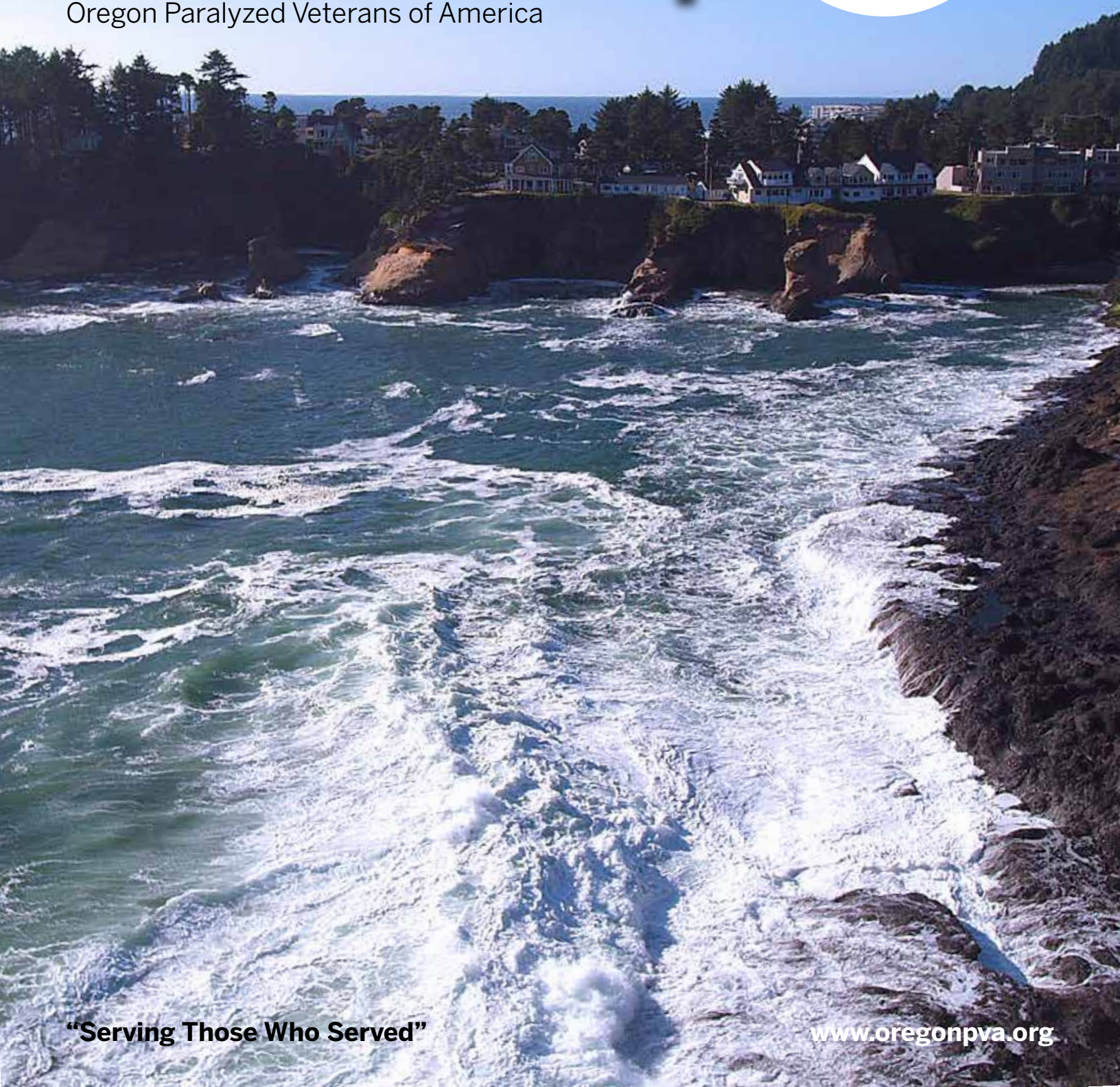


May/June 2021
Volume 25, Issue 3

PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



“Serving Those Who Served”

www.oregonpva.org



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PORTLAND/Vancouver VA Primary

Care Contact Phone Numbers

360-696-4061

503-220-8262 ext.

31665 (Portland)

800-949-1004 ext.

31665

After Hours Number

888-233-8305

Portland VA Contact Phone Number

503-273-5308

RESOURCES

ID Cards

www.vets.gov

eVetRecords

www.archives.gov

Vocational Rehab & Employment

www.gibill.gov

eBenefits

www.benefits.va.gov

Women Veterans Health Care

1-855-VA-Woman

US Disaster Hotline

(800) 626 4959

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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Cover photo: Depoe Bay, OR

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.

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

503-362-7998 • www.oregonpva.org • oregonpva@oregonpva.org • OPVA is a 501(c)(3), Tax ID# 93-0713859

PRESIDENT NEWS



Larry Gardner – President

The past year has really been a year that everyone will remember and will go down in history for sure. That being said things are starting to finally open up and go in a positive direction and that is good with spring here and summer coming up real fast.

Recently we sent out survey updates to all members and to date have only received a small percent of them back. If you haven't filled the form out yet please do, so we can complete and update our rooster. That really helps us to work closer with you our members.

The Chapter is working with the Sports Director on several current and future sports programs like fishing, table tennis, air guns, boccia ball, bowling, archery, and trap shooting etc. If any member has questions about getting started in any of the sports programs please call the office. We will be more than happy to explain how it all works no matter where you live in Oregon, Idaho, or SW Washington.

More Sports PROGRAMS

Also, this year we are slowly getting back to our schedule of events and programs as allowed by state regulations. So far, it is looking real good. We are scheduling the member meetings outdoors this year with barbecues, refreshments, and games instead of bowling alleys and indoor facilities. With your attendance it will be a very good time for all.

The annual members banquet is still on for September 18th at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville Oregon, so mark your calendars.



As a reminder, the Chapter has Ambassadors in Prineville, Oregon; Roseburg, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho who are spread out to help with events and will be in need of volunteers. If you live close to any of these Ambassadors please give them a call and let them know you may be available, if needed. Their phone numbers are available by calling the office. I know they would be glad to hear from you.

The Chapter is still in need of someone to step up and become our Membership Director. If you would like to volunteer for this position and want to know what it involves give us a call at 503-362-7998. We will help and work together with you.

Be sure to read all the Paralog articles and keep up with the up coming events and programs. Feel free to call anytime with any questions you have, we are here for our members. Everyone take care & stay safe



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solutions

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Tigard

Salem

12154 SW Garden Pl
Tigard, Oregon 97223

4280 25th Ave NE
Salem, Oregon 97301





Picnic in the Parks



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Greetings All,
Happy May to everyone, things are kicking into gear, from new programs starting up to being able to attend events.

Let's start off with some of the events that are scheduled; the Members Deep Sea Fishing trips are happening. The first trip out will be May 20th if you haven't signed up and would like to go, call the Chapter office to reserve your space. For more information you can locate the flyer in this issue of the Paralog.



Since we are talking about fishing on June 5th there will be a member meeting and BBQ at St. Louis Ponds just outside of Gervais OR. Check out the flyer in this Paralog. Along with the food and meeting we will also be having a fishing tournament at the same time. This will be big fun for the entire family, we will have yard games as well as fishing.

Right now, your Sports Director Bob Mahler and your Air Gun Coordinator are working out the details for putting on a Air Gun fun shoot and BBQ. More information will be coming on that.

Your Table Tennis coordinator has also scheduled an open house event to come down to the Kroc Center in Salem on July 24th. There will be instructors and volunteers on site for you to try your hand at Table Tennis (Ping Pong).

Your Chapter Fundraising events are in full swing. Our largest Chapter Event

is the annual golf tournament. This year's 12th Annual Gold Cup Golf Tournament is happening on July 17th at McNary Golf Club. The local business really come out to support Oregon Paralyzed Veterans. We are always looking for Volunteers to help out with this event. If you would like to golf in the tournament let us know. We can find some accessible carts if you need one (please plan accordingly to give us time).



With any luck the Fairs and Festivals will be opening up. Last month we were able to attend the first festival in over a year and a half. We went down to the Pear Blossom Festival in Medford. This was a great little festival, people were enjoying being able to socialize outside, we had the opportunity to be able to let people know about OPVA. While we were at it sold some Raffle tickets for the Chapter's fundraisers, it was a Win Win!!! As far as our raffles are concerned we have been able to get the ATV and Outdoor Gift Card Raffles to several of the Sportsman Warehouse Location this winter and spring.

(continued→)



iPad to Get Connected



- Stay up to date, get connected with virtual activities/events
- You must have Wi-Fi available
- Fill out **questionnaire on back** and return to Chapter office

Donated by Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection (OSCIC) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Available at no cost to voting members

(continued) We have set up tables in Salem, Roseburg, Medford and Bend. If you know of a location that gets a lot of foot traffic and would be open to OPVA setting up an awareness table with the ATV give me a call at the Chapter Office and we can talk about it.

OPVA has partnered with Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection (OSCIC) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to help get COVID Information out. We were donated 10 iPads to get in the hands of our members to help them with staying up to date as well as schedule virtual doctor appointments and so on. We do have a few iPads left if you are interested in getting one of them please fill out the form below and return it to the office as soon as you can.

I cannot thank your Board of Directors enough. These people that come together to make sure you their fellow members are getting all you can out of life, from your entitlements to recreation activities. It is an honor to work along side of them.

With that being said, your Board needs your help! Election time is right around the corner, I would like for you to consider stepping up and help your fellow veterans. Throw your hat in the ring and join this great group of Veterans working to improve the lives of their Brothers and Sisters in Arms. Nominations will be going out June 30th.

If you don't want to run for election, your Chapter is in need of volunteers for the Election Committee.

Nomination Ballots going out **June 30th**



Consider
joining
YOUR
Board of
Directors



Limited Quantities - Complete the form below and return it to the Chapter to be eligible for consideration of one of the iPads.

This offer is Open to OPVA Voting Members ONLY!

Name: _____

Phone Cell: _____ Phone Home: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____ Email: _____

Please use the space below to describe how you would be able to utilize a Wi-Fi iPad tablet to **Enhance** your life.

These tablets are Wi-Fi ONLY so you will NEED to have Wi-Fi capabilities.

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

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

OPVA GOLD CUP

12th Annual

Since 2009

20 21

GOLF TOURNAMENT



Oregon Chapter

SATURDAY JULY 17TH

Registration and Team Photos 10 am
Shotgun 1 pm

PRIZES

- \$10,000 Hole in 1
- \$400 Cash Prize Putting Contest
- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Putt
- Longest Drive
- Prizes on holes 4, 7, 8, 10, 15, 17, & 18

AWARDS

- Teams Mens, Womens & Mixed

COST

- Individual \$125
- Foursome \$400

REGISTER ONLINE

www.oregonpva.org
503-362-7998



155 McNary Estates Dr N
Keizer, OR 97303

Social distancing will be observed

TITLE SPONSOR





**Notice of Amtrak
Claims Fund Under
the ADA**



Amtrak has entered into a Settlement Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice to resolve a lawsuit brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”). The Settlement Agreement resolves alleged violations of the ADA.

If you were harmed by Amtrak’s lack of accessible transportation services between July 27, 2013 and December 2, 2020 you may be eligible to receive payment from a compensation fund established by Amtrak.

To be eligible for consideration for possible payment, you must submit a claim by May 29, 2021. You may obtain information on how to submit a claim in several ways: (1) by visiting AmtrakDisabilitySettlement.com, (2) by sending an email with your name, address, and telephone number to info@AmtrakDisabilitySettlement.com, or (3) by calling the Fund Administrator at (888) 334-6165 or TTY: (866) 411-6976.

A copy of the Settlement Agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and Amtrak is available at AmtrakDisabilitySettlement.com. For further information about the ADA, visit www.ada.gov or call the Department of Justice’s toll-free ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301 (voice) or 1-800-514-0383 (TTY).

Esta Notificación y otra información están disponibles en español en AmtrakDisabilitySettlement.com.



Save the Date

Members Banquet 2021

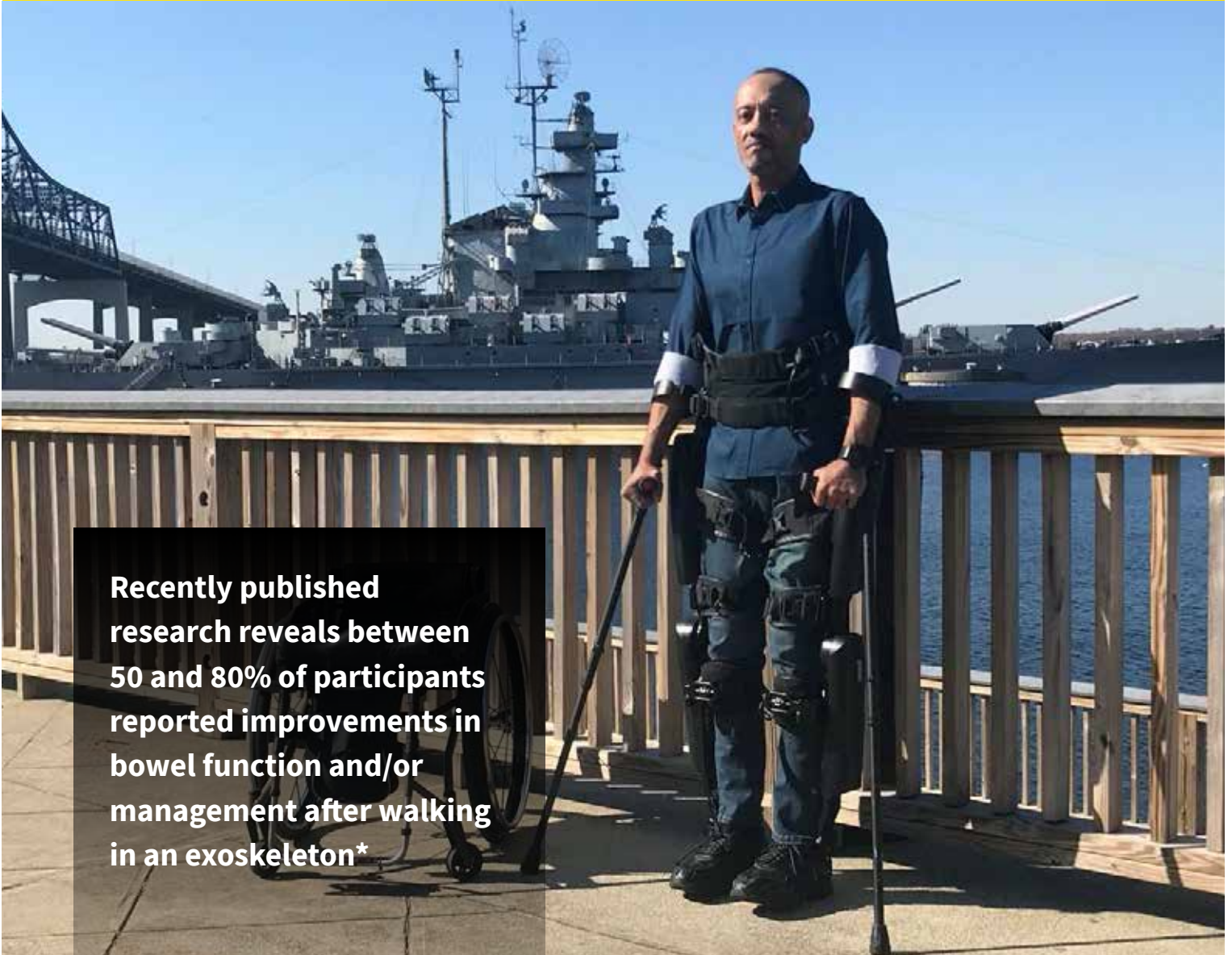
*

September 18th

Holiday Inn - Wilsonville



Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton*

Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?

**Contact ReWalk for more Information:
rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2**



RECREATION FUND SCOPE

Dear Oregon PVA Recreation Fund,
Thank you so much for the opportunity to use the funds. We used the money to help pay for the gas on our 3 week road trip to Arizona to see family members and several friends we hadn't seen in a long time. We were able to see the winter and beginning spring beauty out in the high desert. We were able to keep our distance and continued to wear masks, as required. The United States still has some of the most beautiful places on earth.

Thank you for giving us the chance to continue seeing it.

Rex and Gail Stevens



Dear OPVA

This has been a hard year for all of America. I hope we are coming to the end of the tunnel. But on a happy note the restaurants are opening up it was so good to get out of the house. Now I am waiting on the Blazers to open the Moda Center. I have missed them.

Today we got to spend the day with our granddaughters, we've seen them very little this past year. So today we had dinner, good visits all thanks to OPVA. It was my birthday (3/28) and today Easter. Thank you.

Steven Grogan



Voting Members FREE! All others \$65

Dates & Boarding Times

- May 20th - 5:30 AM
- June 18th - 5:30 AM
- Sep 23th - 6:30 AM

5 Hour Trip - Lingcod & Rockfish

270 Coast Guard Dr. Depoe Bay, OR 97341 • (541) 765-2545



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

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America. 3700 Silverton Rd. NE Salem, OR 97305 • (503) 362-7889 • www.oregonpva.org

I Have Multiple Sclerosis



Dan Service—Secretary

On December 10, 2019 I had a Suprapubic operation, because my bladder stopped functioning correctly. Over the past five months I have been having challenges with my “in line catheter”, so I thought I would share some things that may help any other person with the same problem.

Back in August of last year, my Urologist in Salem stopped working with the VA. That meant I could not have my catheter changed here in Salem. I was not informed of this, and was still going to them.

In November I started getting bills from my Salem Urologist, so I called them and found the billing department had no idea of what was going on. I was supposed to have a catheter change made in November, but I could not find a Urologist in the Salem area.

December came and I still had not had my catheter changed, so I started calling the VA to figure out what I was to do. They had me come into the VA in Portland.

Doing some more research I found out that I was to go to Hillsboro to have it done. I went in for the change, the person who changed it had me stay in my chair to have it done. I finally ended up going to the emergency room to be corrected.



I went back to Hillsboro for my next change, this time they had me get on the bed to partially lay back. Within a week I was back in the emergency room.

While at emergency room, I started having the same problem. A friend told me to think for myself, so I figured out what the problem was. I decided to lay down and insert the catheter tube myself. I have not had a problem since. The StatLock device needed to be positioned closer so as not to stretch the catheter.



I share this story with you, so that you will understand that we, the members of the Board of Directors, and other members assisting with the programs are doing all we can to support you.



We still have our own challenges. We are here for you, and will do all we can. We have found a great love of serving, but we need help. If you or, anyone you know feels like your challenges are hard, look outside of yourself and help others. We can use volunteers at the different events we put on. We need the world to know who we are, that we are serving each other.

We have opportunities to serve throughout the State of Oregon and Idaho. You are welcome to call the office (503-362-7998) to sign up. Even if you come to show the public you support us, that would be fantastic.

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.

Include name, address, phone number, your legible receipts and a short description of what you did to have fun with your friends and family. We like pictures too (digital pictures are best), 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 and used within this current fiscal year (10/1 - 9/30).

Mail or email to: Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 - oregonpva@oregonpva.org
Your request must be received in the office no later than **September 30th**. Earlier is better in case of any problems.

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

SPORTS

Corner



Bob Mahler – Sports Director

Thanks to OPVA, Board of Directors, and Sports Coordinators, we are building a stronger, efficient, and more varied Sport & Recreation Program. These are OPVA's active sports and coordinators:

Air Pistol & Rifle
Archery
bowling
Lacrosse
Table Tennis
Trapshooting

Dustin Simmons
Paul Donovan
Grant Buehler
Dennis Hooper
Bob Mahler
Larry Gardner

Please call OPVA at 503-362-7998 to enquire about signing up for a sport coordinator for Bocce Ball and Nine Ball. Thank you.

MEMBER'S MEETING

OPVA is hosting a Member's meeting, BBQ, and Fishing Derby on June 5, 2021 at St. Louis Ponds, 13100 Tesch Lane, Gervais, OR. Hours are from 9 am to 2 pm. The events are free to members, family, children, grandchildren. There will be prizes for the most fish, and largest, caught. It is necessary to RSVP 503-362-7998.

DEEP SEA FISHING

There are three (3) scheduled events this year , May 20th, June 18th, and September 23rd. Dockside Charters, out of Depoe Bay, will provide the boat bait, poles, and buckets. Please call to reserve your spot on board at 503-362-7998.





AIR RIFLE/AIR PISTOL

DUSTIN SIMMONS

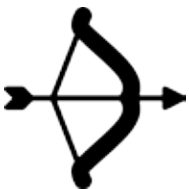
I have great news for members this month! The proposed package for a new air rifle has been accepted, voted on, and approved. As of 3/30/2021, we have purchased an American-made air rifle from Texas. We went with the PCP version 0.177 Air Force EDGE. If you're interested in looking at it, here's the link. <https://www.airforceairguns.com/EDGE-3-Position-Target-Rifle-s/44.htm>



For those possibly interested in purchasing their own, they do offer veteran and club discounts which are available through the chapter. However, thanks to an OPVA member, we do have one in our hands that he has graciously given permission for us to use.

Along with the two that I personally have (both from different manufacturers) volunteer for our members to use. The next steps have already begun. I am currently investigating and doing research for practice areas within zones that will suit the largest number of our veterans interested. I have received a few calls from chapter members interested in both air rifle and air pistol. I've been able to return most of the calls. For those who I have not been able to make contact over the phone, I will continue trying. Please keep in mind I am still doing research to find the best air pistols to serve us.

For those interested feel free to call or email the chapter with any questions you may have. If you do not have any equipment, don't let that deter you. We will be providing air rifles and accessories needed to get you into the sport. This event is offered at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the Paralympics.



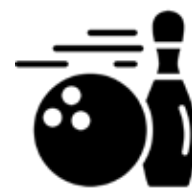
ARCHERY

PAUL DONOVAN



LACROSSE

DENNIS HOOPER



BOWLING

GRANT BUEHLER

OPVA is preparing a detailed outline of the competitive bows needed for the upcoming archery tournaments. Also, bowling centers and leagues have opened, OPVA is working on the bowling tournament and will published further details. We invite all members to be part of our Lacrosse team. Please call 503-362-7998 to join the teams.



***Adventure is calling
Join Now!***



Live your Best Life Now



By R&J Mobility

It seems as though we are always waiting to do things. Waiting until we save up more money; waiting until we're in better health; waiting until the weather gets better. Now we've been waiting for the current Pandemic to end so that life can get back to "normal". The weather is getting better and with much of the population getting vaccinated, there is hope on the horizon! As businesses get the green light to open with caution and travel restrictions begin to loosen up, it's time to take back your independence.

At R&J Mobility, we believe in living your life without limitations. Don't wait, it's time to live your best life now! Be strong in the face of the Pandemic and show your independence by traveling, taking road trips, and using your mobility scooter to get where you want to go. Don't spend these beautiful spring days locked up inside! We may still need to wear masks right now, but it's worth it if it means enjoying the perfect weather and that feeling of freedom that comes with exercising our independence.

R&J Mobility is here to help you make that happen! Whatever your individual needs are, our mobility experts are here to assist you in making the right decision. Whether you're looking for a

wheelchair van or a mobility scooter, we have many different options to choose from. We have many different funding and financing options, including resources specific for our country's veterans. Of course, if you're not looking to buy, we offer van and scooter rentals as well!



While things may not be "normal" yet, it's time to take back your independence, and we're ready to help you do it! We have been Oregon's mobility solutions experts since 1979. Our commitment to you is that you are fitted with the perfect mobility product — that fits your budget and your lifestyle. Contact us today to get started living your life with no limits.



D. Alexandra Wolfe	5/3	Kelly Jordan	6/6
Alexander Smith	5/6	Russell Goffin	6/9
Walter Hull	5/6	Larry Whitmire	6/10
Anne Wyatt	5/7	Rory Borchers	6/12
Donald Linwood	5/9	Miguel Vera	6/12
Clifford Svoboda	5/10	Daniel Chytka	6/13
Corwin Wunn	5/11	Kevin Parker	6/13
Jacob Wacker	5/15	Christina La Fon	6/14
Terri Gardner	5/15	Frederick Parker	6/14
Edward Curtis	5/18	Gerald Sandlin	6/15
James Kimsey	5/19	Kenneth Swiderski	6/16
Gloribel Casalduc	5/20	Fritz VonAllmen	6/16
Steven Huff	5/20	Terry Ogan	6/17
Lonnie Morgan	5/22	William Gray	6/19
Toby Newton	5/24	Gary Tucker	6/21
Donald Lambert	5/24	Peter Parsons	6/23
Michael O'Connor	5/25	Michelle Morris	6/25
Thomas Hartzell	5/25	Robert Moore	6/27
Erik Berg	5/26	Joel Satoris	6/27
Steve Hublely	5/26	Catherine Ballard	6/28
Michael Miner	5/26	Harold Johnson	6/29
Barbara Bingham	5/27	Gordon Pike	6/29
Diana Larsen	5/27		
Matthew Allmaras	5/28		
Susan Hruza	5/28		
Michael McAlvage	5/31		
Nels Hadden	6/1		
Carl Jensen	6/1		
Justin Larson	6/1		
Rex Stevens	6/3		
Gene Stuart	6/3		



Happy Spring my fellow members!



By Dennis Hooper – Southern Oregon Ambassador



The weather has turned for the better and it is time for us wheelchair users to spread our wings. I was hesitant to travel during these challenging times, but an event came up that I just couldn't pass up.

The PVA sponsored a semi-annual hand cycling event at Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield County, Virginia. Jody Shiflett and all his crew put on a great event at a wonderful location. Jennifer and I were surprised that we were to be using powered assisted handcycles rather than the traditional solely human powered. These machines are awesome! State of the art mechanisms and pretty new machines were provided to dozens of veterans. The gearing is hand switched and 8 speeds were available on my craft. Boy did we fly! The park is just 20 miles from Richmond and has over 90 miles of trails for all skill levels.

Although it was cold in the mornings, the sun blessed us all through the day. Jody took us all over the park where we explored many trails. We went up and down hills all day with occasional photo stops. The staff provided yummy lunches and a warm fire. I was the furthest traveler that day, but there were vets from all over in attendance.



The scenery of nature is worthy of the time to explore. Your cycle will be adjusted to your specific needs. We were given the chance to test out our vehicle before hitting the trails.



Indian and settlers history that is so unique to this region. We burned out our phones taking so many pictures.

This cycling event is held two times a year. It may be a long trip for us here at the Oregon Chapter, but I highly recommend giving it a try. The people of Virginia were great hosts and very COVID compliant throughout our visit. It definitely made us feel safe and welcomed. This is another great reason to access your recreation fund.

It was a rush to go downhill at speed and make hairpin turns and round corners, then cross water and mud bogs. It was just shy of downhill mayhem!

Happy Trails!

After the event, Jennifer and I explored the rest of the park which included 225 acre Swift Creek Lake and the Swift Creek Dam.



We also visited nearby Henricus Historical Park and the Dutch Gap Conservation Area. This area is rich in civil war history. The battlefields along the James River are in addition to the



**Salem Table Tennis Club invites
all OPVA members.
Family members, and children
are welcome!**

**Saturday, July 24, 2021
11:30 am - 3:30 pm**

1865 Bill Frey Dr. NE, Salem, OR 97301
(at the basketball gym)



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						
	Memorial Day						

ZOOM
BOD
10:00 a.m.

■ Office Closed



MEMORIAL DAY

TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED



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

Save the Date

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 13-16 | Keizer Fest Golf Tournament |
| May 20 | Deep Sea Fishing Trip |
| May 22-23 | Salem Roadster Show |
| Jun 5 | St Louis Ponds - Members Meeting |
| Jun 18 | Deep Sea Fishing Trip |
| Jun 30 | Albany Fun Shoot |
| Jul 8-11 | Marion County Fair |
| Jul 10 | Outdoor Adventure Raffle (Marion County Fair @ 2 PM) |
| Jul 11 | ATV Raffle (Marion County Fair @ 3 PM) |
| Jul 17 | 12th Annual OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament |



FEMA

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. At FEMA, our mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We are dedicated to helping ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the virus.

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

We are working with stakeholder groups to get their input on ways we can best provide this assistance, and to enlist their help with outreach to families and communities. FEMA will begin to implement COVID-19 funeral assistance in April.

Additional guidance is being finalized and will be released to potential applicants and community partners as soon as possible. In the meantime, people who have COVID-19 funeral expenses are encouraged to keep and gather documentation.

Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.

- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

How to Apply

In April, FEMA will begin accepting applications. If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, we encourage you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

- **An official death certificate** that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 and shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.
- **Funeral expenses documents** (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that includes the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- **Proof of funds received from other sources** specifically for use toward funeral costs. We are not able to duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

How are Funds Received

If you are eligible for funeral assistance you will receive a check by mail, or funds by direct deposit, depending on which option you choose when you apply for assistance.

This FEMA reimbursement program will start sometime in April 2021. Click the link for more information, including eligibility, how to apply and more: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>



Members Picnic at **ST LOUIS PONDS**

**St. Louis Ponds Park
13100 Tesch Lane Gervais, OR 97026**

No license required, state wide free fishing day



RSVP to the Office

Saturday June 5, 2021

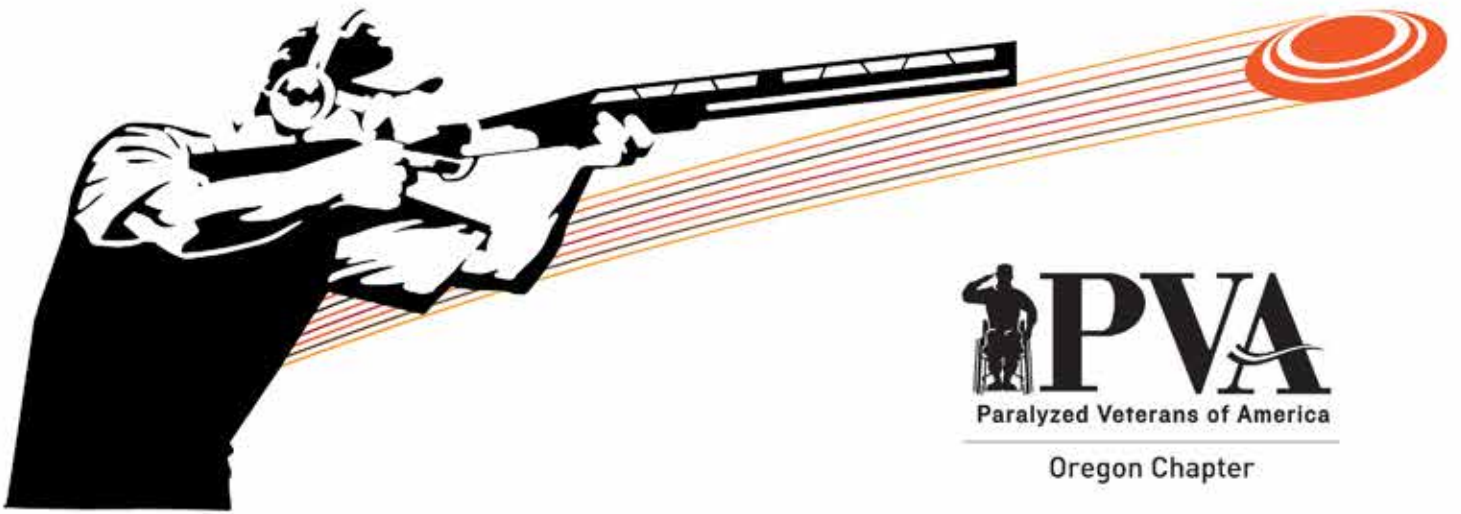
9 am - 2 pm



9 am - 12 pm Fishing Derby
12 pm - 2 pm BBQ, Meeting
Disc Golf Putting
Ladder Toss Tourney
Games and Prizes



Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America 3700 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305
503.362.9778 • www.oregonpva.org



Trapshoot Fundraiser

Location: Albany Gun Club
35305 Hwy 20 SE, Albany, OR 97322

Time: Registration is at 9:00 a.m.
Trap Event 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m.

Event Type: Games

Cost: \$4.00 each game

- All proceeds support OPVA Trap Team
- Raffle prizes from Sportsman's Warehouse
- Spectators welcome
- New Shooters encouraged

June 26, 2021

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



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WheelchairGames.org



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, 2021

Volume 27, Number 7

Want to Follow the Status of Priority Issues Between Updates?
Visit [PVA's VoterVoice Portal](#) to view our latest alerts and a list of key legislation and its status.

HVAC, SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY HOLDS LEGISLATIVE HEARING

On April 14, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on 16 pieces of legislation. Maureen Elias, Associate Legislative Director, testified on behalf of PVA. The main focus of PVA's testimony was a draft bill that would provide a new automobile allowance for eligible service-connected veterans every ten years, as well as provide a small grant for eligible veterans enrolled in VA health care with non-service-connected qualifying conditions to purchase an adapted vehicle. The auto grant provision in the draft bill related to service-connected veterans mirrors the language in the AUTO for Veterans Act (H.R. 1361/S. 444), which is a top priority for PVA. The draft bill would also place into statute the provision of ingress/egress by VA for non-service-connected veterans enrolled in VA health care and open eligibility for these veterans to the adaptations available through the Automotive Adaptive Equipment program. Other bills focused on improvements to benefits for homeless veterans; fixes to VA education services, including codifying some protections that were put in place during COVID for future disasters; removal of

delimiting dates and a requirement for in-state tuition for those using Chapter 35 benefits, as well as protections overseeing implementation of the "Digital GI Bill;" and establishment of a fourth VA Administration to handle the economic opportunity benefits currently under the purview of the Veterans Benefits Administration. You can watch the hearing [here](#).

BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION RELEASES FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET OUTLINE

On April 9, the Biden-Harris Administration released a budget outline for Fiscal Year 2022. The outline does not include all the details and specifics traditionally found in the president's annual budget proposal to Congress. White House officials say a more comprehensive document will be released in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the outline gives lawmakers the top line numbers for federal agencies to allow them to start preparing the 12 annual funding bills.

Here is a snapshot of some of the funding being proposed for VA:

- Provides \$113.1 billion in total discretionary spending for VA, \$97.5 billion of which would go toward VA

health care, an increase of \$7.6 billion from 2021. \$94 billion of this amount is already approved through advance appropriations.

- Calls for \$882 million for medical and prosthetic research, the largest amount in history, which is very close to the Independent Budget's recommendation of \$902 million.
- Provides \$40.3 million so VA can hire additional claims processors to handle veteran disability claims which became backlogged during the pandemic as well as the thousands of new claims expected from Vietnam War-era veterans who recently became eligible for benefits from Agent Orange-related conditions.
- Furnishes another \$4.8 billion to modernize VA IT systems and \$2.7 billion more for VA's electronic health record modernization project.

The request also contains increases for numerous programs important to people with disabilities:

- As part of the President's Equity Agenda, the Administration proposes significant increases for federal agencies' Offices of Civil Rights, and includes \$33 million in additional funds to the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and \$85 million more for state and local fair housing organizations to combat discrimination.
- An additional 200,000 families would receive aid with a \$30.4 billion infusion into the Housing Choice Voucher program. The budget provides an increase of \$500 million in support of the HOME Investment Partnership Program to construct and rehabilitate affordable rental housing and \$180 million to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's elderly and disabled housing program would support an additional 2000 units.
- To expand opportunities for retraining and workforce development, the budget increases support for the Registered

Apprenticeship system by \$100 million to a level of \$285 million; includes a six percent increase of \$3.7 billion for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act state grant programs to enhance career opportunities for disadvantaged groups, including low-income veterans; and contains a request of \$20 million for a new program, developed in collaboration with VA, focused on helping veterans shift to careers in clean energy.

- The request builds on the American Rescue Plan with an additional \$551 million for Home and Community Based Services, doubles funding for the Lifespan Respite Care Program, and provides additional resources for programs under the Administration for Community Living within the Department of Health and Human Services.
- The Social Security Administration's administrative budget would increase by \$1.3 billion to provide better field office services, add staff to help process disability claims, and lower customer service wait times.

STIMULUS PAYMENTS TO NON-FILERS BEGIN

In an announcement on March 30, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) said that stimulus payments to non-filer Social Security and other federal beneficiaries would be disbursed at the beginning of April with the projection that the majority of these payments would be sent electronically and received on April 7. The IRS continues to review data received for VA benefit recipients and expects to determine a payment date and provide more details soon. Currently, the IRS estimates that Economic Impact Payments for VA beneficiaries who do not regularly file tax returns could be disbursed by mid-April. VA beneficiary payment information will be available in the Get My Payment tool at a future date. Taxpayers should note that the form of payment for the third Economic Impact Payment, including for some Social

Security and other federal beneficiaries, may be different than earlier stimulus payments. More people are receiving direct deposits, while those receiving payments in the mail may receive either a paper check or an EIP Card – which may be different than how they received their previous Economic Impact Payments. Details about the stimulus payments can be found on the IRS website.

SOCIAL SECURITY EXPANSION UPDATE

Supporters of legislation to improve Social Security benefits have been waiting impatiently for reintroduction of measures such as the Social Security 2100 Act and the Stop the Wait Act. The former bill has been championed in previous Congresses by the Chairman of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, Rep. John Larson (D-CT), and contains a host of benefit enhancements and provisions to shore up Social Security trust fund finances well into this century. The latter bill is authored by Rep. Lloyd Doggett, (D-TX) and seeks to lessen the economic burden on those who qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) by reducing or eliminating waiting periods for disability benefits and Medicare coverage. While both sponsors intend to pursue their legislation during this Congress, a number of factors have contributed to the delay.

When the 117th Congress convened in January, the urgent need to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic meant that legislators' attention was almost exclusively focused on the American Rescue Plan. In addition, the Biden-Harris Administration entered office with its own ideas about programs such as Medicare and Social Security that the President had outlined in his 2020 campaign platform. As a consequence, negotiations are underway between the Hill and the Administration to hammer out a new Social Security 2100 Act that reflects a consensus between congressional and White

House advocates. Once the agreed upon legislation is introduced, Chairman Larson plans on an extensive hearing schedule to highlight the importance of action on Social Security to address the nation's looming retirement crisis and the economic security needs of women and minority populations.

Rep. Doggett's bill, the Stop the Wait Act, is reportedly in its final drafting stages. While the new measure is expected to contain provisions eliminating the five-month waiting period for SSDI, some adjustments may be made to the Medicare sections to address cost concerns. Under discussion is a reduction in the 24-month wait for Medicare coverage for those granted SSDI to a 12-month waiting period.

Watch PVA's VoterVoice for alerts and action items related to these and other measures.

“ROUNDING OUT” COMPROMISE REACHED

Under the GI Bill “rounding out” rule, students can round out their college schedule with non-required classes to make their course load full-time once per program, allowing them to continue to receive full-time benefits. VA planned to phase out the rule on August 1, but a compromise reached between the Department, Congress, and veterans service organizations will allow the practice to continue if students are taking classes that are part of their program of education. The following example illustrates how this applies:

A student enrolled in a program to obtain a BA in Political Science must take two courses in governments (e.g., governments of Europe, Africa, South America, or Asia) as a graduation requirement. The university offers four courses that can meet the requirement. The student took two courses and therefore does not need a third or fourth for graduation. However, if the student wants to round out, VA will support the

GI Bill student in taking a third or fourth course because the course is included in the student's program of education, even though taking the additional course(s) is not a "graduation requirement."

PVA is pleased with the compromise which allows VA to support enhanced benefits for eligible GI Bill students while protecting them from unnecessarily using their earned GI Bill entitlement by taking unrelated courses.

NEWS ITEMS OF NOTE

- National Disability Institute (NDI) Publishes Paper on Costs of Living with a Disability

NDI recently released a paper examining the costs of living with a disability. Researchers estimate that households containing an adult with a work-disability require, on average, 28 percent more income (or an additional \$17,690 a year for a household at the median income level) to obtain the same standard of living as a comparable household without a member with a disability.

- Disability Rights Film "Crip Camp" Nominated for an Oscar

Crip Camp chronicles the experiences of a group of young people with disabilities at a summer camp in upstate New York during the 1950s and 1960s who

would become leaders in the disability rights movement of the 1970s. Among those profiled is Judy Heumann, State Department Special Advisor for Disability Rights in the Obama Administration and Assistant Secretary of Education under President Clinton. The film features her role in the sit-in at the regional office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to compel the Carter Administration to implement the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. It is available for viewing on Netflix.

WEBINARS/ HEARINGS/SURVEYS

- PVA Webinar: The Power of Veteran Voices: Influencing Change at the Local, State, and National Level

On **Tuesday, April 27 at 2 pm ET**, join PVA Government Relations and the Anita Bloom Women Veterans Health Committee for an overview of Assisted Reproductive Technology legislation and what is currently in play for IVF and women veterans on Capitol Hill. Hear from a panel of advocates who have used their voices and stories at the federal level, through their chapters, at the state and local level, and at their VA facility to learn how your voice can help PVA priorities become law. Additionally, you will hear about PVA's organizational efforts focused on women veterans. To register, [click here](#).



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- Recent Congressional Hearings:
 - On April 14, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled, "Strategic Review: Evaluating Concerns About the Ongoing Implementation of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program." To view the hearing, please click here.
 - On April 15, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on pending legislation. PVA submitted a statement for the record. To view the hearing, click here.
- HVAC Surveys on C&P Exams and USPS Delays

The House Veterans' Affairs Committee is continuing to seek feedback from veterans on two issues.

The first survey is on veterans' recent experience with the C&P exam process. You can access the survey here. The second survey is on veterans who may have experienced delays in USPS services. You can access that survey here.

- National Women Veteran Needs Assessment

The University of Alabama is conducting a national survey of women veterans. We encourage women veterans to take and share the survey. You can access it here. **It will remain open until early June.**



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
 Government Relations Department
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Membership 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 of choice or by mail/email to:** Paralyzed Veterans of America Membership Department, 801 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; (E) members@pva.org. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chapter Name: Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, 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: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

Please submit the following with application:

- 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: _____

Are you a United States citizen? Yes No

Do you have a spinal cord injury or disease? Yes No If disease, specify: _____

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

If Paralyzed Veterans of America is your accredited representative, do you permit PVA Service Officers to provide information to PVA National Membership Department relative to your membership eligibility? Yes No

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I have read and meet the qualifications and I understand that my membership could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Witness Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____



Membership Application

Physician's Statement Form

_____ is a veteran who has a spinal cord injury or disease.

His/her diagnosis is:

- Paraplegia
- Quadriplegia
- Brown Sequard Syndrome
- Cauda Equina Syndrome
- ALS
- Multiple Sclerosis (involving the spinal cord)
- Transverse Myelitis
- Other (please specify) _____

Physician's Signature

Physician's Name

Physician's Title

Physician's Phone/Email

Date Signed



Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
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