



the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Vaughan Chapter
August 2021

In This Issue

Executive Director's Letter
3

Healing Garden
4

President's Report
5

Salmon-O-Rama
6 - 7

Tribute to Juan
9

Service Officer's Report
13



Many Thanks...

By Winston Woodard III

This year we have lost many friends and veterans in the wake of the pandemic. I felt it was appropriate to share flowers with people IN LIFE, rather than in death. Then people understand how you may have impacted their lives. In life, we have many distinct experiences and encounters that define us and propel us in life's journeys. I carry and refer to these quotes in my life that I have learned over my journey.

.....
"When you learn, teach. When you get, give." Maya Angelou

"If you can't pay it back, pay it forward."
Catherine Ryan Hyde

"Life engenders life. 'It takes each of us to make a difference for all of us.'"
Jackie Mutcherson

.....
"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill

My journey with Paralyzed Veterans of America has been a remarkable experience. I want to mention a few people through their works, support, inspiration, and kindness allowed my meet my personal goals over the years.

First, I was introduced to the Vaughan Chapter of PVA by my National Service Officer (1997) **Mr. Maurice Valeriano. He taught me to challenge myself and use the gifts you have** with a life with a disability. He offered he guidance as NSO and friendship as veteran with a disability.

Franklin Rueth (2000) was instrumental in the **selflessness to give back to an organization** and participation in Sports. Frank's passion and love for competitive sport (swimming) was awesome. He served several position in VPVA. He groomed and trained me, so I could fulfill the position as Vaughan Sports Director.

JoAnn Cavalieri,

PVA Senior

Secretary (1999)

changed my life.

I experienced her

compassion and

commitment as a

PVA client (1999)

when things were

not so clear after

my injury. During

PVA transition of

leadership and the

revolving door with PVA NSO's. She encouraged me to **push**

through the many challenges of the SCI/D and stay

committed. She encouraged me to finish school and apply

for the NSO position. Thankfully, JoAnn continues and stays

committed to serve our SCI/D veterans today.

Next, I obtained an opportunity to serve as the National

Service Officer at Hines. **Ed Rodgers** (2004) offered an

opportunity with his **training, guidance, and leadership**

with being hired as the National Service Officer. It's a great

honor serving veterans to access healthcare and secure

benefits.

The past and present Officers of Vaughan, Maria Hernandez, Executive Director Vaughan Chapter and the Board (1999) have been supportive and encouraging over the years in my engagement in recreation and sporting opportunities in the community. The funding and camaraderie have been extremely valuable living with a disability.

Nevertheless, this being the 75th Anniversary for an organization (PVA) that embodies history of paralyzed veterans throughout the years to make a difference in our world and positively change veterans' lives. Veterans lives that have endured a humbling and traumatic experience through an injury or disease and selfless service in the military.

continued on page 12



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2021 Bi-Monthly Membership Meetings

For those members that have an email address, a link will be sent to your email, and for those members that do not have email and do not have access to a computer, you can still join the meeting on September 22nd via call by calling this number 312-626-6799; you will be asked for a meeting ID: 553 748 9623 and Passcode: 733870.

Suppose Vaughan Chapter gets the approval of using the Hines VA Hospital, building #128, SCI Multipurpose Room to conduct in-person Membership Meetings, then we should be able to resume on the following dates.

Wednesdays: Sep. 22 & Nov. 24.

All meetings are held in the Multipurpose Room at noon, and lunch is provided--FREE. If approval is not granted to meet in the Multipurpose Room, then we will continue the membership meetings via Zoom; please continue to use the same meeting ID and Passcode mentioned above to join the meeting. I highly encourage you to please check your email for updated information from Vaughan Chapter events and meetings.

Executive Director's Report

by Maria Hernandez

Hello, Vaughan PVA Members

Thankful, Grateful & Blessed to continue serving our veterans and that the Vaughan Chapter is still standing despite the new Delta Variant. Vaughan Chapter has a Calendar of Events coming up in the following months with sporting events and outings for the rest of the year 2021. Please check the calendar in this Newsletter so you do not miss any of them. We are still fighting this health crisis, but we are still standing and looking forward to getting better. As I mentioned in the previous Newsletter, we started our Calendar of Events with our Annual one-day Fishing Derby at Busse Woods on Saturday, June 12, 2021. It turned out to be a hot day followed by a storm that got us all wet. A huge thanks to AllenForce for stopping by with the VETANK for our veterans to try them. VETANK is a program that provides a statewide network of all-terrain chairs available for use by qualified veterans, enabling independent participation in outdoor and adventure recreation. If you are interested in one, please get in touch with AllenForce at 779-205-3314. A big shoutout to all the volunteers that participated at the Abilities Expo Booth for three days at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center.

A huge thank you to the Wisconsin Chapter that allowed Vaughan Chapter members to participate in their first Salmon-A-Rama event on July 13 at the Reef Point Marina in Racine, WI. See the experience from Vaughan members that attended the event in the following pages.

If you have participated in the bi-monthly Membership meeting via ZOOM, we have had three Zoom meetings that were very informative and interesting. Everyone in attendance was able to see each other on one screen. We hope to resume live in-person Membership Meetings starting with our next Membership Meeting scheduled for September 22 at noon at the Hines VA Hospital, Building #128 SCI Multipurpose room. If for any reason, we cannot meet in person, we will continue with Zoom meetings. I encourage you to join us; the link and passcode will be emailed to you.

We have scheduled the following events if time is permitted; Vaughan will be sending an invitation for each of the following events via email; please check your emails daily so you do not miss any vital information. Annual Chapter Picnic Saturday, September 11, at the Forest Preserve Miller Meadow-North Grove #2 main intersections 1st Ave and Roosevelt Rd, entrance on Roosevelt, Veterans Day & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, November 13, at Via Bella Banquets in Countryside IL, and lastly the annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 18 at Hines VA Hospital Auditorium Building #9. All these dates are tentative and subject to change depending on what's happening with the virus.

We have scheduled the following events.

Vaughan will be sending updates on each of the following

events via email, please check your emails daily so you do not miss any important information.



**Annual Chapter Picnic
Saturday, September 11**

**Veterans Day & Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner
Saturday, November 13**

**Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 18**

All these dates are tentative and subject to change.

Please stay well.

Hope to see you in person soon!

We hope to see you at all upcoming events & enjoy the rest of the summer; if you have any questions, please get in touch with us at the office at 708-947-9790.

Barren Land Gives Birth To SCI-N Healing Garden

By: Jon-Anders Erickson

On May 1st, 2021, the sliding doors to the underutilized Spinal Cord Injury-North therapy garden at Hines VA Hospital were unlocked, and permission was given to the SCI-N Shared Governance Committee to breathe new life into the scorched earth that lay inside.

While the pandemic has kept patients from leaving the building or having visitors, the goal was to create a space where patients could go outside while remaining on the unit. Committee members Jon-Anders Erickson, Nursing Assistant, and Aaron Desmond, Registered Nurse, took the lead and began the difficult task of turning a space that no one paid any attention to, into a colorful oasis to aid in the healing process of our patients.

Many obstacles were encountered along the way. The soil was rock hard, and as the weather warmed, the weeds started to take over. Thankfully with the help of Hines grounds keepers, the soil was tilled, and ready to welcome plants. It was decided that perennials would be best for the garden, as they don't need to be replaced every year. The kind folks at Fisher House offered up enough hosta to cover the entire border of the garden. After a patient had suggested searching local online listings for free plants, Jon-Anders found three mature bushes free to anyone willing to dig them up. The

next morning, with the help of his mother, Pam, Jon-Anders grabbed his shovel, dug them up, and gently stuffed them into his car. From there, Rec. Therapy offered to assist in the purchasing the first batch of plants.

While the pandemic has kept patients from leaving the building or having visitors, the goal was to create a space where patients could go outside while remaining on the unit.

The collection of plants began to grow, and once we gained access to a water source, the real work began. Jon-Anders and his mother spent his days off carefully planning where all the plants would go, followed by digging hole after hole, planting more than 100 plants.

With all the plants in the ground, the heat of the summer sun forced daily watering. Our next step was to protect the plants and hold the moisture in

with mulch. Rec. Therapy came to the rescue once again, and provided us with two pallets, 130 bags of mulch. Delivered by a semi in the middle of the Hines parking lot on a sunny 90-degree day, Jon-Anders and Aaron, with the help of their coworkers, loaded up stretchers with 15-20 bags and rolled them

continued on page 12



President's Report

By Josue Cordova, Vaughan Chapter President

Summer greetings to all our Vaughan chapter members, caregivers, and volunteers. Even though we continue to be in this battle with the Covid virus, I hope you are all safe, healthy, blessed, and encouraged. As we are fighting to get on the other side of this pandemic, we as a chapter are moving forward to make sure our organization is active and available for our members, caregivers, and communities. We have some great events coming up and a wonderful mile stone happening during this month of August.

During the first week of August, ballots were mailed out from the Chapter office to all our voting members in good standing for the elections of our Vaughan Chapter Officers and Board of Directors. Our chapter had been put on monitoring by our PVA National office many years ago; therefore, this is the first chapter elections we've had in nearly a decade! The ballots we mailed out contain a self-addressed stamped envelope that allows you to simply fill out your ballot, seal it, take it to the nearest US postal mailbox, and drop it in. I want to personally request all our voting members in good standing please take the time to fill out your ballot and vote. We worked incredibly hard to get here; let's have a great turnout this election. Please fill out your ballot, and mail it back in!

Because of Covid last year, many things were put on hold, rescheduled, and canceled. I'm excited that our PVA National organization and our Vaughan chapter are moving forward to get our sports activities and chapter events back on track and available for members in a wheelchair and the disabled community. If you read this issue of the wheel, you'll see dates for many chapter events and chapter sporting events that will be coming up in the next few months. Events such as our chess tournaments in September, the up-down bowling fundraiser to help raise money for the Ikan bowling ramps for our members in power chairs. Our bass fishing tournaments are coming up this October. You've enjoyed time at home long enough; this past year and a half, now it's time to come out and participate. You are encouraged to take part in our chapter events. All our voting members reach out to us through emails or calls to the Chapter office. We can fill you in on the sponsorship we have available for you so you can come out and participate! If you require a caregiver, after your paperwork is filled out from your doctor, we can help you with the cost of having a caregiver at our events as well. There are so many things available for you to participate in; all you have to do is reach out and give us a call. I'll be happy to personally talk with you and help you sign up for one of our Chapter sporting events or activities, or even many other activities that are going on with our sister Chapters across the country!

Sadly, as we turn on the television, open up our computers, even read newspapers, we see far too many things going on in our country and in the world that is discouraging, frustrating, and at times overwhelming. As Chapter President, I want you to know that you are important to us, and we are here at the Vaughan Chapter are available for you. Please, come out and participate, take part, enjoy the incredible events and activities we have. I urge you to fellowship with your fellow members. We don't want you to be alone, nor do we want you to feel alone. As I've said many times, we don't want you to come and be a part of the chapter to do everything, but we want you to come and participate and do something. We will be successful when we work and participate together. Please always remember. Here at the Vaughan chapter, we have a place for you.

Thank you, and God bless.

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



Vaughan Chapter, PVA Funding Sponsorship Policy

IMPORTANT update for remaining the fiscal year 9/30/2021.

At the July 21, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting, a motion was passed to waive volunteer policy hours for the remaining fiscal year 2021 for Vaughan Chapter and PVA Sporting events. This motion was approved to increase participation from our members. Reimbursement will be made up to a maximum of \$3,000 to participants members when a fully completed expense report is turned in to the office for a refund; all receipts must be included with your expense report. For any questions regarding the reimbursement, please feel free to contact our Maria Hernandez at the Chapter office, 708-947-9790.

Fishing the Salmon-O-Rama contest with the Wisconsin Chapter of the PVA

First of all, allow me to thank the Wisconsin Chapter of the PVA for providing the resources to put this event on. This included the cost of the charter boats and all the logistics.

To the Salmon-O-Rama coordinators for welcoming the PVA Veterans to their event. Making sure everyone on the water had a great time. Dividing up the catch so everyone received fish, having snacks and drinks placed on the boats, giving each veteran some smoked King and Coho salmon, and putting on one the best lunches I have ever had afterwards. The expertise in pulling this event off without a hitch was nothing short of phenomenal.

Thanks to the Vaughn Chapter of the PVA for providing the expenses to get to and from the event and notifying all members of this opportunity.

The morning started very early with an 05:15 be on the dock time. This meant an 03:30 wake up to arrive in time. We were briefed on what to expect on the boats and assigned to a specific boat. My wife and I were extremely lucky to have drawn "The Salmon Chaser" which was piloted by her owner, Captain Shane Lemke. Due to some people having to cancel at the last minute, we were the only ones on the boat. This was a blessing and curse in that we got to reel in every fish, with the downside being we could only use 6 rods.

After loading which took just a few minutes we were off on our adventure. We traveled out about 8 miles without incident, well except one (but you will need to talk to Captain Shane about that, it's a good story so ask) before dropping lines in the water. Having been fishing for only a few minutes I was elated to catch a Lake Trout. We were fishing in about 200 feet of water and most of our lures were very close to the bottom. This strategy produced another 6 Lake Trout with the last one released back into the water as our limit had been met. We did have two large fish (King Salmon?) on but they both managed to spit the hook. This produced a good amount of banter with my wife and I blaming Captain Shane for trolling to fast and him blaming us for not reeling it in correctly. All laughed as everyone knew it all part of the "total experience".

Upon arriving back at the dock, we were greeted yet again with open arms and provided with a superb lunch. The catches were divided up and goodbyes were made.



*To all the people
involved, thank
you for providing a
great day fishing.
It truly was a
memorable event.*

Salmon-A-Rama, Wisconsin Chapter

By: Robert Statam, Sr. NSO

The Wisconsin Chapter offered the Vaughan Chapter's members the opportunity to participate in their first ever Salmon-A-Rama event. When I received this announcement, I immediately thought it would be a perfect outing, or a quick getaway. The event was held at the Reef Point Marina, in Racine, Wisconsin, which was only about 1 hour and 45 minutes, to drive. I arrived the evening before the event, and enjoy a nice dinner prior to resting up for the early morning rise. We were scheduled to meet at the Marina, by 5:00am, that morning, as we received our caps and instructions.

We were assigned different groups and paired for boats, where the boat crew assisted with the loading the wheelchairs into the boats. Although, we could have had a little more sunlight, the weather did not interfere with our enthusiasm to catch some fish. I can say that everyone appeared to have had a great time, and we did discuss with members of the Wisconsin Chapter, the need to do this again next year. I believe more members will be interested in taking part in this, and the Vaughan Chapter think about something similar perhaps. I know that I do not care for the long distance driving anymore, but this event was idea, and I had no issues with the distance. I thank the Wisconsin Chapter for the Salmon-A-Rama, and the invite for the Vaughan Chapter to join in.



I'd like to thank the Wisconsin PVA and Vaughan Chapter PVA for funding and helping put on such a great event. I was paired with Captain Travis my boat captain on his Fishing Chatter Charter fishing boat. We were all given an embroidered hat, then I was easily

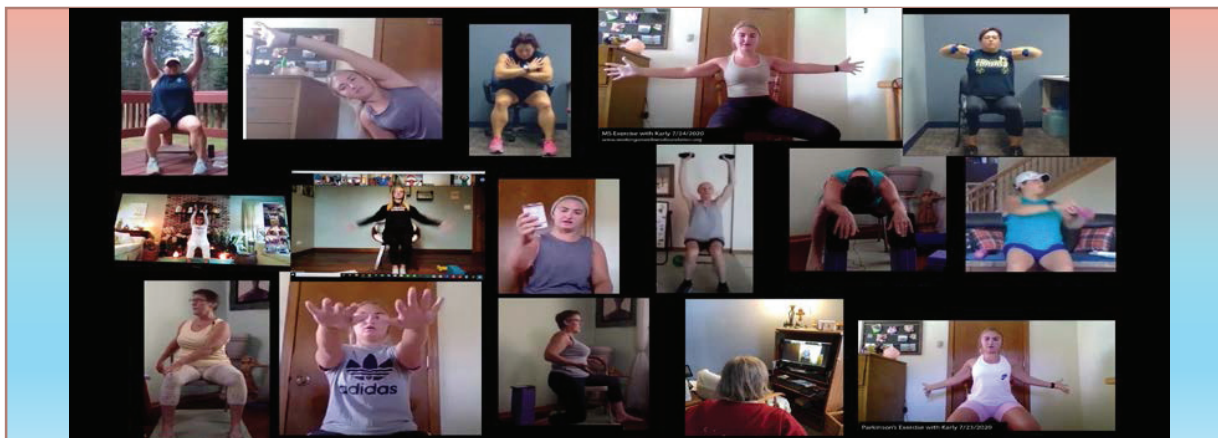
lifted into and later on out of the boat by several strong volunteers and so was my power wheelchair. We fished for about four hours after a 30 minute trip 7 miles out and back to Kenosha Harbor in Wisconsin. Captain Travis was a great teacher and help as was his First Mate Craig. They provided a fun-filled morning with a total catch of 6 Lake Trout and 3 King Salmon (I caught two of each species). They provided all the fileting of our fish and gave us them back bagged and a few smoked Lake Trout when they finished. The entire event was superbly organized and even included a very nice dining experience after we came in off the water that was fantastic! Several awards were issued for the fish caught and believe me there were some pretty big ones! I felt so happy to take advantage of this adventure and will definitely go again!



Thank you, Robert Arciola



Working On Wellness Foundation focuses on exercise for anyone with conditions that require it just to keep moving. We now provide online seated/chair exercise opportunities for anyone with mobility issues.



The Working On Wellness Foundation provides online, seated exercise sessions, created and conducted by our experienced and certified instructors.

Join us live on Zoom (all times are Central):

Monday	9:45 AM	Yoga – Sponsored by the Vaughan Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America
Tuesday	10:00 AM	General Exercise – Sponsored by the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
Wednesday	9:45 AM	Strength Training
Thursday	9:45 AM	BIG Movements / Range of Motion / Power

Join us on YouTube: Each week, our channel will highlight a week of yoga, strength training, big movement, and general exercise sessions. You can do all while remaining seated. They include cardio, upper body, lower body, core, balance, coordination, and hand exercises.

Contact us to get free links to both Zoom and YouTube sessions.

www.workingonwellnessfoundation.org

Email:

info@workingonwellnessfoundation.org

In Memory of Juan Hrobowski 6/24/63–7/3/2021

Juan Leonard Hrobowski, age 58, of Social Circle, GA, passed away on July 3, 2021. Mr. Hrobowski was born in Chicago, IL, on June 24, 1963, to Annie James Hrobowski and the late L.S. Hrobowski. He was (as he often said) “the landlord’s son” and could create or fix anything he put his hands on.

He spent his entire working career at Hines VA Hospital in Maywood, IL., where he worked as a Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Tech making wheelchairs for veterans. The essential part of creating mobile chairs was making sure that the chair matched the person and their personality. His goal was to ensure that everyone was happy and able to do whatever it was that they wanted to do - from their chair. Only then was he satisfied. He retired from Hines on July 31, 2019.

Surviving members of his immediate family are his wife, Cynthia (Hunt) Hrobowski; mother, Annie Birdean (James) Hrobowski; brother, Kenneth Sampson; and nephew, Brandon Sampson; a family circle that included Lee (Sherry) Hrobowski, Derek (Marcie) Flowers, Ray Hrobowski, and Alvin (Lavera) Ware; along with a multitude of friends and extended family members numbering in the hundreds who loved him dearly...every single one near and dear to his heart.

Juan was introduced to horses by his maternal grandfather as a young child. He would visit his grandparents on the farm in Mississippi mucking stalls, brushing, feeding, and finally riding the horses. While he loved everything horse-related, he was appalled by the chickens, so much so that growing into adulthood, he refused to eat “anything with wings.” Beef, seafood, and french fries with Jameson on the side were a staple!

As he loved horses so much, he eventually was lead to rodeo. He had a passion for and loved his many years of steer wrestling/bulldogging. Juan had an entire rodeo family that was just as close to him as his blood relatives.

He loved them as much as they loved him. So much so that he toured the circuits actively steer wrestling, watching, teaching, or training. When he retired from the rodeo, he continued in any role where he was wanted or needed. He would train horses, lend a hand, train barrel racers, and impart wisdom with answers to any question. If he didn’t know the answer, he would research to the point of exhaustion - guaranteed to have an answer by the next discussion.



...in 2009, they reconnected via Facebook, and their love story began again!

To quote his mother, “Juan is just like his father L.S.; he never met a stranger.” Everyone was a friend who most often would become family to him.

In 1980, Juan met Cynthia (Chee) at Proviso East High School. His retelling is, “I walked into the room, she turned around & smiled. That did it for me.”

Life intervened, and they went their separate ways. However, in 2009, they reconnected via Facebook, and their love story began...again! They married in 2017 in an intimate civil service, and Juan joined his wife in Georgia following his retirement from Hines. Together, they lived a good life in Lawrenceville until recently moving to Social Circle, GA to carry out his dream of creating a small farm with their horses, a few cattle, goats . . . much to his annoyance, chickens for Chee.

“When I think of Juan, I see his spirit. I see his love for his mother, family, friends, horses, and Rottweilers. I feel his love for me. I want everyone to remember him as he was - a true man’s man with a heart of gold.

Rest in Peace.

(condolence cards can be sent to the VPVA office and will be compiled and sent to Juan’s wife Cynthia”) Vaughan Chapter, 2235 Enterprise Drive Suite 3501 Westchester, IL 60154.



W9210 Rock Creek Road, Willard, WI 54493

715-937-5109 sunsetpinesresortrcdo@gmail.com www.sunsetpinesresort.com

Visit us on Facebook: Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors

You are cordially invited to join Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors for their annual Hunt for Hunters with Disabilities October 2 - 10, 2021.

Local landowners have donated their property for use during the hunt, allowing you access to some of the region's greatest hot spots. The land you are matched with will determine preference on Buck or Doe, with at least 1 deer limit per hunter, NO Fawns. The limit may be increased during the hunt depending on location, number of hunters, and tags.

Our board of directors, guides, and volunteers will be able to help in any way necessary to provide you with the best experience possible. Guides will get you in and out of the hunting location, help set up, and stay with you during the hunt. Tracking, field dressing, skinning and quartering are also provided. Please make sure you **bring labeled coolers** to take your meat home, because cold space is limited.

You will have a choice of a 4 day period to hunt. Choice of hunting period is based on a first-come, first-serve basis, so register early to get your choice. When registering, circle the time period that works best for you. Please do not limit yourself to just 1 evening to hunt, who knows what the weather will bring or how deer will cooperate. We will do our best to get you an animal and that may mean multiple evenings.

Participants MUST:

- Apply for and possess a valid CLASS "A", or CLASS "C" permit
- Purchase a 2021 WI Deer/Gun License (plus extra Bonus tag if you want 2 deer to be determined by the DNR)
- Return a completed registration form filled out entirely with copy of permit - incomplete forms will not be accepted
- Abide by all hunting guidelines
- Provide transportation to & from Sunset Pines Resort
- Make own lodging arrangements (RCDO & Sunset Pines may be able to help)
- Bring OWN gun, mount/adaptations and ammo
- Bring OWN state approved hunting apparel (Orange REQUIRED)
- Bring any necessary specialized equipment for sighting in and hunting, we want you to be as comfortable as possible
- Check in with RCDO **after** your hunt to ensure you are safe and to plan for the next day
- RESPECT the property you are hunting on and the individuals helping. We are all volunteers.



14th Annual Maple Park Police Department Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

“PULLING FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTING CLAY SHOOT”

Sunday, AUGUST 29, 2021(Rain or Shine)

Join us for a fun shoot for all levels of shooters. Event will include Vendor Area, Door Prizes with 15 guns and more, live gun auction, silent auction and more.

EVENT SPONSORS

Ticket Price is \$125 which includes:

- Event Shirt
- Sport Clay 50 targets
- Shells
- Lunch
- 5 Door Prize Tickets (15 guns & more)
- Entry for Shooter Gun Only Drawing
 - Webley & Scott Model 912K O/U
 - Henry Lever Action Rifle 22LR HOO1
 - 800 Rounds 22LR

Location:

St. Charles Sportsmen's Club
44W471 Keslinger Road
Elburn, Illinois 60119

Live Gun Auction: Starts at 9AM
(registration & viewing 8AM)

Registration: Opens at 10AM see below for online*

Opening Ceremony: 11:30

Shot Gun Start: Noon

Lunch served: 11AM to 1PM



*****Sponsor a disabled veteran to
Participate in the event \$40*****



**MONNETT
PRECISION
GRINDING**

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS AVAILABLE

RIFLE LEVEL SPONSOR - \$2000

- * EXTRA Large Logo on back of shirt/front of program
- *4 Event Shooters
- *Event Banner
- *Vendor Space
- *LOGO ON 2021 Torch Run Area Shirt

SHOT GUN LEVEL SPONSOR - \$1000

- *LARGE Logo on back of shirt/front of program
- *2 Event Shooters
- *Vendor Space
- *LOGO ON 2021 Torch Run Area Shirt

PISTOL LEVEL SPONSOR - \$500

- *SMALL Logo on back of shirt/front of program
- *1 Event Shooter
- *Vendor Space

STATION SPONSOR - \$200

- *Name on back of shirt/front of program
- *Logo at one of the stations
- *Vendor space

For additional information or to register contact: Colleen or Jim MacRunnels 815/991-5668 or Email: Colleen@Macrunnels.com Visit our Facebook Page – Maple Park Police Department for Special Olympics

***ONLINE REGISTRATION: WILL BE OPEN SHORTLY**

Dear VPVA Chapter Board Member,

I just want to take a minute to update and say thank you for recently funding me to attend the Great Plains PVA bowling tournament held in Council Bluffs, IA. I simply wouldn't have gone without your assistance.

This was my third tournament there and while I am sorry to say that I didn't meet my expectations, I sure had a fabulous time trying. There were close to fifteen participants in my division which made competition all the more a challenge. I'm always up for that! It was nice to see familiar faces and a number of new participants since the virus shut down events last year. It was an enormous joy going somewhere different than what restrictions presented us all. I'll say I did manage to win two things that made me happier despite losing placing 8th; a \$65 cash 50/50 raffle prize and a Storm bowling ball of my choice. How cool was that? I was surprised there was \$150 awarded to me in the end.

I really appreciate the opportunity and want to encourage every member to get out there and enjoy your local bowling center or to let me know if they're interested in bowling together for fun, a league or tournament play as I'm willing to join them any time or location in our metro area. Winter will be here before you know it and who knows what might happen with all the things happening these days.

Due to my limited dexterity, I use an adapted bowling ball with a snap-handle that retracts back into the ball upon release. I know where to get any bowling ball modified this way and can assist you if you're a ramp bowler in resources where and how to obtain a ramp if you would like one.

I just like to share this important information and enjoy some quality time together and maybe a few good laughs! More important, I'd like to see more members enjoy this wonderful sport, too! I also want to thank the Great Plains PVA, AWBA and the volunteers for putting on another great tournament.

Thank you board members once again for funding me to attend and I look forward to seeing more of you bowl with me this year. Please stay safe and be sure to get outside and enjoy yourselves.

Sincerely,

Robert Arciola

Thanks....

continued from page 1

In 2021, PVA continues to **move the chains in our struggle** with the bureaucracy for veterans. They **create opportunities for inclusion and participation** for people with disabilities. The compassion and commitment of its employees and advocates to secure healthcare and benefits for our veterans. Our donors understand our struggle and their donations **pays it forward for our SCI/D veterans and change their lives**. Thankful and grateful for this organization, the people, the veterans, the donors, and the support to make a difference. Thank you to the Vaughan Chapter Officers and Board and members, for the opportunity to express my most sincere thanks.

Happy 75th Anniversary Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veteran Health Administration.

Also in 2021 the VHA will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its establishment. Formed in 1946 as the VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery, it was re-designated as the Veterans Health Services and Research Administration, then later, on May 7, 1991 the name was changed to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Healing Garden

continued from page 4

down the hall to the garden. While battling weeds and excessive heat, all 130 bags of mulch have been laid, protecting the plants for years to come.

With the plants in the ground, and the mulch to protect them, the garden has already welcomed many different birds, bees, and butterflies. There is, however, still much work to be done. The blue foam mat and the AstroTurf that once formed the central circular surfaces used by physical therapy were removed. This has left large holes that currently make the space unsafe for patient use. Hopefully those areas will be filled soon, as our hope is to add additional seating, and a little shade to the incredibly sunny healing garden.

Service Officer's Report

By Winston Woodard III, Senior Benefits Advocate

VHA Appeals and How Veterans Respond

VA medical facilities, like VA regional offices adjudicating claims the service connection and pension, make many thousands of decisions each year concerning entitlement to benefits. Many of these decisions are not medical determinations, but rather interpretations of VA laws and regulations concerning eligibility for care.

When the veteran was denied a scooter, he/she had the right to appeal that decision. What if a veteran disagrees with the clinical decision made by the VHA? The advocate must examine could the clinical care potentially result in different or improve clinical outcome for the veteran.

Your local National Service Officer can assist you with this action. There are two types of appeals stemming from a VHA decision and two different appeal paths. The first type of appeal is an administrative denial or an administrative appeal. In this type of appeal a veteran is usually appealing some type of administrative decision such as a denial of medical service because a veteran is not eligible for VA care or an appeal for reimbursement for medical care. These types of appeals also are where VA denied fee basis (Non-VA care) or Community Care (formerly CHOICE) care, otherwise known as fee for care provided outside of the VA Medical System. These appeals pertain to VA decisions that are administrative in nature rather than

medical in nature. An administrative appeal can be appealed through the VHA administrative appeal process or through the traditional appeal process. An administrative appeal, just like a compensation and pension appeal, can be heard by the Board, Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC), Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) and possibly by the United States Supreme Court (USSC). An administrative appeal provides you with greater due process protections and gives you more chances to prevail.

The second type of appeal is a clinical appeal. A clinical appeal relates to a VA medical decision such as denying a veteran a particular medication or a form of treatment. These are decisions that rely upon the professional judgment of a medical professional rather than on VA administrative policy and procedures. Sometimes these clinical decisions can be reevaluated by medical based on the nature of the condition and reversed in favor of the veteran.

Clinical appeals on the other hand can't be appealed above the local level. That is to say these types of appeals cannot be heard by the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) or any level above the BVA as they lack jurisdiction over medical determinations. If you disagree, with a VA medical decision by the VA Healthcare System, you have the right of a written notice of the decision and a copy of your appeal rights. The VA has created a "Clinical Appeals process" for contested medical decisions. A clinical appeal must be appealed through the VHA administrative appeal process. The decision of the Clinical Appeals Process is final and there is no right to judicial review.

In order to start an administrative appeal, you use the VBA Form 20-0996. If you need to proceed on to the Veteran Law Judge you will file the new Notice of Disagreement (NOD) Form VA Form 10182 which will take you on to the BVA (Board of Veterans Appeals). Please contact your local NSO, to provide guidance.


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

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

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



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

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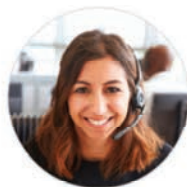


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75

Join Us!!!

FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

Annual Chapter Picnic
Saturday, September 11

Veterans Day & Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner
Saturday, November 13

Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 18

See a List of Virtual Events & more info at vaughanpva.org