wounds including leg, foot, and arm amputations.



They are still in the service and under medical care at Walter Reed. Everyone involved had remarkable attitudes regardless of their individual situation. The staff from the National PVA were amazing and extremely helpful. I feel very fortunate to have met them and have them in my life. We had a fantastic time in the Keys.

We spent two days fishing, caught lots of fish. The evening after the first day of fishing the hotel had a big fish fry, with the days catch, which was delicious.



During our travels from Miami to Islamorada, then to Key West and back to Miami, we were able to witness the destruction caused by the hurricanes which went through that area last year.



Piles of boats (beautiful boats) and house trailers which looked as if they had been bull dozed up into piles onto empty lots. The weather was perfect (especially compared to Central Oregon in February).



The fishing was perfect. And the company was fantastic. We had several days of “rest and relaxation” on the beach and in the swimming pool. I sincerely hope my path crosses with these guys again at a later date. They are a great bunch of guys and I wish them well.



Remember to Use **Your Recreation Fund**

Oregon PVA voting 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 any time during the year along with a short 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 (10/1/17 - 9/30/18).
Mail to: **Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305**
Your request must be received in the office no later than September 30th



Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 if you have any questions or require additional information about the Recreation fund.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter



CHAPTER ELECTIONS 2018 FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As we are planning for a new fiscal year, please note that our elections for Board of Directors for our Chapter will take place in the summer. If you have entertained the idea of serving on our Board, making a difference in our Chapter, serving your fellow Northwest Members, please consider running for a position.

Members that are interested in running for a position on the Chapter's Board are asked to send in a resume. Resumes will be accepted now through July 31st. Each will be posted in upcoming newsletters so that our membership will learn about each candidate.

A "resume" is a brief description of who you are, your strengths, what qualifies you as a Board Member, what you have done in the past and would like to see done with our Chapter in the future.

Resumes with or without a photo, may be sent via email to:
oregonpva@oregonpva.org

QUALIFICATIONS

1. A certified voting member of Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America. Certification requires: Birth Certificate, DD214 and doctors statement regarding spinal cord injury/dysfunction.
2. Member is in good standing with OPVA.
3. Confirm that individual has reliable/dependable transportation.
4. Confirm that the individual has the ability and is willing to make scheduled meetings.

Please feel free to call the Chapter office if you have any question pertaining to the election nomination process.

**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305
503-362-7998 - oregonpva@oregonpva.org**



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

**DOCKSIDE
CHARTERS** 

270 Coast Guard Dr, Depoe Bay, OR
(541) 765-2545

Dates & Times

Wed Aug 14th-5:30 am

Wed Sep 19th-7:00 am

Thu Oct 18th-7:30 am

5 Hours Trip

Fishing and shell license required,
may be purchased at Dockside Charters
Complementary coffee is provided.
Bring your own lunch, snack or drinks

**Voting Members
FREE!**

All Others \$65

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DONATED ITEMS



Shoprider Flagship

The Shoprider is a good way to get around enclosed in bad or hot weather. On the streets it has to travel in bike lanes, if you have claustrophobia it is probably not for you.

Bruno Joey VSL-4000HW Lifts

The Joey Scooter lift fits most regular vans, mini vans and SUVs



Joerns UltraCare XT Bed

The Joerns UltraCare XT bed has the ability to adapt to many resident care environments. Through a combination of performance, function, and style, it can be transformed to fit any configuration or room.

We still have a number of other power chairs and scooters with batteries. The ones featured here have working Batteries.



Quantum Power Chair



Knee Scooter (basket not included)



Jazzy 600 Power Chair



Golden Scooter 3-Wheels



Hospital Bed

We have one regular Electric Hospital bed which requires less room than the Joerns bed



Geo-Matt Therapeutic Foam Overlay

The Soft Skin Matt is an overlay for your mattress for someone prone for skin sores



Enviro-Med Light Therapy Box

The light therapy box is very unique, if someone suffers with depression when they are unable to get direct sunshine, the light box is supposed to help.

Gary Atwood – Donation Coordinator

Wow! Time is flying by, it's May already. We are featuring a number of items that you may be interested in, please look them over and see if you or someone you know could use them.

We have helped many people so far this year. Remember our inventory is constantly changing.

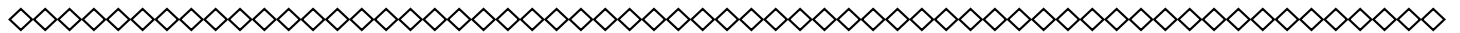
Because the inventory changes frequently, be sure to call to see if what you need is still here.

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

Thank you so much for the life changing gift of the electric lift!
It has made helping John so much easier! We feel so fortunate!
Sincerely,

John & Judy Merriss



SHOW & SHINE
Car Show
AUGUST 4, 2018

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Oregon Chapter

Vehicle Registration \$15
www.oregonpva.org
Register Online

Location: Home Depot - 3795 Hagers Grove Rd. SE Salem, OR
Show begins at 10 AM. Vehicle Raffle at 2:00 PM

Information: 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 Tel: 503.362.7998 • www.oregonpva.org

HOSPITAL LIAISON REPORT



Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison

For this issue of the ParaLog I would like to inform our members about changes and happenings at the Seattle VA SCI Center as well as other VA issues of interest.



Seattle VA SCI/D Center

The SCI/D parking at the Seattle VA is being consolidated to parking level B2. There will no longer be SCI/D parking on level BI of the parking garage. This change is being made to help stop the abuse of non-SCI/D individuals parking in SCI/D reserved parking spaces.

SCI/D Recreation Therapist Vance Pease recently coordinated an Adaptive Curling Clinic for patients of both Spinal Cord Injury and Rehabilitation Care Services.

Adaptive Curling Clinic for Local Veterans

Recently, Granite Curling Club of Seattle volunteers hosted seven VA Puget Sound Health Care System Veterans for a first-hand opportunity to experience the Medieval Scottish sport of Curling.

The adaptive curling clinic for patients of both Spinal Cord Injury and Rehabilitation Care Services was held to give interested Veterans an introduction to another healthy sport option. U.S. Paralympic Wheelchair Curling Team Assistant Coach, Rusty Schieber, provided both education about the sport & recommendations on various techniques. Everyone involved, from the VA Rec Therapists, to the Granite Curling Club & Coach Schieber, focused on making a successful first-time experience for the participants.

“Participating in sports of this kind contributes to increased health, physical activity and socialization all of which are the foundation to the overall quality of life that our Veterans have earned,” said VA Puget Sound Recreation Therapist Vance Pease, coordinator of the event.



Veteran Bruce Guertin tries his hand at the ancient sport of curling, assisted by King Francisco, VA SCI RN

“Once Rec Therapy solved the individual physical adaptations necessary to grip the curling stick, to maintain balance on the ice, & for posture, then the curling experts worked with them on what they could do to improve their technique and skill level,” said Pease.

Granite Curling Club volunteers worked with participants on the technique and skills to successfully throw/push the 42 pound curling stone approximately 100 feet to make it into the target area, and the “art” of putting a spin, or “curl” on the stone. The curl gives the participant the ability to circumvent other stones in the direct path and rest the stones behind one another in a better position for scoring.

“This was a great partnership between the Seattle VA & a community organization to put on a successful opportunity for the benefit of our Veterans. One of the participants was just accepted to participate in the National Disabled Veterans Wheelchair Curling Camp in Denver, CO in April, put on by the United States Olympic Committee. We wish him the best & look forward to future local opportunities with the Granite Curling Club!”

(Source: <https://www.pugetsound.va.gov/PUGETSOUND/features/Adaptive-Curling-Clinic-for-Local-Veterans.asp>)

VA now offers adoption reimbursement

Veterans with a service-connected disability that results in infertility will now be able to receive reimbursement for adoption expenses as a result of a new rule recently approved by VA. The final interim rule was published in the Federal Register on March 5, 2018, and became effective upon publication.

With this rulemaking, VA may provide reimbursement for qualifying expenses in the adoption of a child under 18 years of age.

Who is eligible?

Any Veteran with a service-connected disability that results in the inability to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

What expenses are covered?

For expenses to be reimbursable, adoptions must be arranged by a qualified adoption agency as defined in DoD Instruction 1341.9.

Reimbursement is capped at \$2,000 for a covered Veteran or two covered Veterans who are spouses of each other. In the case of two married Veterans, only one spouse may claim reimbursement for any one adoption. Additionally, no more than \$5,000 may be paid to a covered Veteran in any calendar year, or in the case of two married covered Veterans.

Expenses such as clothing, bedding, toys and books, travel expenses and expenses incurred in connection with an adoption arranged in violation of Federal, State, or local law are not reimbursable.

When should application be made?

The application for reimbursement must be submitted no later than two years after the adoption is final or, in the case of adoption of a foreign child, no later than two years from the date a certificate of United States citizenship is issued.

Apply online: VA Form 10152, Reimbursement Request for Qualifying Adoption Expenses (Source: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/47109/va-now-offers-adoption-reimbursement/>)



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Oregon Chapter

Remember the chapter is here to serve you. We would love to hear from you about your experiences with the SCI/D care you receive from Seattle – Vancouver – Outpatient Clinic.

Please let us know if you have had delays in receiving your healthcare and/or prosthetic equipment as well as if you've had exceptional service from a program and/or employee. Call the PVA Oregon Chapter office at 503-362-7998.

Oregon PVA members if you experience a prosthetics delay that is more than 30 days old. Please complete the **Prosthetics Delay Report Form** on the next page. Fax the completed form to (202) 416-7754 or email to prosthetics@pva.org



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Prosthetics Delay Report Form

Responsible PVA Service Office: _____ Date: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

SSN: _____ *no dashes* Age: _____ PVA Member: Yes No

Description of disabling condition that necessitates reliance on prosthetics,
including the date of injury:

Are you service-connected: Yes No

Item/Device/Equipment ordered:

Date Ordered: _____

Prescribing Clinician/Therapist: _____

VA Medical Center: _____

Veteran Integrated Service Network (1-23): _____

Order delayed more than 30 days: Denied:

Reasons given for decision:

Impact of delay/denial:

Fax the completed form to (202) 416-7754 or email to prosthetics@pva.org

Clear Form 2014

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Last Day of the Season



Louie Grimmer – Board Member

After I got the elk stuffed into the freezer I took a shower and went to bed for some well earned sleep. I was then rested enough to go to church the next morning. While at Church the hunting episodes were put on hold and my thoughts and actions were all dedicated to the LORD.

There are times when a hunting party gets into a situation when it is not feasible to make it to church but the real intent is there. Our hunting area is within an hour or so of home so there is almost always that opportunity. If not, however, there is a branch of the church right near where we start up on the mountain.

The next morning (Monday), Andy (#3 son) and I went back to the camp to see how everything was going. We got stopped by the deep snow so we chained up the Dakota 4X4 and preceded up the hill to the camp.

The Dakota pickup is a great rig but the clearance leaves something to be desired. While in deep snow (two feet) it drags bottom and the little fancy things like the under bumper plastic air foil receives abuse like ripping it off. Of course we did not know this until after we got out of the deep snow.

When Andy and I finally made it up to the base camp no one was there.

I mean NO ONE!

The tent and everything was gone. Now I knew Chuck was a sturdy fellow but to pack up everything lock, stock, and barrel and leave during a hunt was uncharacteristic of him.

My mind raced through all of the reasons why this happened and the only answer was he called his wife and she had an emergency. We utilized cell phones up there but they are always turned off. Can you imagine taking a bead on a trophy animal only to have the phone ring? That could RUIN your whole day.

Chuck knew my home and cell phone numbers and I had my CB on while Andy and I were going back up on the hill. There had been no word from Chuck and no knowledge he had departed. After finding no one there we decided to go further up the road and use the CB to try to contact Pete or maybe Chuck to see what happened. The rule we have made is when you set up base camp for the season that is it. You don't move camp unless it is an emergency.

Andy and I climbed up to the uppermost road above camp. There were no tire tracks and the snow was real deep. Nobody would respond to our calls. "Breaker, breaker, Outlaw, are you out there?" Nothing!

"Breaker, breaker, Road Runner, do you have your ear's on?" NOTHING but silence. We then thought the CB was not working so we changed channels and talked to someone in the town directly below the mountain. We knew that everything was working. We tried a few times more and then moved to a different location. We tried again with the same results. Andy and I decided to head over to Pete's camp to ask him what happened to Chuck. Just as soon as we started moving down the road a very LARGE elk (cow) walked right in front of our rig and Andy was really impressed at the size of the animal. His first question was would my little 30.30 kill something that big. I told him, "Yes, if you hit it in the right place."

Before I left the ridge where I knew my cell phone would work, I thought about calling Chuck's wife, Sue. I didn't want to upset the apple cart by

saying something stupid like, "Where is Chuck?" So I called her just to say, "Hi, from the mountain, how are things?" Much to my relief she told me Chuck was home sick in bed.

The rule we have made is when you set up base camp for the season that is it. You don't move camp unless it is an emergency.

What happened was we had dinner Saturday night and some of the STEAK we did not eat was put back in the cooler. Chuck decided to have a piece for lunch Sunday afternoon. That was the culprit because it had spoiled. When he ate it he got food poisoning (again) Sunday night. He was racked with severe pain all night and the other things that happen to you when this condition occurs.



Monday morning came and there was no relief. He was not able to hunt because his thought processes were not clear. He knew he had to get off the mountain before he died up there alone.

He probably forgot that Andy and I were coming back that very same day. Chuck dismantled the camp and stuffed the tent and all the camp gear into the Suburban and went off the hill. There are two ways out and that is why we did not see him. Andy and I stopped by Pete's camp and told him what was going on so he wouldn't be left in the dark about what had happened.



May

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	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 BOD 10:00 a.m.		

Save the Date

5/5	MS Walk - Salem	7/3	First Tuesday - Sublimity
5/19	Willamette Speed Way - Lebanon	7/4	4th of July
5/28	Memorial Day	7/12 - 15	Marion County Fair
6/2	Free Fishing Day	7/28	Members Picnic
6/23	OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament		



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
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				BOD 10:00 a.m.		



MS NEWS

Sue Holt – MS Liaison

I had intended to write an article on medical research and why it's so important but have decided to take another tack. Why research is important to me. This week I had the pleasure of meeting some people who have had Multiple Sclerosis over 30 years. This is not between the two of them but each of them.

I was told I was a "MS Youngster". I thought about all the advances they have seen. For me I was diagnosed in 2008 and the medicine I'm on was invented in 1999.

Correct me if I am wrong but the advances in MS research have been huge. Volunteering for research studies is a decision that one has to make on their own and for their own reasons. I have been told "Oh, you're just a Guinea Pig" but that's not the way I look at it.

The definition of clinical research as defined by Wikipedia follows "... a branch of healthcare science that determines the safety and effectiveness (efficacy) of medicines, devices, diagnostic products and treatment regimens intended for human use..."

So think about it. If you decide to participate ask your MS doctor and see what opens up. Who knows who you may help in the long run. It just may be you!

I would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who showed up to our Abilities Expo and helped out! Medical research and non-profits can't run without volunteers...

Opportunities abound here at OPVA just give us a call or drop by the office. We'd love to meet you!

(PS I still have fun at work telling the youngsters about going through Tomorrow Land at Disney)

**Together, we will end MS forever
Call OPVA 503-362-7998
Join the OPVA Team Walk, Roll & Thunder
to help end MS and/or send in a donation**

Walk MS Salem

Date: May 5, 2018

Start/Finish Location: Riverfront Park

200 Water Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301

Time: Registration starts at 9:00 a.m.

Walk begins at 10:00 a.m.



Please accept my donation of \$ _____ for the MS Walk Fundraiser to end MS. Walk sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Portland, OR.

(Make checks payable to OPVA & we will make one large donation to National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Portland. Specify Bend, Corvallis or Salem Team)

Register online to be part of the OPVA teamWalk Roll & Thunder or the virtual team Walk Roll & Thunder

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Mail to OPVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305



Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle Tournament
March 7-8, 2018
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle Tournament
March 23-25, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Buckeye Air Rifle Tournament
April 20-21, 2018
Geneva, OH

**indicates combined events*

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

Florida Gulf Coast Shooting Sports Tournament
March 1-3, 2018
Odessa, FL

Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament
March 16-18, 2018
Pistol Tournament - March 16
Las Vegas, NV

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Cal-Diego Rifle/Pistol
March 23-25, 2018
Pistol & Rifle Tournament - March 23
Redlands, CA

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament
April 20-22, 2018
Edwardsville, IL

Minnesota Shooting Sports Tournament
May 18-20, 2018
Minneapolis, MN

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament
June 22-24, 2018
Waxahachie, TX

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
June 15-17, 2018
Pistol Event - June 15, 2018
Cedar Rapids, IA

PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
April 6-8, 2018
Kissimmee, FL

KY-IN Bass Tournament
May 4-6, 2018
Kuttawa, KY

National Bass Tournament
June 1-3, 2018
Marbury, MD

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 8-10, 2018
Richmond, VA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament
March 23-25, 2018
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament
April 20-22, 2018
Oklahoma City, OK

Mountain States Billiards Tournament
June 29-30, 2018
Fountain, CO

Buckeye Billiards Tournament**
June 22-23, 2018
Wickliffe, OH

****non-sanctioned events**

BOCCIA

Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament
Feb. 22-23, 2018
San Diego, CA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament
Feb. 23-25, 2018
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament
April 12-15, 2018
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
May 3-6, 2018
Woodridge, IL

PARALYZED VETERANS RACING

Top End Euro-American HC Championship
Feb. 3-4, 2018
Clermont, FL

Valley of the Sun
Feb. 16-18, 2018
Phoenix, AZ

One City Marathon
March 4, 2018
Newport News, VA

Off-Road Spring Expo
April 13-15, 2018
Chesterfield, VA

Paralyzed Veterans of America Learn to Race Camp
April 17-20, 2018
Gettysburg, PA

Blue and Gray
April 21-22, 2018
Gettysburg, PA

Redlands Cycling Classic
May 2-6, 2018
Redlands, CA

Pittsburgh Marathon
May 6, 2018
Pittsburgh, PA

Clocktower Classic
May 2018
Rome, GA

Wichita Omnium
May 2018
Wichita, KS

Para-Cycling Nationals
June 13-14, 2018
Augusta, GA

Tennessee Paracycling Open
June 16-17, 2018
Knoxville, TN

Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Mini-Camp
June 19-28, 2018
Delafield, WI

Tour De Nez
June 23, 2018
Reno, NV

Tour of America's Dairylands
June 22-24, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Treasure Valley Grand Prix
July 7-8, 2018
Nampa, ID

National Veterans Wheelchair Games
July 30, 2018
Orlando, FL

Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Hi Performance Off Road Camp
Aug. 19-24, 2018
Crested Butte, CO

Off Road Handcycling Championships
Aug. 24-26, 2018
Crested Butte, CO

Pensacola Cycling Classic
Sept. 15-16, 2018
Pensacola, FL

Air Force Marathon
Sept. 15, 2018
Dayton, OH

Off-Road Fall Expo
Sept. 29-30, 2018
Chesterfield, VA

Army Ten Miler
Oct. 7, 2018
Washington, D.C.

Marine Corps Marathon
Oct. 28, 2018
Washington, D.C.

38TH NVWG
July 30-Aug. 4, 2018
Orlando, FL



For more information, visit:
pva.org/sports



WASHINGTON UPDATE

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

Written and produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America - Government Relations Department

April 16, 2018

Volume 24, Number 4

ACTING HEAD OF VA INSTALLED FOLLOWING THE DISMISSAL OF SECRETARY SHULKIN

On March 28th, President Trump announced the removal of Dr. David Shulkin as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In his place, the President stated his intent to nominate Rear Admiral Ronny L. Jackson, MD. In the interim, he appointed Robert Wilkie, Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, to serve as Acting Secretary.

Following the announcement, PVA Executive Director Carl Blake released the following statement:

"We look forward to understanding more about the qualifications of Admiral Ronny L. Jackson, MD to helm the VA during this critical time. The VA has a broad mission and the Secretary must be someone who is eminently qualified to lead the nation's second largest cabinet agency. In particular, reforming VA's health care system to better serve the needs of veterans and their families is of great importance. We encourage the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs to take these concerns very seriously as it considers Admiral Jackson's nomination."

Much has been made of Dr. Shulkin's departure from VA and in particular what it means for the future of the VA's health care system. The struggle to define the role of community care in serving the health care needs of veterans has torn open the debate on what some see as efforts by the Administration to privatize the provision of VA health care. Thus, we were pleased to see that Acting Secretary Wilkie has given his support to an existing bi-partisan, bi-cameral proposal with broad VSO support pending in Congress that would reform community care, expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive caregiver benefits, and launch a review of VA's assets and infrastructure.

Rear Admiral Jackson's confirmation hearing is currently scheduled for April 25th. In the meantime, PVA is anxious to learn more about him and hear his views on the issues that impact the services and benefits that PVA's members depend on. During this time of change, VA needs a strong, capable leader who will focus on the needs of veterans in receiving the care they have earned.

OMNIBUS NEGOTIATIONS BREAKDOWN

In November 2017, the Senate VA Committee passed, 14-1, S. 2193, a bill that would reform the current VA Choice Program and all care in the community programs by consolidating them into one program. It also included the full expansion of the caregiver program to veterans injured in service in any era.

Amidst budget hearings in March 2018, there was speculation parts of S. 2193 would be included in the omnibus spending deal. Within a week, House and Senate committee leadership had crafted a deal, supported by the VSOs that included care in the community reform, asset review, and full expansion of the caregiver program.

Ultimately, these provisions were removed last minute in a round of political tradeoffs between House and Senate leadership. While a disappointing loss, we are pleased that members of Congress who were once opposed to expansion are now supportive. In the months to come, we hope to see such momentum push forward on behalf of caregivers.

FORTY-TWO SENATORS JOIN WITH SENATOR DUCKWORTH IN OPPOSITION TO THE ADA EDUCATION AND REFORM ACT

On March 29th, Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and 42 of her colleagues sent a letter to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) expressing opposition to the ADA Education and Reform Act (H.R. 620). Signatories to the letter include Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Judiciary Ranking Member Diane Feinstein (D-CA). In the letter, the Senators noted their strong opposition to not only H.R. 620, but also to “any legislation that would repeal or weaken rights under title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.” The letter further requests that Leader McConnell join with them in ensuring that either H.R. 620 or any notification legislation “will never receive a vote in the United States Senate during the 115th Congress.”

PVA and other disability and civil rights organizations joined with Senator Duckworth to encourage Senators to sign on to the letter. In releasing the letter, Senator Duckworth specifically noted the opposition of PVA to H.R. 620. PVA Executive Director Carl Blake stated in a March 2nd letter to Senator Duckworth that, “Passing H.R. 620 would be devastating to the promise of the ADA to increase opportunities for people with disabilities.”

The formal opposition of 43 Senators means that any efforts to move ADA legislation that includes a notification requirement and cure period in the Senate would be up against very difficult odds. Nonetheless, to guard against the possibility of this or similar legislation moving this year, PVA staff recently participated in a briefing for Senate staff to educate them about the dangers of limiting the opportunity for people with disabilities to enforce their rights under the ADA. Moving forward, PVA will continue to strongly oppose the ADA Education and Reform Act, or any other legislation that rolls back the obligations of businesses under the ADA to accommodate people with disabilities.

For more information about Senator Duckworth’s efforts to stop ADA notification, please visit: <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/news/press-releases/duckworth-and-senate-democrats-vow-to-defeat-house-gop-led-effort-to-curtailed-civil-rights-of-americans-with-disabilities>.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION HAS TO MOVE

The Federal Aviation Administration Re-Authorization Act of 2017–S.1405, introduced by John Thune (R-SD) Chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL) along with Aviation Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) is must pass legislation in order to keep airports and general / commercial aviation in operation. The Senate is expected to take up debate in June after the House of Representatives finishes its business on H.R. 4–The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

The House version is scheduled for debate at the end of April. Both versions of the legislation have amendments affecting passengers with disabilities as originally drafted in the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (S.1318/H.R. 5004). Committee staff report that they would like to be through a conference committee by the end of July and have the legislation ready to go to the President, prior to September’s expiration of the current FAA authorization.

HOUSE ADDS COSPONSORS TO THE ACAA

Representative Jim Langevin (D-RI-2) introduced the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act (H.R. 5004) in the House on February 13th. This is the companion piece to S.1318 introduced by Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) last year. H.R. 5004 has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Aviation for further action. To date, the bill has added four cosponsors: Robert Brady (D-PA-1), Richard Neal (D-MA-1), Gwen Moore (D-WI-4), and David Young (R-IA-3), making the legislation bipartisan. This legislation would provide many improvements affecting passengers with disabilities including:

- Strengthening ACAA enforcement through referral of certain complaints to the U.S. Attorney General, increased civil penalties for damaged wheelchairs, and a private right of action.
- Ensuring airlines acquire airplanes that meet broad accessibility standards. Improved structural access includes safe and effective boarding and deplaning processes, procedures, and equipment along with better stowage options for assistive devices.

- Improving training for air carrier personnel and their contractors, including requiring heightened training for personnel who assist with the boarding and deplaning process.
- Requiring the Secretary of Transportation to work with stakeholders to develop an Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights.
- Creating a U.S. Department of Transportation Advisory Committee on the Air Travel Needs of Passengers with Disabilities.

DOL VETS VSO MEETING

Advocacy staff attended the Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS) monthly briefing with veterans service organizations (VSOs) on March 30th. Senior Advisor for DOL, Matt Miller, gave an update on the omnibus appropriation that had just been enacted, noting the increases that were included for VETS.

The Jobs for Veterans State Grants program received an additional \$5 million, as did the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) program and the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP).

HVRP is now funded at its authorized level. Miller also reported that 230 companies have signed up for the pilot run of the HIRE Vets Medallion program that seeks to recognize businesses that undertake special efforts to recruit and hire veterans.

The main focus of the meeting was a presentation by James Borbely with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on the release of that agency's annual report on the employment situation of veterans. The jobless rate for all veterans declined from 4.3 percent in 2016 to 3.7 percent in 2017. Veterans with a service-connected disability had an unemployment rate of 4.3 percent in 2017, which was little different from the rate for veterans with no disability. The unemployment rate measures those persons that are out of work but actively seeking employment.

Labor force participation rates are another measure and tell a somewhat different story when looking at the most recent cohort of veterans and their employment experiences.

The labor force participation rate of Gulf War-era II veterans with no service-connected disability is 85.5 percent. Among veterans with a service-connected disability, 75.8 percent are in the labor force. However, among veterans rated 60% or higher, only 61.7 percent are working. Detailed information from BLS on veteran employment can be found at: <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.toc.htm>.

NEXT GENERATION AMTRAK CARS TO REPLACE ACELA

On April 3rd, Senior Associate Advocacy Director, Lee Page went to Wilmington, DE to view a "mockup" of the next generation high speed trainset business car. The new design by Alstom, a French manufacturer, has an extendable bridge plate that deploys from the train car to accommodate the gap. Upon entering the train car you will notice a wide open vestibule with a wider turning radius connecting two cars (business and café) with an accessible path to go between the cars. Immediately entering the business car, you will see the accessible restroom with a circular door operated by electronic push button. The restroom is large enough to accommodate a person in a power chair or 3 wheeled scooter. After the restroom, you pass through an automatic glass partition into the seating area where on your left is a cut out for wheelchair space adjacent to a table that is accessible for the passenger to use for work or eating. Across from the wheelchair cut out space is an accessible passenger seat that a passenger could transfer into and his wheelchair would be placed behind his seat in a designated space for wheelchair stowage on the car.

The train ordered by Amtrak is Avelia Liberty, the latest development of Alstom's high-speed train range Avelia. The new trainset will be able to carry up to 33% more passengers than the current Acela trains. The trainset configuration includes an innovative compact power car and nine passenger cars, with the possibility of three more being added if demand grows. The train is capable of travelling at speeds up to 186 mph, but will initially operate at a maximum speed of 160 mph based on Northeast Corridor (NEC) track speed limits.

Alstom is contracted to design and build 28 new high-speed trains, which will run on the NEC between Boston and Washington D.C. eventually replacing the Acela.

Amtrak and Alstom also signed a long-term contract under which Alstom will provide Amtrak with long-term technical support and supply spare components and parts for the maintenance of the new trainsets. Together, these contracts are worth \$2 billion.

LIMITED CAREGIVER EXPANSION DISCUSSED

On April 5th the Republican staff of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held a roundtable to further discuss their proposed legislation to both expand and limit the caregiver program to veterans of any era who require assistance with three Activities of Daily Living (ADLs). At the same time, this draft is being considered, PVA, along with other VSOs, are working to advance a deal negotiated last month that would expand the caregiver program to all eras with the current eligibility criteria of one ADL. As this approach is most ideal, and would serve most of PVA's members, we continue to advocate the Congress pursue it without hesitation. We hope to see a vote before Memorial Day recess.

If the effort of full expansion does not succeed, PVA will continue to support any legislative measure that opens any access to the caregiver program.

PVA has been clear, incremental expansion is not success, only a first step. Our priority remains equal access to the caregiver program for all veterans regardless of era served.

MILITARY TO CIVILIAN TRANSITION SUMMIT

On April 10th, Associate Legislative Director Steven Henry attended the Military to Civilian transition summit that convened leaders from public and private sector organizations who are committed to the seamless transition of military service members, veterans, families, and caregivers.

During the summit, multiple presentations were conducted regarding transition of service members and personal stories were provided by the families of veterans who had committed suicide. During breakout sessions, it was determined that the greatest barriers to a seamless transition are: gender; lack of a support network, to include family support; financial difficulties;

and a lack of job prospects. Everyone in attendance agreed that for a seamless transition, all of these factors must be addressed.

HOUSE AND SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATES

On April 11th, a markup of pending legislation was scheduled with the House Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs subcommittee; however, that markup was canceled.

That same day, the House Economic Opportunity subcommittee marked up the following bills that PVA currently supports:

- H.R. 1206, Reducing Barriers for Veterans Education Act of 2017: This bill makes an individual who is eligible for educational assistance under the Post 9/11 Educational Assistance program eligible for assistance with the fees for applying to Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)
- H.R. 3023, To Amend Title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the Authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay reporting fees to educational institutions: This bill eliminates the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay reporting fees to educational institutions.
- H.R. 3940, Veterans Education Disaster Assistance Act: This bill provides housing stipends and supply fee payments under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program for individuals affected by extended school closures due to natural disasters.
- H.R. 4451, Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2017: This bill reauthorizes Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) homeless veterans' reintegration programs through FY2022. The bill includes among those for whom job training, counseling, and placement services are to be provided to expedite their reintegration into the labor force:

(1) veterans participating in the VA supported housing program for which rental assistance is provided under the United States Housing Act

of 1937, (2) Indians who are veterans receiving assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996, (3) veterans who are transitioning from being incarcerated, and (4) veterans participating in the VA's rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention program.

- H.R. 4830, SIT-REP Act: This bill provides for the disapproval of any course of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless the educational institution providing the course permits individuals to attend or participate in courses pending payment by Department, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 4835, Job TOOLS for Veterans Act: This bill extends the pilot program on off-base transition training for veterans and spouses.
- H.R. 5044, Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act: This bill clarifies the treatment of certain surviving spouses under the contracting goals and preferences of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Additionally on April 11th, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing on the nominations of Paul

R. Lawrence to be VA Undersecretary for Benefits; and Joseph L. Falvey Jr., to be a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).

During the hearing, both gentleman were allowed five minutes to provide opening remarks where each gave a brief description of his background, experience, and veteran status.

Mr. Lawrence, a graduate of West Point, thanked his family and explained that one of his priorities is to address over payments within the Department of Veterans Affairs. He also stated that he had not been interviewed by the White House, has no intention of privatizing the Department of Veterans Affairs, and is committed to ensuring all veterans receive the benefits they have earned, timely and accurately.

Mr. Falvey is a 30-year veteran of the United States Marines who has vast experience as a Judge Advocate but very limited experience in veterans law. Mr. Falvey did state that in the past few months he has been reading up on precedential decisions made by the CAVC and that his lack of VA experience does not hamper his ability to be an effective judge; instead, he will effectively apply the law without allowing outside influences to affect his decisions.



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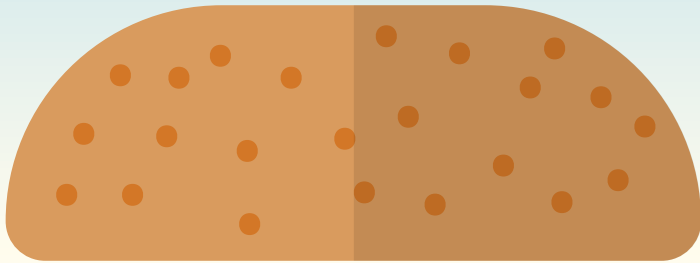
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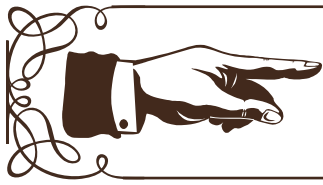
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**Paralyzed Veterans
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MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

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) 202.466.6549. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chapter Name: Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305

First Name: _____ **Middle Initial:** _____ **Last Name:** _____

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / _____ **Social Security Number:** _____ Male Female

Race/Ethnicity:

- Asian/Pacific Islander
- African American/Descent
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American/Alaskan Native
- Caucasian

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Home Phone: _____ **Other 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 conditions that are less than honorable? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease service connected? Yes No

DISABILITY CLASSIFICATION

Injury or diseases involving the brain but not the spinal cord do not qualify.

SPINAL CORD INJURY

Complete only if you have a traumatic spinal cord injury.

Date of Injury: ___ / ___ / _____

Cause of Spinal Cord Injury:

- Vehicular (car, motorcycle, aircraft, etc.)
- Violence (gunshot, explosion, etc.)
- Flying/Falling object
- Sport/Recreation (swimming, diving, etc.)
- Pedestrian (car accident, etc.)
- Unknown
- Other traumatic injury: _____

SPINAL CORD DISEASE

Complete only if there is no spinal cord injury.

Date of Diagnosis/Onset of Condition: ___ / ___ / _____

Specific Disease Involving Spinal Cord:

- Multiple Sclerosis (involving bowel & bladder)
- Poliomyelitis
- Syringomyelia
- Amyotrophic diseases (lateral sclerosis, transverse myelitis)
- Other: _____



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

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? Yes 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

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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 Signature: _____

Date Received: ___ / ___ / _____ **Date Acted Upon:** ___ / ___ / _____

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