

THE WHEEL

HELLO VAUGHAN CHAPTER P.V.A MEMBERS,
ASSOCIATES, AND VOLUNTEERS

From the Executive Director's desk,

Please review the many recreational sports events and outings on our calendar. These events will help you stay active and enjoy going outdoors. I encourage all members to participate in the many outings and sports events. To learn more about our sports & events opportunities, please visit the chapter website at www.vaughanpva.org. Please welcome the new Communications Manager, a young man that recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater - Ryan Dalton. He will be responsible for all the social media platforms, digital media, blogs, newsletters, websites, media relations, marketing materials, service announcements, and advertising.



We were extremely excited that Vaughan Chapter participated in the Memorial Day Parade this year after three years of being unable to attend due to the Pandemic. Thank you to the members representing the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vaughan Chapter.

This year we also hosted our annual Busse Woods Fishing Derby (and, for the first time) partnered with Chicago No Limits Fishing, a 501 (c) (3) organization that provided adaptive fishing equipment to participating members. We are grateful for the fishing and knowledge and expertise they provided when assisting with this outing, which made for a greater fishing experience for our members. Cheryl Gerdes had a get together for the Ladies of Vaughan at the event where various card games were played under the summer sun.

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Vaughan PVA Members

**Call Us on your Birthday for a FREE Gift to You on behalf of Vaughan Chapter PVA.
(800) 727-2234**

2023 Bi-Monthly Membership Meetings

We are incredibly excited to announce to the Vaughan Chapter membership that after almost three years without having in-person membership meetings, we have now been granted access to the Multipurpose Room at the Hines VA Hospital, Spinal Cord Injury Building #128, to resume the bi-monthly in-person membership meetings. As usual, the Chapter office will send reminders for the upcoming meetings; please mark your calendar to attend in person; we are excited to see you there.

Meetings will resume on Wednesday, July 26, and continue until the year's end. All membership meetings with FREE lunch will be in the Multipurpose Room at noon.

For those members that do not have email and do not have access to a computer, you can still join the meetings via call by calling this number 312-626-6799; with a meeting ID: 553 748 9623 and Passcode: 733870.

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 553 748 9623

Passcode: 733870

Wednesday, September 27

Wednesday, November 22



Chapter Officers

Anthony Powell, Acting President
Vice President, Vacant
Dennis Scanlan, Secretary
Gerald Brown, Treasurer

Chapter Board of Directors

Cheryl Gerdes, Daniel James,
Leo Moore, Susan Dochterman

National Chapter Liaison

Hack Albertson

Hospital Coordinator

Dennis Scanlan

National Director

Gerald Brown

Staff

Executive Director

Maria Hernandez

Sports Director

Keith Cooper

Fundraising Director

Keith Cooper

Communications Director

Ryan Dalton

Office Assistant

Edward Miller

Service Officers

Winston Woodard, III

Hines VA Hospital

708-202-5623

Robert Statam

Chicago Office

312-980-4278

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The Wheel is published four times a year by the Vaughan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America, 2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501 Westchester, IL 60154 in the interest of Chapter members. Membership in Vaughan PVA entitles you to a free subscription to the Wheel. Postmaster: send changes of address to Vaughan PVA, 2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3501 Westchester, IL 60154

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cover Story

Continued from page 1

It was a relaxing day for the members that attended. Luckily, we had a beautiful sunny day. We all enjoyed the Fishing, the food, and, most importantly, the companionship of everyone that joined us. Congratulations to Steve Aoyagi for catching the most fish at this Derby for the second year.

On June 23-25, the Chicago Abilities Expo held a three-day expo at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center. Vaughan Chapter participated again this year with an Information Booth to recruit new members and inform the public of the Vaughan Chapter membership and benefits.

Coming up in September is the Vaughan Chapter Annual Picnic; Invitations to follow via email and regular mail with full details; so please mark your calendar so you don't miss our Annual Picnic Saturday, September 9, starting at Noon at the Forest Preserve Miller Meadow North Grove #2 don't miss out on the food, entertainment, prizes, and games we hope to see you there. Please check your emails daily so you get all the vital information. We hope to see you at all upcoming events and enjoy the rest of the summer; if you have any questions, please contact us at the office at 708-947-9790. As always, please update your contact information with our office to keep you updated with all the upcoming meetings, events, outings, and sporting events. Finally, I am excited to inform you that we can once again conduct our Membership Meetings in person as we did before the Pandemic at the Hines VA Hospital, building #128 SCI, Multipurpose Room; the next in-person membership meeting will be on Wednesday, September 27 at Noon. We invite you to join us to stay informed of your Chapter's plans. Lastly, please take a moment and visit our Vaughan Chapter's new website; it is full of information to help you. I want to thank our two volunteer drivers for their time and for transporting the members to the different events and outings, Nathan Terry and Carlos Aviles; next time you ride the Chapter bus, please also thank them; they are amazing.

Thank You,
Maria Hernandez



NOTE: Vaughan Chapter will be sending all members a Survey. I want to encourage you to participate. This Survey aims to improve the services and opportunities the PVA Vaughan Chapter offers its members. Participating members will get a \$20 gift award will be compensated for those who complete the Survey.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To my fellow veterans,

Recently on July 26th, I had the opportunity to attend an Anniversary Luncheon at the Mayor's office to celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the ADA Act. The lunch was buffet style with many food options. In attendance were The Wounded Warrior Project, members of the Park District and Mayor Johnson, and other various organizations and elected officials. While there, I had the opportunity to speak with Mayor Johnson and Kevin Barszcz, Director of Veterans Affairs, about how we can support our chapter and members.



Two roads diverged in the woods; I can't take both and be one traveler. So I looked down these roads; one sign said this way to laid back city, and the other said this way to a fun city. The laid-back road was calm and grassy, while the fun city had baseball, fishing, picnics, etc. People talk and smile in the joyous place, whereas in the laid-back city, people sit and stare into space, withering away. My point is that we, as Veterans, should not be sitting at home just waiting to disappear. We have to get out of the house and get involved; everyone is welcome at our events; bring a friend or caregiver; it doesn't matter to us. Check with our chapter and other chapters. We are bound to have something for everyone to enjoy. The chapter is working very hard for you, so don't wind up in the laid-back city; come to a fun city to enjoy all the opportunities it offers.

Sincerely,
Anthony Powell -President
Vaughan Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America



Anthony Powell attending a Luncheon for the 33rd Anniversary of the ADA Act

Notice to Vaughan Chapter members.

Vaughan Chapter members please call our office at 708-947- 9790 or send us an email message to vpva@vaughanpva.org with your current mailing address and phone numbers and email address to receive all the Vaughan chapter's benefits and valuable information we provide.

If we contact you and your phone is disconnected, and you do not have an email address where you can receive the communications, you will miss out on what Vaughan has to offer for you. Please let us know your accurate contact information as soon as possible.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Vaughan Chapter was well represented at the Great Plains Bowling Tournament July 27th–3rd, 2023, in Council Bluffs, IA.

Johnnie Baylark, Cheryl Gerdes, Kenneth Hill, and Robert Arciola are Pictured from left to right. (Page 6)

The feedback from the Vaughan participants was that the tournament was well-attended, organized, and enjoyable. Approximately 42 bowlers from 17 different states, including, for the first time, a team from Sweden. The highest-placed bowler from Vaughan was Johnnie Baylark, who placed 5th in A Division and qualified for the stepladder roll-offs.



The 5th Annual Vaughan Bowling Tournament will be held May 3–5th, 2024, In partnership with the AWBA.

The Vaughan Chapter was the title Sponsor of the National Wheelchair Softball World Series in Crestwood, IL, August 3–5. Please check out our Flickr page for photos and the Wheelchair Soft World Series Web Page for results. Congrats to Japan, who took first place in Division One for the second year in a row. I was honored to throw out the first pitch on behalf of Vaughan PVA.

On September 2nd, the Vaughan Chapter will wrap up its first-ever curling season funded by the VA Adaptive Sports Grant. Curling practices and competitions occurred in Villa Park, IL, at Windy City Curling. To be a little braggadocious, Vaughan PVA is the first PVA chapter to apply and be awarded the VA Adaptive Sports Grant. Please check out the images on Flickr. Curling starts again in October if awarded the VA grant again.

Windy City Curling has been a great partner. Vaughan PVA looks forward to many years of collaborating and making Windy City a hub for wheelchair curling in the Chicagoland area.



Bass Sign
Up

Vaughan PVA Members Dock Fishing at the 2022 Land of Lincoln Bass Fishing Tournament at Rend Lake

RECAP OF SPORTS AND RECREATION

Wheelchair Boccia

Wheelchair Boccia Nationals were hosted at Turnstone in Fort Wayne, IN. Three-chapter members represented Vaughan. Practice is ongoing in collaboration with Synergy Sports. Want to get involved? Check out our Boccia introductions at Hines Hospital, or jump straight into competitive practices. Information can be found on our Vaughan Boccia webpage.

Bass Fishing

Please register for the upcoming Land of Lincoln Bass Tournament on October 6th-8th. Vaughan is providing transportation from Hines to Rend Lake. We have eight spots available on the wheelchair-accessible bus. Food is provided during the competition. All you need is road-trip snacks and warm clothes.



Johnnie Baylark, Cheryl Gerdes, Kenneth Hill, and Robert Arciola are Pictured from left to right.



Vaughan PVA plus one at Fort Wayne, Boccia Ball Nationals Synergy Boccia Team



Vaughan PVA and No Limits Fishing at the Busse Woods Fishing Derby

Introduction

My Name is Ryan Dalton, I am 22 years old and live in Crystal Lake, Illinois. I recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater (UWW) on the 13th of May, with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with my major being Marketing with a Digital emphasis. During my time at (UWW), I was a board member of the American Marketing Association (AMA) (UWW) chapter. I started my work with the PVA Vaughan Chapter due to my involvement with CMU, AMA's student-run marketing firm. As a part of CMU, I held the position of Account Executive for Vaughan PVA, where I managed a team of 3 other account assistants responsible for various aspects of Vaughan PVA's marketing efforts.



In my time working through CMU for Vaughan PVA many goals were accomplished such as; a chapter wide audit of all PVA websites, the creation of a

new and unique Vaughan PVA website, weekly event-related promotional social media posts, the creation of blog posts, and consistent updates to the website to keep it current. It has been three months now since I have been hired, and I am super excited to continue working for such a great organization with even more incredible people behind the helm.

Short-Term Goals:

The first of the significant short-term goals for Communications is doing final checks on all of the PPC advertising donation pages created to ensure that the chapter's messaging is consistent. After final checks are complete, the four pages will be enabled, and we will then enable the Google Ads we list we have developed utilizing the \$10,000 Google Ads grant.

The second short-term goal is to create additional posts to promote the upcoming bass fishing tournament at Rend Lake to promote the event on a digital scale.

The third short-term goal is wrapping up the National Wheelchair Softball World Series by sharing some of the highlights through pictures captured at the event. A wrap-up video is also in the works of footage that was captured.

The fourth short-term goal is seeking sponsors for the chapter and the sports and recreation events the chapter is hosting. We are always looking for companies and organizations that would benefit our members and will continue to pursue sponsorships and promotions that are in the best interest of our members.

The final short-term goal is to utilize the VPVA Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages to promote events and content related to the chapter.

Long-Term Goals:

The first long-term goal for my position is the constant monitoring of the Google Ads page for the Vaughan chapter as soon as we enable the Google Ads grant. I will have to review the ads we pay for on a weekly or bi-weekly basis removing keywords that don't receive any clicks and taking note of the keywords that do receive clicks. This would include coming up with new keywords to purchase that are relevant to promoting our chapter, which is beneficial in driving donations to our chapter. Optimizing our Pay-per-click advertising (PPC) will increase the likely hood of an individual clicking on one of the ads our chapter displays which will direct them to our webpage and increase our ability to drive donations.

My primary long-term goal for my position is to research potential businesses willing to sponsor, partner with, or help us fundraise for our chapter. This would involve research into businesses that directly support Veterans, some with charitable giving initiatives, etc. If any businesses would like to engage with the chapter, they would be promoted on the homepage and our social media. Another initiative would be looking for potential Chicagoland businesses to sponsor or partner with us or engage in fundraising through round up campaigns.

Join Us For The Following Events

Curling

**Windy City Curling Villa Park, Illinois
September 2nd, 2023**

We are very excited to work alongside Windy City Curling again to offer our members a sensational curling experience. Members of the PVA curl for free, so please take advantage of this excellent opportunity if you are interested.

Membership Picnic

**Forest Preserve Miller Meadow –North
September 9th, 2023**

Join us on Saturday, September 9th, for a delightful afternoon picnic. The day will be filled with fun entertainment, performances, and prizes. It is free for all members to attend, and you can bring up to 4 family members. Make sure to RSVP to Maria by September 4th!

Bass Fishing

Rend Lake Oct 7th – 9th, 2023

The Sesser, IL, community is excited to have us back in their welcoming community. The VFW, Mayor's office, and local volunteer organizations were highly visible and engaged in the Vaughan Bass Tournament. We look forward to more participants getting out in the bass boats this year and reeling in that BIG BASS!

PVA Online Fitness



Register Online:

<https://beta.bookabl.io/pva/fitness/events>

Use the link above to register for PVA's free online strength training sessions. Look here to find more online fitness opportunities through PVA.



Vaughan In Action

MS Committee Chair

I served in the Army a lifetime ago, and that time gratefully attributed my career success to that humbling start as an EI. I earned an AA at Midland Technical College in Columbia, SC, when I got out and a BS in an accelerated program years later at John Brown University while working full-time. I have had a broad career that spans from administration to supply chain.

Once I relocated to Chicagoland and transferred my membership, our former chapter President Josue Cordova reached out to introduce himself and to see how Vaughan could help me. This social network has shown me how much we all have in common and are not alone. Pure and blessed, my friends. Please do not hesitate to ask for help. You might be asking yourself, how can I help support our members with Multiple Sclerosis? I will be hosting a Zoom call shortly with our Chapter President Anthony Powell as a guest speaker, and I hope to see you all there with an answer to that question. The National MS Committee is eager to assist all veterans, so we need to know what your needs are!

At Vaughan PVA, there are many exciting opportunities to take advantage of. In the last newsletter, I discussed getting into Boccia ball and how fun of an activity it was. This Past Saturday, along with Synergy Sports, our team competed in Boccia Ball Nationals in Fort Wayne, IN. It was an incredible experience and so much fun.



Susan L. Dochterman,
MS Committee Chair

National Vice-President

From July 4 through July 9, I had the privilege and the honor of participating in the 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which took place in Portland, Oregon. Many events took place, such as wheelchair basketball and softball, track and field events, powerlifting bench-press, air rifle, quad rugby, power chair soccer, boccia ball, and many more! I participated in two new, first-time NVWG events, pickleball, and cornhole. This was my first time playing pickleball. As uncertain as I was about playing this game, I had an absolute blast. I can't wait for another opportunity to play! As a Vaughan Chapter member, I'm proud to say I won a gold medal in Boccia Ball!

What made these wheelchair games even more special for me was that as a National Vice President, I had the privilege to present medals to other winning athletes throughout the games! Participating in the 42nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Portland, Oregon was an astonishing experience. I'm so glad I could participate and show my appreciation to those who accomplished amazing feats. I am assuredly looking forward to next year, when the wheelchair games will be taking place in New Orleans, Louisiana! I am hoping we can send a record number of Vaughan chapter members to next year's games.



Josue Cordova, PVA National
Vice-President

Ladies of Vaughan Committee Chair

Women are the fastest-growing group of veterans at the VA. Our numbers have tripled since 2001, from 159,810 to more than 550,000. The number of women Veteran VA users is expected to double again in the next decade. The VA has begun to understand that women veterans may have unique experiences and treatment needs. We knew that.

Unfortunately, we don't take advantage of all the possible VA care and benefits because we often need to learn all that is available. VA has a hotline if women veterans have questions. The Women Veterans hotline is 855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636). If you have a question and want to ask it closer to home, please call me through our Vaughan Chapter. If I don't know the answer, I'll find it out and be more innovative together.



Cheryl Gerdes, Ladies of
Vaughan Committee Chair

Understanding Your Tax Exemption Status in Illinois

Veterans with Disabilities, Specially Adapted Housing, and Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities. These are all the tax exemption programs that impact our clients who suffer from SCI/D.

Which one works for your household? Which one will yield the better benefit? Will your surviving spouse benefit from the tax exemption?

Let's examine



Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities

Beginning in the tax year 2007 and after, this exemption is an annual reduction in equalized assessed value on the primary residence occupied by a qualified veteran with a disability. This veteran with a disability must own or lease a single-family residence and be liable for payment of property taxes.

The property's total EAV must be less than \$250,000 after subtracting any portion used for commercial purposes. The amount of the exemption depends on the percentage of the service-connected disability as certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. A qualified veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 30% but less than 50% will receive a \$2,500 reduction in EAV; if the veteran has a service-connected disability of 50% but less than 70%, the annual exemption is \$5,000; and if the veteran has a service-connected disability of 70% or more, the residential property is exempt from taxation. NOTE: An un-remarried surviving spouse of a veteran who was disabled and is now deceased can continue to receive this exemption on his or her spouse's primary residence, or transfer this exemption to another primary residence after the original primary residence of a veteran with a disability is sold, provided this exemption had previously been granted to the veteran with a disability. The surviving spouse must occupy and hold legal or beneficial title to the primary residence during the assessment year and submit a Form PTAX-342, Application for the Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities, available from your local assessment office, to transfer this exemption to themselves.

The property cannot receive this exemption for a single tax year and the Veterans with Disabilities Exemption for Specially Adapted Housing or the Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities.

For more information, contact the Chief County Assessment Office. Contact the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) Front Desk Reception – 217-782-6641

Tax Exemption/Grant Department 217-782-6643

Veterans with Disabilities Exemption for Specially Adapted Housing

This exemption may be up to a \$100,000 reduction on the assessed value for certain types of housing owned and used exclusively by a veteran with a disability in which federal funds have been used for the purchase or construction of specially adapted housing. The exemption is valid for as long as the veteran, the spouse, or the unmarried surviving spouse resides on the property. Federal and state financial assistance is provided for service-connected veterans with disabilities to acquire or remodel suitable dwelling units with special fixtures or moveable facilities made necessary by the veteran's permanent and total service-connected disabilities as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Beginning with the 2015 tax year, the exemption also applies to housing that is specifically constructed or adapted to suit a qualifying veteran's disability if a charitable organization donates the housing or adaptations and the veteran has been approved to receive funds for the purchase or construction of Specially Adapted Housing through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This exemption is also available on a mobile home owned and used exclusively by a veteran with a disability or his or her spouse.

The property cannot receive this exemption for a single tax year and the Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities or Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities. If you would like more information, you can contact 877-827-3702 and select prompt 3. To identify the SAH agent covering Illinois.

I want you to know that tax exemption is a valued financial relief from property taxes; please review the existing benefits you earned them. These tax laws are subject to changes at the State and Federal level. Contact your local Congressional office to ensure these benefits are protected. Contact PVA Legislation representative for changes that impact exemption status and advocacy at the National Level.

Contact your National Service Officer to review your specific eligibility or entitlements regarding the various tax exemption programs. I have attached the link to review all tax programs within the State of Illinois.

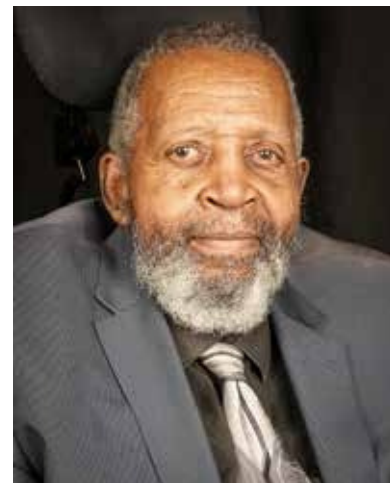
<https://tax.illinois.gov/localgovernments/property/taxrelief.html>

From The Treasurers Desk:

This is a quick shout out; The Vaughan Chapter has an open position well-suited for members. The new employee would be our part-time Advocacy and Legislation Manager. The position is part-time, virtually all the work can be done from home, and the salary is approximately \$1000 monthly. This would work well for members under a right-to-work program with SSI.

In addition, we still need to encourage participation by members with about 350 members; we would like to hear from and see you at one of our many events. We have dynamic employees, leaders, service officers, and adequate finances. The only shortfall currently inhibiting continuous success in my mindset is the level of participation by members.

Heroes get involved and he who serves profits best so when you participate you become my hero, and if you really think about it, you will be your hero. Think about it, and I am my own hero.



Gerald L. Brown, Treasurer

LIFE ENJOYMENT FUND

Voting MEMBERS!

Attend a sport or recreational event such as a ball game, dinner, or 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, point 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, 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 serious, so try us! Can you believe that only a few members use this fund every year?

Neither can I, so let's let the cat out of the bag and do something with our precious summertime and great weather while it lasts! (Fiscal year 10/1/2022 to 9/10/2023).

RECAPPING MEMBER FUNDS PER FISCAL YEAR:

- 1.** Lifetime adjournment fund \$150 per fiscal year: Go to a Movie, take the wife to dinner or a football game, submit your receipts, and the chapter will reimburse you up to \$150:
- 2.** Attend an event sponsored by a PVA chapter anywhere in the United States of America and be reimbursed up to \$3000 for the cost of you and your attendance if necessary. Funding is approved based on pre-event submitted requests.
- 3.** Finally, if you need to solve some dilemma affecting you or your immediate family, contact one of our service officers. The Vaughan chapter's Governing Body has discretionary funds available to help members in times of need.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald L Brown, Treasurer VPVA

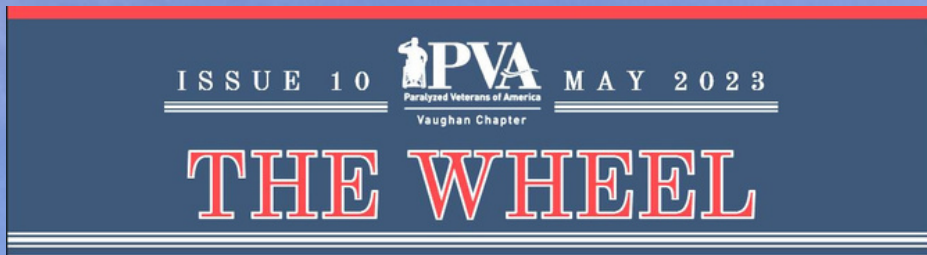


Paralyzed Veterans of America

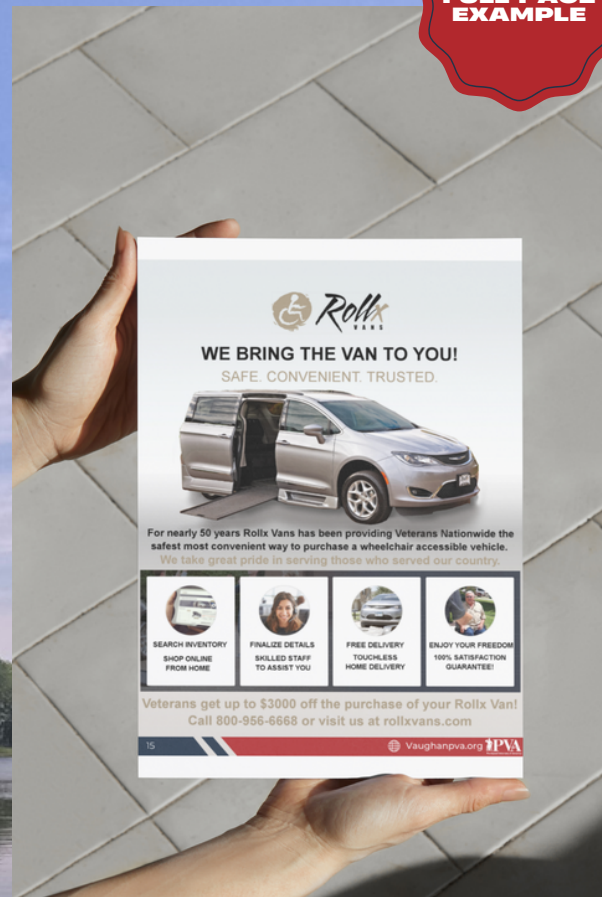
Vaughan Chapter



NEWSLETTER AD PACKAGES



SCAN TO LEARN MORE



AD SIZES:

FULL PAGE	7.25" X 9.75"
1/2 PAGE	7.25" X 4.75"
1/3 PAGE	7.25" X 3.125"
1/4 PAGE (VERTICLE)	3.50" X 4.75"
1/8 PAGE/ BUSINESS CARD	3.50" X 2.25"

EXAMPLE



AD RATES:

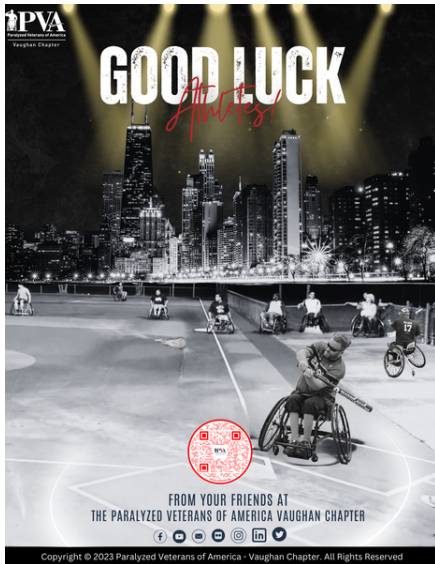
FULL PAGE	\$100
1/2 PAGE	\$65
1/3 PAGE	\$50
1/4 PAGE	\$30
1/8 PAGE	\$20

media@vaughanpva.org

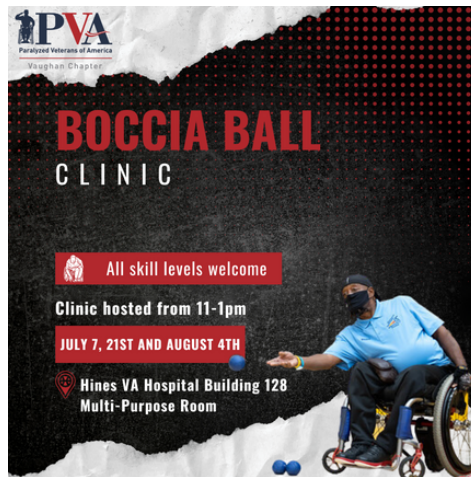
FOR FREE AD OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT RYAN DALTON COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

(708) 947-9790

Join Us for the Following Events!



Watch Wheelchair Softball Nationals, August 4-5th



Boccia Ball Clinic, August 4th
Synergy Sports Bocce Aug. 5th- Sept. 30th, every Saturday



Curling Tournament, September 2nd



VPVA Annual Membership Picnic, September 9th



Rend Lake Bass Fishing Tournament, October 6-8th



Wheelchair Accessible Deer Hunt, November 11-12th

Scan Here to See our Future Events!



SCAN ME

QUESTIONS?
keithc@vaughanpva.org



PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

June 2023

TAKING A LEAP OF FAITH



Changing career paths can be daunting and complex, yet rewarding when you finally take the leap of faith. Ana Dominguez was seeking a more fulfilling career and contacted PVA's Veterans Career Program to assist her with a career transition in April 2023.

Ana served honorably in the Army National Guard, including a deployment to Iraq, while completing her bachelor's degree in Business Administration. She began her civilian career in the financial industry as a bank examiner with the FDIC. While her work was rewarding, she found herself feeling unfulfilled and seeking opportunities to serve people, primarily children in need.

In May 2021, Ana was diagnosed with Leukemia/blood cancer which placed her career on hold. She would go on to receive cancer treatments and achieve remission in February 2022. Shortly after, Ana began volunteering her spare time in both family violence prevention and child advocacy services. She enjoyed being an advocate so much, she began thinking about a career change. However, this was also placed on hold when the cancer relapsed in July of the same year. Finally, in October 2022, Ana's cancer would again go into remission and not return.

In early 2023, Ana began working with VCP's Employment Analyst, Rodney Lee. After sharing her compelling story, Rodney conducted research and found job opportunities that matched her volunteerism, background, and skills. After finding a great fit as a Child Protective Investigator trainee, Rodney provided resume tailoring assistance to Ana. Ana would then submit her application for the role, receiving a call to interview and a formal job offer within a week. She accepted her new position and started training with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services on June 19, 2023.

"Although life throws unforeseeable curve balls at us, we must remain resilient and always stay true to our dreams and passions. Life moves quickly, take your leap of faith today, not tomorrow" (Ana Dominguez, 2023).

MONTHLY IMPACT

17 Client Placements

- 12 Paid Employment
- 3 Education/Training
- 2 Volunteer
 - 15 Veterans
 - 1 Active Duty
 - 1 Family Member
 - 1 Caregiver
 - 1 PVA Member
- The average salary for the 12 clients placed in full-time employment was \$71,778.



FY23 Veterans Career Program Performance

Since its inception in 2007, the Veterans Career Program (formerly known as PAVE) has placed over 2,923 Veterans (including 435 PVA Members), military spouses and caregivers in meaningful employment, education and volunteer opportunities.

We are pleased to share some program accomplishments for FY23 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023):

223 Client Placements (including 31 PVA Members)

- 173 Paid Employment
 - Average full-time salary is \$69,965 (a 15% increase over FY22) and the average part-time salary is \$18,945 (a 7% increase over FY22)
- 40 Education/Training
- 10 Volunteer

82 Veterans Career Live Sessions

- 8,284 Registrants
- 2,523 Attendees (Avg: 31 Attendees per Session)
- 43 Career Skills, 17 Employer, 17 Education, 10 Small Business, and 4 Wellness Sessions

1-on-1 Counseling

- 500 Clients (average active total caseload)
- 28 New Clients (monthly average)
- 660 Client Interactions (monthly average)
- 133 PVA Members Assisted (monthly average)



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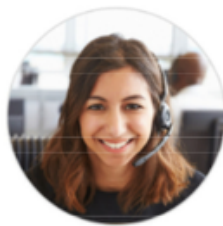


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CURLING

SUMMER SERIES TOURNAMENT

Time: 12-6pm, Lunch Included

Test your competitive skills against Paralympic hopefuls
Steve Emt and Shawn Sadowski!

SEPTEMBER 2ND

www.vaughanpva.org

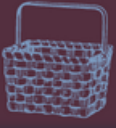
(708) 947-9790



Vaughan PVA

SATURDAY,
9TH
SEPTEMBER

ANNUAL Picnic



**ENTRANCE
MARKER**



LIMIT OF 4 PER FAMILY

MILLER MEDOW-NORTH

Grove #2, Entrance on Roosevelt Rd

12 NOON-3PM

RSVP BY
4TH
SEPTEMBER



FREE FOOD

• **ENTERTAINMENT** •

PRIZES

To RSVP

708-947-9790 vpva@vaughanpva.org



We appreciate you taking the time out of your day to participate in the August 2023 Vaughan PVA quarterly membership survey. The goal of this survey is to improve the services and opportunities that the PVA Vaughan Chapter offers to its members. Please respond to the below questions with your honest feedback so we can work toward bettering your experience as a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter. Send in your membership survey to receive a **\$20** check.

Personal information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

1. What Is Your Affiliation with the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter?

- Member
- Associate Member
- Board Member
- Volunteer

2. Overall, how would you rate your experience as a Vaughan PVA member?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

3. When was the last PVA Vaughan Chapter/PVA event you attended?

4. What day of the week are you most available to attend Vaughan Chapter events?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Monday <input type="checkbox"/> | • Friday <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> | • Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> | • Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> | |

5. Are you interested in the following Sports & Recreation Opportunities? (Select All That Apply)

- Adaptive Curling
- Wheelchair Bowling
- Adaptive Trap Shooting
- Adaptive Boccia Ball
- Adaptive Fishing

6. How do you receive your PVA Vaughan Chapter News Updates? (Select All That Apply)

- The Wheel Quarterly Newsletter
- The Vaughan Chapter Email Updates
- The PVA Vaughan Chapter Website
- The PVA Vaughan Chapter Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

7. What could be done to improve the PVA Vaughan Chapter membership experience?

8. Would you be interested in becoming more involved as a volunteer?

- Yes
- No

9. What membership opportunities would interest you?

- Advocacy
- Sports
- Fundraising
- Recreation
- Finance
- Administration

10. What could the PVA Vaughan Chapter employees do to better your experience as a member?

11. What would you like to share with the board members of the PVA Vaughan Chapter?

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




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