



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

August 2016

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A Message from Bill Lawson

I'd like to begin by introducing myself. I'm Bill Lawson, National Immediate Past President of PVA. As you know, the Vaughan Chapter has been placed under the management of National PVA for some time now. National President Al Kovach has requested that I oversee the National Vaughan Board of Directors. Those members include National Vice President Ken Weas, National Past President Gene Crayton, Vaughan Chapter member Bob Arciola and myself. We are the "decision makers" with regard to the operations of the Vaughan Chapter. Executive Director Maria Hernandez may initiate the direction which may be best for the Chapter. As I have been involved with your chapter on a national level for many years, I have acquired an extensive knowledge of the workings of the Vaughn Chapter



At our national convention this past May, there ensued a lengthy discussion among the National PVA Board of Directors on the future of the Vaughan Chapter. The result of that discussion was their dissatisfaction with the progress of the chapter and its effort to reestablish itself as a fully operating chapter in

If you are interested in saving this chapter, give the office a call and tell Maria that you would like to assist in any manner possible.

PVA. Therefore, several objectives have got to be met by the time the PVA Board meets later this year. The Vaughan Board and I are aggressively trying to fulfill their demands.

I recognize that there has been some progress with the chapter. However, the members of the Vaughan Chapter need to decide if they are truly interested in making a success of their chapter. The ball is in your court! The chapter must take more initiative and show more progress so I can go to the Fall BOD meeting and convince the National BOD to give the chapter more time.

We have begun our oversight by making the decision to add more Vaughan Chapter members to the Board. We made this move in an effort to build on the self governance by the members of Vaughan. If all those selected accept their position on the Board, there will be a total of five members on this Board. These new Board Members will be sworn in by me at the next membership meeting so make plans to attend. I will continue to chair the Board until I feel comfortable enough to turn it over to the membership. Of course, this decision

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Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

Chapter Director

Bill Lawson; National Immediate Past President

National Board of Directors

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Robert Arciola Ken Weas

National Chapter Liaison

Ken Weas

Hospital Liaison

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Robert Arciola

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Chicago Office
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Vaughan Chapter

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today

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VPVA Executive Director's Letter

By Maria Hernandez
Executive Director

Allow me to first start with inviting you to help us raise funds by cleaning out your closets!!!! Vaughan Chapter will be doing a DONATION DRIVE at our Vaughan Chapter Office located at 2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501 in Westchester, IL. The Donation Drive will be held on Friday September 30th, 2016 from 8:30am to 3:30pm.

You may also drop off items to us any time from now until the day of the drive. The Donation Drive is being held to help finance our Vaughan Chapter members so that they can attend the different sport events. ALL donations of gently used clothing are more than welcome. Ask family members to join in to help our teams attend the sporting events.

Secondly, I want to invite you to our Annual Picnic that is just around the corner. This year it will be on Saturday,

September 17th from Noon- 4pm at the Picnic Pavilion at Hines VA Hospital. VPVA will have plenty of food, prizes, games and entertainment. An invitation will follow via email and by USPS. Please make sure to RSVP to the Chapter Office so we can plan the appropriate amount of food and refreshments for the event. We certainly hope you and your family will join us on this day. If you would like to volunteer in any area please contact me at 708 947-9790 and I will assign an area for you to assist in and record your volunteer hours. Volunteers are greatly needed to make this a special day for our veterans. They look forward to this day each year.

Brief report on the following events; The weather didn't cooperate for the 37th Annual Hines Physically Challenged Games scheduled to be held outdoors this past May 14, 2017, but over 70 veterans – many of them VPVA members

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2016 VAUGHAN PVA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

We encourage you to attend our monthly membership meetings. **Don't miss out** on any of the benefits from the different service organizations that make presentations to us on various benefits they have available for you.



**Hines VA Hospital
Bldg #128 SCI Multipurpose Room
at 12:00 (noon) CST**

**If not able to attend in person
you may also join via conference call
at 877-393-1772 and use option 2
(state your name when joining the meeting)**

*Bill Lawson, National Immediate Past President & Ken Weas, National Chapter Liason
speak at the June 22nd membership meeting.*

WEDNESDAYS

August 24th, September 28th, October 26th

Message from the Chief

By Michael S.A. Richardson MD FACP
Chief, Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders

Greetings and happy summer. The days have slipped by quickly and we have passed both the Independence Day celebrations and the Utah Games. Now we look forward to the PVA Summit and Expo being held at the end of August before Labor Day signals the end of summertime.

During these summer months it is important for everyone– but especially those with a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis or with high tetraplegia - to be mindful of the amount of water loss and dehydration that can take place from spending a day in the sunshine. Being out in the sun also takes its toll from the extent of skin fragility, moisture, and wrinkling that sweating can cause; which can lead to skin abrasions and tears. Wearing light loose clothing, being extra careful with transfers and sitting time, drinking extra fluids (if no medical restrictions at least 1000 ccs a day) and decreasing alcohol or wine consumption (one shot/one glass) are all important actions to take during this time of hot weather and sunshine. Remember: A few minutes of “prevention” is worth several weeks of “cure”! So please take the time to prepare and prevent dehydration, skin ulcers, or AD, from happening.

During the summer it is also good to remember that nutrition is also most important. Chips, Cheetos, Cotton Candy, and Pretzels are all fun foods, but unfortunately don’t have much nutritious value. Sodas and synthetic juices are similar. Again: take time to

prepare some fresh fruit, vegetables, turkey burgers, sausages or skinless grilled chicken for your health. Healthy nutrition can be fun and simple without costing an arm and a leg. Speak with the nutritionist, your nurse, or your physician to check about special diets or prohibited foods. It is true that “we are what we eat” so if we eat unhealthy then we will be unhealthy!

This month has brought finally the announcement of our new Hines Facility Director Dr. Steven Braverman. Dr. Braverman has spent his career as a military physician administrator. Training as a physiatrist with experience across many years, Dr. Braverman is an ideal person to lead a complex healthcare organization such as the Hines VAMC. Especially at this time when the VHA is challenged to provide increasingly complex, coordinated, Veteran-centered care. It is all the more exciting that with his specialty, background, and training our new Director will be able to understand more easily the resource needs and priorities needed in caring for spinal cord and physical medicine and rehabilitation patients. Dr. Braverman assumes his posting on September 18th and we will be delighted to welcome him then. The other key positions in the PENTAD leadership – Chief of Staff, Associate and Assistant Directors are being announced and/or being interviewed so we will wait to hear those selections.

The news from the SCI/D Center remains positive I’m proud to report. There has been expanding usage of telehealth services

to reach Veterans in our SCI System living outside of Illinois. The expansion of telehealth into the home is still a challenge. Having an internet connection is necessary and some areas are poorly connected. In addition the connecting and dialing into the visit can initially be burdensome although very soon everyone gets “the hang” of it and settles into realizing how useful to not have always to drive into the VA just to speak with your provider. Ivey Jacobson is our SCI telehealth Coordinator – stop in to speak with her (or phone and speak first if you want) to understand more about whether this is right for you.

On a related note I want to congratulate our physical therapists Paul Ellin, Keisha Staples, and Shoba Patel, who, led by the lead PT supervisor Iliana Elicier, have allowed Hines SCI/D Center to become a designated Powered Exoskeleton Training Center for the VA. This exciting new technology (which has been all over the news and the internet) is available to suitable Veterans with SCI and includes the potential for at-home usage when eligible. The protocol for use and the process of evaluation for home pur-



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Advocacy Report

Over the last few months much work has been in progress. We had a member attend the Chicago Memorial Day Parade. The event is always a big affair with thousands of participants and thousands of spectators along the route down Chicago's State Street. This event is aired live on major television networks, which provide maximum opportunity for public relations and exposure each year. Each year the Vaughan has a decorated float and our bus in it. The weather was beautiful and members thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you all for coming out and enjoying our fellow comrades and filling the float and wheeling along it! Thanks to staff for once again getting things in order with the float and a volunteer driver; everyone together made it happen!

We also remain engaged networking with veteran's service organizations

having representation with the Combined Veterans Assistance Association of Illinois. We are searching for a primary delegate and alternate to attend monthly meetings at Hines VAH for next year and are nearing a permanent representative. Another important task is selecting a representative as delegate and alternate to the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County; which are also near to finding permanent replacements.

One other way we work to ensure we are well integrated is working with the disability community. On June 24-26th, we once again attended the Abilities Expo in Schaumburg to issue free literature regarding the PVA and Vaughan Chapter. We passed out PN and Sports N Spokes magazines to assist PVA in manning their booth and answered questions regarding a great variety of questions. Our members helping us this year were Charles Willis, Robert

Arciola, and PVA NSOs Robert Statam and Winston Woodard III.

At June's Membership Meeting we also had a guest speaker from RTA who presented an orientation and provided a very nice overview of their program. Information was provided to help members obtain information to increase and maximize their independence. This was a follow-up to members request for assistance in affordable transportation solutions navigating to and from home within and outside the suburbs.

We have a few members interested in representing Vaughan Chapter with Hines VAH Volunteer Services who will be interviewed and hopefully placed in position soon. Volunteers are required to go through a training program and report to the chapter through attending quarterly VAVS meetings communicate needs, volunteer hour reports and sometimes when called upon to serve on committee assignments.

We are currently looking forward to see if we will once again attend the Illinois State Fair to meet at governors' invitation.

Thank you all for helping to make these events successful and impacting our community!

DONATION DRIVE

Fill a bag and
make a difference!

Items help fund:

Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere

G.O.V.E.

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Vaughan Chapter

Help us raise funds by cleaning out your closet!

Bring your items to our Donation Drive event:

Friday September 30, 2016 from 8:30am to 3:30pm
Paralyzed Veterans of America—Vaughan Chapter
2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501
Westchester, IL 60154

You are able to drop off items at any time from now until the day of the drive. For questions call: (708) 947-9790

We are collecting:

-  Clothing
 -  Shoes
 -  Accessories
 -  Books
 -  Linens
 -  Household Items*
- * Small items only
No furniture

donation **drive**
SAVERS

Sports & Recreation

As you may recall Vaughn Chapter began adaptive lacrosse as early as February and launched a Clinic March 19-20th which in-turn established its official **Chicago Cougar team**. An official Cougar meeting was held early May and the team participated June 9-11th in Mequon, WI in the Midwest Regional Tournament taking 4th place. A conference call was held on June 15th and it was later determined that the team would not attend the National event in Ocean City, MD this year, but major steps had been made for such a quick start. We are looking forward to a successful season planning a 2017 budget.

The National Veteran Wheelchair Games were again held this year (June 27-July 2nd) in Salt Lake City, NV with 11 participants from our area bringing home a robust 27 medals total! Each year these games feature more and more events. Another event that our area chapter members enjoy was the National Golden Age Games (July 10-14th) where there were approximately 16 participants! Each year these events seem to garner more and more support and participation! Vaughn Chapter always looks forward to assisting members wishing to compete and help in ways possible supporting Hines VAH. Our combined efforts promote healthier lives, familiarize sports and recreational opportunities; provide competition, socialization, confidence and independence.

Boccia was introduced to the Vaughn Chapter in the spring this year and anyone interested in team competition for regular practices, please let us know to get organized.

Vaughn Chapter hosted the Land of Lincoln Bass Tournament a stop on the PVA Bass Tour (May 13-15th). The first day was cancelled due to high wind and low temperatures; however, everything went well on the second day fishing. Members Robert Arciola took 9th Place in Open, Chuck Willis took 2nd Place in Bank individual, 1st Place Team was Charlie Johnson and Chuck Willis, Robert Statam took 4th Place Team. Beside the bad weather, ala-in-all the event had 24 boats and 8 Bank members participate. Please visit PVA sports for full results. We participated teleconference July 13th to discuss success for the year and changes for 2017. Our 2017 Land of Lincoln Bass event may be changed to this October 28-30th 2016. Members Robert Arciola (17th Place Team), and Chuck Willis (2nd Place Team and Individual Bank) also partici-



Charles Johnson Bass Winner

pated in the Bluegrass Bash Kentucky. Thank you to all our volunteers from VPVA, the IDNR and Sesser Valier Outdoorsman Club for the dedication to making sure our event was a great success!

The American Wheelchair Bowling Association will be holding another clinic August 27th to promote and educate people with disabilities at the 1555 75th Street in Woodridge, IL from 1 PM – 3 PM. Note – this event conflicts with our Chapter Membership meeting date.

Wheelchair basketball team membership is offered for veterans. Please contact Gary Gribble at 708-244-9603 or Joe Gerardi at 630-815-5737 for details.

Vaughn Chapter also hosted the PVA Trapshoot in Edwardsville, IL at the Edwardsville Gun Club April 22-24th. Chapter members Ziggy Tkaczenko (A Class), Winston Woodard III and Robert Arciola (both D Class) competed. Ziggy helped Team Wisconsin win 1st Place and shot a total 269 taking 3rd Place overall – 1st Place overall was Dave David who scored 283. North Central finished 2nd Place. A big thank you to all the volunteers from the Edwardsville Gun Club for providing great hospitality and volunteering so much time to make our event a huge success!

The Vaughn Chapter again has co-sponsored IDNR Trapshoot

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www.vaughanpva.org

Welcome to the 2016 Valor Games Midwest

The Chicago Park District will host the sixth annual Valor Games Midwest in Chicago, IL, August 23-25, 2016 and appreciates your interest in participating.

The primary goal of the Valor Games is to host a multi-sport competition for disabled veterans and wounded, ill and injured active duty service members. Sports include shot put, discus, cycling/handcycling, archery, powerlifting, and indoor rowing. Athletes must compete in at least two sports in order to participate.

There is no entry fee for the event and athletes' costs for food, local ground transportation and lodging will be covered. However, the accepted athlete will be responsible for his or her own travel to and from Chicago.

Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis and is subject to athlete eligibility. Athletes will receive confirmation of their acceptance to the Valor Games Midwest, as well as additional event details, within three weeks of submitting their application. Please note that spots are limited.

The application deadline is Friday, July 29, 2016. If you must cancel your application for the Valor Games Midwest, please do so as soon as possible.

All cancellations must be submitted to maribel.mejia@chicagoparkdistrict.com by Friday, July 29, 2016. If you cancel after July 29, you may not be eligible to compete in the 2017 Valor Games Midwest due to costs associated with late cancellations.

If you have any questions, please contact Maribel Mejia at Maribel.Mejia@Chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Please click the button below to continue to the application for the 2016 Valor Games Midwest

Follow link to register

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf3yPBHT8aMXQAD50al0BAjCAw8PkDIIVCcw7Zx5Z6_omj7mQ/viewform



Above: Chicago Bears Alumni and Charles Scott at Hines Games. Above right: Judi Ruiz at Hines Games. Right: Hines VA Games Ceremony.





**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, September 17th, 2016

Hines VA Hospital, Pavilion

Hines, IL

12 Noon – 4:00 p.m.

**Music, Fun, Entertainment,
Performance and Prizes.**

**Members, Associate Members & Volunteers
are welcome to come join us!!**

(Limit 4 per Family)

Please RSVP by September 13th, 2016 @

708-947-9790 or by email @

vpva@vaughanpva.org

oraygoza@vaughanpva.org



XL Funhouse Moon jump for the Kids





The **Vaughn PVA** is proud to announce that the Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a national policy to provide ReWalk Exoskeletons for **ANY US Veteran** who physically qualifies!

In addition, ReWalk has announced opportunities for a **No-Cost screening** to help determine if you are a candidate for this life-changing technology. After this initial screening ReWalk can then help you with the process of seeking evaluation and training.

What is ReWalk?

ReWalk enables individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI) to **stand** and **walk**. It is the most proven exoskeleton with over 200 used in home, community and clinic settings.



For a **No-Cost** Screening and Information on Evaluation and Training
Visit **ReWalk.com/contact**



Our mission is to fundamentally change the **Quality of Life** for individuals with lower limb disability through the creation and development of market leading robotic technologies.

www.rewalk.com

Robert Statam, National Service Officer – NSO III Abilities Expo 2016 – (Outreach Event)

The Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) were among the exhibitors for the Abilities Expo Chicago 2016. The event was held at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center from June 24 – 26, 2016. I attend the event on Saturday the 25th, with members of the Vaughan Chapter, which I was honored to be in support of our local chapter for this event. The Abilities Expo has been the go-to source for the Community of people with disabilities, their families, seniors, veterans and healthcare professionals. The event is an excellent opportunity for advocates to meet



Robert Statam at LOL Bass Tournament

and network with others in the disabled community. As I have participated in the Abilities Expo in the past it has always been an event to open your eyes to

new technologies, new possibilities, new solutions and new opportunities to change lives.

I met with a number of our constituents, who were delighted to be able to talk about VA benefits and other programs to assist family members. Although, activities such as dancing, wall climbing, horse demos, and others forms of entertainment. There were those who wanted to know what benefits are available to assist in getting this new technology. I discussed with a few on-goers the qualifications for VA benefits, for those who may qualify, but mostly about the programs we have in place to assist veterans. The Abilities Expo always strives to provide the products and services to help you meet and overcome your daily challenges. The PVA, has always has been there to assist the veterans and the family members, while we support these resources and the services they provide to anyone in the disability community. The event was an honor to be a part of as I look forward to next year's expo.

If you should have any questions concerning this event, please feel free to contact Robert Statam, NSO III at the Chicago Regional Office, PVA @ (312)980-4278.

HOUSE FOR SALE



It has 3 bedrooms and is 3054 sq. ft. It was built in 2001. It is accessible from the garage via a chair lift and also from the back yard via a ramp to the deck with access to the family room and master bedroom. If anyone is interested, I can be reached at 815-469-7283. It would be great to have a disabled vet buy this house since it was originally built for a disabled vet.

Carol Lynne Daly

Sports

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will be held September 10th at Rend lake followed by a very nice banquet with raffles and auctions to help raise funds for disabled outdoorsmen. For additional information, please call Jay Williams 618-435-8138 or send an email to jay.d.Williams@illinois.gov. Forms to register are on the way. Please call us to see if they're in. Now's the time to get ready for a host of fall and winter outdoor opportunities. Please let us know how we may help you get involved in an activity of your interest!

PEN PAL EXCHANGE

Charles Schimpf
Alden Gardens of Bloomingdale
285 East Army Trail Road
Unit 309
Bloomingdale, IL 60108

Service Officer's Report

by Mr. Winston Woodard III
Senior Veterans Health & Benefits Specialist PVA

HEALTHCARE BENEFITS AND RESOURCES FOR SCI/D

Veterans and caregivers are getting older and viable options are needed in managing SCI/D veterans' care. The Aid & Attendance benefits related to compensation or pension causes some confusion about the veterans' overall entitlements. The Aid & Attendance benefit offers some monetary entitlements but there is a basis healthcare entitlement for all veterans based on the medical needs of the veteran. The Department of Veterans Administration (VA) must meet the veterans' healthcare needs to ensure the veteran has access to care and supportive medical services in the community.

There are a variety of services VA provides, but we will discuss a specific few used by SCI/D veterans. Some of these programs are the respite program, homemaker/home health aide program, and caregiver training. All VA medical centers have responsibility for the provision of basic medical care.

Respite care offers relief from caregiver responsibilities by providing services to veterans in a variety of settings, including inpatient, community nursing home, adult day care healthcare, and in-home care. Respite care ranges from a few hours a day to four weeks per year in a skilled care facility. The Hines SCI Chief manages this program and must be requested by the caregiver in writing.

Next, the Homemaker/Home Health Aide program provides services such as bathing, dressing, and assistance with activities of daily living for the veteran, chore services such as grocery shopping and meal preparation, and respite-like services such as reading to or talking with the veteran to allow the caregiver to leave the home for a short period of time. This may include Bowel and Bladder care under Fee Basis/Non-VA Care program. These are valuable programs for spouses to unburden dual duties.

Finally, the caregiver education and training is provided across patient care areas to assure that caregivers have the knowledge and skills to provide for the veteran healthcare needs at home. This training is usually completed at a SCI Center (Hub) and the caregiver can typically lodge (50 mile radius required from home address) at the Fisher House. Fisher Houses provide caregivers a place to stay while they are supporting veterans who are either hospitalized or receiving extended outpatient services.

In closing, all these programs mentioned are available to SCI/D veterans and caregivers. We want to ensure caregivers are not "burned out" and are supported. Please consult the veterans' primary physician about the veteran's needs and supportive resources for caregivers. If you need more detailed information, please contact your local National Service Officer for assistance.

Letter from the Chief *continued from page 4*

chase are now being finalized. Hines is one of only thirteen (13) SCI Centers with the Designation "Training Center" for the exoskeleton home use. Talk with your provider to hear what the exclusion and inclusion issues are.

Finally in my message this month I want to acknowledge all the Veterans and family members who have taken time to write, phone, or stop and speak with me about the care they have received from the staff. Good and bad; Praise or condemn; Up or down; I want to hear them all. I need to hear them all because although it is more difficult to hear the negative I realize that without hearing what happened we can never improve. Some regulations, many restrictions,

certain exclusions may not be obvious immediately. Some attitudes, behaviors, and responses may not be perfect at all times. But all the staff exist to serve you as Veterans who have served honorably for your tours. We all honor your service by providing service to you. Please take the time to speak out when we are doing it right, just as I hope you will speak up when we are doing it wrong.

As Chief of this Service I thank you for your service and for allowing us to provide care. Enjoy the summer and keep healthy.



A man in a wheelchair is shown from behind, sitting on a wooden pier. He is wearing a blue life vest over a black shirt. His arms are outstretched to the sides. In the background, there is a large blue ship in the water and a city skyline in the distance. The water is choppy. The overall scene is bright and open.

Unlike other bowel programs that can take hours and produce unpleasant side-effects, **Enemeez®** works quickly, safely and effectively.

-
- | Product | Time to Onset of Action (Minutes) |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Blonoxyl | 74.5 |
| Enxmeer | 37 |

TOTAL TIME/MINUTES FOR BOWEL CARE: _____

Genus	Percentage
Diapodys	82%
Enneades	3%

EPISODES OF INCONTINENCE BY PRODUCT

[illegible]



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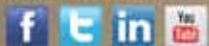
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The Elpis Factor's 1st Annual
5k Run - Walk for Vets
Saturday, August 13, 2016
 Opening Ceremony starts at 8 am
 Cantigny Park
 1 S. 151 Winfield Road
 Wheaton IL 60189

Registration for 5K on race day
 6:30 am to 7:30 am
 Race Starts at 8:00am
 or signup at
www.elpisfactor.com

For more information
 call Diana Glatchak
 630.699.8781
dglatchak@elpisfactor.com
 or visit
elpisfactor.com

\$15.00 Adult
 \$10.00 Young Adult
 5 and under Free
 \$12.00 Tee Shirt & Lunch
 with pre-registration only

TEF
 Raising Funds for
 Paralyzed Veterans of America
 Vaughan Chapter

VFW
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

DAV
 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Bill Lawson

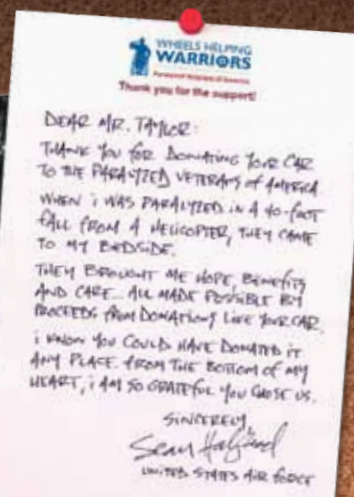
continued from page 1

will have to be confirmed by the National BOD.

It's time to make the choice of stepping up and helping us by joining us in our efforts to save your chapter. We need members to volunteer for the chapter. Even if you live a distance from Chicago, there are many things you can do on behalf to the chapter right where you live. Volunteering for the chapter does not take up a lot of time. Even if you give us five hours a month, that is a significant improvement from where the chapter is today. This is your chapter and it is up to you to show the National BOD that you want to keep it alive.

If you are interested in saving this chapter, give the office a call and tell Maria that you would like to assist in any manner possible. I look forward to seeing you at the next membership meeting.

FUND A LIFETIME OF SUPPORT FOR SEVERELY INJURED VETERANS.



DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TODAY.

Regardless of the condition, all vehicles have value and are sold at auction. Proceeds from the sale help provide jobs, care and benefits for severely injured veterans and their families. Scheduling a pickup is free and easy, and you may be eligible for a tax deduction, too! There's no better way to give back to those who have given so much.

Marketing and advertising by The Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation
 Ad sponsored by Houston Community Newspapers



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org

866.841.2023

Schedule a free pickup.



Maria's letter

continued from page 3

- participated in the activities indoors. Staff from PM&R once again provided assistance to our veterans and we are grateful to them and Dr. Monica Steiner for their annual contributions and service. Volunteers from the Boy Scouts as well as the Broadview Explorer Scouts assisted other volunteers in helping veterans get from one activity to the next.

Opening Ceremonies were held in the Hines Auditorium led by the Chief, SCI Service – Dr. Michael Richardson and members from the Director's Office. Fran Jiracek from Vaughan Chapter PVA led the athletes and guests in a short prayer before Dr. Richardson announced "Let the Games Begin". Events ranged from bowling, archery, pool, bocchia ball, basketball shoot, baseball throw, javelin throw, target shooting and several others.

Lunch for the veterans and guests was provided once again by Vaughan Chapter PVA and VPVA was thanked for their contribution at the Awards Ceremony held after lunch in the Canteen. This is an event that has been a successful endeavor to introduce newer veterans to events held at the National Games. It provides insight as to what to expect and how to train to compete. Everyone enjoyed themselves. VPVA is an integral part of this annual event at Hines VA Hospital.

Vaughan Chapter held its annual local Busse Woods Fishing Derby (June 11th) in Elk Grove Village. Extremely HOT day for us to go fishing but we managed the brutal heat and kept our veterans cool with wet cold towels and by spraying mist water every five minutes. Despite the weather, everyone had a great time. There were several members from RCF and outpatients who enjoyed a very relaxed noncompetitive day on the bank fishing and enjoying the picnic food provided which included plenty fried chicken, lasagna, side salads, soda, water and cake. Special thanks to our valuable volunteers for assisting the veterans in the different areas. Thanks to members of the RIVERSIDE FISHING CLUB, to Johnny Wilkins, Chicago Fishing School, Jerry Hodina who put all the fishing rods together for our veterans. Also to Mike Walen who got to the lake early to help Jerry and made sure everything was ready for our veterans. Kudos also to David Perez, Anne Veltri, Patrick Brock and to our driver Nathan Terry; without him driving, RCF veterans would not have been able to attend, and lastly thanks to DMF Bait Company that again this year donated #500 nightcrawlers for this outing. If you were not able to attend any of our outings we hope to see you next year. We do hope to see you at the next upcoming Annual Picnic Event Sept. 17th as well as our scheduled Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 20th.

Sincerely
Maria Hernandez



Residential Care Facility PVA members at BUSSE WOODS fishing derby on June 11, 2016.

Vaughan PVA
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The VPVA float at the Chicago Memorial Day Parade.

VPVA 2016 Calendar of Events

September 10th	The 18th Annual Rend Lake Shooting Classic for Persons with Disabilities, Whittington, Illinois
September 12th–16th	TEE Tournament September 12 - 16, 2016 Iowa City, IA Contact; Kirk Sickels 319-358-5963
September 17th	VPVA Annual Picnic RSVP to the Chapter office
September 18th– 23th	The National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic San Diego, CA
November 11th	Veterans Day
November 24th	American Legion Hall Thanksgiving Dinner
December 20th	Christmas Luncheon at Hines VA, Auditorium RSVP to Chapter Office