



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Vaughan Chapter

the Wheel

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VAUGHAN CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

November 2016

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WHAT IS A VETERAN?

A giant step toward peace begins with the recognition of our veterans – men and women – who throughout our history have set aside their civilian pursuits to serve our nation's cause – the defense of freedom against the challenge of armed aggression. Let us reaffirm that our nation's strength and greatness rests on a foundation that declares "VETERAN" an honorable word a word that symbolizes fulfillment of the highest obligation of citizenship.

America's war veterans come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes and ages. Their collective experience spans two world wars and several foreign conflicts. They have followed war mules through Flanders Field, stepped from landing barges onto the beaches of Normandy, faced the terrors of Pork Chop hill and trudged the rice paddies of the Mekong Delta.

They are the "doughboys" of World War I and the "GIs" of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

However, regardless of differences in makeup and experience, all veterans share a common bond – a brotherhood of memory and hard-won wisdom that helps define their character.

A veteran is the first man up as the flag passes by on the Fourth of July, and the last one down, for he has been witness to the blood and tears that make this and all other patriotic celebrations possible.

He's member of history's most exclusive fraternity. He's been there.

A veteran is a man of peace, slow to anger, quick to realize that those who talk most about the glory of war are those who know the least about its horror. He never jokes about war; he has been there, and still sees on memory's vivid screen, the wounded and the dying, the widows and orphans. He knows first hand that no war is good and that the only thing worse than war is slavery.

A veteran is at once proud and humble; proud of the record of victory of America's fighting men and humble in the realization that many of his comrades who helped him make this lofty goal a reality never returned home.

A veteran is proud of America's past... alert to America's present... and confident of America's future.

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Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

VAUGHAN CHAPTER PVA OFFICE
 2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501
 Westchester, IL 60154
 phone: 708-947-9790
 fax: 708-947-9755
 pvachvaug@mindspring.com
 vpva@vaughanpva.org

Chapter Director

Bill Lawson; National Immediate Past President

National Board of Directors

Robert Arciola Josue E. Cordova Gene Crayton
 Bill Lawson Theotis D. Smith, Jr Ken Weas
 Arthur H. Wolf

National Chapter Liaison

Ken Weas

Hospital Liaison

Arthur H. Wolf

Advocacy Director

Robert A. Arciola

Sports Director

Robert Arciola

Fundraising Director

Theotis D. Smith, Jr

STAFF

Maria Hernandez, Executive Director
 Administrative Assistant, Donna Pettiford
 Fran Jiracek, Editorial Assistant

Service Officers

Winston Woodard, III
 Hines VA Hospital
 708-202-5623

Robert Statam
 Chicago Office
 312-980-4278

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VPVA Executive Director's Letter

By Maria Hernandez
Executive Director

Hello, Vaughan Members:

Here we are, almost at the end of 2016. This is the last newsletter for 2016; I want to end the year by first thanking our valuable volunteers for the support that each of you who took the time in assisting the chapter at our outings and events. Every single one of our volunteers came out to help under the sun, rain, hot or cold weather and was always eager to cause a change. We all know that without voluntarism, nothing would have been accomplished. THANK you to all the volunteers who are registered with Vaughan Chapter, but special thanks to Marilyn Antwine, David Perez, Nathan Terry, Ed Millar, Anne Veltri and Patrick Brock. I can say that every time I have asked them to volunteer they have never said no. Thank you to Kathy Giblin and her group of volunteers from American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation that are present at our Picnic and Christmas Luncheon, they are an awesome group, and I can always count with them.

Here is a brief report of some of our fundraisers since our last newsletter. The Donation Drive through SAVERS was picked up on Friday, September 30, 2016. We accumulated 1,014 pounds, which were a goodly amount but could have been more. Hopefully, our members will get more involved by participating in asking family and friends to bring items for a yet to be scheduled donation drive.

As many of you already know we started collecting items for our DONATION DRIVE fundraiser project back in August at our Chapter Office. I want to THANK everyone who was part of this project. The pick-up date for collections to the DONATION DRIVE took place on September 30th, 2016. Filling a bag with clothing, shoes, accessories, books, linens and household items was the purpose of this drive. Thank you for helping us raise funds by cleaning out your closet. The total amount collected was 1,708.00 lbs. Again thank you everyone for your support. We continue our efforts in fundraising for our Chapter to enable them to regain their self-esteem by attending the different outing and events and by helping the hospitalized veterans as well through different in-hospital activities. Through donated funds, we have been able to purchase equipment that allows them

I am pleased to report that Frank Chavez with AT&T Technology Operation, Construction & Engineering, raised \$650 for the Vaughan Chapter, by doing cookouts and bean bag tournaments and other activities between the employees. They came to the office on Tuesday, October 4th to present the check to us.

Community Day Book sale at Carson's Store; started on Friday September 2nd and our volunteer veterans have been doing the sales since then. The ending date of the community books' sale will be Veterans Day November 11th, at the point we should be able to know the profits of the fundraising project.

Finally, our annual Vaughan picnic took place on Saturday, September 17th, 2016. Once again, it was a great day for a family picnic and hospitalized veterans on all SCI wards that were cleared by hospital staff receive picnic plates as well. We were lucky to have a beautiful day and turnout was great. We had plenty of food, including T-bone steaks and corn on the cob donated by Angelo's food market. Popcorn, ice cream, watermelon and cupcakes were also served. We had plenty of prizes for our attendees and games for the adults and kids including the two piñatas with a prize of \$25 gift

card. All of our members enjoyed the live music from our dearest veteran friend Bob Sove and his band! THANK YOU, Bob for always entertaining our vets.

To close our day we had a performance from Nostalgia entertainment performing a WWII Radio show. Special thanks to Michele Major from Forever Michele's Photography that volunteered her time to take pictures at the picnic. We also had Steve Sturt and Rick Carlson from Mobility Works displaying the latest accessible vehicles out in

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Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere
G.O.V.E.
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Vaughan Chapter

to participate in a host of activities in spite of their limitations (e.g, bowling equipment for wheelchair users, adaptive fishing equipment and financially supporting them in attending the various venues that keep them active and involved in daily living experiences. 100% of the monies derived from events such as this DONATION DRIVE go directly to the veterans.

Message from the Chief

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

Greetings once more to all the Veterans and families in our SCI/D System of Care.

I begin this month's letter with the welcome news that we now have a permanent Medical Director of the Edward Hines VAMC after nearly two years of acting and interim Directors. Dr. Steven Braveman, an active duty serviceman and experienced physiatrist, has been appointed and began his tour at the end of September. He has quickly moved to take charge of the many issues and processes at our Medical Center and already met and heard directly from the members and officers of the Vaughan Chapter at the last meeting.

Dr. Braverman has a passion for medical care, excellence in research, and both service to his country and those who have served their country. This passion is on display at every turn in his interactions and speeches so far. His philosophy is one of "Proudly serving our Veterans by providing compassionate, comprehensive care of the highest quality supported by education and research". He considers that utilizing the "Four Cs" is the path to success. Communication: Care of the Veteran: Customer Service: Common Sense. It is this final "C" that he dwells on as a means of giving people permission to do their job. He is committed to encouraging and enabling each of us to go ahead and do our job in serving the Veteran by asking "Is it good for my customer?" "Is it legally, mor-

ally, and ethically right?" Is it in my area of responsibility and will I be accountable for it?"

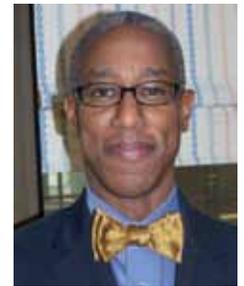
In addition he has announced two other permanent members of the team - positions of Chief of Staff and Assistant Director - Dr. Elaine Adams and Ms. Michelle Schlup. Thus there is now only one member of the Pentad Leadership team not yet in permanent place - the Associate Director.

By contrast the SCI/D providers have not changed. We are bringing more ward nurses on board (sometimes a slow and laborious process unfortunately), but under the leadership of Chief Nurse Jiret Saez, and the Clinical Nurse Managers Cyndi Snodgrass

and Binu Polak-kattil we are reaching towards our required cadre of inpatient nursing staff.

This past month has seen more Veterans accepting and completing their annual examination and more interest and activities in recreation and community activities. The inpatient census has been consistently increased throughout the year and the staff continues to deliver excellence in nursing care. Please take a moment to thank the provider staff for their efforts and caring even during times of staffing shortages. I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to

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As of this writing, I've been at Hines for nearly three weeks in my new job as the Hospital Director. One of the early highlights was my visit with the SCI patients and PVA staff during the Vaughan PVA Chapter meeting on September 28th. I had a chance to meet with some of the patients, learn about their stories and their needs, introduce myself and answer questions about Hines and our priorities for the SCI Unit and the hospital in general.

I am a Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician (physiatrist). I retire as an active-duty Army Colonel later this month on Halloween. My new job allows me to continue to serve our past and present Service Members. Taking care of our Veterans with dignity and respect is a sacred mission and one that I am very proud to undertake with our staff and patients. Since I along with two daughters and a son-in-law are also Veterans and/or soldiers, what we do here

is as important to me on a personal level as it is on a professional one.

My background as a physiatrist made my visit last week extra special. I could see the great spirit within the group; the great comradery among the Veterans, the staff and the PVA; and the amazing progress and abilities (not disabilities) exhibited by our Veterans. I look forward to continuing our relationship and making Hines the flagship hospital of the Veterans Health Administration.

Steven Braverman, MD
 Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital Director



A Message from Bill Lawson National Immediate Past President

There has been quite a bit of activity that has taken place since my last report to the membership. The Vaughan Board interviewed several potential candidates for a position on the Board and we chose three Vaughan members. They are now onboard and I am looking forward to their participation in chapter operations.

The first order of business for these new members of the Vaughan Board was to hold a planning session which led to establishing a new budget for FY 17. It was a long two days but the Board stuck with it and the budget was set. This was important because the chapter was mandated to get this budget to the national office in order for the chapter to receive the grant PVA allocates for each chapter in the organization.

A survey will be coming out from our national office so be looking for it. I hope that each of you respond to the questions asked. This can only help us to know what the membership is interested in so we can build on our programs for your benefit.

In my last report, I asked that the membership begin to engage themselves in the chapter. We have had some

Josue Cordova - New Board Member

Hello, my name is Josue Cordova. I've been a member of the Vaughan chapter of the PVA since the fall of 1995. I am honored and privileged to be a board member of this chapter of an organization I hold dearly. My desire and goal are to be here for you, the members, and to help our chapter thrive and become one of the best in the country. I know it will take hard work and the dedication of everyone to achieve this goal. My vision of being a board member is not a position of authority, but rather I view it as an opportunity to work hard and serve in any capacity, I am able to, first to you my fellow members, then to the organization as a whole. I am humbled and excited to be a part of this process. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,
Josue E. Cordova

A survey will be coming out from our national office so be looking for it. I hope that each of you respond to the questions asked.

response. Remember this is your chapter and it is entirely up to you to keep this chapter alive. I hope that in my next report to you I can truthfully say that we have had a tremendous response from you. There are a number of things you can do for the chapter. Many of these items can be accomplished from where you live.

At the time of this writing, the National PVA Board of Directors has not held the Fall BOD Meeting which will be held in Cleveland, OH. As you will recall, the National Board had not yet decided which direction they wanted to take with regard to the Vaughan Chapter. Please be assured that I will be advocating on your behalf!



Left to right; (New Board of Directors) Robert Arciola, Bill Lawson; National Immediate Past President, Theotis Smith, Art Wolf and Ken Weas; National Chapter Liaison.



Left to right, Theotis Smith and Art H. Wolf being sworn in as board members by Bill Lawson; National Immediate Past President.



Josue E. Cordova is sworn in as a new board member by Bill Lawson; National Immediate Past President.

Sports & Recreation

by Robert Arciola, Sports Director

The chapter has activities centered on Veterans Day to promote positive events and reach out into the community to school children. We wanted to provide a pizza day but found the VA was serving good meals.

Members also need to begin assisting Maria with the annual Christmas Party. We have enough members to share the workload. Planning events is the work of membership. Perhaps we can form a committee to begin even this year as we've not helped in a while.

The chapter hasn't had a different sports director in several years. Training a new assistant would be very beneficial in a plenty of ways. We'll need to evaluate who's a good candidate and begin immediately train him or her to become the co-chair.

We need to get busy forming a committee to raise funds. This is a very large and wealthy metropolitan area where we need to begin making headway into being less demanding on assets. Resources ought to never be an issue in the Chicago area.

One way to raise funds may be to begin with gaining attention through public awareness using the media,

print, internet and radio in efforts to expose our sports programs.

We need to be cognizant of the fact that hunting season is here and we all ought to be aware how the disabled actually hunt and get around the great outdoors. It

would be nice to assemble a quick clinic to show membership how to use adaptive

equipment to navigate terrain, shoot rifles, shotguns and bows. The chapter has adaptive equipment for this purpose. Maybe we can get a plan and some members together and host a clinic.

The Land of Lincoln Bass tournament is quickly approaching. At this time, numbers are about the same as last year, but we're short on bank registration. We have plenty of partners and boaters for the open division, and so far, there's 48 registered.

The Boccia bid deadline that was sent to chapters has passed without one being submitted. We had a very good contact for the event who simply

couldn't secure a facility in time. we're working with Hines VA staff to develop a boccia, airgun and bowling clinic. There are many boccia players, bowlers and airgun enthusiasts. One other way to get some positive media attention is perhaps through

our lacrosse team. They recently tried to get NBC who's interested in airing a segment, but the

team simply couldn't pull together a suitable timeframe to play exhibition. But it remains an option.

We have worked with VA staff and a nonprofit to secure about 4 IKAN bowling ramps for our members to begin bowling. There was a fundraiser for Fischer House on October 16th and we sent 4-5 members to help raise \$7,000 towards it through the Fischer House – IL organization.

We're forming a disabled bowling league and if you're interested, bowlers will need to let us know. Practices will be at Hillside Bowl beginning November 5th at 12:30 am.

We have worked with VA staff and a nonprofit to secure about 4 IKAN bowling ramps for our members to begin bowling.

IDNR Trap Shoot

I attended the trap shoot held on September 10th in Whittington IL this year. This makes the 18th year Jay Williams has put on the Rend Lake Shooting Classic for persons with disabilities. The weather turned out to be a nice day, just a little on the windy side. This did make shooting a bit challenging, except for the crack shots. Either way fun was had by all. At the end before prizes were giving out Mr. Williams did thank everyone and I quote without the generous donation from the Vaughan Chapter this event would not be possible and the help from the Sessor High School students who come out to help. The 50/50 was up

and running if you wanted to try your luck.

The meal and shooting are all free of charge, as much food and shooting as you wish to partake in, all you need to do is show up. I myself cannot think of a reason for someone not to go if they have the time. The high school students are there to help in any way possible. If you do not have a shotgun of your own, there are plenty that you can use. Can't hang on to the shotgun like me, no problem, that is where all the helpers come in and should there



be any other issues that you think may stop you from having a good day don't worry. It is just like dealing with your disability, if you are left alone long enough you probably figured out a way to do things, the people out there will find a way for you to participate.

Terry Bowers, Vaughan Member

Chief's Report

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write me and compliment a staff member(s) for the care that has been delivered. I appreciate the effort taken and know that your compliments are repeated and honored by our service-level awards each month.

This new fiscal year will bring on line major projects to replace the flooring in our Building 128 and install corridor handrails in the Building 221 (RCF). Both these projects are major undertakings with a need for careful planning of patient movement and construction control over an extended period. I have no date for the beginning of these projects as yet, however they are projected for the new year 2017. I am reminded of the old slogan used by Con Edison the energy company in New York City "Build we must for a growing New York" Well this is true for us here "**Build we must for a growing Spinal Cord Service**". Our SCI/D buildings are over a decade old and therefore

facelifts, refurbishing, renovations, and updating are definitely required. This brings an inevitable disruption to patient flow and staff comfort. Services won't be reduced or discontinued but will be disrupted from the normal. The end result however will be worth the (temporary) discomfort. I thank you all in advance for your patience while we perform these upgrades and repairs. Together we will come out at the end with a better, more friendly and improved Service.

As always thanks to the men and women for the service you gave to our country. Thank you again for allowing us to provide clinical care.

With sincere respect,

Michael S.A. Richardson MD FACP



Did you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a national policy to provide **any veteran** who meets the physical qualifications access to **ReWalk** exoskeleton technology?

What is ReWalk? ReWalk enables individuals with spinal cord injury (SCI) to **stand and walk** and is cleared by the FDA for home and community use.

For a **No-Cost Screening** and Information on Evaluation and Training contact your local VA hospital, VA Rehabilitation Center or **contact ReWalk directly at rewalk.com/contact or via phone at 508-251-1154 Ext. 741**



ReWalk Robotics' mission is to fundamentally change the Quality of Life for individuals with lower limb disability through the creation and development of market leading robotic technologies.

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"When I put the ReWalk on, I feel like I'm participating in life instead of just existing, it's like having another chance at life."

Rtd. Army Specialist Gene L. - Spinal Cord Injury in 2001 - ReWalker since 2013

Hospital Liaison Report

by Arthur H. Wolf

Most importantly, during the month of September, the Board gathered to compile a budget for 2017. In addition to the Vaughan Chapter Board members, Bill Lawson, National Immediate Past President and Ken Weas, National Liaison Vice President was in attendance to offer guidance. After careful deliberation, a workable budget for our chapter was created.

Recently, Winston Woodward III assisted a Spinal Cord Patient to enroll as a new Chapter member. We discussed with this new member, the importance of PVA and the need for us all to work together to benefit current and future members. Mr. Woodward stated that this new member would like to become a permanent part of the Vaughn Team. At present he is experiencing some medical issues, so the Vaughn Team will have to be put on hold until he recovers.

During our monthly meeting at Hines, we had the pleasure to meet our new Hospital CEO Doctor Steven A. Braverman. Dr. Braverman presented a complete review of his experience



Arthur H. Wolf on left with new Hospital CEO Doctor Steven A. Braverman.

in the field of medicine and hospital administration. He went on to explain the reasons why he was at Edward Hines VA Hospital. Dr. Braverman is keenly focused on the needs of Spinal Cord Injury and Rehabilitation and will clearly be an asset to the hospital. We requested that Dr. Braverman stay and meet with our members and take the opportunity to pose for pictures. He was generous with his time and exhibited an interest in the concerns many discussed with him. The members are definitely proud to have Dr. Braverman as our new CEO. Smiles abounded with all at the meeting. It is with great pride that I wish to thank Maria and her staff for putting this meeting together. Following this meeting, the Hospital Liaison passed out canteen books to our hospital-bound friends in RCF and the Spinal Cord Unit.

On October 3rd, I spoke with Dr. Susan L Ryerson Espino. She is currently conducting a study to help families to better assist long term disabled individuals. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced several new and expanded part-

nerships to support the VA Caregiver Support Program. The VA Caregiver Support Program supports those who care for the unsung heroes... the wounded or infirm veterans. Announcement of the partnerships, were made during a summit co-hosted by VA and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. The daylong event, Empowering Hidden Heroes: Pathways to Innovation, attracted 400 leaders from government, the non-profit sector, private industry, academic and stakeholders from the veteran and caregiver community.

I met with Winston Woodard to plan a trip Danville, Illinois where there is a VA SCI Clinic We took a few picture in Danville of Winston, Lindsey Millikin (Social Worker SCI) for Peotone and Danville, and Arthur Wolf Hospital Liaison, the pictures were taken by

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Vaughan Members; Amy Varghese RN, MSN, FNP-C, CRRN is an experienced nursing professional with an expansive career history spanning over 35 years. She has specialized in the SCI unit for 25 years, along with providing care to Veterans as a Certified Rehabilitation RN in the SCI out-patient clinic.

She has advanced her career as a Certified Family Nurse Practitioner and continues to serve the SCI population at Edward Hines VA Hospital. Amy is open to our members who have any issues, questions or concerns please stop by the out-patient clinic to see her.

Congratulations!!!! Juston W. Woodard

Recipient of the 2016-2017, Vaughan Chapter, Educational Scholarship

Vaughan Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America's (VPVA) primary goal has been to assist its members and their families in improving the quality of their lives. This goal has been addressed through a wide variety of activities, including support of programs designed to provide education and training.

Vaughan Chapter, PVA established an Educational Scholarship Program to assist PVA members and their immediate families in gaining a post-secondary education.

Congratulations to Juston W. Woodard, son of Winston Woodard, III member of Vaughan Chapter for receiving the Education Scholarship for 2016-2017. He will be attending full-time at Knox College in Galesburg, IL where he will be pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy which is a vital component of the rehabilitation process for both injured veterans and civilians recovering from traumatic and general injuries. **Good Luck Juston!**

Veteran

continued from page 1

More than anything else, a veteran loves freedom. He can spend a whole afternoon doing nothing, just because he has paid the price to do what he wants with his time. He is courage living on Main Street. He is good citizenship with a smile. He takes a personal pride in the freedom of others – in men and women attending the church of their choice; in friends voting how they choose; and in children sleeping quietly, without fear interrupting their slumber.

A veteran is a man grown a little taller. He is America with an honorable discharge. He is democracy with a good conduct medal tucked away in the darkness of his keepsake box. He is freedom with a Purple Heart. He is America's most honorable citizen... he is a veteran. A person who understands the awesome price of life's intangibles – freedom, justice and democracy. His motto is to live and let live. However, if he had to choose between servitude and conflict, the veteran would once again answer the call to duty.

Because, above all- above all else – a veteran is an America.



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.



Service Officer's Report

By Robert Statam, NSO III

Appeals Process

We as veterans often don't fully understand the VA's claim process, while it is equally difficult for us to totally comprehend the appeals process. If you've asked yourself what is an appeal, the most commonly known answer would be, that an appeal is a request for the Board of Veteran's Appeals to review a local VA office decision on your claim. The process is as follows; you file a claim at your local VA office or VA medical facility, this is when you are asking for the benefits you want. The local office known as (Regional Office), makes a decision on your claim, which it is either allowed or denied. Perhaps, in either case you are not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal this decision. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact your Veteran Service Organization for assistance.

Since you have decided to inform the VA of your intention to appeal their decision, you begin by filing a Notice

of Disagreement (NOD). Today, the VA uses a standard form for this which is a VA form 21-0958, Notice of Disagreement. Normally, you have a year from the dated of your rating decision to send the NOD to your local VA office. Once the Notice of Disagreement (NOD) has been filed, you may request that your file be reviewed by a Decision Review Officer (DRO), who is located at the local VA office. The DRO offers a second review of your entire file and can also hold a personal hearing on your claim. Now that the local Regional VA office has received your Notice of Disagreement, it will create what is known as the Statement of the Case (SOC). The SOC is a detailed explanation of the evidence, laws, and regulations used by the local VA office in deciding your claim.

The SOC will be mailed to you along with a VA Form 9, which is considered the substantive appeal form. The VA Form 9 is the last step in the appeals process. To finish the appeal process

you must fill out the VA form 9 (Substantive Appeal) and send it back to the local VA office. When you fill out the VA form 9, you should state the benefits you want, and mistakes you find with the SOC, and if you want a personal hearing. The most commonly requested hearings are video conference hearings, as they are the quickest way to get a hearing with a board member. These hearings are basically a chance for you the veteran to voice your opinion as to why you feel the VA is wrong in their decision concerning your claim. The Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington D.C. is where appeals are given the final decision. The appeal process can be very complicated, as this is why we suggest you get assistance from PVA.

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

I just took the opportunity to use the Life Enjoyment Fund that is offered to all Vaughan Chapter members, and go out with my mother for the day. We went up to Gurnee Mills Mall, which has almost about any store that you can imagine. I can say that unless you have a particular store, you need to go, and you are out and about, then this mall is a great way to use a day. Some shopping was done as well as getting a bit to eat; we had a great day.

Now to think that by saving your receipts you can fill out a BER from the Vaughan office and get paid back, up to \$150 dollars for fiscal year. Now I can't see how you can go wrong, take advantage of the Vaughan generosity. If this funding is not used more often then, all out the Vaughan members are in danger of losing this wonderful opportunity.

Terry Bowers, Vaughan Member

Hospital liaison

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Kendra Crawley Public Relations at Danville VA Hospital. The purpose of our trip was to ensure that our Vaughan Members that utilize this facility for their SCI care are being treated appropriately. The staff at Danville is focused on the care needed by our fellow veterans.

Vaughan Chapter, PVA Funding Sponsorship Policy

Policy effective 10/1/2016 to 9/30/2017

A member can request up to three (3) funding requests in a Fiscal Year. The member may be considered if they volunteered with the Chapter and have a recorded minimum of ten (10) hours for *each* of their funding requests.

- 1. Members First Time (Novice) participants attending the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) require no volunteer hours and will be funded 100% with a maximum funding of \$3000.**
- 2. Members (non-Novice) 1st request with ten (10) hours of documented chapter volunteer hours may be funded at 100% with a maximum funding of \$3000 for the entire Fiscal Year.**
- 3. Members 2nd request with documented minimum of 10 hours volunteerism @ 50%**
- 4. Members 3rd request with documented minimum 10 hours volunteerism @ 50%.**

Requests submitted by members using this system, is based on volunteer hours submitted on a monthly basis. If a member has a request and doesn't have the minimum 10-hours recorded, the member's sponsorship request will not be considered.

The submission of volunteer hours is a practical solution to helping both the chapter prove it's accomplishing things; that more members are involved in program operations; that members are again taking responsibility for the governance and accomplishing its program and chapter overall mission. Additionally, progress in having a point system involving volunteerism is a great means to ensure the member is treated in all fairness as other members. While it creates

more effort to document the members' volunteerism and activities, it's even more critical that progress is documented in achievement through being an active chapter member. This is a great way to do both to help satisfy the National BOD to ensure we are accomplishing what they wish to see from us.

Volunteer Activity Forms are available at the office as well as Volunteer Time Sheets for members to submit no later than the 10th of each month. Your funding sponsorship requests may be sent to the office via email, fax or by regular mail.

Email: vpva@vaughanpva.org,

FAX to (708) 947-9755

Address: Vaughan PVA

2235 Enterprise Drive – Suite 3501

Westchester, IL 60154.

Requests should be received in our chapter office by the 5th of each month or will not be documented for consideration of the Board.

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).

Upcoming Events

November 11th
Veterans Day

November 24th
American Legion Hall
Thanksgiving Dinner

December 20th
Christmas Luncheon
at Hines VA, Auditorium
RSVP to Chapter Office



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THANK YOU AT &T

During the last week of August we received a call from a representative from AT&T Mr. Frank Chavez, to tell us that his office staff decided to do a fundraising project for a non-profit group for the month of September. After researching groups, they selected the Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans, (VPVA). We were delighted to send him our Chapter information along with a Power Point presentation to show them what VPVA is all about. Happily, they started the fundraising for our Chapter.

On October 5th, 2016, Frank Chavez and Ken Hozzian, presented Vaughan Chapter with a check for \$650.00 raised by their staff by doing cookouts and bean bag tournaments and pitching spare change into a bucket that was set up in the office. On



Left to right Frank Chavez & Ken Hozzian
AT&T Technology Operation, Construction & Engineering - MW
2427 Union St, Blue Island, IL 60406

behalf of Vaughan Chapter, we thank Frank Chavez and Ken Hozzian and all their staff members for choosing Vaughan and for their efforts to raise money for our veterans enabling us to continue our mission. We are hoping this is the start of a long friendship!

Thank you all again!

Maria's letter

continued from page 3

the market; they donated a 32" TV that was raffled between the members who attended the picnic. Furthermore, in attendance was Craig Peters, from ReWalk Robotics demonstrating the exoskeleton by disabled veteran Steven Hancock to our members. If you missed this past picnic, you have no idea what you missed everything was just great, hope you can make it next year 2017.

Our next great event is our Christmas Luncheon, which will be on Wednesday, December 21st, 2016 in the auditorium. I encourage you to attend as it is also a great luncheon with many prizes and goodies. Hope to see you all there.

Last but not least I need to inform you that Administrative Assistant Ofelia Raygoza had some medical problems and had to resign her position. We wish her well and a quick recovery. I have hired a new administrative assistant; here name is Donna Pettiford; she is an Army Veteran and will be working with us on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Donna was referred to me by Andrew Hrovot; our coordinator Operation PAVE program. PAVE is an innovative public-private partnership between PVA, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and corporate and philanthropic partners to help all veterans find employment and achieve better financial security for themselves and their families. If you are interested in obtaining more information, please contact our office, and we can put you in contact with that office.

Furthermore, we have Fran Jiracek (former administrative officer of spinal cord injury services) who is also helping us with different tasks in the office; she is in on Tuesday and Thursday. We are all here to serve you and to assist you in every possible way we can.

The Vaughan Chapter has been granted an extension by the National BOD until May 2018 for us to demonstrate interest in bringing this chapter forward, which means we all need to work together as a team and make it happen. We need you to step forward and help the chapter with the different mandated programs we need to keep in place in order to remove our chapter from monitoring. We have 17 months to prove ourselves as a chapter. Vaughan Chapter will continue to meet our goals and to accomplish everything we need to do in order to keep this chapter alive. It would be a team, staff, members, board of directors, and volunteers' effort. It will be challenging, but I also know that it will be possible if we all do our best.

And lastly; farewell to those veterans who had to depart this year 2016, they will not be forgotten.

I wish everyone Happy Holidays a prosperous New Year and hope to work with and for you in 2017.

Thank you
Maria Hernandez, E.D.

My Family Trip to the Kennedy Space Center

by Winston Woodard III

Located on the east coast of central Florida, the Kennedy Space Center is about a 45 minute drive from Orlando. Although our family had only planned on spending a portion of our day at the facility, we ended up staying there from open to close and still had not seen everything we had wanted to. The Kennedy Space Center has plenty of things to see and do for visitors of all ages.

On our trip to the Kennedy Space Center, we had opted take the regular KSC Bus Tour that is included with admission to the visitors complex. The KSC Bus Tour provided my family with plenty of information and stops around the Kennedy Space Center. The bus was wheelchair accessible and the bus was very accommodating



Winston Woodard III and family at the Kennedy Space Center,

and timely in pick-up. The tour guide mentioned the best time was when the children return to school and the facility was not as busy.

Our 2 hour bus tour included stops at the NASA Causeway for views of the launch pads, the Space Shuttle landing facility, the massive Vehicle Assembly Building, where the Saturn V rocket was assembled and where the Space Shuttle's were mounted to their external fuel tanks, the Mobile Launcher Platform that sits atop a Crawler-Transporter as well as the famous countdown clock for the NASA launches. The drivers were very informative about the history of the facility and the Space program.

The bus drop us off by the Space Shuttle Atlantis building, we were in awe standing/walking under the 184-foot-tall replica of the space shuttle stack which includes the external tank and solid rocket boosters (picture above). After tearing ourselves away from the space shuttle stack we entered the Space Shuttle Atlantis building and walked up the ramp to the wonderful movie that depicted how the Space Shuttle was conceived and the steps it took to bring it to life. There was an elevator to get you to the viewing level faster.

At the end of the movie, the movie screen lifted up and we were staring at the actual Space Shuttle Atlantis through the remaining see-through screen. After a few moments, the final screen was lifted and we got to walk right up to the Space Shuttle Atlantis. My family and I were shocked and amazed. The shuttle is suspended just a few feet away from the walkway in a rotated flight position angle that gives you a great view of the entire shuttle with its payload bay doors open and the Canadarm extended above the walkway. It is truly one of the most awe inspiring sights I have seen. The sense of pride about man's space missions and American accomplishments in space was out of this world. This moment being shared with my family. My experience was pretty overwhelming. After the Kennedy Space Center, the family and I shared our experiences together over dinner together.

I want to continue to "THANK" the Vaughan Chapter for access to the Life Enjoyment Fund. This is available to all members. This is valuable program that allows you to access a community with family and friends.

Vaughan PVA
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Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

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Vaughan PVA
Cordially invites its members

Join us, at our Annual CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 21st

@

Hines VAH Auditorium

Bldg #9

Noon—3:00pm

(1) Guest per Member



Mandatory RSVP by:

December 12th by calling at 708-947-9790

or by email at vpva@vaughanpva.org or

dpettiford@vaughanpva.org