



Vaughan Chapter
JUNE 2022

In This Issue

Executive Director's
Report
3

President's Report
5

Sports & Rec.
8 & 9

Your VPVA Benefits
10

Service Officer's Report
13

the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Greetings, Fellow Chapter Members!

Now that our annual PVA Advocacy and Legislation Seminar is over, you are urged to focus additional attention to the importance on you making calls to legislators' offices to express support for PVA positions. The documents are available online and all you need to do is get their local or D.C. phone number, pick up your phone and call them going down the list of issues asking for support and explaining perhaps how the issue affects you and fellow PVA members. Make your point simple and easy when calling. We can kick-start the process, but it takes your voices to be heard verifying our need. You live in the districts and state... they must hear you reach out to them on each issue, or it dies. You may also encourage to enlist the support of family members and friends to help spread and share the issues. We also encourage you to express your support online using social media and email. Please also let VA staff members know we need help and how the issues help them.

The next critical step for you is to understand is the need and importance to get directly involved. We simply ask that you understand we need more people serving in small capacities where and how you feel comfortable. We can train you in any area you would like to try helping with no obligation to stay. If learn you

would like to try something else out, no problem! Serving needs to be fun, rewarding, and profitable for everyone. Please know that nobody will be alone learning and becoming involved.

We plan on slowly teaching members very basic functions and programs aimed to help

Please don't delay becoming involved... reach out to let us know immediately that you are ready to step up and serve your PVA Chapter today!

Webinars, or by other means. It sounds like much and that's because there is quite a bit to do in PVA. None of the volunteering was ever planned to be accomplished by one or two people, but by the Membership with committees formed, trained, and organized to go after all the work at hand.

The volunteering is not complex work at all, but it is when just one to two people are trying to do all of it by themselves. This is also simply



by Robert Arciola,
Gov. Relations Director

everyone such as the ADA, housing, transportation, access to the skies, reaching out to legislators and nonprofit organizations to gain support and network and more. We can help you from home, onsite, internet, video, reading,



continued on page 7



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Vaughan Chapter PVA.

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2022 Bi-Monthly Membership Meetings

We continue not to access the Multi-Purpose Room at the Hines VA Hospital Spinal Cord Injury Building #128 for our bi-monthly in-person membership meetings. We will continue conducting the membership meetings via Zoom **until further notice**. Members who have an email address will continue to receive the link to join the meetings.

For those members that do not have email and do not have access to a computer, **you can still join the meetings via call by calling this number 312-626-6799; with meeting ID: 553 748 9623 and Passcode: 733870.**

Suppose Vaughan Chapter gets the approval to use the Hines VA Hospital, building #128, S.C.I. Multipurpose Room, to conduct in-person Membership Meetings, then we should resume the meetings as scheduled below and notify you soon as possible of the change. All meetings will be in the Multipurpose Room at noon, with FREE lunch. Here are the dates for 2022.

July 27, September 28, November 23

(Zoom) Meeting ID: 553 748 9623 Passcode: 733870

Executive Director's Report

by Maria Hernandez

Hello, Vaughan PVA Members

Vaughan Chapter Calendar of Events is coming along as planned for this year; it started with the 3rd Midwestern Invitational Bowling Tournament from April 29 – to May 1. The participation and results were just amazingly impressive. A big shoutout to Keith Cooper, sports director, and his committee made this possible. Following the bowling tournament was the Trap Shoot tournament in St Charles Sportsman's club, which was also a great tournament and turnout after two years not having one. It was great to see the participation and interest in this tournament.

For results on the bowling tournament, see the sports and recreation report on this issue and for upcoming sporting events.

A huge thank you to the Wisconsin Chapter that allowed Vaughan Chapter members to participate at the First Adaptive Sports Bootcamp from May 16-18, 2022; the Vaughan chapter covered travel and lodging expenses for those members registered for the Bootcamp.

The annual one-day Fishing Derby at Busse Woods on Saturday, June

A huge thank you to the Wisconsin Chapter that allowed Vaughan Chapter members to participate at the First Adaptive Sports Bootcamp...

11, 2022, was a relaxing day for all of us who attended on a beautiful 70's-degree cloudy day. We all enjoyed the fishing, the day, the food, and most importantly, the companionship. Happy to see new members were attending as well as new volunteers



Many Thanks to the Volunteers at the Fishing Derby at Busse Woods



Vaughan Chapter, Board of Directors

Meetings are held at the Chapter Office on the third (3rd) Wednesday of each month. You are welcome to attend as a member (no voice and no vote). listed below are the dates of the B.O.D meetings for 2022.

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 16

December 21

volunteering. Congratulations to Steve Aoyagi for catching the most fish at this derby.

On June 24-26, the Chicago Abilities Expo is a three-day expo at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center. Vaughan will be in booth #108; if you plan to attend hope, you stop by and say hello to our team at the booth.

continued on page 4



***Vaughan Chapter
PVA is in need of
volunteers in the
following areas.***

Sports & Recreation

Advocacy

Fundraising

**Join a great group of people
and have fun while helping
disabled Veterans enjoy a
wide variety of activities.**

**Please call Chapter Office at
(708) 947-9790 or email to
vpva@vaughanpva.org)**

Executive Director's Report

continued from page 3

We have scheduled the following events if time permits; Vaughan will send an invitation for each of the following events via email; please check your emails daily, so you do not miss any vital information.

- Annual Chapter Picnic Saturday, September 10, at the Forest Preserve Miller Meadow, the exact location will be listed on the invitation, but it will be in the same Forest Preserve as last year.
- Veterans Day & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, November 12, at Via Bella Banquets in Countryside, IL
- The annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 17 at Hines VA Hospital Auditorium Building #9.

We hope to see you at all upcoming events and enjoy the rest of the summer; if you have any questions, please contact us at the office at 708-947-9790. As always, please update your contact information with our office to keep you updated with all the upcoming meetings, events, outings and sporting events.

If you have participated in the bi-monthly Membership meetings via ZOOM, thank you for your attendance, we hope to resume live in-person Membership Meetings at the Hines VA Hospital, Building #128 SCI Multi-purpose room as soon as we get approval to use the multipurpose room. If, for any reason, we cannot meet in person, we will continue with Zoom meetings. I encourage you to join us; the link and passcode get sent to everyone via email. The following upcoming membership meetings are July 27, September 28, and November 23.

President's Report

By Josue Cordova, Vaughan Chapter President

Greetings, Vaughan Chapter members, caregivers, volunteers and family.

Vaughan Chapter is up and rolling. I'm so excited to be reporting the incredible events that have taken place this year and what we are preparing for in the coming months. We want you all to be a part of it.

I'm humbled and honored to report that I have been elected for a second term as one of the National Vice Presidents of PVA...

Our Paralyzed Veterans of America National Convention took place in Atlanta, Georgia during the third week of May this year. I'm humbled and honored to report that I have been elected for a second term as one of the National Vice Presidents of PVA during our national convention. Our Paralyzed Veterans Of America has been an incredible organization to me this past 27 years, and I am honored to serve on a national level. I count it a privilege to nationally represent all paralyzed veterans with spinal cord injury and disease, especially our PVA Vaughan Chapter membership.

Next, I am excited to tell all our members about the great direction we are moving in as a chapter. We have something in store for members, family, caregivers, and the surrounding wheelchair com-

munity. We have had to be patient through this Covid pandemic over the past two years. We are finally moving forward! We will be providing wheelchair sports, events, and activities for members. A perfect example of that happened

this spring, which showcased the incredible response during our bowling tournament.

The Vaughan Chapter successfully hosted over 35 participants from across the country! We even had five PVA chapter presidents bowling in our tournament that weekend. More events are slated throughout this summer and fall.

We continue to seek members for participation in our advocacy and legislation, sports, fundraising, and volunteer committees. We can only indeed be successful with your help and participation.

As we approach the very end of the spring and into the summer, I want to encourage all our members to follow up with their doctors and therapist at the VASCI clinics. If you're having any trouble with appointments with doctors or therapists, please reach out to us so that we can keep in contact with our NSOs, who are there to ensure you're being supported



and having those appointments on time.

If you're seeking information about what's going on with PVA on the chapter or national level regarding wheelchairs sports, wheelchair games, and other activities, please check out our Chapter webpage vaughanpva.org, or the Chapter Facebook. That page is continually updated with the new information and events in our chapter.

Please remember that the only way we can be a successful chapter and continue to thrive is with your contributed support and participation.

I pray you have a wonderful blessed spring and summer, and I look forward to seeing you at our next Vaughan Chapter PVA event.

Josue E. Cordova

Hello, my Fellow Veteran

Good weather is finally here time to get out and enjoy life, like bowling, swimming, trap shooting, and playing bocce ball; now, I know some of you are saying that sounds good, but I cannot afford or have no way of getting to do some of that stuff. So, I am going to sit here and look out of my window and let time pass me by. You know that's funny because we all have to say that sometime in our lives. However, the PVA is offering all these things and more for free to our members, no longer do you have to sit by the window and feel sorry for yourself. We have many, many things for you to do and a way for you to get there. Do not let this summer pass you by; come on, get out and have some fun; you have been cooped up long enough. Check out our website or call the office for upcoming events. Please do not lose out; we are here for you. I am challenging all to get out and have some fun this summer.

Thank you,

Anthony Powell

Vice President/National Director

Vaughan Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America

*Do not let this summer pass
you by; come on, get out and
have some fun!*



**For the
LoV
Ladies of
Vaughan**



Have you heard?

The Paralyzed Veterans of America's 4th Annual Women Veteran Empowerment Retreat is coming up, September 24-27, 2022! It will be a wonderful time spent in San Antonio with other women members of PVA. Caregivers are welcome.

**Three days of
education,
opportunities &
camaraderie!**

If interested, go ahead and register. The registration link is here: <https://cvent.me/mM9BMX>. The deadline for registration is August 1, 2022. PVA and sponsors cover ALL expenses related to travel, hotel accommodation, meals, programming and several fun activities.

If you've got any questions and/or need more information, please contact Cheryl Gerdes at 708 341 6766 or CMGnoch06@gmail.com.

Trap shooting, one of the many VPVA activities you can enjoy this summer.

Government Relations Director Report

by Robert Arciola

continued from page 1

not possible, nor realistic, and quite honestly it does all of us a huge disservice for several reasons. When everything is shared and built with several to many people involved, more things get accomplished, there's more fun involved and much more progress, and a far greater organization is formed to go further distances, last longer, and it ultimately becomes a leading, highly productive, very respectable, and well recognized. Please don't delay in becoming involved and reach out to let us know immediately that you are ready to step up and serve your PVA Chapter today!



Thank you all for your service and may each of you remain healthy, safe, and have a great summer!

David Smith visited at home by Rep. Loren Underwood D-IL-14.



On May 24th, Vaughan Chapter PVA member David Smith was visited at home by Rep. Loren Underwood D-IL-14. David Smith served as a Marine in 1973 and sustained a service-related injury. Rep. Underwood made a special visit due to Mr. Smith's inability to attend her scheduled Vietnam Veteran-era lapel pinning ceremony held in McHenry County Illinois recognizing veterans for their service.



Bowlers from around the country attended our recent tournament

Vaughan Chapter Calendar of Social Events

Vaughan Chapter works diligently to organize different activities, outings, dinners, and many sporting events every year for all our members with various disabilities. Some are family oriented for you and your family to enjoy, participate and help get you outdoors to enjoy the weather with your comrades.

For two long years, we were all more or less confined in our homes because of COVID-19, unable to go outdoors and enjoy life as we did before the pandemic. Now that we are able to continue our lives, we have organized a comeback and put out a Calendar of Events for you to participate in and resume activities again.

We would love to see you participate more often in as many events and outings as possible, but we need MORE participation for us to continue running these outings. On June 11, 2022, we had the very popular Annual One-Day Fishing Derby at Busse Woods Forest Preserve with a beautiful 75-degree day, free fishing equipment, and free lunch. Unfortunately, the

turnout was meager. It takes time and money to plan and organize all the events we put out for you to join us and enjoy yourself. We understand that sometimes people don't feel good or have other problems, but it is necessary and healthy for you to try to leave the house and participate in these planned events. If we continue to have low participation in everything we do, we will have to stop organizing them. We have always opened the door for you to give us your input on what you would like to do, where you would like to go, and what sport, event, or outing you would like to see us plan. Please let us know what you have in mind, and we will try our best to plan something different. Once again, don't let these events stop. Participate, and get out and enjoy yourself. If you are not getting the information, please contact our office and let us update your contact information, so you do not miss out on the great things the Vaughan Chapter has for you.

I hope you can join us at the upcoming events that are on the calendar, Annual Picnic, Land of Lincoln BASS Tournament, Veterans Day Dinner, and Christmas luncheon. Don't hesitate to contact us at 708-947-9790 and let us know how we can help you.



Steve Aoyagi caught the most fish at the One Day fishing Derby, sadly it wasn't a large turnout, but we all had fun.



Vaughan Trap Shooting Event

Vaughan, in collaboration with the St. Charles Sportsmen Club, hosted a successful Trap Shooting event. Vaughan greatly appreciated the clubs help for recruiting knowledgeable and excited volunteers. Additionally, the colors presented by the Boy Scouts each morning was a great way to start each day of competition. Nine shooters participated and Vaughan hopes that with the excitement generated from this year's event that next year we will have 25 wheelchair shooters and 25 club shooters. Congratulations to Dave David who won the High Overall, and John Pilotte who won the High SCI award. The Trap shoot had two first-time shooters. **Hope to see you next year.**

Sports & Recreation

Wheelchair Bowling Tournament Results

Dave Nelson triumphed over Mark Shepard for top honors in the Scratch Division. George Holscher placed 3rd, Albert Martin Placed 4th, and Shawn Beam rounded out the scratch division roll-off finalists in 5th place.

The A division top honors were taken by Charles Scott, a dynamic Ramp bowler. The final standings in the A division are Michael Marcheski in Second, Vaughan Chapter Associate member Kenneth Hill, William Leavitt, and Henry Walters.

Three First time tournament participants from the Vaughan Chapter were in the B Division roll-off. At his first tournament was Vaughan Chapter Member Dylan Pickett, who took home the first-place award. New Vaughan Bowler Cheryl Gerdes placed second. Rob Duckworth placed third.

Accomplished USA tennis athlete Roosevelt Anderson placed third and could be overheard saying he was bringing his competitive accomplishments in tennis to the bowling community.



Keith Cooper,
VPVA Sports Director

Twenty-Three of the Thirty-Five bowlers are Veterans. The Midwestern tournament had two novice bowlers and five first-time tournament bowlers. Six-chapter presidents were present at this year's tournament. Tony Jungblut, a novice bowler, took home the Up Down bowling Prize.

Interviews with Josue Cordova, Vaughan Chapter President, and Vaughan Sports Director, can be found here.

<https://www.facebook.com/AWBAorg>



Vaughan PVA Bowling Team

BASS FISHING, OCTOBER 7th - 9th

It does not matter if you are a first-time angler or have years of experience reeling in the big bass; the PVA Bass Tour is for you! Held at lakes and rivers known for their excellent fishing, the PVA Bass Tour accommodates anglers interested in fishing from a boat or who enjoy the serenity of fishing from the bank. We host both an Open division (boat) and a bank division to support all anglers.

Don't you have a boat? That is ok! We have volunteer boat captains experienced in fishing the PVA Bass Tournament Series. In addition, our bank division creates a safe environment with knowledgeable volunteers who will help you navigate the bank division competition.



Your VPVA Benefits

URGENT Notice to Vaughan Chapter members.

Vaughan Chapter members must please call our office at 708-947-9790 or send us an email message to vpva@vaughanpva.org with your current mailing address and phone numbers and email address to receive all the Vaughan chapter's benefits and valuable information we provide. If we contact you and your phone is disconnected, and you do not have an email address where you can receive the communications, you will miss what Vaughan has to offer for you. **Please let us know your accurate contact information as soon as possible.**

Vaughan Chapter, PVA Funding Sponsorship Policy

For the new fiscal year, 10/1/21 to 9/30/2022, Vaughan Chapter will continue to waive volunteer hours for Vaughan Chapter and PVA Sporting events to increase participation from our members. Reimbursement will be made up to a maximum of \$3,000 per year to participants members when a fully completed expense report is turned in to the office for a refund; all receipts must be included with your expense report. For any questions regarding the reimbursement, please feel free to contact Maria Hernandez by email at vpva@vaughanpva.org or by calling at the Chapter office, 708-947-9790.

LIFE ENJOYMENT FUND

Voting MEMBERS!

Attend a sport or recreational event such as a ball game, dinner, theatre and send in the receipt with an expense report then tell us how accessible the facility was such as parking and entrance or bathroom and counters, and if you recommend the place pointing out any problems, you'd like us to address, if needed, and get fully reimbursed up to \$150.00 per year!

***Yes, that's correct
refunded up to \$150.00
per year!***



You can use the funds to cover the travel, lodging and food (NO alcohol) or event ticket/s. if you use a partial amount of the \$150.00; the remainder is available until the fiscal year ends! Call us now for ANY question/s! We're serious, so try us! Can you believe only a few members use this fund every year? Neither can I, so let's let the cat out of the bag and go do something with our precious summertime and great weather while it lasts! (Fiscal year 10/1/2021 to 9/30/2022).



We Mourn the Passing of our Members

Vaughan Chapter members, please do not forget that the Vaughan Chapter has in place a \$500 death benefit for all Vaughan chapter voting members. This money will be dispersed to the person designated to pay for your funeral services.

We advise you to share this information with whoever will be responsible for your funeral services. The person responsible for the funeral expenses that appear on the funeral home contract is the person that should be calling our chapter office with the name of the veteran deceased, and funeral services information for Vaughan Chapter can send floral arrangements. We will require a copy of your funeral home contract, and the name that appears on the contract will be the only one to receive this \$500 endowment.

Please reach out to Vaughan Chapter for more information at 708-947-9790.



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Service Officer's Report

By Robert Statam, Sr. NSO

Military Environmental Exposure: Rare Respiratory Cancers As Presumed Service Connected

The Department of Veterans Affairs intends to propose adding certain rare respiratory cancers to the list of presumed service-connected disabilities concerning military environmental exposure to particulate matter. These and other changes are important to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and its service officers. I received an e-mail just the other day from Maggie Angel| Legislative Aide, for the Office of U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin, Majority Whip stating that I'm glad to have this opportunity to reach out to you all. As you may know, the Senate will vote on the PACT Act toxic exposure package, the long await reforms for veterans who have been exposed to various substances during their service, is well overdue.

Although the VA determined through a focused review of scientific and medical evidence there is biological plausibility between airborne hazards, specifically particulate matter, and carcinogenesis of the respiratory tract, and that the unique circumstances of these rare cancers warrant a presumption of service connection.

Based on these findings, VA's Secretary is proposing a rule that will add presumptive service connection for several rare respiratory cancers for certain Veterans. The cancers under consideration include:

1. Squamous cell carcinoma of the larynx.
2. Squamous cell carcinoma of the trachea.
3. Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung.
4. Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung.
5. Adenocarcinoma of the trachea.
6. Large cell carcinoma of the lung.
7. Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung.
8. Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung.
9. Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea.

I'm sure that the (PVA), agrees that this is the right decision. The rarity and severity of these illnesses, and the reality that these conditions present a situation where it may not be possible to develop additional evidence prompted us to take this critical action," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "We'll continue to hold ourselves accountable to Veterans to provide more care, more benefits, and more services to more Veterans than ever before. These are strong words coming from Secretary McDonough, but they are precisely the words, that need to be heard.

VA intends to focus its rule on the rare respiratory cancers above in Veterans who served any amount of time in the Southwest Asia theater of operations and other locations. VA will invite and consider public comments as part of this process.

Once rulemaking is complete, VA will conduct outreach to impacted veterans and survivors to inform them about potential eligibility. Be sure to stay plugged into www.va.gov for the most recent developments around environmental hazards, as VA is constantly conducting research and surveillance as well as reviewing the scientific literature for conditions that may be related to exposure during military service.

If you should have any questions concerning this topic, please feel free to contact Robert Statam, Sr. NSO, at the Chicago Regional Office, PVA @ (312) 980-4278, Mr. Winston Woodard III, SBA, at the Hines VAMC, @ (708) 202-5623.


If you are experiencing any trouble with VA, please contact your National Service Officers.

Questions about pending claims and benefits
Robert Statam 312-980-4278
RobertS@pva.org

Questions about Benefits, Access to Healthcare
Winston Woodard 708-202-5623
WinstonW@pva.org



Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



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rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2**

*Chun A, et al. Changes in bowel function following exoskeletal-assisted walking in persons with spinal cord injury: an observational pilot study. Spinal Cord. 2020;58(4):459-466.



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Vaughan Chapter

800-727-2234

Join Us

FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

NVWG

Tempe, AZ July 7th – 12th

Please visit wheelchairgames.org too register.

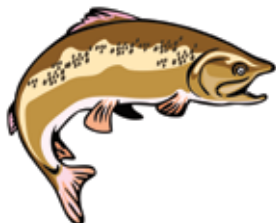


Chapter Picnic

September 10th

Bass Fishing

Lake of Egypt, October 7th – 10th



Veteran's Day Appreciation

November 12th

Christmas Luncheon

December 17th

