



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

February 2018

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President's Report

by Josue E. Cordova, VPVA President

Greetings Vaughan Chapter Members. Happy, blessed and prosperous New Year! So far, February 2018 has been quite cold but with your help and involvement, things are heating up. Membership participation and commitment to our various sporting tournaments and events, membership dinners, and new fundraising opportunities will ensure a productive and successful year. We are really excited for what 2018 holds for our Chapter and members.

The hard work and dedication of our Executive Director, Board of Director Members and Officers has catapulted our chapter to the cusp of regaining our complete independence that will enable Vaughan to become a Chapter in good standing for the National Organization of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. However, on this final stretch we need YOU, our Members, to actively be involved by contributing and volunteering in the Chapter events, dinners and fundraisers we have planned throughout the year. We cannot truly be a successful Chapter for you, or the community at large if our members do not get involved and be invested in THEIR Chapter.

Our Chapter has 22 different events on the calendar, planned throughout the year. These events are for you, our members, and vary from social gatherings, such as the Valentine's Day Dinner on the 17th of February, and the 12th Annual Paul Kolb Memorial Dinner on March 17th 2018. The Vaughan Chapter also



has several sporting and outdoor activities planned. These events, and many others, have been scheduled with all of our members in mind. There is something for everyone with varying interests and skill.

Members Volunteering is a vital part of what makes a Chapter thrive. We have committees that have positions open to help assist with Chapter Events, Sports, Fundraising, and Government Relations. These all require such volunteerism by members. Without your help little can be accomplished nor can our Chapter be successful.

Through membership dedication and commitment our Chapter will flourish. I am looking forward to Past National President Bill Lawson going before the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Committee this Spring to assure that the Vaughan Chapter is now a successful and devoted group of veterans and volunteers who are committed to their Chapter, members and their community. Don't let your fellow members down. Thank you in advance for your

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Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

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2018 Membership Meetings

February 28th	March 28rd	April 25th
May 23rd	June 27th	July 25th
August 22th	September 26th	October 24th
November 28th		

WHERE: Hines VA Hospital; Building #128, SCI Multipurpose Room

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

If NOT able to attend in person, you may also join via conference call by dialing in at 1800-724-2485 conference code: 456000 (State your name when joining the meeting)

2018 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 meetings for 2018.

February 21st	March 21st	April 18th
May 16th	June 20th	July 18th
August 15th	September 19th	October 17th
November 21st		

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VPVA Executive Director's Letter

By Maria Hernandez
Executive Director

Hello, Vaughan PVA Members;

Here we are starting 2018 with new plans, goals, projects and expectations for the Chapter.

As I had mentioned before a few times in my newsletter reports, Vaughan Chapter has until May of this year (2018) to demonstrate determination and interest in bringing this chapter forward.

During 2017, the Chapter improved in many areas with the assistance of Mr. Bill Lawson; Immediate Past President with his outstanding help to our chapter in achieving the goals and expectations of the Executive Committee. However, there are areas the chapter still must improve upon; one of them being Fundraising. This area is a very imperative and important aspect to have in place to keep the eight (8) mandated programs in good order as ascribed by National PVA guidelines for all of the Chapters.

With the newly appointed Officers, Board of Directors and voluntarism by all Vaughan PVA Members involvement and participation, we will accomplish all the expectations from the Executive Committee and bring this chapter back to a good standing chapter.

As you all know in 2017 we added new events such as the Sweetheart Concert Dance, Poker Tournament, Veterans Day Dinner and Nurses luncheon. All these additional events and outings were planned and organized so that members could enjoy and participate in free of charge

Josue E. Cordova

continued from page 1

assistance. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Board members or the Chapter office for details in what is needed. (708) 947-9790

Gratefully,

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

events. This being said, keep in mind that if the chapter is taking the time and effort to coordinate additional events during the year we need to see more members assisting and attending as many of them as you are able to. **Remember, this is YOUR Chapter... don't let it evaporate.**



For 2018 we plan to continue with these events and continue to add additional events, outings and sport events that you can enjoy and participate in. Our annual picnic this year is going to be held at the Brookfield Zoo free of charge to members with everything included.

Finally, let me remind you it is imperative to make the effort to attend the monthly membership meetings that are held at the Hines VA Hospital, SCI building 128 multipurpose room at Noon on the fourth Wednesday of each month. You should have received the membership calendar with all these meetings along with the mandatory BOD meetings that are held monthly for Officers and BOD members.

If you are not able to attend the meetings in person you can always call in via phone by calling 1-800-724-2485 and use conference code 456000 and join the meeting. I encourage you not to lose the opportunity to participate and be aware of everything that is going on to benefit you as a member, hope to see you at our next membership meeting February 28th, 2018.

Members
Volunteering
is a vital part of
what makes a
Chapter Thrive.

This month, I would like to address the importance of volunteering for the Chapter. First of all, a BIG welcome to our new members. I welcome you to the Chapter and want you to know how important volunteer hours are for both, you AND the Chapter. Volunteer hours are recorded in the office using a volunteer's time sheet that is due into the office each month NO LATER THAN the 10th.



These hours will be added up and allow members to receive funding from our Chapter to attend the various events throughout the year at no cost IF you have the volunteer hours registered. We have a host of events scheduled for this year. Please contact one of the Board members to find out how to volunteer or call the Chapter office at (708) 947-9790 to see what is needed and add up the hours YOU need for the scheduled events you feel you can participate in. EVERY member.... new and old MUST meet required hours, or you will be required to pay your own way to events. The Chapter office can send you the Volunteer time sheet forms for you to fill out and also let you know how to help YOUR Chapter. Events are listed in this newsletter and also were mailed out to you by the Chapter office. GET INVOLVED...STAY INVOLVED. This is necessary for BOTH NEW AND OLD MEMBERS to help show National PVA that Vaughan is a strong chapter. Once again, WELCOME to our new members!

Sincerely, Anthony Powell, Vice President VPVA

Focus Group: Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Help US learn how we can better Help You!

Who: Veterans with spinal cord injury & non-agency caregivers of Veterans with spinal cord injury

What: Focus groups about **Veteran Engagement in Research**. We will ask about the types of things **you wish we would study** that would make your life better, and the types of research activities you would be **most interested in getting involved in**.

When: Winter 2018, Veteran and caregiver focus groups will be held separately, and will each last 1 hour.

Where: Edward Hines VA Hospital Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder Unit

Veterans and caregivers will be compensated for their participation. If you are interested, please contact Cara Ray at 708-202-4558.



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.



Government Relations – BOD Report January 2018

The Cook County Veterans Assistance Commission meetings we will once again have Robert Statam represent us. We need two for that meeting really. I will make the meetings with the Combined Veterans Association of Illinois. I need one additional member for that meeting too.

The Veterans Home in Quincy, Illinois has had about 12 confirmed deaths related to poor water with Legionnaires disease. Millions were spent already and since then the governor has moved in the building. He's also taken heat due to the incident and moved in a few days. I sent a letter to IDVA to ask how about another issue related to veterans being the delayed Chicago Veterans Home.

After learning about Legionnaires disease, I had to ask about the new delay at **the new veterans home in Chicago being stopped** with construction. As you may recall, that home started with groundbreaking in **2014!** The project stopped. **In 2016**, I met with IDVA Director and learned that construction was **to rather restart**. That **never took place**. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel some months now has criticized the governor and the project with misplaced priorities. As you know, **we've started advocating for**

affordable and accessible housing for veterans in Chicago. The Chicago construction for veterans is a total separate issue and is still not finished. I never received an email reply. **Cook County alone has over 200,000 service-connected veterans!!** Yes, that's a lot and don't include the most vulnerable non-service connected! You can scream ahh!!!

And, speaking of **the development at 5150 N Milwaukee Avenue in Jefferson Park**, I was asked by our fellow advocates of Neighbors For Affordable Housing if **we have a position letter** regarding the mayors lack of support. **Yes!** For anyone who wants it...**SUPPORT IT, WE DO!**

Ask Mayor Emanuel **why don't you support the 5150 development** and criticize the governor for the project in Chicago's Northwest Side (Alderman Sposato's ward). The **mayor** should be quick to **fully support both veteran-centric developments!** We all should **fully support** the 5150 developments in Jefferson Park within Alderman John Arenas ward **urging mayor Emanuel's full support, voice our position** on the Veterans Home in Quincy **and the delayed Veterans Home** in Alderman Sposato's ward. **Nobody's exempt from their DUTY!**

We need you to really rally along with the veterans organizations concerning these matters! The Quincy Veterans Home almost closed down due to Legionnaires disease. Senator Dick Durbin first advocated for closure of the Quincy Veterans Home, but has now done a 180 turn in full support of funding whatever funds the governor needs from the federal government. Gee, I wonder why and **I wonder what we'll do when accessible and affordable housing for veterans is gone! DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN-BE A VOICE!**

In March, we'll send **three members to Washington D.C. to meet with Congress and staffers as advocates for you back home** and across the Nation. **It's a very long week of volunteering and being in meetings all day long. We urge your support by obtaining the materials and voicing your support for our position which helps us all so very much!**

Thank you!

BURIAL ASSISTANCE, PLOT AND INTERNMENT ALLOWANCE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides assistance with burial and funeral expenses of deceased veterans.

Eligibility: Eligibility is established if the veteran was entitled at the time of death to pension or compensation benefits, or if the veteran died while hospitalized or domiciled in a VA facility or other facility at VA expense.

Veteran's Death Is Non Service-Connected: Survivors may receive up to \$300 toward funeral and burial expenses.

Veteran's Death Is Service-Connected: Survivors may receive up to \$2,000 toward funeral and burial expenses.

Application: Survivors may apply by submitting a completed VA Form 21-530, *Application for Burial Benefits*, to their nearest VA or Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) office.

BURIAL IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY

Burial in a national cemetery is available for eligible veterans. Spouses who have not remarried or whose remarriage has ended and dependent children of eligible veterans are eligible for burial in a national cemetery even if the veteran is not buried in one. For veterans, this benefit includes a flag and military honors. Family members and others may also request a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

BURIAL FLAGS

A ceremonial U.S. flag is provided to drape the casket or accompany the urn of any honorably discharged veteran who served after January 31, 1955, or any wartime veteran who served prior to January 31, 1955, after which it may be presented to the next of kin, friend, or close associate of the deceased veteran.

Application: Survivors may apply by submitting a completed VA Form 21-2008, *Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes*, to their nearest VA or IDVA office.

GRAVE MARKER OR HEADSTONE

The VA provides a headstone or marker at no charge for the unmarked grave of a veteran buried in either a private or national cemetery.

Application: Survivors may apply by submitting completed VA Form 40-1330, *Application for Government Headstone or Marker*, to their nearest VA or IDVA office.

BEREAVEMENT COUNSELING

VA Vet Centers provide bereavement counseling to all family members of service members who died while serving on active duty. Survivors can find a local Vet Center online at www.vetcenter.va.gov or by contacting 1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387).

For assistance in obtaining these benefits please contact Hotline at 1-800-382-3000.

SETTING FEES

When the VA has furnished a headstone or marker, the IDVA shall pay up to the allowable reimbursement amount of \$100 for the setting of the marker in Illinois.

Application: The next of kin may apply by submitting a completed VA Form 3 WVGR to their local IDVA office.

GRAVE REGISTRATION

The IDVA maintains a "Roll of Honor" for all veterans buried in Illinois. Every cemetery or burial place is required to keep a permanent record of the burial of each U.S. veteran.

ASSISTANCE FOR INDIGENT VETERANS

A County Veterans Assistance Commission or an individual Illinois county can provide up to \$900 toward burial expenses for an honorably discharged veteran of a qualifying conflict who was a resident of the county petitioned.

SERVICE RECORDS

Survivors will need to submit the service records of the deceased along with the necessary applications for burial benefits. Survivors can request copies of the required service records, discharge papers, or DD 2-14 from the National Archives.

Sports & Recreation

by Robert Arciola, Sports Director

The chapter prepared and submitted **bids for FY2019 PVA events.**

We hope to host a **Bass Tournament, Trapshoot and Bowling Tournaments.** Much **work is put into** composing, communicating and coordinating bids before they're submitted. Then there's **all the help** that is included in attending shows to recruit boaters and partners as well as organizing all the events within the event. Your help is needed to make the event a success. The events are for your enjoyment, and a lot of work is put into them all, so please **come out to play or help us!**

The Sports and Recreation committee members are working on arranging additional fishing derby events. If you're outside Chicago, we plan to host one a little southwest of Hines VA at Maple Lake near Willow Springs, IL (near 95th St. and Archer Ave.), a second at Silver Lake in the Blackwell Forest Preserve (Winfield Rd. and Butterfield Rd.), and at Wood Dale Forest Preserve in Wood Dale, IL 1 mile north of I290 and Wood Dale Rd). **Everything is free** and equipment plus bait will be provided. **Let's have fun!**

The VPVA Trap shoot with National will be held April 20-22nd at the **Edwardsville Gun Club** in Edwards-

ville, IL. It's a **great time all weekend** and you don't have to be an expert! We do have adaptive equipment to try, too! Apply, get away and have a blast! We're also partnering with the **St. Charles Sportsmen's Club** in Elburn, IL. They want as many veterans to come out there, be honored, shoot free pistol or trap, eat and have a great time together in a non-competitive event! Both events

The events are for your enjoyment, and a lot of work is put into them all, so please come out to play or help us!

are really a lot of fun! During the day, their club raises a lot of money to support Illinois Special Olympics each year. What a time to **get there and help cheer** the beautiful children on as they admire us and look up to us as peers and heroes!

Our **VPVA Bowling Tournament** will be held **May 3-6th** at the **Woodridge Brunswick Zone in Woodridge, IL.** This is a huge 1st year event for us and **we need as many people** to get involved as possible in fundraising, volunteerism and participating! You need to know that we're having a Friday night fundraiser for **able-bodied bowlers**, too! Please call to ask questions and **get involved today** because time is ticking!

The **National Veterans Wheelchair Games** registration is running well. I listened in a webinar for it and there'll be a second for indoor archery. Athletes are going to have a lot of fun in



Orlando and are preparing now with practices all over the country! Why don't you join in and go get some!

The **Chicago Cougar Lacrosse** players will soon begin the season with practice and scrimmages early to get a head start. We'll recruit new players and soon have a secured practice facility. The **scrimmage** is against the Milwaukee team at North Chicago VAMC. We will branch out to additional schools and individual organizations to recruit potential athletes. We ought to **begin practice in February or March**, so join and spread the word!

Our Sports and Recreation Committee meetings will take place **quarterly** beginning January before a membership meeting 1 hour and subsequent meetings.

Just a reminder - take advantage of the \$150 Life Enjoyment Fund!

Treasurer's Report

by Gerald L. Brown

A brief word from your Chapter Treasure, we are happy to report that The Vaughan Chapter Annual Audit Report has been completed. The Chapters Independent Audit Report was forwarded to the PVA national office on time to meet a chapter requirement. All members should have received an email with an attachment illustrating a complete audit report.

However, I like to share with you some items that came to my attention as I read our FY 2017 Financial Statements. The Statement of Financial Position found on page 3 of the audit report for the period October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017 illustrates the follows.

Recapped as follows					
Total Assets			\$ 1,749,275.00		
Total liabilities			\$ (151,626.00)		
Total Net Assets			\$ 1,597,649.00		
The Statement of Activities found on pages 4 and 5 of the Audit Report illustrates the Following.					
Recapped as Follows					
Total Support and Revenue				\$ 282,934.00	
Total Operating Services				\$ (202,930.00)	
Total Support Services				\$ (72,940.00)	
Excess Operating Support and Revenue over Operating Expenses				\$ 7,064.00	
Investment Income			\$ 26,335.00		
Unrealized Investment Income			\$ 96,522.00		
Total Non-Operating Investment Income				\$ 122,857.00	
Excess Revenue over Expenses Illinois Lott e				\$ 51,394.00	
Increase in Net Assets				\$ 181,315.00	
Net Assets Beginning of Year				\$ 1,416,334.00	
Net Assets and a Year-End				\$ 1,597,649.00	

What does it all mean, will hear is the bottom line we have 1,592,640 dollars of total net assets. Net assets include property plant and equipment, investment in trade securities and some cash. We had a net increase in total net assets of \$181,315 dollars, again this includes. property plant and equipment, investment in trade securities and some cash. However, you must review the statement of cash flows to see how many dollars, "cash or cash equivalent" we have hand for day-to-day operations.

The Statement Cash Flows found on page 6 of the audit report illustrates the following.					
Increase in Net Assets			\$181,315.00		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities for			\$163,888.00		
Net Cash (used in) providing Investment Activities			-\$337,343.00		
Net(decrease) increase in cash or cash equivalent			-\$173,455.00		
Cash or cash Equivalent beginning of year			\$524,235.00		
Cash or Cash Equivalent ear end			\$350,780.00		



The cash flow statement shows a decrease of \$173,455 in cash and cash equivalent for the year ended September 30, 2017. The reasons for the cash decrease are as follows. They are items in the statement of activities were net assets increased by 181,315 that not increase or decrease cash. Items like unrealized investment income, depreciation expense, and the change in current assets and liabilities. Some of these items add to cash and some subtract from cash. The bottom line for the. Fiscal year ended September 30, 2017 was a decrease totaling -173,455 dollars. This means we as a chapter have less cash on hand to meet our expenditures.

Solution, increase fund raising activities for the current and future years!

Your Treasure, Gerald L. Brown



We are happy to share a picture of the recent award recipients acknowledged at our first Veterans Day Dinner held last November. Their dedication to serving our spinal cord injured and disease veterans was gratefully presented by the President of Vaughan Chapter, Josue Cordova along with our Service Officer Winston Woodard III.

(From left to right)
Winston Woodard, III PVA Service officer, Josue Cordova; Vaughan Chapter President, Maria Hernandez; Vaughan Chapter E.D. Pebbles McClinic, SCI secretary, Dr. Ning Jiang M.D. for SCI, Mark Foley, RN, MSN, Franklin Mason, HCT for SCI.

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:

- Airplanes
- Boats
- Farm/construction equipment
- Horse trailers
- Motorcycles
- Motorized wheelchairs
- RVs/campers
- Semi-tractors
- Trucks/SUVs

Any of these vehicles can become a new beginning for a paralyzed veteran. Be a hero to a hero today and consider vehicle donation to help someone who has served and sacrificed.

Donate Today!

Call or visit us online to donate your vehicle today:

855-744-0782

wheelshelpingwarriors.org



One Car One Difference is IAA's public awareness campaign promoting the benefits of vehicle donation.
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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 10/1/2017 to 9/30/2018).



Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere

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“someday I might wear that again.”**

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**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

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60102, 60110, 60169, 60173, 60192, 60193, 60194, 60195, 60514, 60515, 60516
60517, 60090, 60062, 60025, 60026, 60532, 60540, 60563, 60564, 60565, 60076
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Spinal Cord Injury Wellness Academy



Join us for classes designed for YOU our SCI/D Veterans

Class will meet in the SCI Multipurpose Room the 4th Wednesday of the month from 11am – 12pm.

- **Nutrition** will review the importance of maintaining a healthy weight along with dietary lifestyle changes to help meet individual weight goals.
- **Occupational Therapy** will present on the use of assistive technology to promote independence with daily activities; environmental control; and access to phones, computers/tablets, and communication devices. This class will review technology to help adapt traditional access methods for ease of access and will not address computer/technology skills.
- **Physical Therapy** will provide instruction on how to perform exercises of the legs and trunk that promote flexibility, strength, and endurance. Physical therapy will also offer a Tai Chi course that can focus on the same goals included above in addition to improving balance and focus among other benefits.
- **Psychology** will discuss the importance of mindfulness for wellness, applications for mindfulness, and ways to incorporate mindfulness in your daily life.
- **Recreation Therapy** will provide opportunities to learn about and experience recreation and leisure; to aid in physical exercise and movement both in your home and in the community.
- **Vocational Rehab** will provide information about job training, seeking employment and employment accommodations

Wednesday January 24, 2018 11am – 12pm

Assistive Technology- *Presented by Occupational Therapy*

Wednesday February 28, 2018 11am – 12pm

Tai Chi- *Presented by Physical Therapy*



Wednesday March 28, 2018 11am – 12pm

Yoga- *Presented by Mary Terese Wanicek-Squeo*

Wednesday April 25, 2018 11am – 12pm

Community Resources- *Presented by Recreation Therapy*

Wednesday May 23, 2018 11am – 12pm

Weight Management- *Presented by Nutrition*

Wednesday June 27, 2018 11am – 12pm

Considering Employment for Patients with SCI- *Presented by Vocational Rehab*

For additional information on health and wellness classes contact Megan Fletcher 708-202-2106.



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NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



CONQUER THE CHALLENGE

#NVMWG

JULY 30-AUGUST 4, 2018 • ORLANDO, FL

Registration will open January 2, 2018. Please go to the Games website www.wheelchairgames.org to register; note that the deadline for registration is **April 15, 2018**. Medical forms are available on the Games website; we urge athletes to schedule your physicals.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**



Service Officer's Report

by Winston Woodard III, SBA

We have experienced emergencies that occur in the community and the VA is the primary sources of healthcare. How do we respond to the non-VA community facilities and providers?

VA Referrals and Authorizations

Non-VA medical care services should always be preauthorized, with the exception of certain VA Medical Benefit Emergency Care programs. When emergent care is necessary during the provision of VA authorized care/treatment, pre-approval is not required for Emergency Room/Hospitalization while the treatment is being rendered at an approved non-VA facility or non-VA medical care provider outpatient visit. The non-VA facility/service provider must notify the referring VA immediately to coordinate care that deviates from the approved care plan. **All non-emergent care must be direct to the VA, unless preauthorized. The veteran will be billed for care.**

Per Federal authority, VA is the primary and exclusive payer for medical care it authorizes. As such, non-VA medical care providers may not bill the Veteran or any other party for any portion of the care authorized by VA. **Federal law also prohibits payment by more than one Federal agency for the same episode of care; subsequently any payments made by the Veteran, Medicare, or any other Federal agency must be refunded to the payer by your facility upon acceptance of VA payment.**

Unauthorized Care

Unauthorized care is when a Veteran obtains care, outside the VA health care system, without prior authorization. In limited circumstances, VA may pay for care that is unauthorized. **However, Veterans who obtain non-emergency, unauthorized care, run the risk of having to pay for all or part of the care they obtain.**

Veterans who require emergency care, in accordance with the prudent layperson standard, are directed to the nearest emergency facility. **If emergency care requires a hospital admission, it should be reported to the nearest VA in 24 hours, must be notified as soon as possible not to exceed 72 hours.**

Veteran needs to request a copy of the emergency records from the non-VA facility (Release of Information) for the episode of care. Please ensure you have invoice, statements, contact information for the vendors. Timely filing limits apply to emergency care not previously authorized, and the requirements vary depending on whether or not the Veteran's care was related to a VA adjudicated service-connected disability (see the section on Claims and Payments). **It is essential that the non-VA facility contact the VA medical facility as soon as possible to make them aware of the emergency treatment. Contact the Transfer Admission Coordinator at local facility or AOD.**

Prudent Layperson Definition of Emergency Care

The following prudent layperson definition of emergency care is used when processing non-VA emergency care claims:

When such care or services are rendered in a medical emergency of such nature that a prudent layperson would have reasonably expected that delay in seeking immediate medical attention would have been hazardous to life or health. This standard would be met if there were an emergency medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) that a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in placing the health of the individual in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Filing Deadlines

VA Non-VA Medical Care Programs have different claim filing deadlines depending on how the claim is being considered for payment:

- Authorized Care (Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 1703) claims must be submitted within **6 years from the date of service.**
- Unauthorized emergency care for **service-connected Veteran** claims (Title 38 U.S.C. § 1728) must be filed within 2 years after the date the care or services were rendered, or within **2 years of the date the Veteran was notified by VA of the adjudication of a service-connected disability.**
- Unauthorized emergency care for non-service-connected Veteran claims (Title 38 U.S.C. § 1725) must be submitted within **90 days** of the following:

Date of service;

Date of discharge from a non-VA facility;

Date of death, only if the death occurred during transportation to a facility for emergency treatment or if the death occurred during the stay in the facility that included the provision of the emergency treatment; or

The date the Veteran finally exhausted, without success, action to obtain payment or reimbursement for the treatment from a third party.

continued on next page

Fundraising



Payment Denials and Disagreements

Non-VA medical care providers disagreeing with the initial decision to deny the claim in whole or in part may **submit a reconsideration request in writing to the referring Non-VA Medical Care Office within 1 year**. The request for reconsideration may include a request for a meeting with the immediate supervisor of the initial VA decision-maker, the claimant, and the claimant's representative (if the claimant wishes to have a representative present). At the completion of the review, the immediate supervisor of the initial VA decision-maker shall issue a written decision that affirms, reverses, or modifies the initial decision. The final decision of the immediate supervisor of the initial VA decision-maker will inform the claimant of further appellate rights for an appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Please contact your National Service Office Hines SCI /Chicago Office for assistance with these issues related to Non-VA Purchased Care.

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/VAUGHANCHAPTEPVVA/>



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.

THANK YOU

Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America sends warm greetings to UroPartners Corporation and staff for the generous donations for our spinal cord injured veterans.

Thanks to the generosity of UroPartners, our SCI/D veterans who attended our Veterans Day Dinner in November received a \$10 gift card as well as toys UroPartners and staff donated to our Vaughan Chapter to be distributed at our Christmas luncheon.

Vaughan Chapter Officers and Board of Directors joins me in thanking UroPartners and staff for the support and generosity on their behalf during 2017. We hope we can count on their generosity in the future at the various activities we have planned during 2018.



(left to right)UroPartners Group, Germaine Griffin and Becky Kusek at Christmas Luncheon.

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



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

800-727-2234

Join Us!!!

FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCAL EVENTS



MARCH 17

12th Paul Kolb Memorial Dinner *(family style dinner)*
Bella Banquets 3-7p.m. 3pm cocktails, Dinner 4p.m.

APRIL 20 – 22

Vaughan/National PVA Trap shoot Tournament
Edwardsville, IL

May 3 – 6

Vaughan Bowling Tournament, Romeoville, IL

MAY 5

38th Hines VAH Local Wheelchair Games, www.wheelcharigames.org

MAY 19

Poker Tournament (no gambling) Hines VA SCI Building #128

MAY 18 – 20

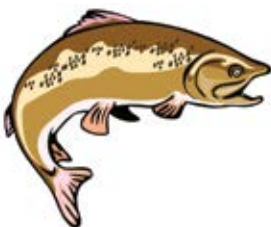
GLASA (Great Lakes Adaptive Sports) to register for the Regional games go to www.glasa.org

MAY 26

Chicago Memorial Day Parade

JUNE 9

VPVA Busse Woods Fishing Derby, Busse Woods Forest Preserve, Elk Grove Village IL FREE Lunch 10am – 3pm



Download the VPVA 2018 Calendar of Events at vaughanpva.org