

September/October 2018  
Volume 22, Issue 5



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Oregon Chapter

# PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



**Young Fundraisers for OPVA  
See page 40**

[www.oregonpva.org](http://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

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

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**Patient Advocates**

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**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.

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**Thank you to all our Sponsors!**

**Cover Photo:** Reese and Luke at OPVA office

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.



# Donate!

*We have been blessed over the years to have received priceless gifts and donations.*



Daniel Service – President

One of the areas we benefit in is donations of items. Every once in a while someone will stop by and donate items to us.

One wonderful lady made 21 hand crocheted lap blankets for our veterans. We are handing these lap blankets out to veterans at the Oregon Veterans Home in Lebanon, and The Dalles. The sincere appreciation for this is shown on the faces of those who receive them. The tears of gratitude shows the humility from their hearts.



We are asked about receiving donated vehicles. Most we refer to PVA's Wheels Helping Warriors (WHW) program. WHW will pick up, sell and take care of all paper work & donation/tax receipts. The vehicles we can seriously look into accepting at OPVA need to meet certain criteria. If we do accept a vehicle we will offer it to a member who qualifies for it. Again there is a criteria we follow before we give the vehicle away.

There are wonderful organizations putting on BBQ's; Putt Putt Golf Tournaments; Trap Shooting events; and many other fundraisers to raise money for our programs and events. We have been blessed over the years to have received these priceless gifts and donations.



As you look at our web site [www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org) you see many different events that are scheduled to support the programs and activities for the members of Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America. All of you are welcome to attend the events we hope to see you there!





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# VICE PRESIDENT NEWS



Larry Gardner—Vice President

OK we have had a lot going on this summer, with July and August being two of our busiest months and also September with the Oregon State Fair going on.

July 12-15 was the Marion County Fair it turned out to be the most profitable county fair to date. I want to thank all the volunteers that helped at this event and made it a very successful. THANK YOU!!!



Crook County Fair 2018

The Oregon State Fair started August 24th and runs through September 3rd. This is always one of the biggest events that we attend and is always very successful.

Another big event was our Show and Shine Car Show that was held at The Home Depot in south Salem, this is



when we drew the winning raffle ticket for the 1959 Chevrolet Apache pickup. The winner this year was in east Texas and only purchased one ticket for the win.



Then we unveiled the next raffle vehicle which is a 1946 flat fender Willy's Jeep and is in very nice condition.

September 16th is our Chapters annual Members Banquet being held once again at Spirit Mountain Casino in Grande Ronde. There will be silent auctions; a live band; guest speakers; awards ceremony; and a great meal served to all that attend, along with lots of fun. So be sure to RSVP & mark your calendar for the banquet and any of our events and meetings that we have.

You are always welcome to join in and get involved with us, because truthfully without all of you the members of Oregon PVA, we would not have a purpose or a reason to exist.

So to bring this to an end I once again want to thank our Executive Board; Executive Director; Board Members; all Directors; Office Staff; and Volunteer's for the valuable time spent to keep our chapter alive. Thank you all!



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter



**MEMBERS BANQUET**  
AT  
**SPIRIT MOUNTAIN**  
**CASINO**


27100 SW Salmon River Hwy  
Grand Ronde, OR 97347

**Save the Date**  
**September 16, 2018**  
RSVP by September 5th

**Door Prizes, Silent Auction  
& Live Entertainment**

**Hotel Reservations**  
**1-800-760-7977**

Banquet Check in 1 pm  
Social Time, 1 - 3 pm  
Dinner Served at 3 pm



For more information visit [www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org) or call 503-362-7998  
email: [oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org)



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Happy September all, what a year we have had!! Your Vice President Larry Gardner made a statement at the beginning of the new fiscal year last October, “Let’s make this year better than Last Year”.

You know I really believe your Board of Directors did just that. As I have talked about in past articles the chapter has instituted a new program, it is the “Ambassador Program”. Ken Townsend is OPVA’s first Ambassador located in Central Oregon. Kenneth has done a few events this year.



Barbara Townsend

Reality is that Ken doesn’t do this alone, I need to give a BIG shout out to his wife Barbra and daughter Paula, those two ladies are pure dynamo’s. Ken is also doing a Great job connecting with our members in the area and getting some volunteers to help him work the different events in the Central Oregon area, Great Job Ken and Team. It is now time to start looking for our next possible Ambassador Territory (I’m kind of thinking Southern Oregon). So if you are interested give us a call at the chapter office and let’s have a discussion.

As we close out the 2017-2018 year with the Oregon Chapter, reflecting on the variety of events the members have participated in or attended it is quite amazing. From car shows; small town festivals; auctions; golfing; trapshooting; bowling; deep sea fishing;

Oregon State Fair; to several County fairs; pizza get togethers; rabbit hunts; BBQ’s; dirt track racing; Veterans fishing day; attending baseball games; Texas Hold’em Porker Tournament and more. With this year’s events in the record books now we are looking to make 2018-2019 fiscal year even better than last year. The only way to make it better for all, is if we can get you to come on out and have fun with us. If you have an event or activity that you love to do and you didn’t see it listed above let us know and we will see how we can make it happen, because if you like doing something guess what, there are probably several others that would like to as well.

As you all know your Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America Chapter is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit and receives no money from State or Federal agencies, with that being said I am very happy to report that as a chapter we did NOT have to cut any of the programs this year, actually we added new sports opportunities as well as took on some new events, your Board of Directors is working hard for you the membership of OPVA.

**Let’s make this year even better than last year**

As a final reminder note: you’re Annual Membership and Awards Banquet is coming up on September 16th at Spirit Mountain Casino PLEASE RSVP to the office if you haven’t yet. I would love to see you there, if we haven’t met I look forward to meeting you. This year’s Banquet is going to be a blast, Great Food, Live Music by Tony Graham, Door Prizes, Silent Auctions, and this year’s Awards. So deadline to RSVP is September 7th you don’t want to miss it call the office 503-362-7998.

Remember Let’s Make this year even “BETTER THAN LAST YEAR”!



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Oregon Chapter

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CHARTERS** 

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(541) 765-2545

### **Dates & Times**

**Tue 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

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# SPORTS REPORT



Larry Gardner—Vice President

Here at Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America we are doing everything we can to try and get our members involved in some kind of sports.

Sometimes we feel that we are not doing enough or maybe the sports programs we have are not of your interest. Right now we have a trap shooting team with 9 members, and we are always hoping for more who have interest to join us at these shooting events.



Photo courtesy Albany Gun Club

If you are interested you can call the office at 503-362-7998 or call my cell at 503-930-9589 and I would be happy to help you get started.

Another sport we offer is our deep sea fishing trips, we scheduled 3 trips this year out of Depoe Bay with Dockside Charters, the 1st one was August 14th, 2nd one is September 19th, and the last one is October 18th.



The tips are free to our voting members and \$65 for guests. The boat that Dockside Charters uses is wheel chair accessible, so if you love fishing and crabbing hurry and get signed up for one of these great trips, space is limited.

Next is the bowling program available for all our members and no matter where you live in the country. You can bowl at your favorite bowling alley, and bowl an average of 3 games per week. Send in your scores and receipts to our office for reimbursement, so if interested please call or go online to get signed up and start having some fun.

Here at the chapter office we have some adaptive sports equipment for you to borrow: bowling balls; a couple of sports wheel chairs; two Freedom chairs; Action Trackchair; and an air gun. Call the office for more information.



I want to remind all our members that we are always open to any suggestions for more sports and games of your interests, please let us know so we can get together and make it happen. Remember we volunteer our time for our members but we need your help to be successful. Thank you all so much.



# ALBANY FUNSHOOT



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America  
Oregon Chapter

- Location:** Albany Gun Club  
35305 Hwy 20 SE, Albany, OR 97322
- Date & Time:** September 29, 2018. Registration is at 9 a.m.  
Trap Event 10 am - 4 pm
- Event Type:** Games Pepperoni Fun Shoot
- Cost:** \$4.00 each game



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Louie Grimmer – Board Member

## **Pete Missed a Bull at 35 Yards**

When Vern and Ted spooked the elk out of their supposedly safe hiding place the entire herd was going down to the road below at a dead run. I would say they were confused but after hunting elk for awhile you don't ever try to out think them. You will lose.

Sure enough, our hunting party thought we had the upper hand on the situation. The truth was the elk had a plan and they pulled the old switcheroo, double reverse, boot leg maneuver once again and out foxed even Pete.

The plan they devised was to come down the hill with great fanfare so everyone thought they were going to do one thing while they actually did two maneuvers at the same time (they faked us out).

What they did was come down the hill crashing and making all kinds of commotion.

They then split up with the main herd going away from Pete and Chuck. They were heading to where I was positioned. The part that split off from the main herd quietly turned in the direction of Pete and Chuck while the main bunch made very loud crashing and stomping noises in the other direction.

That drew our attention to them. In the meantime, the 5-point herd bull and three cows split off and tried to sneak away by going the opposite way. Pete spied the cows and noticed that the bull was with them. He had his horns laid back and was crouching behind the shield of cows where he felt safe until Pete shot.

It was then every elk for himself. Pete said he didn't hit the bull and shortly after his shot I fired. It was then that things got real interesting. Vern and Ted were acting as drovers and it took them an additional 40 minutes to get off the hill. Yes, Pete missed a 5-point bull at 35 yards.



## I Missed Cow Elk at 10 Feet!!!

My turn to blow it came. One might think I am a pretty good shot. Well, I had my moments (of missed shots). There are probably more that I can or want to think of. Yes, I missed a real nice cow elk at the scary range of 15 feet. My excuse was she almost ran over the top of little ol' me and I figured I bought the farm at that moment. Yes, it was scary but it happened so fast that all I could do was shoot and the loud noise probably saved me.

Here is what happened. We had located a small heard of elk that were in an area where no one in their right mind would go. It was so thick with brush and steep that elk were the only animals that would brave the terrain. Pete, Vern, Ted, Chuck and I converged at the bottom of the ridge and discussed what plan we were going to use to get them out of there. One has to remember that elk are not an animal you can drive like cattle or spook like a deer. They are smart and one learns to respect them. The Indians called them "Wapiti" or Ghost of the Forest.



There are times a whole heard of elk can sneak past a hunter and not make a sound. Other times it sounds like a locomotive crashing down the hillside. My incident was like a locomotive.

The plan was for Vern and Ted (we all had radios) to drive to a road near the top of the ridge. When they were in place they notified us and we all took a stand along the two mile road at the bottom of the ridge.

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The walk from the top to the bottom was about a mile or so but it was not that easy trudging through the thick brush. It was not possible to see more than 20 feet. It was probably not that an elk would be shot but a trusty rifle was carried just in case.

The five of us were all working together and usually that kind of activity draws other hunters. They want in on the activity. At that time we notified the guys up on the ridge about how many extra hunters were involved and where they were located. Above all, we worked safely no matter how exciting things got. SAFETY has the utmost priority and if anyone of us noticed something going wrong that person can point it out and the event can be called out and stopped.

The elk were now being agitated knowing somebody was invading their home and when elk get nervous they mill around and go in circles. They are probably trying to confuse whatever is trying to attack them. Vern and Ted made their descent very slowly, making sure the elk didn't slip between them. They effectively nudged them out of their safe home in the brush and into the relatively less thick stuff.

Two hours had passed and that was one of those times I mentioned when it gets real boring. One can't see what is going on BUT staying ready is the name of the game. Can you imagine goofing off or falling asleep at your assigned place while the other people are relying on you? They expected readiness after all their effort. They didn't want the chance of a lifetime to be missed.

Even more discouraging would be NOT doing your part and letting the hunting party down.

A call came from Vern, "They are on the move." Well, everything was far away from where I was and all the activity was going to happen down at the other end of the road a mile away. There was a shot from a 300 Winchester Short Magnum down (WSM) in that direction and shortly after that another shot and that sounded like the same gun. Now, the adrenaline really started to pump, thinking someone got a shot.

Elk have an ability to cover lots of ground when they want to and this was one of those times. The locomotive sound was coming in my direction and having a cow tag meant I was going to possibly have some action. I can shoot either left handed or right handed and at that moment I had to switch to the left. I anticipated the herd crossing about 80 yards on my right.

The locomotive crashing down the hill toward me sounded like an avalanche roaring toward me. All of a sudden there was pure unadulterated silence that was more deafening than the roar that preceded it. Elk never cross a road until they know the coast is clear.

I was sitting there not knowing what to expect next. I just held my breath.

What else could I do? I couldn't see anything up the hill from me as it was too brushy so all I could do was wait for their next move.



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I realized that they went too far to cross to my right and I figured they would cross at the bend of the road just 50 feet to my left. WRONG! Never try to outsmart an elk because they have a plan and that is what they are going to do.

**Hey, mom, why are we just standing here? Let's get going! This is boring. I'm hungry! I have to go to the bathroom."**

Chuck and Pete were a mile away and I had turned off my radio. When the elk were coming my direction, Vern and Ted were somewhere up on the ridge. That left me all alone with a herd of elk in front of me about 20 feet away. I simply could not see them because of the thick brush.

I have a habit of looking at my watch and timing events. The first shot was at 8:04 a.m. and the second shot was 18 seconds later. When I first heard the locomotive crashing down the hill toward me it was 8:13 a.m. I do that for the record of what times the animals moved about. That standoff with the elk right in front of me lasted for 18 minutes. After the elk made all that noise they just STOPPED --- ----- stood there listening! They did not make a sound. There was no hard breathing, no scratching, NOTHING.

I like to joke about that incident. I believe they were whispering to each other saying in elk talk, "Wow, that was scary being shot at. Hey, mom, why

are we just standing here? Let's get going! This is boring. I'm hungry! I have to go to the bathroom." Then Mother Elk, who is the leader, says to JUDY Elk, "Go out there where that man is and crash down almost on top of him. You will scare him to death and he will shoot and miss you then we all can get away unharmed."

Wow, what a plan and it worked just that way. However, I think Judy elk did not know exactly where I was so when she bounded out of the brush she was right in my lap. ...And Judy was not walking.

That encounter was so close I felt the wind of the elk as it RUSHED past me. Not being ready for a "Close Encounter of the First Elk Kind," I missed the shot of 10 feet.

That might have been very exciting but as soon as I shot I heard the ROAR of Chuck's Suburban, the infamous Mountain Corvette, coming my way. I wanted to crawl away and hide because I had avoided doing something wrong to that point and there was "Navy Chief Chuck" coming my way. The mile he traveled took only a couple seconds. When he came near me he slammed on the brakes, threw it into park and jumped out while the rig was still skidding and asked the question, "WHERE IS IT?"

It was then I got to explain what happened. If one knows Chuck one would understand that only perfection was acceptable. His face showed clearly his feelings when I showed him how close the tracks were (four feet) from where I was. If looks could kill...!



## RECREATION FUND REPORTS

Here are my receipts from my trip to Central OR. We went to 3 Rivers at Lake Billy Chinook. We rode our 4 wheelers, shot guns on the range they have, and went boating. We had a grand time.  
*R. Goffin*





# RECREATION FUND REPORTS



Please add this to my activities account. It should finish it for the year. This was a trip I took to Silverdale, Washington for the Annual Department of Washington, Marine Corps League Convention in early June.

I was asked to give a class to the Detachment Paymasters on how to do their job correctly.

Saturday night at the banquet I was selected by the members of the Department of Washington, Marine of the Year Society to be the Marine of the Year for Department of Washington.

*William A. Hauser*

Dear OPVA,  
I writing for the recreation fund. We were able to go to Ecola Inn, Cannon Beach, OR. We were there for a week enjoying the beach and near by towns. We go every year in March.

Thank you  
*John D. Phillips*



We appreciate the recreation reimbursement fund so much. We enjoyed an overnight stay at Diamond Lake with our adult sons. We used to take them there when they were in Jr High and High school. We had so many memories.

Gary has had MS for over 50 years and is on palliative care. Captain Mila who takes people out fishing took our family on a private scenic tour of the lake and explained the history that surround the lake. Thank you Captain Mila and Linda and mgt for all the kindness shown to us.

With appreciation Gary Cooper & Family



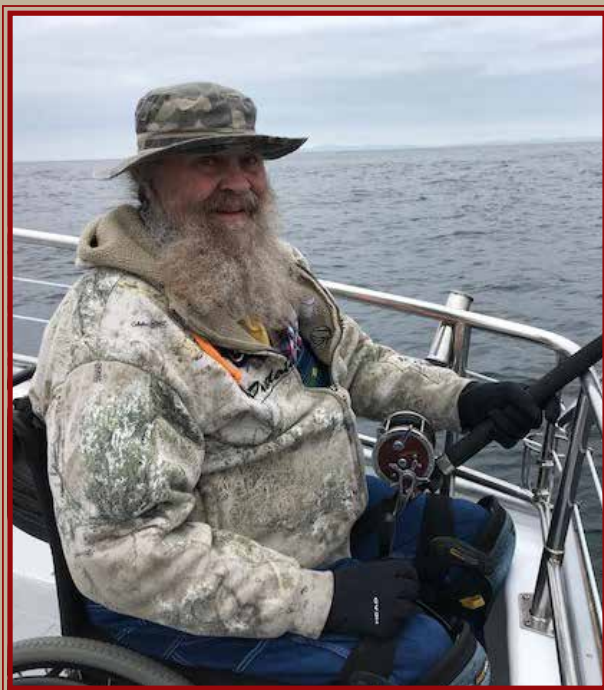
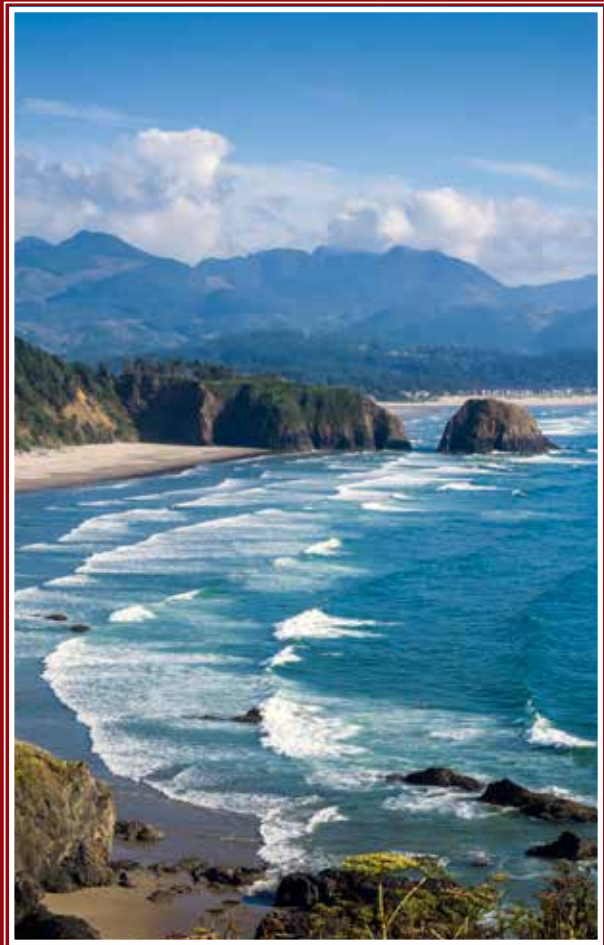
Oregon Chapter PVA;

Our 35th wedding anniversary was carefully planned for a special celebration on the coast relaxing at a new Newport hotel overlooking the bay. There were very few guests so we practically had the entire fourth floor to ourselves enjoying the quiet accommodation and an incredibly comfortable room with a view adding sparkle to our 35 years of marital bliss.

We dined at Georgie's Beachside Grill for fine food; we were not disappointed in our dinner selection and attentive (accessible) table service.

We returned home with a renewed spirit and commitment to each other. We suddenly realized we have been married for half our lives. The OPVA Recreation Fund helped to make this celebration possible. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
*Larry & BJ Ricklefs*



Thank you OPVA for the recreational fund. This recreational fund inspires me to get out of my Comfort zone and go out and do something that I wouldn't ordinarily do. This year just like last year I took my daughter and we went halibut fishing.

Now I have started something with my daughter that we will do every year now. It was a beautiful trip we stayed at south beach RV park in Newport. It is a beautiful place to stay we loved it, we got to see an area that we had never been to before. Thank you OPVA for the recreational fund.

*Ken Townsend*



I am submitting my Dish Network bills for my recreation fund. I am 90 years old and it is my only source of entertainment as I am unable to go out much anymore. Thank you.

*Fritz Von Allmen*



Dear Board,

We saw the bowling league article in *The Paralog* and we were surprised to see our scores. Thank you for amending the rules from a 3-game/week mandatory to a 3-game/week maximum. It has made it possible to stay in the league.

Thanks again for offering this opportunity. It's been a great reason for putting together a family get-together. So far, we've bowled with my mother, both our sons and their wives, and one of my brothers.

Sincerely,  
*Jerry D. Ryan*

For years I hunted for big game with a 300 Weatherby WSM and enjoyed the moments outdoors but now I am going to plan "B".

Airgunning is new to me and am finding it to be very enjoyable, not to say anything but I like how there is no recoil and is quiet. I just purchased a 10 shot break barrel by GAMO CHECK IT OUT. I want to thank the BOD for funding this program and want to encourage others to use this RECREATION FUND to make their life more interesting.



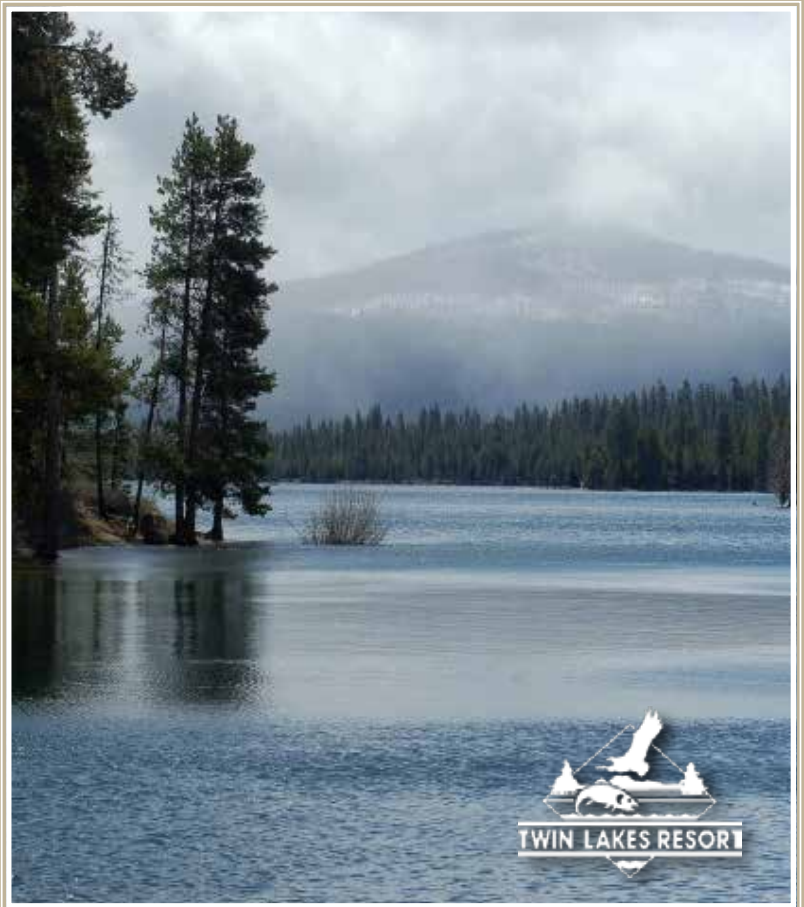
*Louie Grimmer*

On June 14th we headed to Twin Lakes Resort in central Oregon for a long weekend relaxing and fishing in the nearby lakes. On Friday the 15th we fished at Wickiup Reservoir.

We didn't get any fish in the boat, but lost one 20" kokanee at the boat. It was a really nice morning on the lake. Saturday we headed up to Paulina Lake.

It was really cold and windy up there, but we did manage to catch 10 kokanee before we yielded to the cold and wind and decided to just relax back at the cabin for the afternoon. It was a really nice, relaxing weekend with the family, made possible with the help of the Recreation Fund.

Thank you so much,  
*Richard L. Kyser*



## 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.**



# Emergency Preparedness Chapter Memo

August 9, 2018

From: PVA National Advocacy Program

As we approach the anniversary of last year's hurricane season and as much of the west deals with devastating forest fires, this seemed like a good time to remind chapters of the resources and contacts in their communities to assist people with disabilities in an emergency. If you have questions about this material or have additional resources to share with PVA members and chapters, please feel free to contact Susan Prokop, Senior Associate Advocacy Director at 202-416-7707 or [susanp@pva.org](mailto:susanp@pva.org).

As you know, most emergency preparation and response efforts are handled at the state and local levels and there is a certain degree of responsibility that falls on individuals when mass natural disasters occur. A wealth of information about emergency preparation, response and recovery can be found at [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov).

Partner with your local/state disability coalition - If your chapter has not previously connected with allies in the disability community, you should reach out to your local Center for Independent Living (CIL) or Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) - [a directory for local CILs and SILCs can be found at [www.ilru.org](http://www.ilru.org) ] or to your state Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system [a directory for which can be found at <https://www.acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/state-protection-advocacy-systems> ]. Ask your SILC or P&A if there is a disability emergency preparedness and response coalition in your state and how your chapter might become involved with that group or at least get a briefing about what your chapter members need to know in the event of a catastrophic emergency.

Contact your State and Territorial level resources – This page contains contact information for

emergency management agencies and offices - <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>. There, you will find an alphabetical listing by state and territory with phone numbers and websites for each office. Officials at these agencies should be able to connect your chapter with the individuals responsible for addressing the needs of people with disabilities in an emergency.

Is there a VOAD in your state, city or county? Some nonprofits are part of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) or Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), which are responsible for meeting disaster-caused unmet needs of disaster survivors. State VOADs work pre-disaster to promote training and preparedness. They work post-disaster to facilitate coordination of response and recovery efforts to assist in immediate coordination of voluntary agency response. The state VOAD often serves as advocate and liaison between member agencies and the state government agencies. Some communities develop COADs, which are coalitions of organizations based within a community or geographic area and composed of representatives from public, private, and not-for-profit agencies.

Reach out to the FEMA Regional Disability Integration Specialist - Each regional office for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is supposed to have a Regional Disability Integration Specialist (RDIS) tasked with ensuring that people with disabilities are included in preparation, response and recovery plans. Your chapter should consider contacting the RDIS in your state to develop relationships with these individuals through invitations to your meetings or other community events. Below is a list of these regional disability integration specialists and while some positions are vacant, you can contact the nearest RDIS for referral to an alternative official in your region.

Region	RDIS
One-Boston	Kate Barnett McCarthy Office of Region Administrator <a href="mailto:Kate.mccarthybarnett@fema.dhs.gov">Kate.mccarthybarnett@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Two-New York	James Flemming Office of Regional Administrator <a href="mailto:James.fleming@fema.dhs.gov">James.fleming@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Three-Philadelphia	Philip (PJ) Mattiacci Recovery Division <a href="mailto:Philip.mattiacci@fema.dhs.gov">Philip.mattiacci@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Four-Atlanta	Vacant External Affairs
Five-Chicago	Vacant External Affairs
Six-Denton	Christin Bradley Recovery Division <a href="mailto:Christin.bradley@fema.dhs.gov">Christin.bradley@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Seven-Kansas City	Georgette Wallace (Starts Aug. 2018) External Affairs <a href="mailto:Georgette.wallace@fema.dhs.gov">Georgette.wallace@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Eight-Denver	Mike Houston External Affairs <a href="mailto:Mike.houston@fema.dhs.gov">Mike.houston@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Nine-Oakland	Roxann Crawford External Affairs <a href="mailto:Roxann.Crawford@fema.dhs.gov">Roxann.Crawford@fema.dhs.gov</a>
Ten-Bothell	Danielle Bailey Office of Regional Administrator <a href="mailto:Danielle.bailey@fema.dhs.gov">Danielle.bailey@fema.dhs.gov</a>

**Federal resources** - Finally, this link - <https://www.dhs.gov/civil-rights-emergencies-and-disasters> - connects to a website for the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that contains resources for ensuring nondiscrimination in disaster preparation, response and recovery. It also contains links to transcripts from listening sessions conducted in California, Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands concerning FEMA's response to the 2017 disasters in those states which may offer to advocates suggestions for improving disability inclusion in emergency preparedness in their own communities.

**Additional select state level resources** - Some states and major cities have incorporated disability personnel into their emergency planning.

Below are some names and contact information for disability integration officials in those states and territories with the greatest exposure to natural disasters that PVA has been able to collect through contacts in the disability advocacy community. If you don't see your state or major urban center listed, you can reach out to your state or local government emergency management agency for that information.

**Alabama** - The Governor's Office on Disability is listed as a support agency in the state emergency operations plan. Graham Sisson is the director of the Office on Disability and can be reached at [graham.sisson@good.alabama.gov](mailto:graham.sisson@good.alabama.gov). His telephone number is 334-293-7189.



**Florida** – the state division of emergency management has a website devoted to information that people with disabilities should know at <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/disability/> and a list of Florida County Emergency Management Offices - <https://www.floridadisaster.org/counties>.

**California** - Vance Taylor is a disability policy advisor in the Governor's office. He can be reached at [vance.taylor@cal-oes.ca.gov](mailto:vance.taylor@cal-oes.ca.gov) and 916-845-8202.

**Houston, Texas** - Maria Town is the city's disability specialist and may be able to point to the right people to connect with at the state level. Her email is [maria.town@houstontx.gov](mailto:maria.town@houstontx.gov) and her number is 713-204-3832.

**Mississippi** - Christy Dunaway is the Disability Integration Advisor for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Her contact information is [cdunaway@mema.ms.gov](mailto:cdunaway@mema.ms.gov) and (601) 506-6454.

**Puerto Rico** - Jose Ramos Alicea is the 504 Coordinator for the Commonwealth. His email is [jramos@avp.pr.gov](mailto:jramos@avp.pr.gov) and his number is 787-759-9407 x 3123.

**Additional On-Line Resources** - Below are links to a number of organizations that specialize in disaster preparedness and response for people with disabilities.

- Pacific ADA Center – this member of the network of ADA Centers has developed particular expertise in emergency preparedness and response for people

with disabilities. They sponsor regular webinars on relevant topics and can be reached at <https://www.adapacific.org/>.

- National Organization on Disability (NOD) – has developed a number of fact sheets on disaster readiness:
  - <https://deldhub.gacec.delaware.gov/pdf/Readiness-Tips-Disabilities.pdf>
  - <http://www.tohsep.com/uploads/files/Readiness-Tips-Mobility-Disabilities.pdf>
  - <https://deldhub.gacec.delaware.gov/pdf/Readiness-Tips-Owners-Pets.pdf>
  - Functional Needs of People with Disabilities: A Guide for Emergency Managers, Planners and Responders [http://nod.org/research\\_publications/emergency\\_preparedness\\_materials/](http://nod.org/research_publications/emergency_preparedness_materials/)
- Portlight Inclusive Disaster Strategies - Portlight Strategies, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1997 to facilitate a variety of projects involving people with disabilities, including post-disaster relief work. <http://www.portlight.org>
- Pass It On Center – national and state resources for reuse of assistive technology - <https://texashelp.tamu.edu/browse/disaster-preparedness-information/hurricane-evacuation-planning-for-people-with-special-needs/>
- Hurricane Evacuation Planning for People with Special Needs - <https://texashelp.tamu.edu/browse/disaster-preparedness-information/hurricane-evacuation-planning-for-people-with-special-needs/>



**Willamette AUTO DETAIL** 

8770 Aumsville Hwy SE, Salem, OR 97317  
Tel: 503-743-1110

1941 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem, OR 97305  
Tel: 503-585-6681

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- Engine Detailing
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# *Celebration of* **HONOR**

**September 26-30, 2018 • Lincoln City, OR**

**Field of Honor • Cost of Freedom Tribute**

**Oregon Traveling Memorial Wall • American Infantry Camp**

**Military Uniform Display • 5K Run for Honor**

**Vets Helping Vets HQ - Wall of Honor**

**Free Buffet for Serving Military and Veterans**

**Free Live Entertainment • Military and Veterans Service Tent**

**For more information contact Bill John  
(541) 996-5815 or [williamj@cwresort.com](mailto:williamj@cwresort.com)**



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**Lincoln City • 1-888-CHINOOK • [chinookwindscasino.com](http://chinookwindscasino.com)**



## VA Mission Act



Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison

On May 23, the United States Senate voted 92-5 for the VA MISSION Act. The bill is now headed to President Trump's desk for signature. The House of Representatives passed the bill on May 16, by a vote of 347-70. This historic legislation will reform care in the community, assess VA's infrastructure, and finally, correct the inequality of the VA Caregiver Program.

Since the access crisis, illustrated by wait times in Phoenix in 2014, Congress, VA, and VSOs have worked to create a system to ensure it never happens again. While the VA MISSION Act is not a perfect solution, it is a monumental step forward to ensure veterans are never without options. All seven VA community care programs, including the Choice program will be consolidated in to a single program. The infrastructure provision will review and realign VA's health care infrastructure. Other provisions will strengthen VA's ability to hire and train medical personnel.

Veterans who were catastrophically injured before September 11, 2001, and their caregivers, will also now be eligible to access the full services of the Caregiver Program. By ending this inequity, roughly 70,000 veterans will now be able to receive care and remain in their homes. At the same time, their caregivers, having sacrificed their own health and employment opportunities, some for half a century, will finally have desperately needed supports, and be acknowledged for the decades of service given, and billions of taxpayer dollars saved.

The passage of the VA MISSION Act is largely due to the efforts of Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Ranking Member Jon Tester (D-MT), as well as House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Phil Roe (R-TN). The advancement and ultimate inclusion of the caregiver expansion in the final version of the bill is due to the persistence of Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). Without the bipartisan efforts of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, this legislation would not have made it across the finish line.

The expansion of VA's Caregiver Program has been a top priority for PVA for the last eight years. Recognizing the degree of injury endured by service members returning home from recent conflicts, and the burden shouldered by their caregivers, Congress took bold action in 2010 to enable VA to meet their needs and established the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, though limited it to veterans injured on or after September 11, 2001. As a result of the VA MISSION Act, as soon as VA has certified their information technology is updated and prepared to handle a new influx of applicants, those veterans injured on or before May 7, 1975, will be able to apply. Two years later, those veterans injured on or after May 8, 1975, will be able to apply to the Caregiver Program. As with any unique program, especially one that is the scale of the Caregiver Program (there are

currently 22,000 participants) and this integrated a reach, challenges were encountered. Challenges included unclear policy, understaffing, and an antiquated IT system. Over the last eight years, the only reason this program was not expanded was due to cost concerns. While expansion will be a significant cost, upwards of several billion dollars, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, it is also true there would be commensurate savings from delaying a veteran's entry into institutional care and community savings by ensuring caregivers remain healthy.

For all the bluster, debate, and discussion from Congress about veterans' choice and care in the community, what they long failed to hear was the near universal call from disabled veterans who choose to be cared for at home with their families. And for eight years, Congress said it costs too much; however, this year saw cracks in that position. As the country confronts an impending wave of aging veterans, who will soon require long-term care services, and acknowledges the moral vacuum that is a program based on date of injury, members of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs found a path forward for caregivers.

The ability to remain at home, with one's spouse and children, among friends, and in a community, is critical to a veteran's wellbeing. At the same time, we know caregivers have sacrificed to care for their veterans. PVA, alongside other veterans service organizations, will continue to advocate for America's heroes and their caregivers, and ensure this program is implemented properly, and made available to pre-9/11 veterans as quickly as possible. *(Source: <http://www.pvablog.com/va-mission-act>)*

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 OPVA 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 found on the website. Fax the completed form to (202) 416-7754 or email to [prosthetics@pva.org](mailto:prosthetics@pva.org)



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!



[WheelsHelpingWarriors.org](http://WheelsHelpingWarriors.org) / 866-204-4548  
Paid for by the Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation



# FILING A CLAIM FOR VETERANS' MORTGAGE LIFE INSURANCE (VMLI)

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Benefits  
Administration

*Follow these steps to expedite the processing of your claim.*

**DO NOT  
PAY OFF THE  
MORTGAGE  
WITH OTHER  
INSURANCE OR  
FUNDS.**

VMLI can only be used to pay your mortgage company.

**It cannot be paid** to a spouse, child, etc.

## STEP 1

- Contact the VA Insurance Center (VAIC) to report the passing of the Veteran.  
**1(800) 669-8477**
- Have the Veteran's Claim Number available

## STEP 2

Gather the following documents and send to VAIC.

1. Veteran's Death Certificate (**Does not have to be a certified copy**)
2. Payoff or Account Statement  
This should include:
  - a. Balance of mortgage after last payment made prior to death of Veteran
  - b. Address of mortgage company where VMLI payment should be sent
  - c. Per diem rate: The prorated amount of interest due for remaining days in month after death.

VA is unable to obtain this information on your behalf due to privacy laws.

This is not the same address as where you send your monthly payments.



## STEP 3

Please send all documentation from **STEP 2** to:

**VA Claim Address:** P.O. Box 7208  
Philadelphia, PA 19101 *or*  
**VA Claim Fax:** 1(888) 748-5822

Keep paying your mortgage while awaiting VMLI payment





Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter

# OPVA Bowling Leagues



*Fall, Winter & Spring*



*Walnut City Lanes*  
McMinnville



Store 247-West Salem



**Sign Up  
Now!**

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

# 2018 OPVA BOWLING LEAGUE REGISTRATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bowling Alley Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer League July 2nd thru Aug 31st



### STATUS

Member

Associate Member

(I will have my Volunteer hours by the 1st of the month or I will pay my own expenses)

Non Member

( I am responsible for my own Expenses)

Here is how it works, you will be bowling at an alley of your choice. Each bowler will be bowling a maximum of 3 games per week, by the end of each month you will submit your scores as well as your bowling fees for reimbursement, be sure to save your receipts.

You can submit your scores weekly but will be reimbursed monthly.

(This does not effect your Recreation Fund)

There will be awards and trophies presented at the Annual Members Banquet in September.

This year we will have the Spring League and then a short Summer League. the Winter League will start Jan 1, 2019.

I agree to the Terms and Conditions of the Bowling League

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America - 3700 Silverton Rd. NE Salem OR 97305**

**503-362-7998**



# DONATED ITEMS

The inventory has really changed since July Paralog. But we still have quite a bit and some new items. Here are some pictures of the items we are featuring this time.

Vets if you need a power chair from the VA and are waiting, we have some to give out free. Some may need batteries which can be purchased at Northwest Batteries for \$150.00 each, at least you will have a chair till the VA gives you one. Then you can use it as a backup to your new one.

A number of various Rollators (11 regular and one 3 wheel), some Walkers, and an Iris 70 degree tilt Manual Wheel Chair, regular Manual chairs, and 2 lifts for a van or car.

The Joerns Ultra Care 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.

The E-motion power-assisted wheels (#code 2017-0065) are mounted on the wheelchair in place of the manual wheels. The batteries are integrated in the wheel hub. A sensor registers the propelling movement and activates the electrical motors. Also we have two new Spinergy wheels for Invacare Manual wheelchair (#code 2018-0047).



**Joerns UltraCare XT Bed**



**Quantum Power Chair**



**Bruno Joey VSL-4000HW Lift**



**Pride Outlander Scooter Lift**



**Invacare Tracer EX2**



**Rollator Drive**



**Rollator Carex**

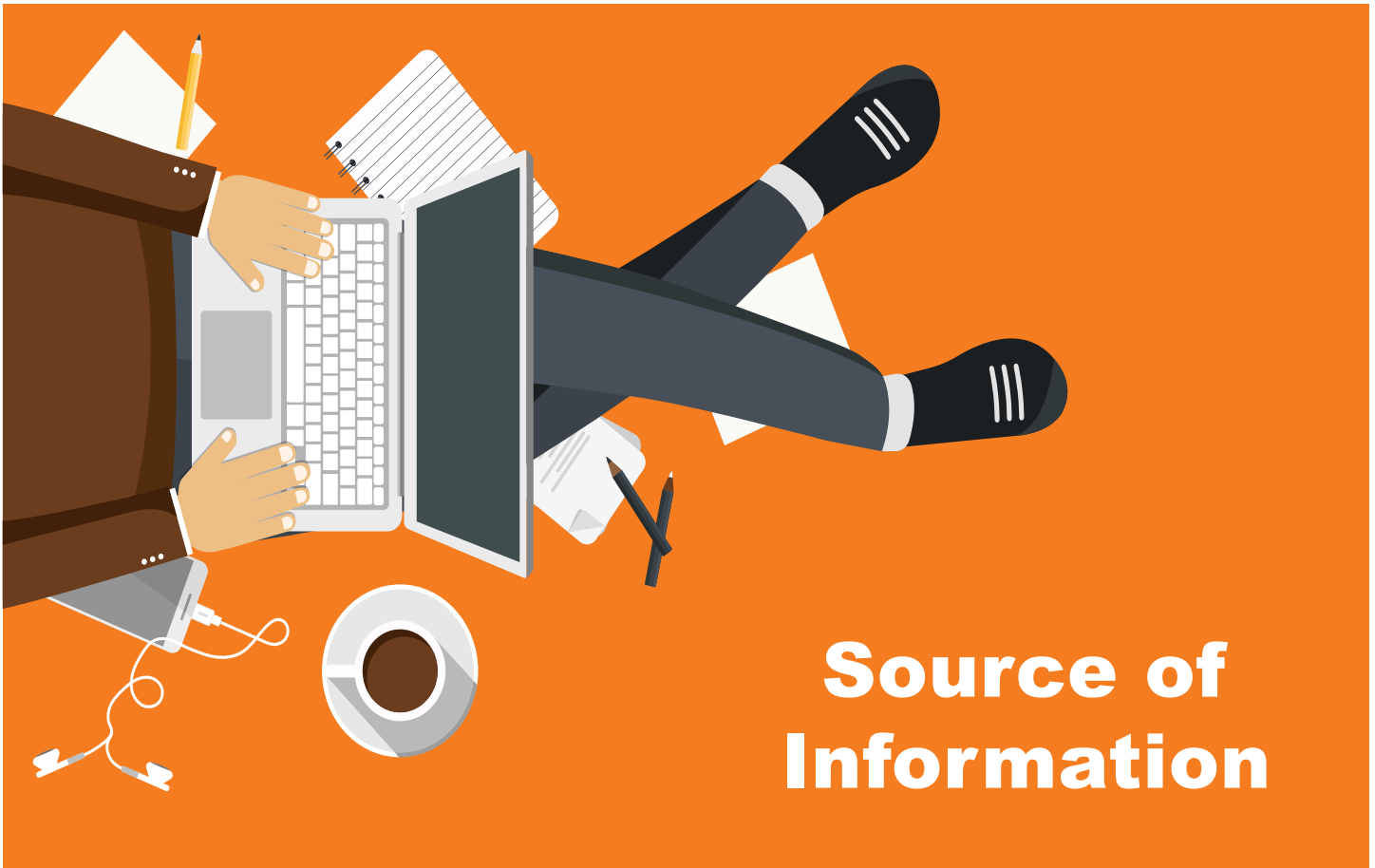
**E-motion Assist Wheels**



**Spinergy Wheels**

**Quickie IRIS Manual Tilt-In-Space Wheelchair**





## Source of Information

Sue Holt – MS Liaison

Everything in today's information age is readily available on the internet. Not everyone has a computer or access to one. This article will let you know what the regulation covers in the multiple sclerosis system of care and where you can access if you need to.

First the regulation. It is VHA directive 1101.06. It originates from the department of veterans and the veterans health administration, Washington D.C. and is dated April 14, 2017.

This regulation rescinds VHA handbook 1011.06 dated December 7, 2009. To read this new directive you can access on line, just Google VHA Directive 1101.06 and it will come up.

Another alternative is to stop by the office here as we maintain a copy readily available for your use.

Don't forget most libraries have access you can use if needed. Some of the things it covers are the purpose, background, policy, and responsibilities to name a few. It is not the end all to be all.

You are referred to <http://www.va.gov/ms> in the policy section. So if you want to add to your summer reading or new to all these goings on then by all means look it up, call or stop by. That's what were here for.

Thinking ahead to next March. Many of you know that March is MS awareness month. The months following are the walks for MS.

I am going to try to hold a yard sale/awareness table at place to be determined. Keep in mind that if you have any items you'd like to donate please call the office for details... just leave a message and I will get back to you asap.



# Happy Birthday

Steven Herron	9/1	Charles Demoss	10/4
George Weathers	9/2	Julie Pollard	10/4
Charles Abernathy	9/2	David Holt	10/5
Gregory Pearce	9/3	Angelo Suran	10/7
Michael Angerinos	9/3	Tom Weare	10/9
Henry "Evan" Burroughs	9/4	Travis Nelson	10/9
Clydine Hernandez	9/5	Michael Johnson	10/10
Darrel Von	9/5	Jeffery Fortner	10/10
Samuel Learn	9/5	Linda Parker	10/10
William Smith	9/5	Bradley Barton	10/11
Donald Boss	9/6	Amy Sanders	10/13
Edward McKinney	9/8	Albert Wagoner	10/15
James Bender	9/10	Matthew Denny	10/18
Gary Cooper	9/11	Jerry Ryan	10/19
Michelle Beech	9/11	Barbra Townsend	10/19
Colin Dye	9/13	Gilbert Arendt	10/20
Brad Gardner	9/14	Shawn Kellar	10/20
William Kincaid	9/15	Albert Bocanegra	10/21
Tyler May	9/16	Linda Adams	10/24
Rita Baugh	9/17	Jerome Brewer	10/26
Carlton Herron	9/18	Keith Wingfield	10/26
Cara Overstreet	9/20	Dennis Hooper	10/27
Martin Campos	9/21	Stephanie Hartzell	10/28
Westley Carter	9/24	Wayne Howell	10/28
Lisa Hurt	9/24	Larry VonSchell	10/29
Kenneth Townsend	9/25	Steven Murphy	10/29
Andrea Harris	9/25	John Jabson	10/30
Larry Rilling	9/26	Mike Rosenbalm	10/30
Jeffry Watkins	9/26		
Daniel Ash	9/27		
Michael Bigsby	9/27		
Charles Montague	9/28		
John Siemssen	9/28		
Naomia Gardner	9/29		
Kristy McNulty	9/29		





# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Labor Day <b>Office Closed</b>	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 BOD 10:00 a.m.	28	29
30						

**Congratulations to the  
Vehicle Raffle Winner 2018  
“59” Chevy PU**

**Ticket # 181168**





# October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day Office Closed	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	30	31			

## Save the Date

<b>9/8</b>	<b>Nut Shoot - Hillsboro</b>	<b>9/29</b>	<b>Fun Shoot - Albany</b>
<b>9/9</b>	<b>Sublimity Harvest Fest</b>	<b>10/18</b>	<b>Deep Sea Fishing</b>
<b>9/16</b>	<b>Members Banquet</b>	<b>11/11</b>	<b>Albany Vets Day Parade</b>
<b>9/19</b>	<b>Deep Sea Fishing</b>	<b>11/22-23</b>	<b>Thanksgiving - Office Closed</b>
<b>9/22</b>	<b>Salem Elk Lodge - Poker Tournament</b>	<b>12/15-1/1</b>	<b>Christmas &amp; New Years - Office Closed</b>
<b>9/28-29</b>	<b>Celebration of Honor Chinook Winds</b>		



## **ROBERT WILKIE CONFIRMED AS SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

The Senate confirmed Robert Wilkie to serve as Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, on July 23rd. The vote was 86-9 in favor of confirmation. Wilkie's confirmation marks the first time that such a vote was not unanimous. He has been sworn in and is now at the reigns of the Department.

Secretary Wilkie has many crucial tasks ahead of him at VA. One of the most important of these tasks is the need to shepherd the implementation of the VA MISSION Act and the consolidation of the VA's community care programs, including the Choice Program, into the new Veterans Community Care Program. In addition, VA is currently in the process of implementing the Appeals Modernization Act. Another key task will be managing and implementing the new electronic health record modernization project with the Cerner Corporation.

In light of reports of a shadow advisory team controlling VA that is comprised of non-VA, non-governmental individuals, Secretary Wilkie will need to navigate many competing interests both internal to VA and external. PVA has already established a good relationship with Secretary Wilkie. Moving forward, we will be a consistent presence to ensure that VA remains focused on its mission to serve veterans.

## **PVA FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST DOT IN RESPONSE TO DELAYS IN PUBLISHING A RULE ON LAVATORY ACCESS**

On July 31st, PVA, along with PVA National Treasurer Tom Wheaton, filed a lawsuit against the Department of Transportation (DOT) for its delay in issuing a proposed rule that would improve the accessibility of aircraft lavatories for passengers with disabilities. In 2016, PVA worked with Congress to ensure inclusion of a requirement in a 2016 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) extension bill for DOT to issue a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on this and other Air Carrier Access Act issues by July 2017. DOT missed this deadline. Furthermore, DOT has taken little action to date to move forward with this important rule.

There is a heightened need for DOT to move forward with this rule because of the agreement reached by the ACCESS Committee during the 2016 negotiated rulemaking on this and two other issues. That agreement provides, in the long-term, for accessible lavatories. PVA is concerned that if DOT continues to stall in publishing a proposed rule, which is to be based on that agreement, that all of the forward momentum gained during the negotiated rulemaking will be lost.

PVA's suit was filed in the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by Democracy Forward. Democracy Forward also represents PVA in our ongoing suit





against the rollback of a rule requiring domestic airlines to track and report data on lost and damaged wheelchairs and scooters. That case is set for a hearing on September 7th, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

## **SENATOR CASEY INTRODUCES DISABILITY LEGISLATION**

On the eve of the 28th anniversary of the ADA, Senator Robert Casey (D-PA) introduced S. 2360, the Disability Employment Incentives Act (DEIA) and S. 3261, the Office of Disability Policy Act.

The DEIA is designed to encourage employers to hire and retain employees with disabilities by enhancing three existing tax credits to support employers who hire individuals with disabilities and make workplaces more accessible to those employees. It would do so by extending coverage of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for hires of persons receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and raise the amount of the salary considered for credit from \$6,000 to \$12,500, raising the maximum available tax credit from \$2,400 to \$5,000.

The DEIA also provides a tax credit for any business that retains an employee for a second year of employment and permits the business to take a credit on 20 percent of the employee's salary up to \$12,500, which is a \$2,500 credit. The measure also makes long overdue improvements in the Disability Access Expenditures Tax Credit that is available to small businesses with gross receipts of less than \$3 million annually or with no more than 60 full-time employees. The maximum tax credit will be raised from \$5,000 to \$10,000. In addition, S. 2360 improves the Architectural and Transportation Barrier Tax deduction by increasing to \$30,000 the amount that can be deducted by a business for expenses incurred in removing existing physical barriers in qualified facilities or in transportation vehicles. Businesses will also be able to take the deduction for expenses for making their telecommunications and on-line

business operations accessible. The credit and tax deduction may not be used for new structures, only for existing structures where the expenses are used to create accessible spaces to the standards of the U.S. Access Board.

S. 3261 would establish within the General Accountability Office an Office on Disability Policy to provide analyses of how proposed federal legislation, proposed regulations and proposed guidance will affect individuals with disabilities, their families, and those who support individuals with disabilities by providing services. The Office will conduct reviews, upon the request of members of Congress, and produce an annual report on the bills and regulations enacted and considered that will affect the disability community.

In remarks introducing the DEIA, Sen. Casey said, "We need more people with disabilities in competitive integrated employment to strengthen our economy and to enhance the capacity of our businesses. As a nation, our duty now is to take the actions that protect and enhance the rights of all Americans, including those with disabilities, and make equality for all a reality." Explaining the need for the Office of Disability Policy, the Senator noted the recent attacks on laws vital to people with disabilities, such as H.R. 620, the ADA Education and Notification Act, show why "non-partisan information about the proposals that could harm people with disabilities and the infrastructure that makes it possible for them to participate in our society" is so important.

## **PELOSI HOLDS ROUNDTABLE WITH VSOS—VA MISSION ACT FUNDING FOCUS OF DISCUSSION**

Heather Ansley, Acting Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, represented PVA at a VSO roundtable meeting held by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), on July 25th. The main topic of conversation at the roundtable was funding for implementation

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of the VA MISSION Act. Prior to passage of that bill, Leader Pelosi, House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Tim Walz (D-MN), and others expressed concerns about the unfunded requirements in the legislation.

During the roundtable, PVA acknowledged the funding difficulties and the potential for tradeoffs as a result of discretionary spending caps. Many programs that veterans depend on beyond the VA are funded using discretionary monies. In light of a recent decision by Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby (R-AL) to pull back on his efforts to attach a VSO-supported amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Military Construction and VA appropriations bill that would have addressed funding concerns, Leader Pelosi sought new ideas from participants about how to meet this need.

For our part, PVA, and the other leading VSOs, committed to fighting for the funds needed to ensure that the VA MISSION Act can be implemented as Congress intends. Although the Administration contends that the Act's requirements can be funded from existing discretionary allocations, Congress and the VSOs have expressed doubts about this assertion. In the meantime, we are working with the appropriators on this issue as they finalize the FY 2019 funding bill for VA.

## **PVA SUBMITS TESTIMONY IN SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE HEARING**

On August 1st, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing on pending legislation. Bills on the agenda included the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018 (H.R. 299), the Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act of 2018 (draft), the VA Hiring Enhancement Act (draft), and draft legislation to improve the Transition Assistance Program. PVA submitted testimony for the record on the bills most relevant to our membership.

The main focus of the hearing was the Blue Water Navy bill, which would extend the presumption of exposure to herbicides containing dioxin, including Agent Orange, to veterans who served in "blue water" or off the shores of Vietnam. Although H.R. 299 has bi-partisan and VSO support, the VA opposes this legislation based on the assertion that scientific evidence does not show that these veterans were exposed to such herbicides. It is not clear whether the Senate will be able to move this or any of the other bills addressed in the hearing due to the limited time left in the legislative calendar.

PVA's written testimony on H.R. 299 and the other bills addressed, along with a recording of the hearing, is available here: <https://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/pending-legislation-08012018>.

## **INCLUSIVE HOME DESIGN ACT REINTRODUCED**

On July 26th, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) introduced H.R. 6509, the Eleanor Smith Inclusive Home Design Act named after the long-time advocate for "visitability" in single family homes. The legislation would require all newly-built single-family homes and townhouses receiving federal funds to meet several accessibility standards, including: at least one accessible (or "zero step") entrance into the home; doorways wide enough for a wheelchair on the main level; one wheelchair accessible bathroom; and light switches and thermostats at reachable heights from a wheelchair.

Currently, only 5 percent of new single-family homes and townhouses built with federal assistance require any access features that make it possible for people with mobility impairments to live in or even visit the homes. The remaining 95 percent are built with unnecessary architectural barriers. The average added cost to incorporate accessibility features at the time of construction is

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between \$100 and \$600. Retrofitting a home, on the other hand, can cost thousands of dollars.

While the Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require accessibility features in multifamily housing, both privately and publicly-funded, neither of these laws apply to the millions of single-family homes and townhomes built in this country. As PVA noted in a letter endorsing H.R. 6509, this legislation will reduce the isolation felt by many people with disabilities barred from visiting friends, family, and coworkers who live in single family houses and townhouses. The inclusion of basic architectural accessibility features in such dwellings will also alleviate the need for people to leave their homes when they acquire a disability.

## **PVA ATTENDS THE 2018 TSA DISABILITY AND MULTICULTURAL COALITION CONFERENCE**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) hosted its 16th annual disability and multicultural coalition conference in Arlington, Virginia, on August 7th. The keynote speaker was David Pecoske, Administrator for TSA. Mr. Pecoske said that the 60,000 employees of the TSA are dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of our nation's airports and the flying public. Over two million people are screened everyday by TSA officers before boarding a flight to their destination. TSA is in the process of rolling out new screening technology that will allow agents to see better what is in passengers' carry-on luggage. This will result in quicker processing through the security line and fewer invasive inspections of luggage.

TSA has several programs to assist passengers with disabilities to streamline the process of going through security. First, TSA Cares allows a passenger with a disability, medical condition, or any other special circumstance to contact a hotline, (855) 787-2227, weekdays 8AM – 11PM or

weekends 9AM-11PM, as early as 72 hours prior to travel to receive answers to questions about screening policies, procedures, and what to expect at the security check point. TSA Cares can also arrange assistance for passengers with medical conditions as well as injured service members, veterans, and wounded warriors.

TSA Pre-check is a smarter travel experience with fewer hassles and less stress. TSA Pre-check is an expedited security screening program that connects travelers departing from within the United States with smarter security and a better air travel experience for a cost of \$85 for a five year membership. Using a risk-based, intelligence driven approach to pre-screen travelers, TSA Pre-check delivers the most effective and efficient security experience for the passenger. For eligible passengers, they will pass through a dedicated security line, where they will no longer need to remove their shoes, belts, light jackets, liquids, or laptops. Once approved, a passenger will receive a Known Traveler Number (KTN) which can be entered into the reservation process to ensure the Pre-check benefit is listed on the passenger's ticket / boarding pass. Passengers with disabilities may also be Pre-check approved, which will expedite the screening and alleviate the "pat down" process. Administrator Pecoske encouraged participation in the Pre-check program and TSA Cares saying that they were ready to assist passengers with disabilities to ensure a seamless travel experience.

## **PVA PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO VA ON HEALTH CARE ACCESS STANDARDS**

On July 13th, Heather Ansley, Acting Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, presented PVA's views at a public meeting in Arlington, Virginia, regarding VA's requirement to establish access standards that will assist them in designing a network of providers for the new Veterans Community Care Program. PVA was one of two VSOs that presented views at the meeting to VA community care officials.



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Ms. Ansley's oral comments reflected the need to ensure that VA designs a system that meets the clinical needs of veterans and that allows for the decision between a physician and veteran to be the most important determining factor for accessing outside care. In the event an SCI/D veteran is referred to the community, Ms. Ansley stated that the veteran's primary care physician must be alerted to the referral. She also expressed that any community providers selected to provide care to veterans must have facilities and equipment that are accessible and appropriate for patients with disabilities.

In addition to accepting comments at the public meeting, VA also requested stakeholders to submit written comments. PVA's submitted comments reflected our oral comments from the public meeting. To view PVA's written comments, please visit: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=VA-2018-VACO-0001-157>.

## **U.S. ACCESS BOARD RELEASES ANIMATION ON SALES AND SERVICE COUNTERS**

The U.S. Access Board has released an animation on accessible sales and service counters as part of its online guide to standards issued under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). The 12-minute animated film shows how access can be achieved to different types of counters, including sales counters and hotel check-in counters. It also covers access to teller and service windows, queues and waiting lines, check-out aisles, food service lines, self-service shelves, and food and beverage dispensers.

This animation is the most recent in a series produced by the Access Board. Other animations address wheelchair maneuvering, entrances and doors, toilet and bathing facilities, protruding objects, parking and passenger loading zones, and signs. The animations can be viewed or downloaded through the Board's website.

They are also available on the Board's new YouTube channel along with videos about the Board and its work.

The Board's online guide to the ADA and ABA Standards also features technical bulletins that explain and illustrate requirements and address common questions. Bulletins are currently available on the first five chapters of the standards, including application and scoping, building blocks, accessible routes, accessible means of egress, parking and passenger loading zones, and stairways. The Guide to the ADA Standards covers design requirements for places of public accommodation, commercial facilities, and state and local government facilities subject to the ADA. The Guide to the ABA Standards addresses similar standards that apply under the ABA to facilities that are federally funded.

Future installments to the guides will be released as they become available. Users can sign-up to receive email updates on the release of other animations and bulletins in the series.

## **CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES RELEASES REVIEW OF DISABILITY-RELATED CASES INVOLVING SUPREME COURT NOMINEE JUDGE BRETT KAVANAUGH**

On July 9th, President Trump nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to serve on the United States Supreme Court. Judge Kavanaugh was nominated to replace retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy. He currently serves as a judge on the federal Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. In his time on that court, he has issued a number of decisions relevant to people with disabilities.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) has scheduled Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing to begin on September 4th. The Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities recently released a document that serves as a

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summary of Judge Kavanaugh's decisions and statements that either directly or indirectly concern people with disabilities. The document is available on CCD's website at <http://www.c-c-d.org/fichiers/Kavanaugh-memo-CCD-Rights.pdf>.

## **COMMENT PERIOD OPENS FOR PROPOSED REGULATORY CHANGES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT APPEALS MODERNIZATION**

In the fall of 2017, the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act (Public Law 115-55) was passed and signed into law. Part of this legislation requires VA to make changes to its existing regulations to implement the law's provisions. On August 10th, VA published the proposed changes that will impact VA claims and how they are appealed. These changes are divided into the following sections:

- Part 3 Adjudication
- Part 8 National Service Life Insurance
- Part 14 Legal Services, General Counsel and Miscellaneous Claims
- Part 19 Board of Veterans' Appeals – Appeals Regulations
- Part 20 Board of Veterans' Appeals – Rules of Practice
- Part 21 Vocational Rehabilitation and Education

It is important to review these changes for a few reasons. First, is VA changing the rules based on how Congress gave them the authority to do so when passing Public Law 115-55? Also, do the rule changes make sense in a way that our National Service Officers will understand, that our clients will understand, but most importantly, VA employees will understand?

PVA has testified that although we support the Appeals Modernization Act, we believe care must be taken when implementing the law. VA has testified that the law will be implemented in February 2019; however, we have concerns that by rushing to make the deadline, little details will be overlooked that will cause more problems further down the road. PVA's claims and appeals staff will carefully evaluate the proposed changes and submit comments for VA's consideration.

## **PVA PARTICIPATES IN HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE ON PROSTHETICS**

On July 25th, PVA participated in a roundtable hosted by House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Health Chairman Dr. Neal Dunn and Ranking Member Julia Brownley. The focus of the roundtable was current practices and future trends of VA prosthetics care. Fred Downs, PVA's Prosthetics Consultant, and Heather Ansley, Acting Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, represented PVA at the event. Although the focus of the roundtable was on prosthetic limbs and orthotics, the event opened the door to sharing information about our concerns with the status of the VA's Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) program and VA's Prosthetics Service in general. PVA will be further exploring our concerns with the committee about the AAE program in particular later this fall.



**PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
Government Relations Department  
801 Eighteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006  
(800) 424-8200 • (800) 795-4327 • [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)



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.

# Thank you!



A big thank you to Reese (7 1/2) and Luke (4 1/2), local sister and brother, for raising over \$250 for Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America.

They set up a lemonade stand at the Salem Public Library to sell home made lemonade and oatmeal raisins chocolate chip cookies to raise funds for a local veterans organization and they chose OPVA.



Reese also made these thank you notes for people to sign when they purchased lemonade and cookies. These notes will be given to our veterans

## Van Donation

Daniel Service, OPVA President with member Brian Beninger, recipient of the a van donated to OPVA for a veteran.







# 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

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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

## 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 Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Received:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Acted Upon:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Member ID Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Received:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Processed:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

### ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

#### Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

January 28-29, 2019  
San Diego, CA

#### Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 6-7, 2019  
Richmond, VA

#### Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 30-31, 2019  
Milwaukee, WI

#### New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament\*

April 26-28, 2019  
Brockton, MA

#### Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

April 26-27, 2019  
Geneva, OH

\*indicates combined events

### PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

#### North Central Trapshoot

September 8-9, 2018  
Sioux Falls, SD

#### Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament and Handgun Shoot

November 9-11, 2018  
Charles City, VA

#### Arizona Shooting Sports Tournament

February 8-10, 2019  
Phoenix, AZ

#### Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

March 29-31, 2019  
Redlands, CA

#### Pistol Shoot - March 29, 2019

Lytle Creek, CA

#### Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

May 17-19, 2019

#### Rifle/Pistol Shoot - May 17, 2019

Green Bay, WI

#### Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament

May 31-June 2, 2019  
Elburn, IL

#### Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

June 14-16, 2019  
**Pistol Event - June 14, 2019**  
Cedar Rapids, IA

#### Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament

June 21-23, 2019  
Waxahachie, TX

### PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

#### Mid-America Bass Tournament

September 21-23, 2018  
Eufaula, OK

#### Vaughan Bass Tournament

October 5-7, 2018  
Whittington, IL

#### Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament

March 29-31, 2019  
Tavares, FL

#### Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament

May 3-5, 2019  
Kuttawa, KY

#### Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament

June 7-9, 2019  
Henrico, VA

### ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

#### Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Battle at the Beach

September 14-16, 2018  
Virginia Beach, VA

#### Mid-South Billiards Tournament

October 12-13, 2018  
Memphis, TN

#### Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem

March 22-24, 2019  
Midlothian, VA

#### Mid-America Billiards Tournament

April 5-7, 2019  
Oklahoma City, OK

#### Buckeye Billiards Tournament

June 14-15, 2019  
Wickliffe, OH

#### Mountain States Billiards Tournament

June 21-22, 2019  
Fountain, CO

### BOCCIA

#### Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament

October 5-6, 2018  
Richmond, VA

#### Gateway Boccia Tournament

October 18-20, 2018  
St. Louis, MO

#### Bayou Boccia Tournament

November 30-December 1, 2018  
Biloxi, MS

#### Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament

February 19-20, 2019  
San Diego, CA

#### Arizona Boccia Tournament

April 6-7, 2019  
Phoenix, AZ

#### New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament

April 26-28, 2019  
Brockton, MA

### ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

#### Great Plains Bowling Tournament

July 12-15, 2018  
Council Bluffs, IA

#### Mountain States Bowling Tournament

August 15-18, 2018  
Colorado Springs, CO

#### Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament

September 28-30, 2018  
Glen Allen, VA

#### Nevada Bowling Tournament

November 29-Dec 2, 2018  
Las Vegas, NV

#### Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament

February 21-24, 2019  
Tampa, FL

#### Mid-America Bowling Tournament

April 12-14, 2019  
Shawnee, OK

#### Vaughan Bowling Tournament

June 27-30, 2019  
Romeoville, IL

### HANDCYCLING RACING

#### Museum of Aviation Marathon

January 12, 2019  
Warner Robins, GA

#### PVA Racing High Performance Camp

January 26-February 1, 2019  
Brooksville, FL

#### Top End Euro-American HC Championships

February 2-3, 2019  
Gainesville, FL

#### Valley of the Sun

February 16-18, 2019  
Phoenix, AZ

#### One City Marathon

March 2, 2019  
Newport News, VA

#### Off-Road Spring Expo

April 19-21, 2019  
Chesterfield, VA

#### PVA Learn to Race Camp

April 23-26, 2019  
Gettysburg, PA

#### Blue and Gray Half Marathon and Criterium

April 27-28, 2019  
Gettysburg, PA

### NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



For more information, visit:  
[pva.org/sports](http://pva.org/sports)





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