



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

# the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

August 2019

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## A THANK YOU TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ARCIOLA FROM VPVA BOARD MEMBER ACTIVITIES

In July, 1988 at the age of 24, during his Active Duty Army status, Mr. Robert Arciola sustained a cervical spinal cord injury leaving him permanently disabled as a quadriplegic. His home of record at that time qualified him for transfer to Hines VA Hospital for rehabilitation. As with many of our SCI veterans, Bob was determined to work tirelessly in the Physical Therapy Clinic to regain as much body movement as possible.

Shortly after his admission to the Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Service which was then located in Bldg. 200 on the second floor, the VPVA Service Officer at that time visited Bob to explain about the Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America – a service organization primarily for our SCI veterans. He was given an application along with information about

our organization to review and consider joining. We are happy to say that Bob did submit his application just 7 short months following his injury. In December of 1988, he became a member of our Vaughan Chapter. Our VPVA Service Officer helped him with his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. army in 1989 after assuring that Bob's injury would be 100%

*Bob's 31 years of membership heading all the various positions ... kept our Chapter a viable one through thick and thin.*

service connected. This certainly helped his family financially deal with the complications surrounding Bob's injury. Home remodeling, hand controls in a vehicle, and so many other issues were assured to Bob and his family.

Having to deal with so many changes in one's life is daunting, but with our VPVA assisting, Bob could concentrate on getting back as much movement as possible without worrying about 'life after SCI.'



Robert Arciola with Shirley M. Rohwedder, Vaughan Chapter President back in 1992

Current VPVA members and hospital staff members who got to know Bob during his initial therapy recall a veteran who followed therapy instructions and who began to venture out with Recreation Service to become familiar to life in a wheelchair. Bob worked hard and did get some recovered movement in his hands, albeit minimal, but he kept working in therapy even to this day

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**Paralyzed Veterans of America**

Vaughan Chapter

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**2019 Membership Meetings**

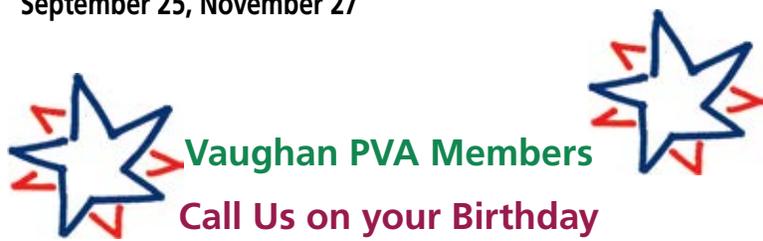
**WHERE:**

Hines VA Hospital; Building #128, SCI Multipurpose Room

**TIME:** 12:00 (noon) CST. **Lunch is provided – FREE**

If not able to attend in person, you may also join via conference call by dialing in at 1-888-537-7715 Passcode 72787546#. State your name when joining the meeting.

**September 25, November 27**



**Vaughan PVA Members**  
**Call Us on your Birthday**

**for a FREE Gift to You**  
**on behalf of**



**Vaughan Chapter PVA.**  
**(800) 727-2234**

**2019 Board of Directors Meetings**

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. meeting for 2019.

**September 18, October 16, November 20, December 11**

## VPVA Executive Director's Letter

By Maria Hernandez  
Executive Director

As mentioned in our May newsletter, many outings and events have taken place which has kept us busy and active. Congratulations to all the participants and winners that participated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bowling Tournament! We hope to see you again on May 21-24, 2020. We are trying to have the same prizes as we had this year.

Thank you to all our members that participated at our Memorial Day Parade on May 25<sup>th</sup>, your participation is significantly essential and appreciated. We want our members to continue to participate in the different outings and events to keep you active and to represent your chapter. As you already know, we provide transportation from Hines VA Hospital for you to attend the parade each year and if you decide to go on your own, we reimburse you for the parking and lunch once we receive the receipts for same.

Vaughan /National PVA Trap Shoot Tournament was held from May

31-June 2 and again with the hard work of Sports Director, Robert Arciola it was a great success. Antonio Del Rio and Chapter President Josue Cordova participated for the first time at this event. Congratulations to all winners of the awesome prizes they won. Mark your calendar for next year's scheduled Tram Shoot scheduled for June 5-7, 2020 at the St. Charles Sportsman Club in Elburn, IL. Our annual one-day fishing derby at Busse Woods Forest Preserve was just the perfect day for fishing. It turned out to be a beautiful day, and new members were able to enjoy the sun, the fishing, the food but most importantly, being out with their comrades. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend, we invite you to mark your calendar for June 6, 2020, and hope to see you there.

A huge THANK YOU to all the Vaughan Chapter members who took the time to attend the 2019 Abilities Expo at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center from June 21-23, 2019. It is much appreciated to have

committed members to assist and represent the chapter when it is needed. Our thanks to Winston Woodard, Robert Statam, Arthur Wolf, Charles Scott, Babette Payton, Charles Johnson, and President Josue Cordova.



THANK YOU!

CONGRATULATIONS to all the ATHLETES and WINNERS of GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE medals at the 39<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Everyone who attended had the required ten volunteer hours that enabled them to be funded by the chapter. Vaughan Chapter was happy to sponsor these members to attend the games. If you wish to participate in next year, all you must do is to volunteer 10 hours of your time, and Vaughan Chapter gladly will sponsor your participation. The volunteer hours must be documented at the Chapter Office. For information about how to accomplish this, ask a Board Member or call the office (708) 947-9790.

Our next outing is on September 14, Annual Picnic; invitation information can be found in this newsletter. REMEMBER! You need to RSVP by September 9, 2019, limit 4 per family. Since our next issue will not be until

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## Greetings from the Chief

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

**G**reetings and a happy summer season to all our Veterans, family members and caregivers. This summer came in late but has turned out to be a delightful number of weeks: sunny without being too humid and green without being too rainy. The usual summer events of the National Wheelchair Games and the PVA Summit Medical Conference have both ended with significant successes in both. Now Labor Day and the beginning of autumn season is looming with only a few more weeks before the holiday.

The news in our SCI/D Service has been excellent. We continue to have significant success with increasing the number of Veterans with SCI who agreed and attended for their Annual Preventive Examination. Our SCI/D Registry is now more accurate, and so we can identify Veterans who are eligible for care, who live in our Hines 'catchment' area, but who have not utilized our services for greater than five years. We are reaching out to these Veterans via our telehealth services to make sure that they still live in our area, but more importantly, that they understand the benefits and availability of SCI specific services! As the general medical services in communities become more scarce and more expensive it is even more critical that eligible Veterans understand the benefits of the VHA and specifically of the SCI expertise available at Hines or any one of our seven-spoke facilities.

We have continued to expand the various programs available to maintain and improve health with the focus on the Whole Health of the Veteran. Complimentary Medicine offerings such as acupuncture, Tai Chi classes, Mindfulness teachings, and Healing touch sessions are increasingly being made available along with more conventional programs such as nutritional advice, weight management, and employment assistance. Reduction and alternative therapy for management of pain continue to be a priority. There has been new staff added to our Service both during the daytime with nurses, therapists, and social workers as well as in the night with our in-house hospitalist. We have also looked critically and creatively at the leisure and downtime

spent during an in-hospital admission and are redesigning that time with telephone calls and questions before the admit day, virtual reality (VR) equipment being purchased for use during the time, and a more informative and transparent process during the annual examination admission.



As always, I am grateful for any feedback or comments that you are willing to share. It is only by hearing what works and what does not can our Service and our Service providers improve. Thank you to all the many Veterans and friends who have already sent comments or letters giving kudos and suggestions.

Finally, I have to announce the news that our Facility leadership is about to change. The Director has announced that he is moving on to help improve another VA Medical Center. This time in Los Angeles CA. Dr. Braverman has been a superb leader who brought energy, focus, and innovation to the facility. As a credentialed psychiatrist he understood intricately the issues around injury and rehabilitation; as a Veteran himself he connected ultimately with our Veterans and with our Mission; as a mature leader he was able to inspire and accomplish renewal among all levels of staff. He will be missed, and we wish him success with his new challenges.

The VHA continues to undergo enormous change nationally with the Mission Act, Market assessments of service delivery, Healthcare adjustments, and social conditions. It remains to be our Mission in SCI/D to "partner within a continuum of care with each Veteran in his/her family to optimize the Veteran's health, enhance their quality of life, and promote their independence to attain the Veteran's individual goals." It is our privilege and honor to be able to deliver service all those who have served their country so honorably. I am grateful to all our staff members, Veterans, friends, and family who participate in making our Service successful. Thank you all.

# President's Report

By Josue Cordova, Vaughan Chapter President

## Greetings; Vaughan Chapter Members:

I want to start by extending a correction and apology. Carl Brooks was interviewed, in our last newsletter, in our series spokes on the wheel. After reading the interview, I noticed I forgot to put Carl Brooks last name in the article. Carl, I'm sorry for the mistake.

On Wednesday, August 7 Senator Duckworth and Rep. Underwood held a joint press conference outside the Chicago Regional Benefits Office. The press conference covered the Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness Act, introduced earlier this year, with bipartisan support from Sen Duckworth. This legislation would exempt veterans from VA medical copayments for medication or hospital care and medical services related to preventive health services. It was an honor for Vice President Anthony Powell, National Service

Officer Robert Statam, and me to show our support for this bill that can help remove any Copays. That would be a great benefit and would ease a burden for all veterans, therefore, ensuring a better quality of life !!!

It has been an incredibly busy spring and summer for our Vaughan chapter members. I want to congratulate our chapter members who participated in last month's National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which took place in Louisville, Kentucky, on July 11th through the 16th. I am proud to say that some, even brought home gold, silver, and bronze medals! That is an incredible fete. It was my first wheelchair games in years that I've participated. I am excited for next year's games, which will take place in Portland, Oregon. The games will take place during the first week of July 2020. If you've never participated in the NVWG nor participated in many years, please reach out to us at our next membership meeting or give us



a call at the chapter office. We can provide you with information to get you on track to participate in future years Games.

This past May and June, our chapter organized many opportunities for members to participate in outings. Events such as our second annual Midwest invitational bowling tournament, the PVA Vaughan chapter Trap shoot invitational, and our Vaughan chapter one day fishing derby at Busse Woods. For those that attended these outings and events, an incredible time was had to participate. There was also fantastic camaraderie that went along with it. All these events are available to you, our members, at no cost. We need you



l to r; Anthony Powell-Vice President, Josue Cordova-President, Robert Statam-NSO, Sen. Tammy Duckworth at press conference covering the Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness Act.

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## Sports & Recreation

### The 21st Annual Rend Lake Shooting Classic For Persons With Disabilities

*Sponsored By PVA Vaughn Chapter*

#### Rend Lake Shooting Complex

17738 Conservation Ln.

Whittington, Illinois

Saturday, September 21, 2019

ENTRY forms should arrive at your home soon, if you have participated in the past, look for yours in the mail, or call our office for one at 708-947-9790 or Jay Williams at 618-926-1115.

Return form to:  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Jay Williams  
11731 St. Hwy 37  
Benton, IL 62812

#### No Entry Fees

There will be no charge to enter the event. Participation in this event is only open to persons with disabilities. Spectators are invited to attend and participate with the still target shoot as well as the ceremony and banquet. Volunteers will be on hand to assist participants with their equipment.

#### Registration for Shoot

Participants are encouraged to register by Wednesday, September 18, 2019. Check-in for the event will be 11:00 am. A free lunch is provided at the Shooting Classic from 12:00-1:00 pm. Shooting will begin at 1:00 pm.

#### Shotgun Sports

There will be two classes: Trap & Skeet, IDNR will supply shells: 12 & 20 gauge

#### Event Time Frame

All participants must finish shooting by 4:30 pm.

#### Still Target Competition

There will be a still target competition shoot for \$5 Per shot entry fee. It is a 50/50 cash prize. Participation is voluntary, and everyone is welcome to compete.



**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)**





Bowlers Kenneth L. Hill & Daniel James



Vaughan PVA Members at Busse Woods one day fishing derby.



Leo Moore Board Member attended the NVWG.

## THANK YOU, Vaughan Chapter

for sponsoring me to participate at the 39th National Veterans Wheelchair Games 2019. I participated in 12 sporting events and won medals in all 12. I gained 11 GOLD Medals and 1 SILVER Medal. My total Medal count is now 145 in less than six years; not all Archery but many, not all Gold but most.

THANKS AGAIN

Be Blessed,

Babette Peyton



Team picture at the 39th NVWG, l to r using wheelchairs; Chuck Scott, Josue Cordova, Daniel James, Adam Ferrett, Ray Shepack and John Walker.

## Reporting Volunteer Hours

A volunteer hour is an hour of an individual's time during which he or she represented the chapter or National PVA in the performance of a job, or by attendance at a meeting or event. The time counted is the time actually spent in the accomplishment of the mission. Reasonable time for travel to and from the location will also be allowed.

**Note: Volunteer time is time given by a volunteer who does NOT receive wages (a stipend) from any organization, agency, or company for services provided for that time.**

Time spent **PARTICIPATING** in recreational events, i.e., **National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Trap Shoots, Bass Tournaments or other sporting events will NOT** count as volunteer hours. However, the time spent in the organization and supervision of such events may be counted.

Reminder: each volunteer hour has to be reported on a volunteer's time sheet, program code and description needs to be use accordingly.

Volunteer Activity Forms for new volunteers to sign up are available at the office as well as Volunteer Time Sheets for members to submit no later than the 10th of each month by email to [vpva@vaughanpva.org](mailto:vpva@vaughanpva.org), FAX to (708) 947-9755, Address: Vaughan PVA, 2235 Enterprise Drive – Suite 3501, Westchester, IL 60154.

**Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.**

Vaughan Chapter, PVA  
800-727-2234

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**President's Report**

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to come out and participate. Without your participation, this will all come to an end. The Board of Directors are fighting hard to prevent that from happening, but we need your help to make it our chapter successful.

Throughout the year we have sports, activities, and outings for our members to participate. And if there is a sport or activity you enjoy that we're not doing right now please just let us know we're happy to work together with you to make it happen.

I look forward to seeing you at our next outing. I promise you'll have a blast!

Take care, and God bless.

Josue E. Cordova, President  
Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter

### 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 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 10/1/2018 to 9/30/2019).

# SPOKES ON the Wheel

**W**elcome to this quarter's episode of Spokes on The Wheel. Getting to know members and volunteers from our Vaughan chapter is what this series is all about. I'm excited to introduce you to Alan Benjamin, one of our oldest Vaughan chapter members for over 50 years.

Alan, thank you for taking time with to talk with Vice President Anthony Powell and Me and talking with us about your military career and your early years with the Vaughan chapter. Let's start from the beginning.

## **Alan, where were you born?**

I was born in 1937. I was born and raised in Mount Pelier, Ohio, which is near Toledo.

## **Which branch of the service did you serve?**

I served in the United States Air Force from 1956 to 1960.

## **What was your job in the Air Force?**

My basic training was at Parks Air Force Base in California. I went to tech school at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado. My job was guided missile control systems. I did many other jobs during my four years of service to flying drones at Olivet Air Force Base in New Mexico.

## **Where did you work after the service?**

I worked for AT&T Long Lines Division. I did this a little over six years before my accident.

## **How did your accident happen and what took place after?**

In October 1966, while doing work at home, I fell off a ladder which fractured my spine at the T10 vertebrae. A short time later, I was taken to Hines VA where I was placed in the Vaughan spinal cord unit. I spent ten months there, recovering. That's where I became a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vaughan Chapter. To this day, I still have The Wheel newsletters from 1967.

## **What was something memorable to you about the old Vaughan spinal cord unit back in 1966?**

There were ramps going into SCI wards because the hallways were built at ground level, but the wards were built 3 feet higher, which required ramps to go in and out — many times, making it difficult for spinal cord injured veterans to navigate. At times we relied on one another to maneuver in and out of the wards and around the hospital.



## **Did you go back to Ohio after your time at Hines VA?**

Yes, I did go back, and I applied to go back to AT&T. I applied to go back to my original job at AT&T. At that time, they had 33,000 employees and not one of them in a wheelchair. Initially, they turned me down for employment, but after someone went to bat for me, they rehired me in 1969. I worked for AT&T from 1969 until I retired in 1988, but not before having a stint of nine years with perfect attendance!

## **What did you do after retiring?**

I worked and volunteered with the Williams County Sheriff's Department. I initially volunteered as a dispatcher, but subsequently worked in other capacities. I was involved with implementing the 911 system and finally worked as a special deputy. I retired completely in 2012, at 75 years old.

## **Where do you live now?**

I am a resident of Residential Care Facility. I enjoy it quite well.

Thank you, Alan, for your service to our country and your local community. You are a real example of a PVA role model with a no-quit mentality and work ethic. I am grateful that you took the time to speak with Anthony and myself! A special thank you for sharing the wealth of information about our Vaughan chapter and its history. Alan Benjamin is an incredible unofficial Vaughan chapter historian. If you don't know Alan, please take the time to get to know him. He has a wealth of information, and I'm sure you'll find it as fascinating as I do!

Josue E. Cordova, President

Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter



**Paralyzed Veterans of America**

**ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM**

**Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament**  
January 27-28, 2020  
San Diego Naval Base  
San Diego, CA

**Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament**  
March 4-5, 2020  
Colonial Shooting Academy  
Richmond, VA

**Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament**  
March 21-22, 2020  
Milwaukee Area Tech College  
Milwaukee, WI

**Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament\***  
April 16-18, 2020  
Spire Institute  
Geneva, OH

**\*Buckeye Wheelchair Games**

**PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR**

**Mid-America Bass Tournament**  
September 20-22, 2019  
Lake Eufaula  
Eufaula, OK

**Vaughan Bass Tournament**  
October 4-6, 2019  
Rend Lake  
Mount Vernon, IL

**Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament**  
April 3-5, 2020  
Lake Harris  
Tavares, FL

**Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament**  
April 24-26, 2020  
Lake Barkley  
Kuttawa, KY

**Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament**  
June 5-7, 2020  
James River  
Richmond, VA

**Capital Clash Bass Tournament\***  
June 12-14, 2020  
Potomac River  
Marbury, MD

**\*Year-end Tournament**

**ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES**

**Mid-South Billiards Tournament**  
October 11-12, 2019  
Clicks Billiards  
Memphis, TN

**Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem**  
March 20-22, 2020  
Diamond Billiards  
Midlothian, VA

**Mid-America Billiards Tournament**  
April 3-5, 2020  
Slick Willies Pool Hall  
Oklahoma City, OK

**Buckeye Billiards Tournament**  
June 5-6, 2020  
Wickliffe Lanes  
Wickliffe, OH

**Mountain States Billiards Tournament**  
June 20-21, 2020  
Widefield Corner Pocket Billiards  
Fountain, CO

**ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES**

**Great Plains Bowling Tournament**  
August 1-4, 2019  
Thunderbowl  
Council Bluffs, IA

**Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament**  
September 13-15, 2019  
Bowl America  
Glen Allen, VA

**Nevada Bowling Tournament**  
December 5-8, 2019  
Sunset Station Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

**Mid-America Bowling Tournament**  
April 9-12, 2020  
Firelake Bowling Center  
Shawnee, OK

**Vaughan Bowling Tournament**  
May 21-24, 2020  
Bowlero  
Romeoville, IL

**PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT**

**North Central Shooting Sports Tournament**  
September 6-8, 2019  
Crooks Gun Club  
Sioux Falls, SD

**Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament**  
October 25-27, 2019  
Conservation Park of Virginia  
Charles City, VA

**Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament**  
March 13-15, 2020  
Clark County Shooting Park  
Las Vegas, NV

**Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament**  
Redlands Shooting Park  
March 27-29, 2020  
Redlands, CA

**Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament**  
Desoto Gun Club  
Dates TBD  
Waxahachie, TX

**Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament**  
June 5-7, 2020  
St. Charles Sportsman Club  
Elburn, IL

**Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament**  
June 12-14, 2020  
Otter Creek Sportsman Club  
Cedar Rapids, IA

**Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament\***  
June 26-28, 2020  
Brown County Sportsman Club  
Green Bay, WI

**\*Year-end Tournament**

**BOCCIA**

**PVA National Boccia Tournament**  
October 22-26, 2019  
The Pavilion at Lamay  
St. Louis, MO

**Bayou Boccia Tournament**  
November 8-9, 2019  
Harrison County Shelter  
Gulfport, MS

**Buckeye Boccia Tournament\***  
April 16-18, 2020  
Spire Institute  
Geneva, OH

**Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament**  
May 6-8, 2020  
Fort Monroe at  
Community Center  
Hampton, VA

**Vaughan Boccia Tournament**  
June 26-28, 2020  
Fountain View Recreation Center  
Carol Stream, IL

**\*Buckeye Wheelchair Games**

**HANDCYCLING RACING**

**PVAR Hi Performance Off Road Camp**  
August 17-26, 2019  
Crested Butte, CO

**Off Road Handcycling Championships**  
August 23-25, 2019  
Crested Butte, CO

**Off-Road Fall Expo**  
October 4-6, 2019  
Chesterfield, VA

**Army Ten Miler**  
October 13, 2019  
Washington, D.C.

**CODE OF HONOR QUAD RUGBY INVITATIONAL**  
Dates TBD  
Location TBD

**NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES**



For more information, visit:  
[pva.org/sports](http://pva.org/sports)

# Service Officer's Report

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

## VA Prosthetics Support & SCI/D

**M**ost Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service provides Veterans with medical devices, items, and services to improve the Veteran's quality of life, keep Veterans safe in their home environment, and increase their activities of daily living. Medical supplies are normally provided by the Pharmacy Service; however, local circumstances may necessitate the involvement of the Prosthetic Service in the purchase of some items. When circumstances require Prosthetic Service to be the primary provider of the medical supplies, documentation must be present for multi-level review from clinicians.

Medical equipment includes all items of a therapeutic or rehabilitative nature, which are determined as medically necessary for home treatment of eligible veterans, e.g., **hospital beds, over-bed tables, bathroom equipment, invalid lifts, hand cycles, stair glides, room air conditioners, standing tables, portable ramps, mobility (walking) aids, environmental control units (ECUs), etc.** The items or not subject to service connection, but require medical justification from providers.

Let's focus on some specific items that effects are members:

In the summer months. **Room air conditioners**, when prescribed, may be provided to an eligible veteran suffering from a spinal cord injury, neurological condition(s) MS/ALS, and/or severe respiratory or coronary disease, which is substantially worsened by exposure to heat and humidity, and where the absence of a controlled environment subjects the veteran to health-threatening circumstances.

Access the community. **Environmental Control Units (ECU)** consists of an array of components designed to provide a severely-disabled patient the opportunity for independent action in some of the activities of daily living. The unit may be furnished when prescribed for high-level spinal cord injury patients, patients suffering from advanced neurological diseases, or any other condition resulting in severe impairment of motor control. ECUs are normally voice-activated, switch-activated, or a

combination of voice and switch activations. Switch-activated units are operated through a control panel, e.g., sip and puff device.

In some cases, a laptops (cpu), touchpads (Ipad), and voice-activated units/software are operated through verbal commands into a microphone, such as Alexa products and Dragon programs. These can be prescribe to allow veterans to maintain independence with ADL's with managing financial affairs, scheduling medical appointments, and accessing Ebenefits of HealthyVet or Telehealth support tools with expanded care options.

Involvement in recreational activities/exercise VA may provide **Recreational/Exercise equipment**, (handcycles, hand cranks, standing frames, or tables, etc) which falls under the broad definition of a prosthetic appliance (all aids, appliances, parts, and accessories which are required to replace, support, or substitute for a deformed, weakened, or missing part of the body). Please contact NSO for more details and action with the process with clinicians.

(1) Rehabilitative sporting equipment that facilitates access for therapeutic and rehabilitative reasons may be provided to eligible veterans, when prescribed with a valid medical justification. Prescription(s) must include:

- Description of the veteran's sports activity which requires specially designed sports equipment for attainment of maximum rehabilitation; or
- Proof of proper training on the prescribed equipment; and
- Approval by the Major Medical Equipment Committee, local Wheelchair Committee, or by a physician who specializes in rehabilitation medicine.

All requests for mentioned items must have valid medical justification.

**Please contact NSO for more details and action with the process with clinicians.**

**Robert Arciola**

*continued from page 1*

so as not to lose any function. In the meantime, he joined whatever was available on SCI that helped him bring ideas to hospital staff such as the SCI Steering Committee. This committee consisted of both SCI patients and staff members. By joining this committee, Bob became comfortable in speaking on behalf of his fellow SCI veteran patients wherever problems were observed. Many of the patients would tell Bob about problems and he would bring them forth at SCI Steering Committee Meetings.

This committee helped Bob by raising his confidence and ability to address serious issues, this opened up the door within the Vaughan Chapter that gave Bob the confidence and fortitude to head many VPVA positions. Bob became very active in the chapter in various positions, he held National Director, Sports Director, Advocacy Director, Executive Director, President and Vice President. His 31 years of membership heading all the various positions just mentioned kept our Chapter a viable one through thick and thin.

Bob will continue to be a member in good standing and participate in various activities that he loves but retiring from the various VPVA committees he was head of. We know that Bob will help any of our members who step forward to replace him in the MANY positions within our chapter. Now is the time for our other members to emulate Bob and to become a leader for your chapter like he did.

Words cannot express our gratitude to you, Bob, for ALL you have done for Vaughan. Sit back and enjoy the fruit of your endeavors. We hope you will assist new chairpersons in you former positions if asked. Meanwhile, tighten up that fishing pole and shine that bowling ball! Bravo for all you have done for Vaughan Chapter!

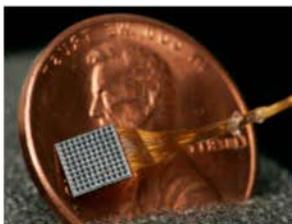
**BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACE  
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BRAIN-CONTROLLED  
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

If you:

- 1 Have limited or no ability to use both hands
- 2 Are 22-70 years old
- 3 Live within 2 hours of the University of Chicago



You may be eligible to participate in a research study to determine if long-term recording of brain activity to control a robotic prosthetic arm and other technology for activities of daily living is safe and effective.



You would undergo surgery to place four small electrode arrays in your brain. The wires would pass through your skin so we could record signals to control the arm for 1-5 years.



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John Downey:  
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**We are giving away Google Home Minis to individuals affected by paralysis.**

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  - (2) You are a caregiver and providing care to an individual living with a physical disability, mobility challenge, or paralysis you are eligible for a free Google Home Mini
  - (3) You are living in the U.S.
  - (4) You have not already submitted for a free Google Home Mini
- <https://googlenest.reevefoundation.org/>

## How Your Vehicle Can Help Veterans

Every vehicle has value, whether it runs like the day you drove it off the lot or doesn't start at all. Regardless of the condition, it will sell at auction. In return, donors receive a tax deduction, and the proceeds of the sale help provide rehabilitation services, job training, quality healthcare, benefits, and funding for education and research for veterans living with spinal cord injury/dysfunction.

It's simple: Be sure the vehicle title is on hand, fill out the online form or call a Wheels Helping Warriors representative, and schedule a pickup free of charge. Paralyzed Veterans of America's Wheels Helping Warriors Vehicle Donation Program accepts a variety of vehicles:

## Donate Today!

Call or visit us online to donate your vehicle today:  
855-744-0782  
[wheelshelpingwarriors.org](http://wheelshelpingwarriors.org)



One Car One Difference is IAA's public awareness campaign promoting the benefits of vehicle donation.  
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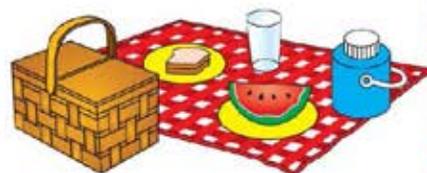
### Exec. Director

*continued from page 4*

November, let me invite you and remind you of our upcoming events which you will still receive an invitation via email or by mail. Information will also be posted on our Facebook page (see link below).

This year, for the first time, we are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Mark your calendar and join us October 12, 2019, at the Hines VA Multipurpose room from Noon-3 pm. And Veterans Day Dinner at Via Bella Banquets, on Saturday, November 16, 2019, invitation will follow. Please visit our FB page to find all the upcoming events.

Here are the directions to get onto our Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/VAUGHANCHAPTERPVA>



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

# ANNUAL PICNIC

**Saturday, September 14, 2019**

**Hines VA Hospital Pavilion**

**Hines, IL**

**12 Noon – 3pm**

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

**(Limit 4 per Family)**

**Mandatory RSVP by September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (no exceptions) @**

708-947-9790 or email @

[vpva@vaughanpva.org](mailto:vpva@vaughanpva.org)

[dpettiford@vaughanpva.org](mailto:dpettiford@vaughanpva.org)

**XL Funhouse Moon jump for the Kids**

**Fun, Entertainment Performance and Prizes.**

Vaughan PVA  
2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501  
Westchester, IL 60154



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

**800-727-2234**

**Join Us!!!**  
FOR THE FOLLOWING LOCAL EVENTS

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Sept. 14</b> | <b>Annual Picnic<br/>Hines VA Hospital Pavilion</b>          |
| <b>Sept. 21</b> | <b>Rend Lake Shooting Classic</b>                            |
| <b>Oct. 4-6</b> | <b>Land of Lincoln B.A.S.S Tournament</b>                    |
| <b>Oct. 12</b>  | <b>Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon<br/>Hines VA Hospital</b> |
| <b>Nov. 16</b>  | <b>Veterans Day Dinner at Via Bella Banquets</b>             |
| <b>Dec. 18</b>  | <b>Christmas Luncheon</b>                                    |

Download the VPVA 2019 Calendar of Events at [vaughanpva.org](http://vaughanpva.org)