



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

August 2017

In This Issue

Executive Director's
Letter
3

PVA President's Report
4

David Zurflah
5

Sports & Recreation
6

PVA Sports Schedule
7

Government Relations
9

Life Enjoyment Fund
11

Greetings from the Chief
15

Message from Bill Lawson

They say "time flies when you're having fun!" It's difficult to believe that three months have passed since my last report to you. The chapter has made significant progress since I last reported to the Vaughan Chapter Membership. The Chapter Board of Directors has been busy calling members on their birth month and our office staff is working hard to ensure that the chapter moves forward.

Since my last report, we have added another two Vaughan Chapter Members to the Board. This gives us a total of six members as of this date. We are in the process of interviewing two more prospective Board Members, which will bring us to eight BOD members. Once this happens, I will appoint members to the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you're doing the math, that will give us four officers and four board members.

The chapter is operating all eight mandated programs laid out by the National PVA. The only issue that is preventing getting your charter back is the governance. With the appointment of the four officers and board members we are well on our way to achieving our goals.

The Board of Directors has been in discussions about taking membership meetings outside the Hines SCI Center. With the assistance of our National Service Officer, we have identified a concentration of members using the



Danville, Illinois VA. Plans have been put in place to hold the monthly membership meeting at the Danville VA in September. Since the chapter covers a large area, the board is of the opinion that the chapter should reach out to areas where we have groups of members. In the future, we will most likely look to other areas of the State to hold other membership meetings.

On August 16, 2017, the Chapter Board will be holding their annual budget meeting. As I mentioned before, we are looking at adding more activities for the members to enjoy. After reviewing the last budget, it seems that there is a lack of activities during the winter months.

continued on page 8



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

National Board of Directors

Bill Lawson; Past National President
Ken Weas; National Senior Vice President

Chapter Board of Directors

Robert Arciola, Gerald L. Brown, Josue E. Cordova,
Theotis D. Smith, Jr., Anthony Powell, Arthur H. Wolf

National Chapter Liaison

Ken Weas

Hospital Liaison

Arthur H. Wolf

Advocacy Director

Robert A. Arciola

Sports Director

Robert Arciola

Fundraising Director

Theotis D. Smith, Jr

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Vaughan PVA Members

Call Us on your Birthday

for a FREE Gift to You

on behalf of

Vaughan Chapter PVA.

(800) 727-2234



2017 VAUGHAN PVA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY

August 23 & October 25

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

by dialing in at 1 800-724-2485 passcode: 456000

(state your name when joining the meeting)

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.

**Any questions
please call our office 800-727-2234**

VPVA Executive Director's Letter

By Maria Hernandez
Executive Director

Hello Vaughan PVA Members;

I will start by giving you an update on the events mentioned in the May newsletter. We decided to honor and appreciate our SCI nurses during nurse's week. A luncheon was held in the SCI multipurpose room in Building 128 on Tuesday, May 9th and nurses attending the luncheon received an appreciation goody bag with lots of snacks,

sweets, small helium rose and an angel of caring pin. Nurses were very surprised and grateful for the great gesture from Vaughan PVA. Definitely it will be a repeat for next year; it was well deserved for their hard work and dedication.

Another new event was our 1st Poker tournament (no \$\$\$\$ gambling) it was just for fun and sharing with comrades. We had three tables with

four players on each table, which is not bad for the first time. Vaughan Chapter provided a token of participation which was a Walmart gift card to the players that made it till the last round. Four winners 1st place \$75, 2nd place \$50, 3rd place \$30 and 4th place \$20. Board of

Directors Art Wolf and Josue Cordova volunteered to be the dealers for this tournament.

Again this year Vaughan Chapter participated in the Memorial Day Parade. I would like to thank those who rode on the float and represented the chapter. We hope to see more members at this event next year.

2017 Busse Woods fishing derby

Last but not least, was our Busse Woods one day fishing derby which was a great success we had a great turnout and everyone enjoyed the sun, the fishing the music and the food.

I would also like to congratulate Hines Windy City team and Vaughan athletes that participated in the 37th NVWG in Cincinnati, OH this past July. It was a smaller team this year consisting of four athletes Enrique

continued on page 4



clockwise from left; Amy Varghese, NP, nursing student (name unknown), Toni Kezel, Merriam Prestoza, Dr. Jolene Simon, Nancy Chaiken, NP, and Anna Marie Banique, RN

Next Vaughan Chapter MEMBERSHIP MEETING at VA Illiana Health Care, Danville IL

Vaughan Chapter Members, SCI, MS, ALS Veterans from Danville, IL and surrounding area. This is to inform you that the Vaughan Chapter; PVA will be conducting their monthly Membership Meeting at the VA Illiana Health Care System, in Danville IL on Wednesday, September 27th, 2017 at 12:00p.m.(noon)

Vaughan Chapter Board of Directors and service office would like to meet you and hear from you and at the same time give you the opportunity to raise your voice on your concerns, needs or opinion. We encourage you to join us at this meeting to find out more information regarding your benefits and how we can help you.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 27th, 2017, 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: VA Illiana Health Care System, Danville IL
1900 E. Main St
Danville IL 61832
Social Activity Room
Building #104

Questions please call our Chapter office 708-947-9790

Lunch will be provided; Compliments of Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America.

PVA President's Report

David Zurfluh

National President, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe, but another successful National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) is concluded. Whether you were competing in the events in the Queen City of Cincinnati, OH, or following us from home or hospital, I do hope the spirit of the 37th Veterans Wheelchair Games is still with you today.

It was such a privilege to meet and compete with some of you there, and you made my first official event as Paralyzed Veterans' national president a joyful one full of amazing memories. So thank you for your competitive spirits and your energy throughout the week.

And what a week it was! Congratulations to everyone who competed and those who won medals. You've made your chapters proud, and you've set wonderful examples for all of our new athletes, who will then pave the way for next year's novice athletes. And thank you to those who tuned in from all around the country—whether it be through live stream or on social media—to see our athletes go for the gold.

Once again, I want to remind you all to work toward retaining the bonds of military men and women, while continuing to reach out to those newly injured veterans and novice athletes to show and tell the rehabilitative mental and physical benefits of adaptive sports. It's the tradition of the NVWG, one that has been passed on to us for 37 years, through generations of fellow veterans. It is what keeps us coming to these events each year, and living a LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS.

And words cannot express how appreciative we are for every volunteer, coach, recreational therapist, sponsor and the citizens of Cincinnati. Thank you all so much for your tireless effort and dedication. We simply could not have had a successful event without you.

So thank you for a wonderful week, and I look forward to joining you next year in Orlando.

Sincerely,

David Zurfluh

National President, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Executive Director's Report

continued from page 3

Lopez, Raymond Shepack, Daniel James and Bennie McQueen who competed within various events such as bowling, air rifles, boccia, softball, slalom course, archery, basketball and 9-ball. The team competed through their sweat and tears to a total of twelve (12) medals and one (1) trophy, trophy being the winner of the Super G Slalom manual wheelchair course by Enrique Lopez. Team Medal Count: Gold: 7 Silver: 2 Bronze: 3 Super G Slalom Winner.

Also in this issue you will find a fundraising flyer with different items we are offering for sale to raise funds. I ask you for your support in helping us raise funds for the annual activities and outings. Please share this information with your friends, family, neighbors or anyone that you might think is interested in supporting our cause.

I also would like to thank and welcome aboard our two new Board of Directors, Anthony Powell and Gerald Brown who accepted the opportunity to serve and help

continued on page 5



Enrique Lopez, winner of the Super G Slalom manual wheelchair course receives his trophy.

Paralyzed Veterans of America Elects David Zurfluh as National President

Former Senior Vice President appointed to organization's highest office

WASHINGTON, DC— Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) this week appointed immediate past national senior vice president to hold the organization's highest elected office, its national president.

David Zurfluh, a native of Washington State, has served as Paralyzed Veterans' senior vice president since 2015.

Zurfluh is a U.S. Air Force veteran who served his country in Operation Desert Shield/Storm before being injured in a motor vehicle accident in 1995 while on active duty in Hachinohe, Japan. Following one year of inpatient rehabilitation and two years of outpatient care, he resumed life as an incomplete quadriplegic.

Paralyzed Veterans came to my aid, gave me hope and showed me a path to succeed in life. I can't imagine any better way to pay it forward than to lead an organization that offers new lives to injured veterans.

"I joined Paralyzed Veterans of America the same year I was injured," said Zurfluh. "As I lay in my hospital bed after my injury, lost, broken and wondering about my future, Paralyzed Veterans came to my aid, gave me hope and showed me a path to succeed in life.

I can't imagine any better way to pay it forward than to lead an organization that offers new lives to injured veterans."



Zurfluh has held several positions in the Paralyzed Veterans Northwest Chapter in Washington since 2003, including legislative director, vice president, president and as a member of the sports committee. He also serves on the Veterans Legislative Coalition in Olympia, WA, and is the co-chair of the West Slope Neighborhood Coalition.

continued on page 11

the Vaughan Chapter move forward in compliance with National PVA guidelines.

Lastly I would like to inform you that we are planning a Veterans' Day Dinner to honor our entire member veterans. Hopefully we can have it on the actual Veterans Day, November 11th I will keep you posted and please look forward to the invitation. Don't forget about our annual picnic coming up on Saturday, September 23rd at the Hines VA Hospital Pavilion. Invitations will be sent out soon, so for now mark your calendar and we look forward to seeing you at the last outdoor event for this year. Our Christmas luncheon this year will be on Tuesday, December 19th. If you are planning to attend our Christmas luncheon I encourage

you to plan with your family to have transportation on this day. Invitations will follow as we get closer to the dates of these three events coming up.



Vaughan athletes that participated in the 37th NVWG, Enrique Lopez, Raymond Shepack, Daniel James and Bennie McQueen.

Sports & Recreation

by Robert Arciola, Sports Director

The three additional fishing locations for a derby event have been placed on halt as Mr. Bowers informed me he was incapable of focusing on setting them up. At this point in time it appears as though we may need to focus on just the one event in addition to the Busse Woods event already held.

I asked for a NVWG total medal count from two members in attendance and received nothing for the newsletter and membership meeting report.

The Lacrosse team ended practices July 24th till the gymnasium floors are finished at Morton West High School. A scrimmage game against the Indy RIP team is being worked out at the former practice facility Riverside-Brookfield High School for August 12th. Our team is focused on the National Tournament in Buffalo, NY in August. We have a request from four team members wanting to attend. Authorization to proceed as well as authorization to book rooms for our team to attend the National LAX event in Buffalo, NY. I'd like the chapter to cover lodging, transportation and entry fees pending fund availability. Rooms will fill quickly. Total \$3,648.

We are approved as a host chapter for a PVA Bowling Tournament August 2018. I will need support in this event from membership, but most support is getting prepared and participating in it. The event will be held in Rome-oville, IL at Bowlero.

The "Just for Fun" trapshoot at the Le Roy Rifle and Pistol Club in Le Roy, IL had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. I'd like to thank Carl Winger or assisting to put it together and trying. We'll have to work on it again next year.

Just as a reminder the 20th Land of Lincoln Bass Tournament will be held October 27-29th. Ray Hodor has made mention that he'd like to assist in this event and I told him that I could use the help for that and the PVA Trap-

shoot in April. If anyone else can help, please see me.


Lastly, I received a call from Jay Williams of the Disabled Outdoor Opportunities program of IDNR who asked for assistance for the 19th Annual Rend Lake Shooting Classic for Persons with Disabilities in getting PVA shooters to join in on the fun trapshooting and buffet and auction/raffles Saturday, September 16th, 2017. Entry form will mail out to everyone who has participated during the past and is on the mailing list. If you wish to participate or have any questions, please contact Jay Williams directly at (618) 435-5138, ext. 130 or on his cell phone (618) 926-1115. ALL entry forms to be return to Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Attn: Jay Williams 11731 St. Hwy 37, Benton IL 62812.



**The 19th Annual Rend Lake Shooting Classic
for Persons with Disabilities**

For more information contact:

Rend Lake Shooting Complex
Whittington, Illinois
Saturday September 16, 2017



Jay Williams
11731 St. Hwy 37
Benton, IL 62812
(618) 435-8138, ext. 130
(618) 926-1115

2017 BUSSE WOODS FISHING DERBY





Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Arizona Air Rifle/Archery & Boccia Tournament*
Sept. 6-8, 2017
Phoenix, AZ

West Virginia Air Rifle & Boccia*
Oct. 28-29, 2017
Martinsburg, WV

Cal-Diego Air Rifle Tournament
Jan. 22-23, 2018
San Diego, CA

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle Tournament
March 7-8, 2018
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle Tournament
March 23-25, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Buckeye Air Rifle Tournament
April 21-22, 2018
Geneva, OH

KY-IN Air Rifle & Boccia Tournament*
Date - TBD
Louisville, KY

**indicates combined events*

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
Aug. 4-6, 2017
Pistol & Rifle Tournament - Aug. 4
Green Bay, WI

North Central Shooting Sports Tournament
Sept. 8-10, 2017
Pistol Tournament - Sept. 8
Sioux Falls, SD

Keystone Shooting Sports Tournament
Sept. 22-24, 2017
Pistol Tournament - Sept. 22
Clairton, PA

Arizona Shooting Sports Tournament
Nov. 3-5, 2017
Pistol Tournament - Nov. 3
Phoenix, AZ

Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament
Nov. 10-12, 2017
Charles City, VA

Florida Gulf Coast Shooting Sports Tournament
March 1-3, 2018
Odessa, FL

Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament
March 16-18, 2018
Pistol Tournament - March 16
Las Vegas, NV

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Cal-Diego Air Rifle/Pistol
March 23-25, 2018
Pistol & Rifle Tournament - March 23
Redlands, CA

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament
April 20-22, 2018
Edwardsville, IL

Minnesota Shooting Sports Tournament
May 18-20, 2018
Minneapolis, MN

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament
June 22-24, 2018
Waxahachie, TX

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
June 15-17, 2018
Pistol Event - June 15, 2018
Cedar Rapids, IA

PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament
Sept. 22-24, 2017
Eufaula, OK

Lone Star Bass Tournament
Sept. 29—Oct. 1, 2017
Garland, TX

Southeastern Bass Tournament
Oct. 13-15, 2017
Evans, GA

Vaughan Bass Tournament
Oct. 27-29, 2017
Mt. Vernon, IL

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
March 30-April 1, 2018
Kissimmee, FL

KY-IN Bass Tournament
May 4-6, 2018
Gilbertsville, KY

National Bass Tournament
June 1-3, 2018
Marbury, MD

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 8-10, 2018
Richmond, VA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament
Sept. 15-17, 2017
Virginia Beach, VA

Mid-South Billiards Tournament
Oct. 13-14, 2017
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament
March 23-25, 2018
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament
April 20-22, 2018
Oklahoma City, OK

Mountain States Billiards Tournament
May 4-5, 2018
Fountain, CO

Buckeye Billiards Tournament**
June 22-23, 2018
Wickliffe, OH

****non-sanctioned events**

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament
July 6-9, 2017
Council Bluffs, IA

Mountain States Bowling Tournament
Aug. 24-27, 2017
Colorado Springs, CO

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament
Sept. 22-24, 2017
Glen Allen, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament
Nov. 30-December 3, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament
Feb. 23-25, 2018
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament
March 29-April 1, 2018
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
May 3-6, 2018
Romeoville, IL

BOCCIA

Nevada Boccia Tournament
Jan. 26-27, 2018
Las Vegas, NV

Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament
Feb. 20-21, 2018
San Diego, CA

PARALYZED VETERANS RACING

Off-Road Handcycling Championships
Aug. 18-20, 2017
Crested Butte, CO

Pensacola Cycling
Sept. 16-17, 2017
Pensacola, FL

Air Force Marathon
Sept. 16, 2017
Dayton, OH

Pocahontas State Park Off-Road Ride
Sept. 30, 2017
Richmond, VA

38TH NVWG
July 30-Aug. 4, 2018
Orlando, FL

For more information, visit: pva.org/sports

Annual Evaluation Snack Bag

During our Annual Site Survey by National PVA office in April 2017, the SCI Dietitian told the committee of the need for nutritional snacks and water and juice for SCI veterans scheduled each week for a day-long Annual SCI exam which lasts the entire day through lunch. National suggested conferring with VPVA for assistance. After many interventions, a list of non-perishable shelf items, consisting of (1) bottle of 100% juice, Lorna Doone cookies, peanut butter crackers, pudding, applesauce, small bottle of water along with a reusable tote will be provided at the SCI Clinic when they come in for their annual evaluation. "Compliments of Vaughan Chapter PVA" (see photo below). This was established at the beginning of May 2017. Our SCI veterans have welcomed them, especially our diabetic veterans since Nutrition Service was denied a budget to provide these items monthly in the SCI Clinic; Vaughan Chapter has added this need to our annual budget and will continue to provide to our disabled veterans. We are hoping that members will share this information so that our annual evaluation patients would be made aware of this snack bag provided by Vaughan Chapter PVA at their next annual evaluation.



Bill Lawson

continued from page 1

The Board has discussed this and as a result, we intend to add additional money to the budget to sponsor some events during these months.

This year, we hosted a Sweetheart dance at the Hines VA. It was well attended. I want to thank all those who took time out to come to the dance. Since the theme is to recognize our spouses and caregivers, we are going to change up and host a luncheon or dinner around Valentine's day. So, look for an announcement in the near future for the date and location of these activities.

I want you to know that the members of the chapter that have volunteered to serve on the Chapter Board are doing so because they care about you. Not only do they want to do everything they can to bring events that will be enjoyable by all but also to ensure that the needs of the membership are met. We do, however, need more volunteers to assist the board. So, if you have even a couple hours of

I want you to know that the members of the chapter that have volunteered to serve on the Chapter Board are doing so because they care about you.

free time, please call the chapter office and tell them you would like to volunteer to help out.

One last thing... When you are at the Hines SCI Center for your annual or outpatient appointments, please don't forget those who have been admitted to the hospital. We all know what it's like to be an inpatient and a short visit from fellow Vaughan Chapter Members would most assuredly be appreciated. We are all in this together.

Until the next report, stay healthy and if there is anything we can do, give us a call!

Vaughan PVA Government Relations Report

The Neighbors For Affordable Housing in Jefferson Park (NFHA) meeting held Wednesday, June 28th which I didn't attend provided a debriefing with Alderman John Arenas and a few action items to care for concerning some issues related to the following:

- Establishing a relationship with the 16th District Police (District Advisory Membership)
- Closing apparent loops with Full Circle (developer)
- Dissemination of meeting information (produce executive summary)
- Composing a newsletter
- Debriefing on canvassing efforts and Picnic in the Park
- Update on Recruitment/base-building event mid-August at Filament
- Upcoming National Housing Week of Action/Day of Action July 22-29
- Mentioned importance and urgency in forming a Group Agreements
- Formation of a JP Master Planning process which was tabled
- Discussion concerning an opposing group lawsuit formed against them has been deemed unlikely they'll be capable of winning a temporary restraining order regarding the 5150 property rezoning.

We'll be resuming monthly meetings with the Illinois Combined Veterans Association at Hines VAH SCI and the Cook County Veterans Assistance Commission at Jesse Brown VAMC this September.

WELLNESS ACADEMY

The Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder (SCI/D) Wellness

Academy is a health driven program aimed to meet the needs of Veterans living with SCI. Our vision is that Veterans will learn knowledge and skills to improve their overall health and wellness, and learn how to access resources available to them in their communities. We hope to offer ongoing informational sessions such as Tai Chi, Yoga, and Assistive Technology classes to our Hines VA SCI Veterans providing them with various resources and information to improve their wellness and participation in their community. Upcoming sessions will be advertised in the SCI Building on Hines campus, and will tentatively occur the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1-2 PM. If you are interested in learning more, contact or visit Megan Fletcher, LCSW on Spinal Cord South (708-202-2106).



CONGRATULATIONS TO SCI RETIREES!!!!

Being a nurse on a spinal cord injury ward is no easy task. We are so grateful to the nurses for their service who recently retired from Hines SCI. Board Members of Vaughan Chapter PVA, Theotis Smith, Josue Cordova and Robert Arciola brought Service Award plaques from VPVA to the Hines Membership Meeting. Dr. Michael Richardson, Chief SCI services gratefully accepted the plaques which will be mailed to the following SCI retiring nurses:

Ardrean William-Gamble, LPN 30 years of SCI Service

Margaret (Peggy) Kovaka, NA 5 years of SCI Service

Zenaida Matroci, LPN 15 years of SCI Service

Grace De La Vega, RN 27 years of SCI Service

Vaughan Chapter PVA sends its gratitude and wishes for a long and healthy well deserved retirement.



Board Members of Vaughan Chapter PVA, Theotis Smith, Josue Cordova and Robert Arciola with Dr. Michael Richardson, Chief SCI Services



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, September 23, 2017

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 18th, 2017 @

708-947-9790 or by email @

vpva@vaughanpva.org

dpettiford@vaughanpva.org



XL Funhouse Moon jump for the Kids



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 absolutely 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 10/1/2016 to 9/30/2017).

President's Message

continued from page 5

"With the increased scrutiny of the VA by government leaders and speculation about Veterans Choice Care, we are at a turning point in history for veterans healthcare. I am honored to have the opportunity to be the voice of Paralyzed Veterans' members and those who support our organization, as we take the lead and ensure our members will continue to receive quality health care in VA specialized services,"



Vaughan Members; earn Volunteer hours in the following areas of opportunities.

- Attend a membership meeting (beginning to end)
1- volunteer hour , (No mileage reimbursement)
- Chapter representation at, Access Chicago, ADA Celebration, and Memorial Day Parade, Valor Games outreach booth.
- Volunteer at the PVA Chapter Office (when needed).
- Awareness month
- Represent the chapter at community functions
- Serve on a local committee, VFW, American Legion, City, County, and State.
- Represent the chapter at an activity (pre-approved)
- Volunteer to work at a chapter event six hours or more (non-participant)
- Sign up a voting member (1 credit hour)
- Sell candy (3 credit hours of the selling of one box)
- Serve on a local event committee
- Write an article for the newsletter (1 credit hour)
- Serve on a chapter committee
- Mailing preparation at chapter office
- Anything else you might have on mind,

Please check with;
Maria Hernandez or
Sports Director, Robert Arciola.
708-947-9790.





GIFT YOUR OLD WHEELS FOR GOOD.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

**WHEELS HELPING
WARRIORS**

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans. Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too! Schedule your free, easy pickup today.



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548

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- At Home Delivery and Service
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Call: 800.956.6668 • E-mail: questions@rollxvans.com

Find out more about Your Ride at www.rollxvans.com.

Follow us on:    



Fundraising



Attached are photos of specialty items to raise funds for Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America. The monies from fundraising of these items will be used to continue funding the various activities our Chapter sponsors for our disabled military veterans. These activities help our veterans get back into the mainstream of life in spite of their traumatic injuries and diseases. We hope you will support our fundraising efforts of these wonderful gift items. We look forward to your support by purchasing any of our items that will bring joy and happiness to our veterans who gave so much. Items can be purchased with cash, check or credit card. Please take a moment to share this information with your friends and support our cause. You can also find additional information in our Facebook page

at <https://www.facebook.com/VAUGHANCHAPTERVA/>



Vaughan Chapter Hat & T-shirt

\$10 + Shipping



Armed Forces Plaques

Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Army, Navy & POW-MIA and God Bless America.

They are 11" x 11" Inches, Cost is **\$40 each** (plus) shipping if you want it shipped to you.

You may also obtain plaques at any of our upcoming events and outings; we will have them available to you as well.

Contact VPVA Office at (708) 947-9790 or reply to vpva@vaughanpva.org to place your order. Cash, charge cards and/or checks accepted.

Greetings from the Chief

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

The VA has been in the news positively over the past few weeks as our Secretary continues to develop new processes and practices to make VHA one of the most transparent and accountable federal employers in the country. At the same time he has shown his willingness to move quickly and decisively if presented with poor clinical care, misleading reporting, or dishonest employees. The public record is now more timely and accessible with reports on the quality measures of care in the VHA (compared with the private sector), the disciplinary actions taken by the VHA (no such reports come from the private hospital sector), and the efforts being made to provide accountability for the goals and targets we have set for ourselves.

In SCI at Hines we continue to attract more reports of satisfaction with care delivered at our Center as well as at the many spoke site facilities in our system of care. Veterans and their families are responding with suggestions, thanks, and complaints using our patient advocate Heather Lopez, or our response system and thru the Vaughan PVA Chapter representatives. All methods of communication are welcome and the commitment to serve those who have served us so honorably remains at the heart of our mission as an SCI Center.

The year so far has brought increased numbers of nursing and administrative staff to our SCI Center both in Acute and in the Residential Care Facility (RCF). The numbers and satisfaction of persons treated in the acute rehab setting has increased not only from the addition of new practices to involve and

educate the rehab patient in participating, but also from the earlier identification of eligible veterans admitted to non-VA facilities without notification of their rights and eligibility to receive acute injury care and rehabilitation in the VHA. An increasing percentage of Veterans finishing in the acute rehab program have been able to return to living at home because of the skills, caregivers, technology, and education provided during their rehab process. There has also been greater support given to families of newly injured Veterans in practical, clinical, and emotional areas in order to provide improved assistance for daily living and quality of life. The VHA has recognized that in our discipline of spinal cord injury the role of the caregiver – usually a family member – is of vital importance in determining whether the injured Veteran will succeed or fail in adapting to this new reality of injury. Therefore the resources and support being developed for the caregiver continues to be a focus.

The past year has seen a greater than 40% increase in the number of persons requesting and receiving respite care from the VA SCI System. Respite care, sometimes with repeated short stays, has been used by many people as a “breather” to allow the caregiver time to visit a distant friend, go on a short R&R break, or sometimes just take days to decompress in another town; then returning to the caregiving responsibilities with renewed energy and vigor. This year has also seen greater acceptance of the Annual Examination as a preventive visit. Travel and time away from home are always an issue when booking an inpatient annual, but the “ounce” of prevention is definitely worth many “pounds” of cure.



As the summer nears to an end the months will see both National Conferences in August & September – the PVA Summit and Expo plus the Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals (ASCIP). Practitioners from Hines will be both attending and presenting at each conference this year. Both conferences have value in the information being presented, the best practices being discussed, and the networking and friendships being formed. Conferences allow the practitioners to keep abreast of newest and innovative developments in the care of our patients in order for us to return with better strategies to provide respectful, effective, patient-centered care.

Finally: Congratulations to the Chapter for their obvious strengthening and increasing activities during this year. The Chapter has been a valuable partner to me as Chief in finding options for providing resources for care. The Chapter has also been very active in boosting the morale and appreciation to the staff of the Center and the spokes. I am pleased to acknowledge the help we received during this year and look forward to expanding and deepening our partnership in providing care and assistance for our Veterans at Hines.

Have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day when it arrives.

Vaughan PVA
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**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

800-727-2234

Join Us!!!

Upcoming VPVA 2017 Calendar of Events

TEE Tournament, Iowa City, IA Contact; Kirk Sickels 319-358-5963	September 11-15
The 19th Annual Rend Lake Shooting Classic for Persons with Disabilities Whittington, Illinois	September 16
The National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic San Diego, CA	September 17-22
VPVA Annual Picnic RSVP to the Chapter office	September 23
Land of Lincoln B.A.S.S Tournament, Rend Lake, Mt Vernon, IL	October 27-29
VPVA Annual Christmas Party RSVP to the Chapter office	December 19

