



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

May 2017

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THANK A VETERAN

By Tatum Fry

Hi, My Name is Tatum Fry and I'm an 8th grader here at Palos South. On November 3rd I visited the Hines Veterans Hospital Spinal Injury unit. I went with my grandfather, Ted Murawski, who is here today.

He is a U.S. Navy veteran who served for four years during the time of the Korean conflict. He has been volunteering there for more than 2 years visiting the residents and patients, where he brightens the veterans' days.

As an 85 year old man he makes it his priority to get there every week, usually on Thursdays. He sings them songs, visits with them, discussing everything under the sun and sometimes even sings with his Hines Boys, as he loves to call them.

When we attended the hospital I met many veterans and was grateful to hear their stories and advice. I met a man named Daniel, who was better off than the other patients there. He could speak easily and fluently. He was very educated in war and could still recall the details of the time he served. He worked in the engine room of the U.S. Navy ship and told me, "We wouldn't see sunlight for many days at a time sometimes, even weeks". He went on about his experience and when asked the question if he would have done anything differently he said, "I'm proud I served. If I was in proper health I would serve again, no questions asked."

While eating lunch with my grandfather in the cafeteria I noticed a paper tree on the window with a paper beside it that read: "Write what you're thankful for on the leaves,



ask a nurse if you need help" I examined the leaves and the ones that didn't say Pretty Girls said "I'm thankful I woke up this morning," "My breath" "My Life," and of course "The Cubs" since I went to visit them right after the now World Series Champion Chicago Cubs beat Cleveland to beat that curse.

I met another man by the name of Richard. He was absolutely impacted by the war physically and permanently disabled like many of the men in the ward. Though he had a hard time communicating verbally he did have the determination to put a very

strong message together that he punctuated the end of our visit with, "I'm still fighting that war."

That's the thing about all of our U.S. Veterans who have left their time of service with permanent injuries, they never stop fighting. They fight for health care, they fight for treatments, PTSD services and cures, coping mechanisms and sadly, yes retirement funds and care.

I encourage you all to look at volunteering at Hines Veterans Hospital, there are many activities and services you can assist with that absolutely make the patient's' stay more enjoyable and pleasant.

Remember, freedom is not free. It comes with a price. A debt unpaid, so thank a veteran. They are the Fighters and there are many ways you can thank them.

One way I suggest helping to thank our servicemen and woman is to volunteer at Hines, it's very easy and you'll see the difference you can make in someone's life.

Just log onto www.hines.va.gov and begin your journey.



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

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VPVA Executive Director's Letter

By Maria Hernandez
Executive Director

Hello Vaughan PVA Members

Just an update on the latest Vaughan Chapter 2017 events, and if you haven't had a chance to participate, I encourage you to join us in one or more of the upcoming events and outings that will occur in the following months. You will receive a reminder or invitation - just mark your calendar! We certainly hope you can join us. Furthermore, if there is anything different that you would like us to plan, or if you have any other ideas - we would like to hear about them. We are here to assist you and

help you stay motivated and active, and we encourage you to invite your family to participate. On March 18th, Vaughan Chapter had its annual 11th Paul Kolb Memorial Dinner and this year it was NOT corned beef and cabbage. We decided to try a traditional American menu which everyone enjoyed! Turnout was just awesome with close to 80 attendees. Awards were presented to volunteers who have volunteered their time to our chapter and have been faithful to our veterans as well as Hines VA staff for their pro-

fessionalism and care to our SCI veterans. (see picture below).

Our Chapter again provided the lunches for the participants and staff and volunteers who attended the 37th Annual Physically Challenged Games at Hines VA Hospital, Saturday, April 22, 2017. Over 60 veterans participated in this year's event, which began with BOD member Josue Cordova and the Canaryville Veterans Motorcycle club that carried the torch followed by the Broadview Fire Department Fire Engine. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Governor Rauner, Dr. Michael Richardson, Chief-SCI and Dr. M. Steiner, Chief, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) PM&R staff are the ones responsible for setting up and working the various venues to prepare the veterans attending the National Wheelchair Games July 2017. Board members from our Chapter in attendance were Robert Statam, Art Wolf, Theotis Smith and Josue Cordova that rode in with the motorcycle club.



Front left to right: Pamela Sparks, Marilyn Antwine, Maria Hernandez, Donna Lambert, Anna Mae Baniqued, back left to right: Nathan Terry, Anne Veltri, David Perez, Tom Stautzenbach

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2017 VAUGHAN PVA MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

If not able to attend in person
you may also join via conference call
by dialing in at 1 800-724-2485 passcode: 499779
(state your name when joining the meeting)

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

WEDNESDAYS

May 24, June 28, July 26,
August 23, September 27, October 25

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

The “Social Security 2100 Act” Reintroduced

On April 5, 2017, PVA Senior Associate Advocacy Director Susan Prokop joined Members of Congress, disability advocates and representatives of the aging community at a Capitol Hill roll out of H.R. 1920, the “Social Security 2100 Act,” introduced by Rep. John Larson (D-CT). Rep. Larson is Ranking Minority Member on the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee. Citing polling data that shows 72 percent of Americans believe that Social Security benefits should be increased, not cut, Rep. Larson described provisions in his bill favored by 7 out of 10 Americans. Among those provisions are:

- Adoption of the CPI-E for inflation increases: Using the CPI-E for the annual Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA) would better reflect the costs incurred by seniors and people with disabilities who spend a greater portion of their income on health care, utilities and other necessities.
- Protections for low income workers: To ensure that low income working people who pay into the system over a lifetime don’t retire into poverty, the bill establishes a new minimum benefit set at 25 percent above the poverty line.
- Adjustments in the payroll tax wage base to help finance the system: Presently, payroll taxes are not collected on annual wages over \$127,000. H.R. 1902 would apply the payroll tax to wages above \$400,000 which would affect the top 0.4 percent of wage earners.
- A gradual increase over 20 years in the payroll contribution rate to keep the system solvent: Beginning in 2018, FICA taxes would rise 0.05 percent annually so that workers and employers would pay an additional 1.2 percent by 2041. For the average worker this would mean paying an additional 50 cents per week to ensure the system’s longevity.

In addition, HR 1902 would provide a modest increase in benefits for all beneficiaries equivalent to 2 percent of the average benefit, cut taxes for upper income beneficiaries by

raising the thresholds at which benefits are taxed to \$50,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for couples and combine the old age and survivors and disability insurance trust funds to foreclose future arguments over the disability insurance program by eliminating the artificial separation of the trust funds.

PVA supports H.R. 1902 because of its more realistic cost-of-living-adjustment for beneficiaries, enhanced protections for low income workers, and long overdue adjustments in the financing mechanisms for the system. Indeed, an independent analysis by the Social Security Administration’s Chief Actuary indicates that this legislation will extend the financial health of the system beyond the next 75 years. PVA believes this legislation demonstrates that preserving and strengthening Social Security can be done without causing harm to beneficiaries.



Did you know

Social Security disability insurance makes it possible for people with severe disabilities to provide for their basic needs and pay for life-sustaining medications.



For more information, please visit
www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityfacts

Follow us on:



May 2014

Service Officer's Report

By: Robert Statam, NSO III

Access and Quality in VA Healthcare

The PVA welcomes this fresh new initiative, in regarding VA's approach to the Access and Quality in VA Healthcare, especially for those with spinal injury/disease. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking unprecedented steps to increase transparency, in the area of access to care. Recently, the VA just launched a new Access and Quality Tool, in which it provides Veterans with an easy-to-use, easy-to-understand way of accessing patient wait time and quality of care data. Simply, by accessing the www.accesstocare.va.gov website, you are able to select from various options on where, when, and who will provide the quality care you are entitled to. We've all heard the stories in the news about our VA Healthcare System and the service, in which it provides to those of us who have served. As being a spinal cord patient, I can't truly complain about the care, I've received through the VA. I do know it wouldn't be so bad to know when my VA facility can see me, and how does that service compare to other hospitals. It is questions like these that Access and Quality in VA Healthcare is capable of answering. Topics such as access time at individual facilities, same day service options, and how satisfied are veterans with the care at a facility are major concerns to some.

I believe this tool not only provides Veterans with more information about VA services, it increases accountability and ensures VA is held to a higher

standard. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin, said that Veterans must have access to information that is clear and understandable to make informed decisions about their health care. The average veteran who may or may not have a catastrophic injury, would certainly benefit from being able to make informed decisions regarding their health care. Timeliness, in today's society is part of the new normal, and the average veteran feels they've done enough waiting already. This new Access and Quality Tool allows Veterans to access the average times patients are waiting to be seen in their local area; how Veterans describe their experiences scheduling primary- and specialty-care appointments at specific VA facilities; timeliness of appointments for care needed right away; and the quality of health care delivered at VA medical centers compared with local private-sector hospitals. As I compare a lot of the initiatives the VA has taken on in the recent years, our healthcare

system has taken an aggressive proactive approach to access and quality of care. As we continue to struggle with issues concerning healthcare reform, in our country, it is initiatives like this, which empowers our Veterans to make choices according to what works best for them and their families.

I have visited the new Access and Quality Tool website and found it to be unique, in comparison to nothing else like it. This makes the Access and Quality in VA Healthcare tool a step above the rest, and a step up for veteran's healthcare. I am sure that many other veterans will benefit from this as we all become proactive concerning our healthcare needs.

If you should have any questions concerning this topic, please feel free to contact Robert Statam, NSO III at the Chicago Regional Office, PVA @ (312)980-4278, or Mr. Winston Woodard III, VH&BS, at the Hines VAMC, @ (708)202-5623.

Veteran Caregiver Reducing Stress Time Study seeks adult participants

Are you 18 years or older? Do you provide unpaid care or support to a veteran? Are you stressed? Are you interested in reducing your stress? A new study is seeking participants for a study interested in learning about stress in veteran caregivers. Contact us today at 217-244-9363 or at vetcare-rest@illinois.edu. Participants will be compensated after completing the required interviews.

Sandraluz Lara-Cinisomo, Principal Investigator. College of Applied Health Sciences & Chez Center for Wounded Veterans

Sports & Recreation

by Robert Arciola, Sports Director

Now that the weather is better, everyone can take advantage of the wonderful events we have scheduled. Please remember that we have the chapter funding policy and the Life Enjoyment Fund as a source for your use.

These past few months have been interesting. I forgot to mention the Christmas Party in the last report. Since it was published, I will just simply say it was a great time with live entertainment, raffles and great food! Thank you for the volunteers and staff who helped us have fun! Better to be late than never say thank you! Thank you all so very much!

We also recently enjoyed the Paul Kolb Memorial Dinner. We presented an award to a nurse and a volunteer. We ate traditional food and enjoyed live entertainment. Again, thank you staff for helping to arrange a great time!

The bids submitted to PVA for hosting 2018 tournaments, bowling, and bass fishing, we haven't received confirma-

tions. Boccia tournament was dropped, and our trapshoot was accepted. We need more members to attend these tournaments. The trap bid will now be scored adding PVA member attendance as a category to consider. Please do consider coming out to each event.

By the time you read this report, the local Hines VAH wheelchair games and our VPVA trapshoot and Sweetheart Dance/Concert events will be over. A lot of work goes into these events and people should consider thanking the folks who make it all happen. They're volunteering their labor and precious time they could be spending elsewhere to put on a great event for us all.

In the last report I mentioned about getting involved. A few members have stepped up, but others can still help. Anthony Powell will be heading boccia ball practices at Hines VAH, Charles Scott will be handling bowl-

Air gun Practices

Please call Binnie McQueen

Midwest Sporting Goods

8565 Plainfield Road

Lyons, IL 60534

708-447-4848

Tuesday's at 9:00 a.m.

Please call Binnie 773-719-3533.

ing practices at Hillside Bowl, Terry Bowers will be organizing four local bank fishing derby events and serving with Dan James and a few others as a committee on major VA events. Also, Carl Winger is serving us to help assemble a charter boat fishing event and pheasant hunts available to members for additional outdoor activities. I have member Winston Woodard helping with trapshooting and the bass tournaments, but I can use an additional 2-4 members support.

Please don't forget we have the

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At the Vaughan PVA Trap Shoot Tournament on April 22, 2017 in Edwardsville, IL



37TH NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



LIFE WITH OUT LIMITS

Cincinnati, Ohio • July 17–22, 2017

Register Online Now @ wheelchairgames.org



Paralyzed Veterans
of America



VA

U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



WheelchairGames



#NVWG

This year, the 37th NVWG registration will be going on-line beginning January 1, 2017! Please go to the games website www.wheelchairgames.org to register; NOTE that the deadline for registration is April 15, 2017. A limit of 550 entries has been established for this year's NVWG.

Message from Bill Lawson

Greetings, Vaughan Chapter Members! Hopefully, you are enjoying this spring weather.

Either Vice President Ken Weas or I have visited the chapter every month this year. I am proud to inform you that the chapter is making good progress in its restructuring plan.

My most recent visit was April 24, 2017 to April 28, 2017. While I was visiting, two members stepped forward to volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors. This gives us a total of six members currently on the board. We still require an additional two more members to volunteer to serve on the board. Ideally, they should be mem-

bers who have never served on the board before.

Once we have a total of eight board members, we can begin the process of appointing officers. When that occurs, I will turn the meetings over to your chapter representatives (board) to begin controlling the BOD meetings. I will still remain on the board as an adviser until the National Board of Directors is satisfied that the Vaughan Chapter has successfully completed their restructuring. At that time, the

I am proud to inform you that the chapter is making good progress in its restructuring plan.



Vaughan Chapter will be a voting member of the National Organization.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the future. We are proving that together we can become a viable chapter and once again be of service to our veteran population.

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Vaughan Chapter

POKER

Vaughan Chapter is hosting our 1st POKER Tournament (fun only, no gambling) recreational event.... for our members, families and friends. (Five players to a table)

Come join us, meet new people and enjoy a day playing cards with other veterans and friends.

WHEN: Saturday May 20th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.
WHERE: HINES VA Hospital, Building #128 SCI, Multipurpose Room.

Light refreshments will be provided, must RSVP to our office by calling 708-947-9790 if you plan to attend.

Poker Dealers NEEDED to help run this fun only Poker Tournament (no gambling). Please call Maria Hernandez to sign up to assist as a Dealer 708-947-9790.



BUSSE WOODS



FISHING WITH PVA
Invites disabled Veterans for a one day fishing derby on,
Saturday June 10, 2017
Busse Woods Forest Preserve
Elk Grove Village, IL
If you need directions please call our Chapter office at 800-727-2234

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Lunch FREE!

Transportation is available for RCF Residents & SCI Patients, bus loads
@ **9:00am** (Space is limited to ride bus)
Reserve your space at **708-947-9790**

Ex. Director's Report

continued from page 3

This year for the first-time Vaughan had a sweetheart Concert/Dance on April 29th, which was held at the auditorium of Hines VA. The concert was open to all veterans - members and nonmembers - disabled and able. It was great to see veterans with their spouses and caregivers just enjoying the music and dancing in their wheelchairs and having fun. The event started at 1:00pm and ended at 4:00pm. We provided light refreshments, raffle prizes, auctioned items and raffle items for a small monetary donation. I want to thank Bob Sove, who enlisted the bands that played. We thank Mr. Sove for his assistance and to all the volunteers who worked so hard on the decorations and different areas to accommodate and assist our veterans. We thank the generous donations from our benefactors who supported the 1st Sweetheart Concert/Dance which was a great success and enjoyable event for everyone.

For the first time, we will be honoring and appreciating our nurses during Nurses Week this May. Vaughan Chapter will be providing a luncheon for all the day tour nurses from SCI and RCF in the multipurpose room on Tuesday, May 9th. It is the least we can do to show our appreciation for their dedication and caring of our disabled veterans. Arrangement for nurses on Evening and Night tours has been made as well.

Our upcoming events are scheduled as follows; on for Saturday, May 20th at the Hines VA Spinal Cord Building #128, Multipurpose Room for our 1st Poker tournament (no \$\$\$ gambling) just for fun and sharing a nice afternoon with our comrades. More details about this event can be found on the flyer in this newsletter. We have a float

scheduled for Memorial Day Parade on Saturday, May 27th, 2017 if you would like to join us and be part of this float I encourage you to come aboard and participate and be part of this great parade. More information is also listed in this Newsletter. I invite you to join us at our Annual Busse Woods one day fishing derby to be held on Saturday, June 10th (see flyer in this newsletter as well.) It is open to all veterans and their families; lunch is provided as well as the fishing rods. Come out and enjoy a sunny day fishing and fun with us.

Last but not least, I want to congratulate Perry Bender our Lottery Manager at O'Hare International Airport for 30 years of service with the Vaughan Chapter. Perry Bender is responsible for three lottery booths that employ disabled veterans and create revenue for the chapter. (See picture)

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Vaughan Chapter has until May 2018 to demonstrate determination and interest in bringing this chapter forward. Once again, we need all of you to step forward and help the Chapter with the eight mandated programs. Time is running out, and we need to demonstrate that we can all take control of our Chapter. As we continue to move forward with the new appointed Board of Directors with the wonderful guidance and assistance of Mr. Bill Lawson, it is still imperative that the Chapter proves to the National PVA Office that we are capable of our own governance of Officers and Board of Directors.

**REMEMBER....IF IF WE CANNOT SHOW
NATIONAL, WE CAN DO IT, THERE WILL NO
LONGER BE A VAUGHAN CHAPTER**



Left; Board of Directors, Josue Cordova and Illinois Governor, Bruce Rauner at the 37th Hines VA local wheelchair games. Right: VaughanPVA had a sweetheart Concert/Dance on April 29th, at the auditorium of Hines VA.

LIFE ENJOYMENT FUND

Voting MEMBERS! Attend a sport or recreational event such as a ball game, dinner, theatre and send in the receipt with an expense report then tell us how accessible the facility was such as parking and entrance or bathroom and counters, and if you recommend the place pointing out any problems, you'd like us to address, if needed, and get fully reimbursed up to \$150.00 per year! Yes, that's correct refunded up to \$150.00 per year! You can use the funds to cover the travel, lodging and food (NO alcohol) or event ticket/s. if you use a partial amount of the \$150.00; the remainder is available until the fiscal year ends! Call us now for ANY question/s! We're absolutely serious, so try us! Can you believe only a few members use this fund every year? Neither can I, so let's let the cat out of the bag and go do something with our precious summertime and great weather while it lasts!

(Fiscal year 10/1/2016 to 9/30/2017).



Hines VA RCF Veterans at the 2017 Auto Show. (left to right) Ray Shepack, Daniel James, David Perez (driver), Michael McColm & Stephen Chavis.



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
- Anything else you might have on mind,

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



Government Relations Report

The PVA Advocacy and Legislation Seminar was another great opportunity and event for getting our message out to those who represent us all. We sent members Josue Cordova and Art Wolf who went for their first time and director Robert Arciola. There's just one legislator office we didn't arrange to meet as confirmation never happened. We had 19 appointments out of 20 offices covered. We need your support to follow-up on the issues we addressed. Please call or email staff or me for them. They'll also be placed on our website for downloading.

We met with the Combined Veterans Association of Illinois and the Cook County Veterans Assistance Commissions and discussed then shared these papers for further dissemination and wider distribution.

If you recall, I briefly mentioned in membership meetings that a developer intends to construct a 100-unit building in Jefferson Park Chicago with emphasis on minimal 50 percent targeting veterans and 30 units being ADA compliant. There's community-based opposition to the height and number of units.

I've since attended a community strategy meeting, provided an CBS interview aired on the 6 o'clock news, testified at Chicago's City Hall Zoning Hearing, and was a panel speaker at a community forum. About 6 members intend to show up and support the initiative when necessary, but we will need more as the opposition is very organized and very vocal.

Please consider supporting this development by sending the Zoning Committee members a letter or calling them to support the Alderman Arenas rezoning of 5150 N Milwaukee Avenue Jefferson Park proposal to divide the parcel into two, so that the effort to move it through committee will happen and affordable and accessible housing has a chance to serve veterans and people with disabilities.

There are over 23,000 veterans with service connection in Cook County alone. Think about how many more non-service connected veterans there are who also would benefit from increased housing. We have just four veterans homes

in Illinois; Anna, Quincy, Manteno, and LaSalle which are very far away from Chicago. Furthermore, Hines VAH is the nearest VA facility for veterans and it has just 30 beds usually at capacity. PVA advocated for and just recently had VA construct its first longterm facility west of the Mississippi River! So to say the least, it can take several years before a veteran receives help in acquiring affordable and accessible housing. Oftentimes veterans not able to acquire affordable and accessible housing placement means they end up in nursing homes which cost taxpayers \$140,000.

Lastly, this development is not a CHA project or Section 8. It's a mixed income development that will be built and managed by a 501 nonprofit that has plenty experience and success. The height and density of a development like this six story building should not ever be enough to stop veterans and people with disabilities from being included in society.

A major historical 70 year goal within PVA's mission statement is advocating for and supporting programs which include Civil Rights and opportunities to maximize our independence. This includes housing!

Supporting this development will do just that as it's very near the Jefferson Park Metro Station which is a fixed ADA route and the interstate. Please get in support of this and feel free to ask any questions!



Perry Bender, Vaughan PVA Lottery Manager at O'Hare Airport

Dear Vaughan PVA Avid Sportsmen & Women.....

**“Members who are sports enthusiasts
who could make use of this Action Track Chair”**

The VPVA Chapter Office received an offer of a donation of an Action Track Chair that can be used by a young active disabled veteran who lives in the Chicagoland area and whose life would be improved with the mobility this type of chair would provide. This donation is from a private family who in their request wants to have the opportunity to meet this veteran who has served our country with honor.



VPVA Chapter Office has agreed to assist this family by accepting letters no later than May 26th, from ‘DISABLED VETERANS’ who might be interested. Included in the letter should be the reason why you feel you should be considered to receive this generous donation.

(Since VPVA assumes no liability we Advise clearance from your therapist that you would be safe and stable to use this great chair.)

Send your letters to us at the Vaughan Chapter PVA Office – 2235 Enterprise Drive - Suite 3501 – Westchester, IL 60154 or by email to vpva@vaughanpva.org or by fax to 708-947-9755 be sure to include all your contact information. The letters will be forwarded to the family for their determination as to who will receive this donated vehicle. VPVA has no part on the selection process other than receiving the letters and sending them to the donor family who is so generously offering it.

VPVA Chapter Office, 708-947-9790



Ken's Wood Working Plus

Beautiful wood pieces, order any of the five military branches: Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, American Flag and POW/MIA. (Custom made with name)

618-910-2448

sports

continued from page 7

recently planned VPVA Poker at Hines VAH and the Chicago Memorial Day Parade. These newer events ought to be organized next year by membership rather than staff. This goes the same for our Busse Woods fishing derby, the Christmas Party and our annual VPVA Picnic in September.

See there's much for members to be involved in! Our work is cut out, but members need to do the bulk of their share by being involved. We must be membership driven. I can't place enough emphasis on this point. Please consider the importance of having a local chapter and what it would be like without one serving you!

Contact us and we'll get you started, or join in on the Sports and Recreation team meetings or teleconferencing each month by contacting us today! Again, the more you serve membership, the more likely you'll continue to enjoy Vaughan Chapter beyond 2018! It's nice to see a few members involvement, but so much more can and ought to be done by others NOW! PLEASE GET TO WORK HELPING WHERE YOU CAN AND HOWEVER POSSIBLE!



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FUNDING FOR THE VA

April 11, 2017

We represent the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The PVA is the only chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for the benefit of veterans with spinal injuries. The Paralyzed Veterans of America is a veteran's service organization in the United States of America. Founded in 1946. The organization holds 34 chapters and 69 National Service Offices in the United States and Puerto Rico. It is based in Washington D.C. The group holds a congressional charter under Title 36 of the United States Code.

The VA needs more funding. We, The Paralyzed Veterans of America are asking for more funding for the VA. The time is right for Americans to fund the VA. During the election campaigns, both parties expressed their desire to help Veterans. Now that the election is over, the politicians on both sides should come together and help the veterans administration. We need more staff and the workers are overworked and underpaid. The politicians and the VA should get together and formulate a policy that will improve the conditions of the patients, nurses, technicians, doctors, and administrators. These positions make up the foundation of the VA. In 1930 the VA was great, now Americans have the opportunity to improve VA services. The government officials, VA administrators, and staff listed below will be asked to help us get funds for the Veterans Administration.

The Office of the President of the United States, Donald Trump
Vice President, Mike Pence

U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs, David Shulkin

Director of Veteran Affairs Chicago Region Office, Erica Jeffries

Head of Hines VA Medical Center, Dr. Michael Richardson, MD

Hines VA Medical Center, Dr. Ning Jiang, MD

Hines VA Medical Center Physical Therapist, Dr. Shohba Patil

Hines VA Medical Center,

Senior VA Health and Benefits Specialist, Winston Woodard III

Sincerely, William Jeffries

STANDDOWN 2017

Who is Standdown for?

Standdown 2017 is for Chicago area homeless veterans who represent about 30% of the homeless in our city. The Chicago-area Vet Centers, VA Medical Centers and more than 50 public and private, federal/state and city agencies lead the Standdown effort.

When is Standdown?

June 9 - 10, 2017 - Registration will from 8:00 a.m. to noon on June 9th and 8:00 a.m. to noon on June 10. The Standdown will take place at the National Guard Armory at 51200 S. Cottage Grove Avenue.

What will happen at Standdown?

Hundreds of volunteers will provide Chicago area homeless veterans a wide range of services and resources, which include:

- Medical services
- Optical services
- Housing information/applications
- VA benefit information, review of possible discharge upgrades
- Department of Human Services and Social Security information/applications
- Employment opportunities
- Legal Assistance
- Haircuts, clothing, entertainment, recreational activities
- Women's services
- Friendship, bonding, and camaraderie
- Delicious meals and food to go

The concept of Standdown comes from the military practice of removing exhausted combat units from the field of combat to a place of relative safety where they can rest and recover. Standdown 2017 represents that safe haven for homeless veterans. The goals are to:

- Provide a respite from the rigors of life on the street
- Help Chicago homeless veterans obtain permanent housing
- Assist attendees in establishing a source of income either through employment or benefits
- Stabilize participants' health conditions
- Offer an opportunity to reunite with other veterans who face similar life challenges

How can I help at Standdown?

Standdown survives through the labor of hundreds of volunteers and the donations of veteran's service organizations and private businesses. If you are interested in participating in this event please call one of the numbers below.

www.CbicagoStanddown.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Sports & Recreation

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For more information, contact:
Paralyzed Veterans Sports at
800.424.8200 or pva.org/sports

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

WISCONSIN

July 29–31, 2016
Rifle & Pistol Shoot
July 29, 2016
Green Bay, WI

NORTHWEST

August 5–7, 2016
Summer, WA

OREGON

August 19–21, 2016
Hillsboro, OR

NORTH CENTRAL

Sept. 9–11, 2016
Sioux Falls, SD

KEystone

Sept. 23–25, 2016
Clairton, PA

MID-ATLANTIC

October 7–9, 2016
Richmond, VA

ARIZONA

October 28–30, 2016
Tucson, AZ

NEVADA

March 17–19, 2017
Las Vegas, NV
Pistol Shoot
March 17, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

CAL-DIEGO

March 24–26, 2017
Rifle & Pistol Shoot
March 24, 2017
Lytle Creek, CA

VAUGHAN

April 21–23, 2017
Edwardsville, IL

MINNESOTA

April 28–30, 2017
Minneapolis, MN

COLONIAL

June 2–4, 2017
Baltimore, MD

YEAR-END

June 16–18, 2017
Cedar Rapids, IA

BOCCIA TOURNAMENTS

NEVADA

January 27–28, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

PUERTO RICO

March 18–19, 2017
TBD

NEW ENGLAND *

April 7–9, 2017
Brockton, MA

CALIFORNIA/ CAL-DIEGO

May 11–12, 2017
San Diego, CA

MID-ATLANTIC

June 24–25, 2017
Richmond, VA

GATEWAY (YEAR-END)

August 17–20, 2017
St. Louis, MO

*New England will hold a combined Air Rifle/
Pistol and Bocchia Tournament.

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & PISTOL PROGRAM

WISCONSIN

August 18–20, 2016
Milwaukee, WI

ARIZONA

August 27–28, 2016
Phoenix, AZ

CAMP PENDLETON

Sept. 8–9, 2016
Camp Pendleton, CA

CAL-DIEGO

January 30–31, 2017
San Diego, CA

MID-ATLANTIC

March 22–23, 2017
Richmond, VA

NEW ENGLAND

April 7–9, 2017
Brockton, MA

BUCKEYE

April 28–29, 2017
Geneva, OH

**PARALYZED
VETERANS
NATIONAL
TOURNAMENT**
TBD

PARALYZED VETERANS HANDCYCLING

TOP END EURO- AMERICAN HC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Feb. 3–4, 2017
Clermont, FL

VALLEY OF THE SUN

Feb. 11–12, 2017
Phoenix, AZ

ONE CITY MARATHON

March 12, 2017
Newport News, VA

PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR

MID-AMERICA

Sept. 23–25, 2016
Eufaula, OK

SOUTHEASTERN

October 14–16, 2016
Evans, GA

VAUGHAN

October 28–30, 2016
Mt. Vernon, IL

FL. GULF COAST

March 31–
April 2, 2017
Kissimmee, FL

KENTUCKY- INDIANA

May 5–7, 2017
Gilbertsville, KY

NORTH CENTRAL*

May 25–26, 2017
Chamberlain, SD

NATIONAL

June 2–4, 2017
LaPlata, MD

NEVADA*

June 3, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

MID-ATLANTIC

June 9–11, 2017
Richmond, VA

* A non-sanctioned event

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

MID-ATLANTIC

Sept. 16–18, 2016
Virginia Beach, VA

MID-SOUTH

October 14–15, 2016
Memphis, TN

MID-ATLANTIC

March 17–19, 2017
Midlothian, VA

MID-AMERICA

April 7–9, 2017
Oklahoma City, OK

MOUNTAIN STATES

April 21–23, 2017
Fountain, CO

BUCKEYE*

June 16–17, 2017
Independence, OH

KENTUCKY- INDIANA*

TBD

* A non-sanctioned event

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

MOUNTAIN STATES

August 18–21, 2016
Colorado Springs, CO

MID-ATLANTIC

Sept. 23–25, 2016
Richmond, VA

NEVADA

December 1–4, 2016
Las Vegas, NV

FLORIDA

GULF COAST
Feb. 24–26, 2017
Oldsmar, FL

MID-AMERICA

March 16–19, 2017
Shawnee, OK

KENTUCKY- INDIANA*

TBD

* A non-sanctioned event

37TH NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



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

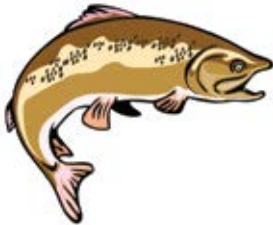
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Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

800-727-2234



Join Us!!!

Upcoming VPVA 2017 Calendar of Events

31st National Veterans Golden Age Games, Biloxi, Mississippi Contact info: National Director, Carla J Carmichael (202) 461-0429	May 7 - 11
16th Annual Castaway Disabilities Fishing Event Iowa City VA Medical Center, (319) 358-5962	May 7 - 13
Poker Tournament (no gambling) Hines VA SCI Building #128	May 20
Chicago Memorial Day Parade	May 27
GLASA (Great Lakes Adaptive Sports) to register for the Regional games go to www.glasa.org	June 9-11
VPVA Busse Woods Fishing Derby, Busse Woods Forest Preserve, Elk Grove Village, IL FREE Lunch 10am - 3pm	June 10th
Abilities Expo, Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Admission is FREE Friday & Saturday 11am - 5pm Sunday 11am - 4 pm	June 23-25
37th National Veterans Wheelchair Games Cincinnati, Ohio Registration ONLY at www.wheelchairgames.org	July 17th -22
TEE Tournament, Iowa City, IA Contact; Kirk Sickels 319-358-5963	September 11-15
The 19th Annual Rend Lake Shooting Classic for Persons with Disabilities Whittington, Illinois	September 16
The National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic San Diego, CA	September 17-22
VPVA Annual Picnic RSVP to the Chapter office	September 23

vpva@vaughanpva.org