



the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Vaughan Chapter
May 2021

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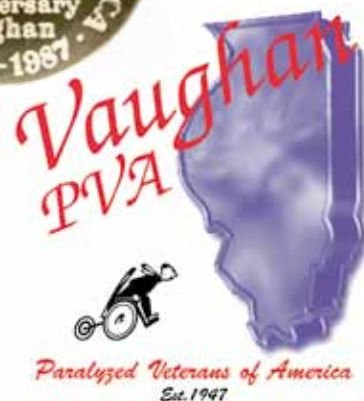
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HISTORY OF VAUGHAN CHAPTER PVA

To commemorate the 75 years of service, Vaughan Chapter would like to share a bit of history and pictures with our recent members and bring back memories to our older members.

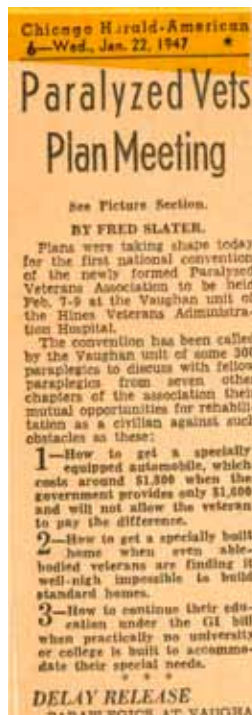
As we commemorate 75 years of servicing disabled Veterans, let me start by thanking each sponsor, business, individual donors, and volunteers for your contribution to our Mission Statement. Your support to Vaughan Chapter helps us accomplish our goals to meet the needs of all disabled veterans. As we move forward to a new era and a new generation of disabled veterans, we will continue to care for the needs established by this chapter that had the vision of serving the disabled.

Vaughan Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America is one of the eight founding chapters of the National PVA, accepted into PVA on February 9, 1947, and incorporated on April 14, 1947, in Illinois. We are proud of that distinction and continue the traditions and high standards our founders began 75 years ago.



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter





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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 May 26th 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: July 28, 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

Dear Vaughan Chapter members,

As Illinois, slowly reopens after this long Pandemic; we have on our calendar of upcoming events the following sporting events, outings, and dinners coming up in 2021. Vaughan Chapter will, of course, be obligated to follow the event areas CDC guidelines. Unfortunately, our Valentine's luncheon, Paul Kolb Memorial Dinner, Bowling Tournament, Poker Tournament, and Memorial Day Parade had to be postponed this year. As I said, we are doing our best to follow CDC guidelines and recommendations to keep everyone healthy.

The good news is that it seems that we will have some of the summer and fall outings and events; we are starting with our Busse Woods one day fishing tournament on Saturday, June 12, 2021 (see flyer on this newsletter), followed by the Abilities Expo from June 25-27, 2021 at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, Admission is FREE. Annual Picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, September 11, the Land of Lincoln BASS Tournament for October 8-10, 2021, Veterans Day combined with Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on November 13, 2021, and Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 13, 2021.

As far as ALL Sporting events, information will be sent out via email with flyer and registration forms as soon as we have confirmation on them; please be patient as we work diligently to provide you with outings and recreational events.

I Anthony Powell Salute the 75th Anniversary of the Vaughan Chapter PVA

I look back on when I first joined the PVA. I was very young with a new injury, mad at world because I was in a chair. Then one day a PVA member came to me and ask me to join and yes I was hesitant didn't know anything about them, he took me around the hospital and on a few fishing trips and even worked on my benefits. I was very impressed; I met a lot of good people who help me overcome my sorrow and pain. As a member I also began to do whatever it takes to help my fellow veterans, eventually becoming vice-president, with this responsibility I work with the service officer and staff at the hospital. I have seen our chapter grow so much I am very proud that I join the Vaughan chapter PVA.



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.

Busse Woods Fishing Derby
Saturday, June 12

Memorial Day Parade,
Saturday, May 29

Abilities Expo
June 25-27

Annual Chapter Picnic
Saturday, September 11

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

Christmas Luncheon
December 13

All these dates are tentative and
subject to change.

Please stay well.

**Hope to see you in
person soon!**

So I say HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY VAUGHAN PVA.

Vaughan Chapter PVA Election Committee / Chapter Election Notice 2021

Vaughan Chapter PVA is conducting chapter elections this year, 2021, and seeks members to volunteer on the election committee for two weeks in the election process this July and candidates to serve on the Board of Directors for a two (2) year term.

Election Committee

The duties of the election committee are:

- To find and present a list of willing and qualified candidates for office.
- To prepare and present the Chapter Secretary a report with a list of viable candidates for and placement on the Chapter Election Ballot.
- The committee must have a minimum of four (4) Vaughan PVA members in good standing (minimum one Board member).

If you would like to serve on the election committee, please contact our Chapter President or office via email at vpva@vaughanpva.org or by calling at 708-947-9790. The committee will be disbanded once its work is complete.

Chapter Election Notice

Board of Director positions available for this election are as follows:

President: open **Vice President:** open **Secretary:** open **Treasurer:** open **Director:** 3

Vaughan PVA Policy indicates that if you are interested in running for the position of Board of Director, you must **submit a typed "Letter of Intent" addressed to the Chapter Election Committee**, not to exceed two hundred and fifty (250) words, with your name, qualifications and why you wish to be elected to the position.

General Qualifications are recommended to perform elected duties are; General Knowledge of Non-Profit Organizations; General Knowledge of Chapter Policies and Procedures; General Knowledge of Boards and Committee operations; General Knowledge of Computer Operations, and a willingness to devote an amount of time towards volunteering and to work for the Chapter.

If you wish to submit your letter of intent, it will be accepted beginning June 1st and no later than close of business July 1st. Any "Letter of Intent" received before the opening date or after the closing date will not be accepted. **Any "Letter of Intent" which exceeds two hundred and fifty (250) words will be disqualified. NO EXCEPTIONS.** All candidates running for office must be certified by the National PVA Secretary prior to being placed on the ballot.

If you have any questions regarding this notice or Election Guidelines, please contact the Chapter Secretary.

Mail to:

VAUGHAN CHAPTER PVA SECRETARY
LETTER OF INTENT
2235 ENTERPRISE DR., SUITE 3501
WESTCHESTER, IL 60154

President's Report

By Josue Cordova, Vaughan Chapter President

Greetings, Vaughan Chapter members. I hope you, our members, and your families are having a wonderful blessed spring. I am incredibly excited for this newsletter as we recognize and celebrate our organization, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, along with our Vaughan Chapter's 75th anniversary! Some wonderful and exciting things are happening with our PVA, and I look forward to telling you all about it.

The 14 months that have passed since the beginning of our lockdowns have certainly been challenging. However, I'm so excited for the spring, not only because of the beautiful sunshine and warmer weather but also for honoring and celebrating the 75th anniversary of our Paralyzed Veterans of America! Let's stop and consider the history of our PVA, the uncertain times, and life ahead for all those newly injured paralyzed military members coming back from World War II. Those veterans, our PVA forefathers, had a choice put before them. Either accept the brokenness and despair and wait for their demise or continue forward and create a path through the uncharted territory. Those forefathers showed their community, country, and the world that even with paralysis from spinal cord injury, they still had life to live! With hard work, unity, and camaraderie, coupled with a never quit attitude, they had a life filled with joy, success, and accomplishment.

As we celebrate and recognize all that has been accomplished these past 75 years, we still know that there is much more work to do. With continued hard work and dedication, we know that any new challenges before us will be met with the same desire, the desire to live for more. You, as our members, are encouraged to come out and participate. There is an incredible opportunity for you to participate in sporting events and chapter outings. Some of those events are bowling, bass fishing, Boccia, Trap shoot, and billiards. We are also currently partnering with National to organize a chess tournament for this fall. There is also a need for you on our legislation and advocacy committee, with opportunities to travel to Washington DC, where you will represent our Vaughan Chapter. There, you will lobby and petition for paralyzed veterans' rights, as well as those of the paralyzed and disabled community across the country. We have chapter events and outings that we are also excited about for you and your families.

This summer, we will be holding our Vaughan Chapter elections for chapter officers and the Board of Directors. We encourage you to vote when you receive the ballot in the mail this summer. We also encourage you to run for a position as an officer or member of the board. For me, these past five years have been an incredible honor



and privilege to participate on the Board of Directors and currently as our Vaughan Chapter President. It is okay if running for a chapter office position is not something you see yourself doing. We also have many directors and committee positions such as volunteering, fundraising, and vacant sports that we need your help filling. I want to continue to encourage every voting member to know that we have a place for you. You are important to us, and we look forward to you reaching out. Your involvement will make a difference, not only for our Vaughan chapter organization but also for your community and our country.

In these coming months, during the year of our 75th anniversary, there will be opportunities to participate through online events via zoom. You can join with other members across the country in activities such as shoulder and arm fitness & strength training, yoga, book clubs, and even online video gaming. You'll also notice our brand new PVA emblem. This emblem reflects our 75th-anniversary logo and will remain the logo (without the 75) moving forward. This incredible-looking PVA emblem will be seen online and on TV commercials through the Internet and television.

I'm so excited for what lies ahead for our organization as a whole and our Vaughan Chapter. Please keep an eye out for more information regarding all of the events mentioned above through our chapter website, our Facebook page, and the mail out for all of the exciting things planned for this year, and subsequent, celebrating our 75th anniversary. Again, I wish you all joy and good health. God bless every one of you.

The Spinal Cord Injured Veteran in the Mid-1940s

Spinal cord injured veterans of World War II were responsible for forming the local organizations that became the Paralyzed Veterans of America. With the end of the war, the special needs of Paralyzed Veterans became a focal point in learning how to treat this special veteran population. "Because they were so seriously disabled, they felt that the other Veterans' Organizations could not give them adequate attention." In short, they would be swallowed up and forgotten.

Vaughan Chapter started as the brainchild of people like Harold Scharper and Terry Rose back on the old Vaughan General Hospital site at Hines in 1946. Harold Scharper, with a group of 20 ramp Quonset Huts which housed the arrival of first-time disabled veterans at the new Vaughan section on the grounds of Hines general hospital. Meetings were held on sun porches on 20 ramp wards; the problems discussed were hospital con-



ditions, compensation increases, housing, hand control cars, plus the need for research in spinal cord injury.

Harold Scharper's dynamic leadership (first President 1946-1947) Terry Rose, Gil Moss, Al Gore, Bob Dinsmore, Harry Hughes, Fred Peroni, and 65 interested paraplegics forefathers who contributed much to the formation of "The Vaughan Paralyzed Veterans."



Gilford S. Moss, first president of PVA from 1947 to 1948.



PARALYZED VETS CONVENE TODAY; PLAN U.S. GROUP

BY ROBERT CROMIE

A three-day convention of the Paralyzed Veterans association opens today at Vaughan veterans' hospital, near Maywood, with delegates from six other veterans' hospitals throughout the country attending the first meeting of what is intended as a national association of paralyzed veterans.

The first group of delegates arrived yesterday. Some came by plane from the west coast, others by rail, and two—Walter Suchanoff and Alex Mihalchyk—drove here in an especially equipped car from the Kingsbridge veterans' hospital in New York, making the trip in 25 hours of driving, and announcing, with considerable pride, that they could have dispensed with the services of the attendant who accompanied them.

Group Cites Objectives

Objectives of the group, according to Frederick Smead of Yakima, Wash., a patient at the Birmingham veterans hospital in Van Nuys, Cal., are:

1. To form a national group, which may be open not only to veterans who are paralyzed but also to nonveteran paraplegics.
2. To establish a research foundation, using as a starting fund the \$23,000 now available at the Van Nuys hospital, to devise equipment that will add to the comfort of paralysis victims and also to do original research into the field of urology, since the paraplegics suffer from bladder and kidney ailments.
3. To discuss the individual paraplegic centers with a view to improving those that need it.
4. To urge a change in the legislation under which paralyzed veterans are given specially equipped cars in order that higher priced and more suitable cars will be available, and also that cars can be provided to quadriplegics [those paralyzed from the neck down].

Tells of Housing Need

Smead was a member of the crack 35th infantry division of 3d army.

Another delegate, Alfred L. Gore of Chicago, a patient at Hines Veterans' hospital, near Maywood, pointed out the great need for housing projects suitable for paraplegics. This, he said, would entail wider doors and hallways, ramps instead of stairways, and some bathroom changes.

All the delegates agreed that in most cases paraplegics could find suitable work, such as light salesmanship, lens grinding, watch repairing, and writing.

The delegates here represent perhaps 1,500 of the nation's 2,500 paraplegic veterans of World War II.

46 to 50s



Gil Moss, an attorney, and a resident of Illinois, arrived at the Vaughan General hospital after becoming paralyzed in the summer of 1946 and was appointed secretary for the group and wrote the first bylaws later adopted by all chapters incorporated in Illinois. Gil Moss duly prepared the articles of incorporation, and the Paralyzed Veterans Association of America was incorporated on April 14, 1947, as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Illinois. Later, Gil Moss was elected Vaughan President at the second National Convention on September 26, 1947.

The first Convention of the Paralyzed Veterans Association was held on February 7-9, 1947, at the Vaughan unit of the Hines Veterans Administration Hospital. The convention

The first Convention of the Paralyzed Veterans Association was held on February 7-9, 1947, at the Vaughan unit of the Hines Veterans Administration Hospital.

consisted of 300 veterans paraplegics to discuss with other fellow paraplegics from seven other chapters of the association their mutual opportunities for rehabilitation as a civilian entity against such obstacles such as specially equipped automobiles, specially built homes, and education under the G.I. bill after injury, and to establish a research foundation to discuss the individual paraplegic centers and lastly to form a national group which would be open not only to veterans who were paralyzed but also to nonveteran paraplegics. The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Harold A.

Scharper; the sixteen delegates to the meeting included:
1. Donald P. Coleman, 2. Joseph Gusmeroli, 3. George W. Hohmann, 4. Fred-

erick M. Smead from Birmingham VA Hospital in Van Nuys, California; 5. Walter Suchanof and 6. Alex P. Mihalchuk from Bronx VA Hospital in Bronx, New York; 7. Harold E. Peterson and 8. Robert Moss from Halloran VA Hospital on Staten Island, New York; 9. William F. Day, Jr, 10. Marcus W. Orr, and 11. Kenneth H. Seaquist from Kennedy VA Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee; 12. Eldred H. Beebe from McGuire VA Hospital in Richmond, Virginia; 13. Joseph T. Gillette from St. Albans Naval Hospital on Long Island, New York; 14. Alfred L.



Gore, 15. Gilford S. Moss and 16. Harold A. Scharper from Vaughan Unit, VA Hospital, Hines, Illinois. At this first convention, Vaughan Paralyzed Veteran Gilford S. Moss (Gil) was elected as the first president of Paralyzed Veterans Association of America. With the departing of Gil Moss, Al Gore took over the presidency to finish the year (1947-1948).

Terry Rose, an area supervisor for the Chicago Park District for more than 20 years and a World War I veteran, was the founder of the G-3 Club, which was dedicated to spreading cheer among the spinal Cord injury patients at Hines. The G-3 Club numbered 400 members, and through their efforts, they garnered nearly \$10,000 worth of folding wheelchairs, sponge rubber cushions, and afghan lap robes were purchased. It is believed Terry's enthusiasm



with the G-3 Club and his subsequent contact with Scharper, Moss, Gore, Dinsmore, Hughes, and others ignited the spark that led the paraplegics to organize. Terry Rose brought in John J. Hogan and Howard West, attorneys from American Legion Post #38, to advice and counsel paralyzed veterans on all matters, including the writing of a Charter.

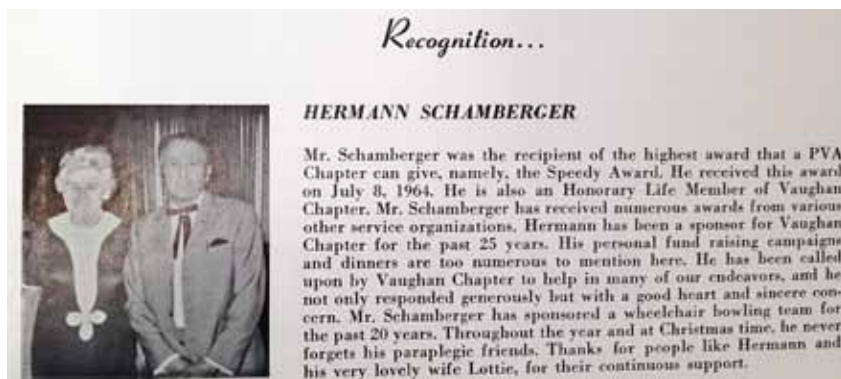


Because of the dedicated efforts of many Vaughan Chapter members, Spinal Cord Injury became a separate Service on April 21, 1960. The attitude toward paraplegics up to this time was one of hostility, discourtesy, and rudeness, but with the leadership of President Krenzel and Dr. Frank Gburczyk, our first Spinal Cord Injury Chief, the image began to change to one of respect.

The Charter Fight

A landmark in PVA history occurred on August 11, 1971, when President Nixon signed into law H.R. 2894 (Public Law 92-92), granting a federal Charter to the Paralyzed Veterans of America. This had been a goal of the organization since September 1947, and Bills for a federal Charter had been submitted regularly since 1948. The PVA considered a Charter essential for the operation of their service program, which assisted PVA members with VA claims.

Too much history to include on one or two pages, but I invite you to stop by our Chapter



Ogilvie welcomes vets at fair

From Our Springfield Bureau

Sunday was Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair, with a talk by Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie and drum and bugle corps competitions the featured attractions.

Ogilvie welcomed veterans and their families to the fair and praised the military spirit of the 33 drum and bugle corps which competed.

"These young people display something the country needs a lot more of — self-discipline and dedication," Ogilvie said, more ore more.

WINNER IN the boys drill team competition was the City-

Schedule of events. Page 12.

zens Cadet Corps of Chicago, Amvet Post 152. The best girls team award went to the Columbians of Quincy, American Legion Post 37.

First place in the junior color guard competition went to the St. Augustine Lancers, sponsored by Northlake American Legion Post 326.

The best color guard performing with a junior drum and bugle corps was the Tonnettes, VFW Post 6502, Bradley.



Gov. Richard B. Ogilvie and E. Merle Harrison, head of the Illinois Veterans Commission, chat with a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America during Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield. (AP)



Shown left to right: Dr. Jewell L. Osterholm, Professor of Surgery, Director Division of Neurosurgery, Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital of Philadelphia; Gerald F. Panfil, Research Chairman, Vaughn Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Hines Hospital, Hines, Ill. and Dr. Franklin C. Wagner Jr., Assistant Professor, Neurological

Surgery, Yale University, School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut. Vaughn Chapter, PVA, presented checks in the amount of \$5,000.00 to each recipient to be used in Spinal Cord Injury Research. The funds were the result of last year's Mixed Nuts Fund-Raising drive. (Photo by Roman Zabicki)

60s & 70s





office and view the articles, and pictures we have accumulated concerning the formation of the Vaughan Chapter, PVA, back in 1946.

A historical fact regarding what was known as a Family Day at Hines was initiated by Dr. Robert C. Fruin (RCF), Chief of Spinal Cord Injury, which occurred every three months during the year for families and friends of newly injured paralyzed veterans. In each opening statement on every Family Day, Dr. Fruin would tell the families this story. When spinal cord wards were completed with all the equipment the doctors felt was necessary to treat this special population, the question was asked, "where are the wheelchairs?" the answer given was they do not need wheelchairs they are not expected to live past six months. With research funded through PVA every spinal cord injury veteran continued to live a full life.

As one of the founding chapters of PVA, Vaughan Chapter continues to secure benefits for veterans once they are honorably discharged from the service and help them, and other disabled individuals find accessible housing, specialized transportation, quality education, and prosthetic aids for independent living. Other priorities include advocacy work for a barrier-free environment, sports and recreation for the disabled, and support for Spinal Cord Injury and Disease Research. Vaughan Chapter provides these services in Illinois, Northwest Indiana, Southern Wisconsin, Michigan, and the Iowa States.



Shirley Rohwedder, Vaughan Chapter President in wheelchair, from left, Hospital Director John Fears, Dr. Robert C. Fruin, M. D. Chief, Spinal Cord Injury at opening of Residential Care Facility (RCF) building #221 named after him. National SCI Director from D. C. Mr. Derwinski is beside Shirley.



FISHING WITH VAUGHAN PVA

Invites disabled Veterans for a one-day fishing derby.

Saturday June 12th, 2021

Busse Woods Forest Preserve
Elk Grove Village, IL

Must **RSVP by June 7, 2021**

If you need directions, please call our Chapter office at
800-727-2234 or (708) 947-9790

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Lunch FREE!



All the Way with VPVA

Let me begin by saying I hope you have had a chance to be vaccinated and that all is well with you The Vaughan Chapter Membership. This has been an unusual year if you consider the restraints placed on us by the virus. The virus caused limited daily activities such as in person recreational activities and informational meeting, we have utilized zoom and teleconferences to communicate effectively. These activities for the first six months of fiscal year stopped our membership meetings I sport and recreational outings Christmas dinners sweetheart dinners and many more. However, going forward we hope to resume normal activities if I am correct, we projected early June to the balance of FY 2021.



Gerald L Brown, Treasurer VPVA

We begin this fiscal year with plans developed in a budget process with the total cost to the chapter of \$385,362. Keep in mind that the national PVA organization provides a grant of only \$142,209 the balance of which \$244,072 are provided through contributions, durations, small grants, corporate solicitation, and other fundraising activities this year that total amount equal \$94,740. The balance of \$194,332 to be provided by the chapter's investment portfolio of approximately \$52,007 in projected dividends and interest earnings with another. \$96,632 being transferred into the budget from current are previous year's portfolio gains.

In this current fiscal year, the chapters portfolio earnings year-to-date is of March 31, 2021 or approximately \$25,000 and interest and dividends, with an additional \$394,000 of unrealized portfolio gains. This is important to mention because it helps to fund our annual budgets current and future budgets. The finance committee and its members are responsible for the management of the Vaughan chapter's portfolio the volunteer members are Winston Woodard III, Leo more, Daniel James, Robert Arciola, Anthony Powell, and Gerald Brown, Treasurer

So, until next time God bless you and keep you and all the way with VPVA.

Your treasurer Gerald L Brown.

Grateful to this Organization

2009 was the year that I met the PVA and Mr. Winston Woodard III. That moment is one that I will forever owe both the PVA and Mr. Woodard for the life I have today.

A day in 2009, Mr. Woodard came into my VA hospital room (where I was recovering from a muscle flap) while lying in bed for the next four months. He spoke to me about all my benefit options that both the VA and PVA offers; he didn't just come around once; he came many times a week. He not only came as a PVA Senior Benefits Advocate but to talk and make sure I was being treated properly. Even though I was losing my civilian job, my financial and medical needs were coming to an end, and as many vets do, I denied his assistance and struggled for a bit. From 2009 to about 2016, Mr. Woodard didn't stop checking on me and even at one point forced me to attend the PVA games (it ended up being the best experience of my wheelchair life). In 2016, I was losing all my benefits and my job. I called on my reliable PVA rep, Winston. He worked quickly to get me my VA compensation, services, and most importantly, a JOB. He kept me from all types of ruin...fast forward to 2019, and I again was in a VA bed recovering from a muscle flap, and another gentleman shows up in my room, Mr. Josue Cordova. I am now without a job and in a deep mental funk. Mr. Cordova offered me an excellent opportunity to be on the Vaughan Chapter board and the Sports Director. I accepted but only after being visited and checked on by Josue and Winston regularly. As much as I didn't want to (just because of the mental funk), Josue knew I needed it to help me out of the state of mind I was in, and...it worked.

Now, I am stable on all of my benefits, thanks to Winston, and mentally better, thanks to Josue. All this is due to that day that the PVA and Winston stepped into my life in 2009. There's nothing that I can do or say to demonstrate how grateful I am to this organization and two gentlemen for the impact on my life...

Thank you

Alberto Velasco, Life VPVA Member



Service Officer's Report

By Robert Statam, Sr. NSO

VA Education Rule Changes

Many of you may have possibly taken advantage of the Department of Veterans Affairs Education programs based on your eligibility for VA benefits. The VA has recently made changes to the program that has expanded opportunities for those veterans eligible for the program by allowing them to apply their benefits toward multiple degrees.

Effective April 1, 2021 the VA stopped counting entitlements that were used in the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program against the 48-month rule for education programs like the post-9/11 GI Bill. You may be familiar with VR&E as Chapter 31, which allows veterans with a service connected disability and at least a 10 percent rating to access various resources that leads to employment.

The program was previously known as Vocational Rehabilitation, and included a wide range of tools for veterans to advance into possible employment opportunities. Employers hiring veterans are eligible to receive a federal tax credit or be reimbursed for up to half of the veteran's salary. Until recently, VR&E could not be used in conjunction with the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which covers four years of college for veterans. Veterans who used the full 48-month benefit entitlement would be ineligible for the GI Bill. The change in policy could be the most significant change to education benefits since the Forever GI Bill was established. The Forever GI Bill was signed into law in 2017 and erased the benefits expiration date. Under the new process, students who have not previously used an education benefit, like the Montgomery or Post-9/11 Bill, will be able to use Chapter 31 VR&E without it affecting their eligibility under other chapters of the GI Bill.

In order to maximize their education benefits, the veteran would need to use VR&E first, because while the change means VR&E does not count against the total GI Bill benefits, that may not necessarily be true the other way around. If a veteran uses the GI Bill, it will count against VR&E.

VA has begun notifying students that the use of GI Bill education benefits will continue to count against the 48-month limit of VR&E benefits.

Employers hiring veterans are eligible to receive a federal tax credit or be reimbursed for up to half of the veteran's salary.

This new process may be very beneficial to students who may have a service-related disability and are not able to work in their original field where they may have experience. This will provide an opportunity for the veteran to gain knowledge and training in a field that is conducive to their circumstances.

Since VR&E does not count against other GI Bill benefits, a veteran could possibly earn a CDL, accounting certificate or traditional college degree, and then go back to school with the Post-9/11 GI Bill and earn another degree.

For more information regarding this benefit, please contact your PVA NSO or VR&E counselor.

If you are experiencing any trouble with VA, please contact the 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



Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton*

Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?

Contact ReWalk for more Information:
rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2

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



WE BRING THE VAN TO YOU!

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VPVA
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Join Us!!!

FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS

Busse Woods Fishing Derby
Saturday, June 12

Memorial Day Parade
Saturday, May 29

Abilities Expo
June 25-27

Annual Chapter Picnic
Saturday, September 11

Veterans Day & Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner
Saturday, November 13

Christmas Luncheon
December 13

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