



# the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Vaughan Chapter  
October 2022

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As we enter the fall of 2022, I am addressing you, all our Vaughan Chapter Members, family, and volunteers, now as the past Vaughan Chapter President. Over the past seven years, I have been honored to serve on the Vaughan Chapter Board of Directors and, since 2017, as Chapter President. On May 21, 2021, at our 75th National Convention, I was elected to serve as a Paralyzed Veterans of America National Vice President, and on May 20, 2022, re-elected as National Vice President. To function fully, I decided to step down from my role as chapter president as of September 21, 2022. I am doing so to focus solely on my role as PVA National Vice President. This decision was not easy, but a National Vice President's demands were necessary.

I am humbled and honored to be a member of the Vaughan Chapter. I am grateful for the incredible board I've served with over the past seven years. With their selfless commitment, camaraderie, and teamwork, we are a Chapter thriving and making a difference for our membership, families, caregivers, and the wheelchair community around us!

We are a success because we did it together as a team. I want to thank our Executive Director, Maria Hernandez, for her dedication over the past 20 years. I am thankful for her patience and determination to see our chapter through the transition and growth of the then wholly new board of directors and chapter officers. I gained confidence in my role as Vaughan Chapter



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President partly because of her hard work. Executive Director Hernandez has been a cornerstone of the chapter and pivotal in its re-established success.

In closing, thank you, Vaughan Chapter, for allowing me to serve our membership, the disabled community, and our families and caregivers. It is an honor I will always hold dearly. God bless each of you, my Vaughan Chapter family.

Respectfully,

Josue E. Cordova  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
National Vice President  
Past Vaughan Chapter President





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 2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501  
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**Chapter Officers**

Anthony Powell, Acting President Vice President, Vacant  
 Dennis Scanlan, Secretary Gerald Brown, Treasurer

**Chapter Board of Directors**

Cheryl Gerdes, Danial James, Leo Moore, Alberto Velasco

**National Chapter Liaison**

Hack Albertson

**National Director**

Anthony Powell

**Hospital Coordinator**

Dennis Scanlan

**Advocacy Director**

Robert Arciola

**Sports Director**

Keith Cooper

**Fundraising Director**

Keith Cooper

**STAFF**

Maria Hernandez, Executive Director

**Service Officers**

Winston Woodard, III  
 Hines VA Hospital  
 708-202-5623

Robert Statam  
 Chicago Office  
 312-980-4278

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**for a FREE Gift to You**

**on behalf of**



**Vaughan Chapter PVA.**

**(800) 727-2234**

**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.

**Last membership meeting of 2022  
 November 23**

**Zoom;  
 Meeting ID: 553 748 9623  
 Passcode: 733870**

# Executive Director's Report

by Maria Hernandez

## Hello, Vaughan PVA Members

As we finish the Chapter's Fiscal Year 2022, we certainly want to take this time to gratefully acknowledge our wonderful Volunteers, Staff, Officers, and Board of Directors who took the time to keep our Chapter active. As an aside, we want to take this opportunity to congratulate Josue Cordova for being elected as the National PVA Vice President of Paralyzed Veterans of America in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, this means Vaughan Chapter will lose him as our President because of his new role at National. We thank him for all he has done for us and wish him well in his new role.

Due to the national pandemic problems, turnout was low during the summer events for obvious reasons. Now that things have settled down Healthwise in the Nation and significantly in the Chicago area, we look forward to seeing more of our members getting out to enjoy our various activities. We hope to see you at the remaining upcoming events still on the calendar for 2022, consisting of the upcoming Land of Lincoln BASS Tournament on October 7-10, 2022; Veterans Day & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, November 12th at Via Bella Banquets in Countryside, IL, and our Annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 17th at Hines VA Hospital Auditorium Building #9. Vaughan will send the invitations for each event via

email; please check your emails daily, so you do not miss any of them.

Thank you for your attendance if you have participated in the bi-monthly Membership meetings via ZOOM. We hope to resume live in-person Membership Meetings at the Hines VA Hospital, Building #128 SCI Multi-purpose room in 2023. The last Membership Meeting via Zoom will be on Wednesday, November 23rd, 2022. Please try to join us – The zoom link will be emailed to all members.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at the office at 708-947-9790. Please update your contact information with our office to update you on all upcoming meetings, events, outings, sporting events, and benefits.

**Take care and stay well; I hope to see you soon!**



**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.**

**October 19**

**November 16**

**December 21**



*Vaughan Chapter Annual Picnic Saturday, September 10, 2022.*



## President's Report

By Anthony Powell, Acting Vaughan Chapter President

### Hello, my fellow veterans,

As we move to a different phase of our Chapter and the transfer of power, my predecessor, Josue, did a great job in running the Chapter; with his leadership, our Chapter has grown very well and has had great success. Now that he is doing his job in Washington DC. We will have a voice from our Chapter for all Vaughan PVA members.

As the new Chapter acting President, I will keep us going strong and forward, but I call on you, my fellow members; I am just a figurehead; you are the main body of the Chapter, and I am here to let you speak through me. I will do that, but you must step up and make things happen, everyone, committees, and volunteers. We want to be ready for all our fall/winter events.

Remember, I am here for you. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Anthony Powell  
President/National Director  
Vaughan Paralyzed Veterans of America



### 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](mailto: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 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](mailto:vpva@vaughanpva.org)**





# Hitting Nights

**WALK-IN  
REGISTRATION**



**ACKERMAN SFC  
800 ST. CHARLES RD  
GLEN ELLYN, IL 60137**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 6-8 PM**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 6-8 PM**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 6-8 PM**

keithc@vaughanpva.org - phile@wdsra.com

## CURLING CLINIC

### Saturday, October 15

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM – Introduction, breakfast, office presentation  
 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM – On-ice instruction  
 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM – Lunch/Watch past Paralympic Game footage  
 3:15 PM – 5:45 PM – On-ice practice/gameplay

### Sunday, October 16

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM - Brunch League game play  
 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM – Breakfast  
 1:00 PM - 2:45 PM – On-ice games  
 3:00 PM – Closing remarks



On June 18<sup>th</sup> the Vaughan chapter collaborated with Synergy Sports and Wisconsin PVA Sports Director Tom Daily to host a one-day Air-Guns Clinic. Participants learned air rifle basics and spent an afternoon honing their skills. This clinic was a great relaxing afternoon of camaraderie and competition.



**Boccia** The Vaughan Chapter PVA collaborated with Synergy sports and Phil Eide at the Ackerman Athletic Facility in Glen Allen for a one-day Boccia Clinic on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The clinic covered the basics of boccia equipment and rules. The clinic wrapped up with a friendly competition. Participants look forward to engaging in Boccia and getting together with friends for an afternoon of leisure and games soon.



# Sports and Recreation

Keith Cooper, VPVA Sports Director

## Wheelchair Softball



The Vaughan chapter supported the National Wheelchair Softball Tournament at Ozinga Field in Crestwood, IL, August 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. Many individuals stopped by the Vaughan booth and enjoyed the conversation with PVA members

and volunteers. PVA National Vice President and Vaughan Chapter President Josue Cordova threw out the first pitch of the Championship game between the Nebraska Barons and the Japan national team. Japan took home its first champi-

onship trophy in a tournament with many firsts.

In addition, the First World Series Woman's Wheelchair Softball game is in the books! Finally, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games Softball All-Stars attended their first national wheelchair appearance. The Veteran All-Stars placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 3. Let's congratulate all these athletes for their strong performances.



From the NWSA website: Wheelchair softball was born in the Midwest by a few individuals with spinal cord injuries and lower extremity impairments who still wanted to enjoy America's most fantastic pastime. These individuals needed to develop a way of playing without the full use of their legs that would allow easy maneuverability in a wheelchair and keep the fast pace of softball. Thus was born a new game played on hard surfaces, such as a parking lot, instead of the regular grassy infield, and a 16-inch softball, which allows wheelchair players to keep one hand on the wheelchair while catching a softball without a glove.

For more Sports and Recreation opportunities and information, please get in touch with Vaughan PVA sports director [KeithC@VaughanPVA.org](mailto:KeithC@VaughanPVA.org)



photo credit Roosevelt Anderson

## Service Officer's Report

By Winston Woodard III, Senior Benefits Advocate

### Attention: Caregiver Support Program available for all eras of service

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) helps the Families and Veterans. Phase II will officially begin on October 1, 2022, Family caregivers of Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty between May 7, 1975, and September 10, 2001, all eras of service are eligible.

When a veteran has been seriously injured/service connected or has aggravated an injury in the line of duty, often a close family member will step up to serve as a caretaker for the veteran's needs. Sometimes these caregivers themselves need extra help in their mission to make their veteran's life easier.

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program (CSP) offers clinical services to caregivers of eligible and covered Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. The mission through the Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS). PGCSS provides peer support mentoring, skills training, coaching, telephone support, online programs, and referrals to available resources to caregivers of Veterans.



#### The veteran must meet eligibility and set forth criteria:

- The Veteran must be enrolled in Veterans Affairs (VA) health care.
- In need or receiving care from a caregiver in order for the caregiver to participate.
- The Veteran must have a VA disability rating (individual or combined) of 70% or higher. The Veteran's service-connected disabilities must have been caused or made worse by their active-duty service during one of these eras of service.
- Have been discharged from the U.S military or have a date of medical discharge, and
- Need at least 6 months of continuous, in-person personal care services.

#### Personal care are services the eligible

#### Veteran needs from another person.

#### They include care or assistance to support the Veteran's:

- Health and well-being
- Everyday personal needs like feeding, bathing, and dressing
- Safety, protection, or instruction in their daily living environment

#### The eligibility requirements for family caregiver:

- Family designated caregiver must be at least 18 years old. (at least one of these must be true)
- You must be either a spouse, son, daughter, parent, stepfamily member, or extended family member of the Veteran, or Someone who lives full-time with the Veteran, or is willing to do so if designated as a family caregiver.

#### Eligible primary family caregivers may also receive;

- 1) a monthly stipend (payment),
- 2) access to health care benefits through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)-if you don't already qualify for care or services under another health care plan,
- 3) and at least 30 days per year of respite care for the veteran.

*continued on page 9*



### Where do I begin and how do I apply for this program?

- You can apply by mail:
- Fill out a joint application for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers VA Form 10-10CG.
- Mail the form and any supporting document to:  
Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, Health Eligibility Center,  
2957 Clairmont Road NE Suite 200, Atlanta, GA  
30329-1647
- In person: Contact your PVA NSO @ 708-202-5623/312-980-4278 or PACT/Primary Social Worker for details.
- Bring your completed VA Form 10-10CG to your local VA medical center's Caregiver Support Coordinator. If you need help filling out the form, you can contact your local coordinator at Hines @ 708-202-8131, or call our main VA information line at 877-222-8387.

## DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE?

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

Questions about pending claims  
and benefits

**Robert Statam 312-980-4278**

**RobertS@pva.org**

Questions about benefits or  
Access to Healthcare

**Winston Woodard 708-202-5623**

**WinstonW@pva.org**

## LIFE ENJOYMENT FUND

### Voting MEMBERS!

**A**ttend 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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Vaughan PVA  
2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501  
Westchester, IL 60154



Vaughan Chapter

**800-727-2234**

# Join Us

FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

## **Bass Fishing**

Lake of Egypt, October 7th – 10th

## **Veteran's Day & Volunteer Appreciation**

November 12th

Via Bella Banquets, Countryside, IL

## **Christmas Luncheon**

December 17th

Hines VA Hospital Auditorium, Building #9