

# THE WHEEL

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

From the Executive Director's desk,

As we get to the end of 2023, we should all thank the Sports and Communications Directors for the various activities and functions the Vaughan Chapter made available to you throughout the year. Get ready for 2024 because they are already planning and working on an exciting and busy year of outdoor activities.

2023 was a very productive year for the Vaughan Chapter. Sports Director Keith Cooper worked diligently to obtain grants to purchase a brand-new chapter bus to transport our members to the various activities and functions. The Neilsen Foundation granted funds for buying the bus and the different sporting events made available through a VA grant.



Participation from the membership is imperative to continue applying for grants available through the different foundations; they need to see participation and where the funds are being spent. Planning every function, activity, and sporting event takes time and effort for the members not to participate. This year, Communication Director Ryan Dalton redesigned the website and updated it daily with new information so you can stay informed of everything available.

Thank you to everyone who made this year possible: the volunteers, the sponsors, the donors, and the members who attended the various outings, including the Family Annual Picnic.

I hope to see you at the remaining events that are still on the calendar for the remainder of the year: Veterans Day Luncheon on Saturday, November 18, at Maggiano's Little Italy in Oak Brook, IL.

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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.

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, November 22



Photo captured at the VPVA Sept.  
Membership Meeting

**Chapter Officers**

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

**Chapter Board of Directors**

Daniel James,  
Leo Moore, Susan Dochterman

**National Chapter Liaison**    **National Director**  
Ken Ness    Gerald Brown

**Hospital Coordinator**  
Dennis Scanlan

**Staff**

**Executive Director**    **Fundraising Director**  
Maria Hernandez    Keith Cooper  
**Sports Director**    **Communications Director**  
Keith Cooper    Ryan Dalton  
**Office Assistant**  
Edward Miller

**Service Officers**

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

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Cover Story

*Continued from page 1*

The invitation has been sent to everyone via mail and email. Please RSVP by November 10 and join us for a great lunch with comrades and entertainment to honor you. The annual Christmas Luncheon will be on Saturday, December 9, at Hines VA Hospital Auditorium Building #9—an invitation to follow. Please check your emails daily so you do not miss this vital news

As many of you know, we have resumed the bi-monthly in-person Membership Meetings. Thank you for your attendance. Meetings occur at the Hines VA Hospital, building #128 SCI Multi-purpose, at noon, with lunch provided. The 2024 Membership meetings are as follows: January 24, March 27, May 22, July 24, September 25, and November 27. Please mark your calendar and join us and be part of your Chapter.

Finally, in the August newsletter, the Communications Director included a Survey for you to participate with a gift award of \$20 as compensation to those who completed the survey. These Surveys aim to improve the services and determine what you would like the Vaughan chapter to do. Sadly, only seventeen surveys were returned; how can we meet your needs if you do not return the surveys? The February 2024 newsletter will include a second survey, which I hope you participate in. We need to hear from you to move forward on your behalf. If you have any questions, please contact us at the office at 708-947-9790. Please update your contact information with our office to update you on all upcoming meetings, events, outings, sporting events, and benefits. Take care and stay well; I hope to see you soon!



Thank You,  
Maria Hernandez

Photos captured at the VPVA 2023  
Membership Picnic

**NOTE: Vaughan Chapter** The current membership survey period has concluded. Our chapters next membership survey will be in our February issue of 'The Wheel' where members will get entered into a chance to win a door prize at our next membership meeting upon completion of the survey. Stay tuned for more information.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To my fellow veterans,

A few weeks ago, I went to our Paralyzed Veterans National Convention, where we discussed many good things; one not-so-good item stood out for me: our brand name, **PVA**. More individuals and businesses need to know who we are! We, as members and Veterans, need to get out into the community and let people know who PVA is and what PVA stands for. There are a lot of Veterans who need our help but do not know anything about PVA. Please let your fellow Veterans know that we advocate for access to their VA benefits, we have many recreational activities to attend, and so much more, but most importantly, the Vaughan Chapter of PVA stands behind them 100%. I hope you are as proud of your Chapter as I am and will stand beside me to strengthen our Chapter.

Next year, in July, I will be attending the Wheelchair Games in New Orleans. I have quite a few Vaughan chapter members who also want to attend. I hope to see many of you come along with us. The Vaughan Chapter will also send a member delegation to an advocacy event in Washington, DC. We need members to attend; please get in touch with me or the Chapter if you are interested.

Our nice brand-new wheelchair-accessible bus accommodates up to 8 wheelchairs, which helps us travel to many events. We are in the process of setting up bowling for the RCF Veterans at Hillside Bowling Alley. Stay tuned for more info. I hope to see you at the Veteran's Day luncheon and Christmas party. We have recently added a new board member, and we have a new Vice President just to let you know how strong our Chapter is. I want to thank all those Veterans who participated in different events this year; I hope to see many of you participate in more upcoming events.

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



Anthony Powell awarding winners  
of the 2023 PVA Bass Tour Series  
Land of Lincoln Tour Stop

## 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](mailto: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.



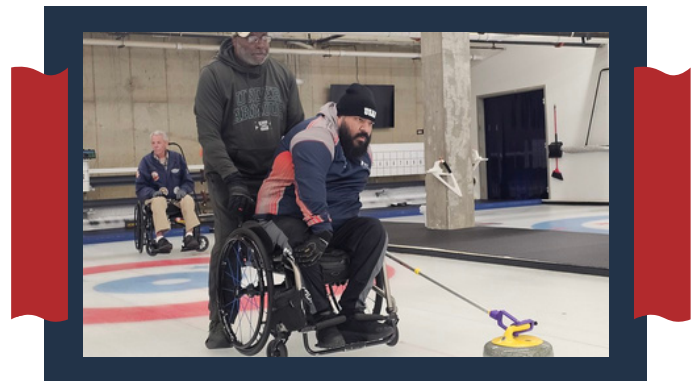
# SPORTS AND RECREATION

Vaughan Chapter PVA has been holding bass tournaments for over 25 years. Rend Lake, IL, hosted twenty boats and twelve bank fishers. Once again, the Sesser Community supported the event in full force. The volunteers and local businesses are tremendous, and the Vaughan Chapter is very grateful that the surrounding communities endorsed the event. Please check out our Bass Fishing page on the Vaughan website for results and images.



Vaughan Chapter hosted a wheelchair-pairs curling tournament at the Windy City Curling Club in Villa Park. Fourteen wheelchair curlers participated in this one-day event. It was a great competition that ended with a one-rock curl for the title of champion. Roosevelt Anderson (RJ) left no doubt with his stone covering the button. Vaughan Chapter, with the support of the Veterans Administration Adaptive Sports Grant, looks forward to continuing to grow curling in the Chicagoland area. Please check out our website for our upcoming practices and competitions. The curling practices are open to everyone using wheelchairs to compete in recreation and sports.

If you are reading this far into the sports article, I know you have ideas of activities you want to participate in. Please reach out to me, and we will make it happen. The chapter prides itself on its access to resources and willingness to create opportunities for its members.



Photos captured at the VPVA 2023  
Wheelchair pairs tournament

Thank you, and welcome to Ryan Dalton Vaughan, Communication Manager, for his work with the Chapter. Although Ryan has only been working for the Vaughan Chapter for a little over six months, his influence and work have been tremendous, adding to the Vaughan Chapter's website and social media digital presence. Join me and say a big thank you to Ryan.

**Please help the chapter fund many more activities, think Giving Tuesday ;)**

# RECAP OF SPORTS AND RECREATION

## LAND OF LINCOLN RECAP . . .

### OPEN DAY BOATS

RANKING	ANGLER	PARTNER
1ST	DOUG PRICE	BRETT BOULDRY
2ND	ARTHUR HUNT	CHRISTINE WILLIAMS
3RD	JEFF KOCH	ADAM BROOKMAN
4TH	JACK BARBER	ZANDER MCMAHON
5TH	KEN CARTER	GARY MONTGOMERY
6TH	IGNACIO LOPEZ	ZACK BROOKMAN
BIG BASS	KURT GLASS	JEFF FARMER

### TEAM DAY

RANKING	ANGLER	PARTNER
1ST	JAMES HEWLETT	HAROLD BROWN
2ND	TED LEIFER	JEFF FARMER
3RD	JEFF KOCH	ADAM BROOKMAN
4TH	ARTHUR HUNT	CHRISTINE WILLIAMS
5TH	DOUG PRICE	BRETT BOULDRY
6TH	IGNACIO LOPEZ	ZACK BROOKMAN
BIG BASS	JAMES HEWLETT	HAROLD BROWN

### BANK OPEN

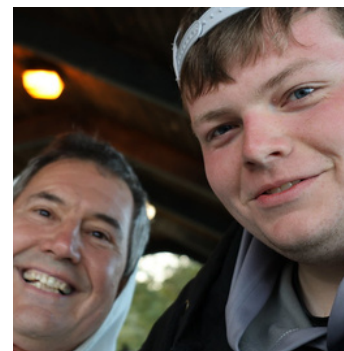
RANKING	ANGLER
1ST	RUSSELL OBANNON
2ND	CHARLOTTE
3RD	JOHNNIE BAYLARK
BIG FISH	CHARLOTTE

### BANK TEAM

RANKING	ANGLER	ANGLER
1ST	JOHNNIE BAYLARK	RUTH KULT
2ND	RUSSELL OBANNON	GERALD BROWN
3RD	MICHAEL MURPHEY	CHARLES HAMPTON
BIG FISH	JOHNNIE BAYLARK	RUTH KULT

## Land of Lincoln Recap

It has been an excellent fall this year for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter I had the pleasure to join our sports director Keith Cooper on a five day work trip to help host the Paralyzed Veterans of America Bass Tournament Land of Lincoln tour stop. The experience was amazing as I had never been that far south in Illinois before. Sesser was a small town however it made up for that in by having the most wonderful community of people dedicated to helping each other. Everyone knew each other by name and each person knew who to call when they needed something done, which is something that I have rarely experienced before, it was an astonishing sight to see these community members in action.



The students from the Sesser Outdoorsman Club gave up one of their afternoons on their home coming week to show their support to our veterans which is something that should be greatly commended. I would also like to thank the Sesser VFW for helping assist us with breakfast on the tournament days and allowing us to host a dinner at the Sesser VFW Friday evening. With the help of Ducks Unlimited we were able to help our members board the bass boats without issue, your help was paramount to the event and we would like to thank you for that. As you can see many individuals and organizations came together to make this event a success and we could not have done it without your help. So on behalf of everyone at the Vaughan Chapter thank you all for making the Land of Lincoln tour stop possible.

## Giving Tuesday:

One of the larger projects I have taken on this Quarter is the creation of our chapters Giving Tuesday Campaign. Giving Tuesday is an unofficial holiday on Tuesday November 28th where individuals and corporations engage in charitable giving.

To this end I have created a charitable giving fundraiser for the month of November centered around Giving Tuesday. The goal is to raise funds for our chapter and members for the year to come. To this end I have committed to creating weekly social media posts about the campaign to help engage our followers and encourage them to share the campaign with their friends and family to make it a larger success. If you would like to participate in helping please scan the QR code and share the link via email social media, text or word of mouth. The chapter and I would appreciate any and all help!

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**



## November Member Birthdays:

The Vaughan Chapter would like this opportunity to celebrate all of our chapter members with November birthdays, here is to another wonderful year!

**Brian Andersen (58)**

**Norman Bowens (75)**

**Rudolph Crusoe (63)**

**Robert Arciola (59)**

**George Bradford (78)**

**Kevin Ayala (65)**

**Victor Chandler (61)**

**Derrick Ball (58)**

**John Cobb (73)**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**



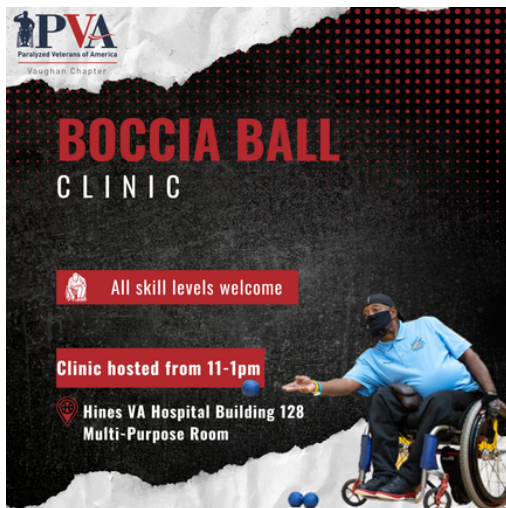


# Join Us For The Following Events

## Boccia

### Bi-Weekly Boccia Practices

Join Us for our Bi-weekly Boccia clinic on Fridays from 11:00-1:00 pm in the Multi-purpose room at Hines VA Building 128. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, come learn, play, and connect!



## Annual Christmas Luncheon

### December 9th

Join us for our spectacular Christmas Luncheon on December 9th. Take this opportunity to get together with your fellow chapter members this holiday season.

Join us for a fun afternoon full of great food and goodies that all can enjoy. See you there!

## 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.

# EMPOWER YOUR DRIVE

### Keith Brand

Certified Mobility Consultant

155 E. North Ave.

Villa Park, IL 60181

Office 630-333-2673

[keith.brand@mobilityworks.com](mailto:keith.brand@mobilityworks.com)



**mobilityworks**

# Vaughan In Action

## Ladies of Vaughan Yasenia Salgado

I am Yesenia Salgado, I recently had the opportunity to attend the 2023 PVA Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat (WVER). During the retreat, I met many wonderful individuals, where I listened to empowering testimonials, and presentations. I enjoyed our morning Yoga sessions by the pool to start our days and our meals. I appreciate that they encouraged the opportunity to meet different participants each session allowing us to hear different perspectives, ideas, and information.

We had the chance to discuss our chapters' concerns. A common shared concern we encountered was engaging with our chapter's PVA members especially our women members as a result of distance. One of many ideas they shared to keep their members included is by sending personalized birthday cards, writing letters, and conducting frequent wellness checks.

In addition to our sessions, one of many activities provided to us during the retreat was game night. I chose to participate in trivia, to no surprise all game participants were "very" competitive. While a tight race my team "Bananas" won second place, and, I would say the game night was a success as friendships were created.

Overall, the retreat granted us the experience of hearing great speakers including speaking to PVA leadership and resources. The retreat not only introduced us to new ideas and new friendships, but it also introduced us to the opportunities PVA has to offer to become more engaged, to lead, and bring back to our chapters. I was very thankful to everyone as from the moment I arrived at the airport to my departure everyone was helpful.



**Yasenia Salgado ,Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat (WVER)**

## A quote from Ladies of Vaughan member Jmelba Cotton

I attended a empowering and inspiring retreat with a group of enthusiastic powerful veteran women . It was exciting to be in the presence of so many beautiful women from different branch of the military service and different areas . I came back ready for boots on the ground to advocate for our veteran women here in Chicago at the VA. I am always excited when I get together with other veteran women it takes me back when I was in the military and I saw others with my same story. " I SERVED "





## Life Happens.

Whether it is getting married, having a child, or going on vacation.

Paralyzed Veterans of America continues to advocate for its members, dependents, and caregivers. Laws and regulations are dated and updates are needed to live our lives to the fullest. Here is what you missed.

You wanted to know about updates VA benefits, eligibility facts about PACT ACT, —or need—to update your caregiver timesheet. Or, you may simply want to know about all changes with VA benefits over the year. This page details when some benefits and programs with changes while you were living life.

First, this update effect veteran that utilized and eligible for Application for Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment (VA Form 21-4502).

**The liberating laws effectively January 5, 2023**, the Veterans Auto and Education improvement Act of 2022, Public Law (PL) 117-333, was enacted into law. VA may provide automobile allowance to eligible persons on a regular and reoccurring basis..

Specifically, the bill authorizes the VA to provide additional automobile allowance to eligible persons if 30 years have elapsed since the most recent receipt of the automobile allowance. Additionally, ten years after enactment of the bill, eligible persons become entitled to an additional automobile allowance once every ten years. Thus, the period between any initial or subsequent automobile allowance and a recurring automobile allowance will shorten to ten years.

Next, this update effect veterans that a have applied for Clothing Allowance in 2022. Clothing Allowance application (VA Form 10-8678). Their clothing allowance payment will become an annual continuous /recurring payment.

On December 29, 2022, Congress enacted the Cleland-Dole Veterans Benefits and Healthcare Improvement Act of 2022 under PL 117-328 (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023); of which, Section 201, Improvements to the Process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for Clothing Allowance Claims, amends 38 U.S.C. § 1162. The change requires VA to make recurring payments for a clothing allowance to qualifying Veterans until the Veteran elects to no longer receive such payments or until VA determines the Veteran is no longer eligible for such payments.

### PACT Act

Also, in case you missed the opportunity to review the changes with benefits. The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they have earned and deserve.

### The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

Continued on page 16...



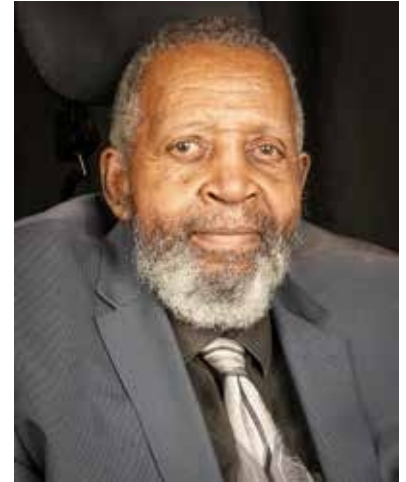


## From The Treasurers Desk:

Vaughan Chapter members were beginning a new fiscal year with A budget totaling \$652,470. The Vaughan chapter staff has planned an extensive list of sports and recreational events, membership events, Government/Advocacy meetings with our representative in Washington and support for our Service Program.

What we need you to do as members is to participate with your participant FY 24 will be a success for the chapter. Join us in our board meetings monthly will buy you lunch, join us in our membership meetings. The dates of the membership event, this and the sporting events will always be in your newsletter, read your newsletter and you be surprised at what you might find.

Let us work together this year and will make every day a holiday and every meal a banquet, all the way PVA.



*Gerald L. Brown, Treasurer*

### The FY 24 budget recapped as follows:

- Administrative \$26,810
- Fundraising \$45,810
- Membership \$104,910
- Sports And Recreation \$215,910
- Liaison \$38,110
- Government Relations \$64,710
- Communication \$98,710
- Service \$30,500
- PVA Research \$15,000
- Earmarked for Capital Fund \$12,000
- **Total Budget \$652,470**

***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,

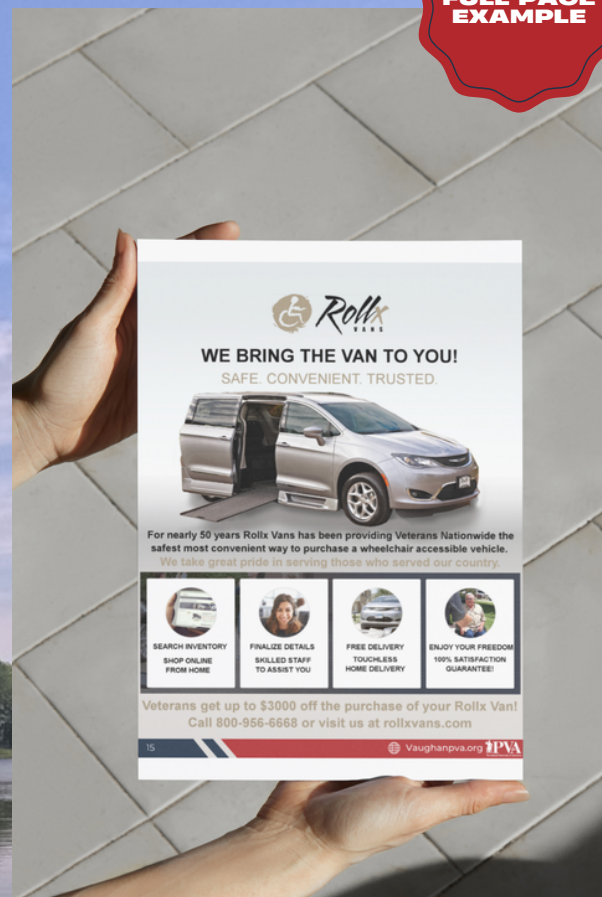
Gerald L Brown, Treasurer VPVA



# 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



# Join Us for the Following Events!



**PVA**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Vaughan Chapter

## CURLING PRACTICE

Join the Vaughan Chapter of the PVA for drop in bi-weekly Curling Practices starting November-March!

**NOVEMBER 2ND** **LOCATION** 146 ROOSEVELT RD., VILLA PARK **TIME** 6-7:30P.M.

[WWW.VAUGHANPVA.ORG](http://WWW.VAUGHANPVA.ORG)

Bi-Weekly Curling Practices,  
Starting November 2nd



**PVA**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Vaughan Chapter

## Honoring Those Who Served

**VETERANS DAY Luncheon**

Vaughan Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America

Cordially invites you to join us to be honored for your service to our country.

**Saturday, November 18, 2023**  
**Time: 10:30am-2:30p.m.**

Maggiore's Little Italy Oak Brook  
240 Oakbrook Cir  
Oak Brook, IL 60523

Complimentary lunch for Members, Associate Members, and official Volunteers plus (one) guest.

Additional guests are welcome at the cost of \$25 each.

Veterans Day Luncheon,  
November 18th, 10:30am - 2:30  
p.m



**2023 US Open Wheelchair Bonspiel**  
**\$\$\$ CASH SPIEL \$\$\$**

**WHERE:** Portage Curling Club 107 W. Albert St  
**WHEN:** December 1-3, 2023  
**COST:** \$500 USD per team with an 8-team limit  
**DEADLINE:** November 18, 2023

\***CASH PAYOUT:** For 8 teams, the payout will be: 1<sup>st</sup> \$1,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$650, and 3<sup>rd</sup> \$350. For fewer teams, the payout will be done proportionally.  
\***FORMAT:** Round robin or pools  
\***GAMES:** 1-2 on Friday in the mid-morning, 2-3 on Saturday, and 1-2 on Sunday.  
\***FOOD & BEER:** Lunches and dinner will be available at the club and the banquet location at no cost to the teams, helper, and coach. A donation basket will be set out for anybody else.  
\***NOTE:** Cash payout, format, number of games and banquet night are dependent on the number of teams.

Contact Information: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Information: Skip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Third: \_\_\_\_\_  
Second: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lead: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any dietary concerns, special needs, etc. on the back of this form.

Make checks out to Portage Curling Club, PO Box 55, Portage, WI 53901  
Contact Person: Vietta Kampen, [vkampen@gmail.com](mailto:vkampen@gmail.com), 608-697-6510

**HOST HOTEL**  
Best Western - 2.2 miles  
Wish Foodservice

**OTHER HOTELS**  
Super 8 - 1.8 miles

Also, check out  
baskets in this

Portage Cashspiel,  
December 1-3rd



Christmans Luncheon,  
December 9th



**PVA**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Vaughan Chapter



Wauwatosa Bonspiel,  
January 20th

Scan Here to See our  
Future Events!



SCAN ME

QUESTIONS?

[keithc@vaughanpva.org](mailto:keithc@vaughanpva.org)





# PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

September 2023

## EXPLORING SELF-EMPLOYMENT



According to a report by the National Disability Institute, 74% of people with disabilities do not participate in the labor force; and turn to self-employment and small business development as a viable alternative to traditional employment.

Thanks to a generous grant donation by the Wells Fargo Foundation, VCP launched a pilot program (February 2023) to provide training, counseling and access to capital to veterans with spinal-cord injury or disease (SCI/D) who are considering self-employment.

Howard Cleland is an enlisted Army veteran with a 100% service-connected disability rating. Howard originally contacted the Veterans Career Program in January 2023. He had questions about how starting a small business would affect his SSDI benefits. He had been working at starting a gunsmith business and had many questions about licensing and registering such a business. Our Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Jim Arndt, and Howard also discussed the SSA Ticket to Work program to assist Howard with returning to work without immediately losing his SSDI benefits.

The same day that they talked, Howard was sent (by the Wisconsin PVA chapter) information about the disabled veterans self-employment pilot program. He applied for the program and was accepted. After 8 weeks, Howard pitched his business idea to a panel of business professionals, and was one of two PVA members to receive a \$2,500 subgrant to test start his business - Grouchy-Ole Mans LLC.

After completing multiple requirements and registrations, Howard was able to launch his business on September 11, 2023. He has expressed appreciation for the depth and direction of the Veterans Career Program's small business training. *"In eight weeks, I learned probably two years' worth of education just in three hours a week for the eight weeks. Our instructor was informative. He provided everything we needed to pretty much exceed anything you want to know to start a business. I couldn't be any more grateful to PVA for hosting this class."*

## MONTHLY IMPACT

### 22 Client Placements

- 14 Paid Employment
- 6 Education/Training
- 2 Volunteer
  - 21 Veterans
  - 1 Family Members
  - 4 PVA Members
- The average salary for the 14 clients placed in full-time employment was \$67,661.



## 2023 Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat (WVER)



Women Veterans make up 1.8 million of the U.S. population, of which roughly 10 percent are disabled and enrolled with the Department of Veterans Affairs. They are the fastest growing Veteran population, yet many of these women often feel

forgotten and pushed aside while trying to navigate a system that wasn't designed to address their unique healthcare needs. They also feel isolated not only from the entire Veteran population, but from each other. PVA's Women Veterans Empowerment Retreat (WVER) is an all-expenses-paid retreat that focuses on the holistic well-being of women veterans with disabilities. VCP's Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Danielle Hetu, helped plan and facilitate this year's WVER and had this to say:

*Earlier this month, I attended the PVA women veteran empowerment retreat in Orlando, I had the great honor of meeting one of my clients, Tracey Cooper-Harris and her wife, Maggie Cooper-Harris for the first time, in person. Tracey, our event keynote speaker and an incredibly fierce advocate for veterans, really kicked off the event with her story of strength, resilience, and determination. Over the course of the event, I had the great privilege of meeting other remarkable veteran women PVA members who were passionate, resilient, making new connections, and so ready to take the information back home. I have absolutely no doubt that we will be seeing and hearing more from these amazing women in the future, and it was truly an honor to not only contribute to the event, but to also personally connect with these remarkable women.*





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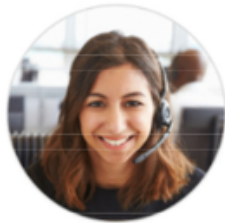


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Finally, VHA wanted to help streamline the process related to submitting Bowel & Bladder Claims. They release VA Form 10-314 (Apr 2023) Request for Payment of Bowel and Bladder Services for reporting hours. \*\*\*\*The provider is the individual who is authorized to provide Bowel and Bladder care to the Veteran.

All fields on VA Form 10-314 must be completed for reimbursement to be issued. The Veteran's Integrated Control Number (ICN) and the referral number can be found on VA Referral Form 10-7080 sent to you by the referring VA Medical Center. If you do not have this information, please contact the referring VAMC.

Please fax your completed VA Form 10-314 to 833-748-0256. If you are unable to fax VA Form 10-314, you may mail to:

Regional Payment Center 10N20

B&B Claims Processing

1601 E Fourth Plain Blvd

Vancouver, WA 98661

Or call VA Community Care Contact Center at 877-881-7618.

Remember **life happens**, but we want to ensure our members are informed of the changes. If you have questions about this article and the updates, or the status of a previously submitted claims, please contact our PVA Office 708 202-5623/312 980-4278. If you are a Veteran, survivor, or a caregiver, we can assist with applications/filings/resources.

Veterans and survivors' claims contact your PVA Service Officer today to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

## Congratulations on your Retirement

PVA would like to formally announce and wish the best of luck to Robert Statam on his upcoming retirement on October 13, 2023.

Robert has been a dedicated PVA employee for over 13 years in the Veterans Benefits Department, displaying nothing short of hard work, commitment, and diligence in his role as a Senior National Service Officer. Robert's accomplishments will remain unmatched and we are fortunate for the years he spent with us.

Robert's parting words are as follows,

"I have made some great friends and also made much progress as a professional. The past 13 thirteen years of service has been a dynamic graph, as I can say with confidence now that I am ready for the next phase of my life. As a continued proud member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), I look forward to being of some type of service to the organization's future. Thank you!"



JoAnn began employment with the Paralyzed Veterans of America on April 6, 1998, and throughout her career, she has been assigned to the Hines SCI Service Office. We (Vaughan Chapter) are very fortunate to have her as a part of PVA. JoAnn's time and dedication to this company and the mission are much appreciated. She is always willing to help when it is needed in addition to doing her job. Congratulations on reaching a milestone of 25 years with this organization, and thank you for all your efforts and dedication.



# CURLING PRACTICE

Join the Vaughan Chapter of the PVA for  
drop in bi-weekly Curling Practices starting  
November-March!

**NOVEMBER  
2ND**

**LOCATION**  
146 ROOSEVELT  
RD., VILLA PARK

**TIME**  
6-7:30P.M



## SAVE THE DATE

- PORTAGE CAHSHSPIEL
  - DECEMBER 1-3RD
- WAUWATOSA BONSPIEL
  - JANUARY 20TH

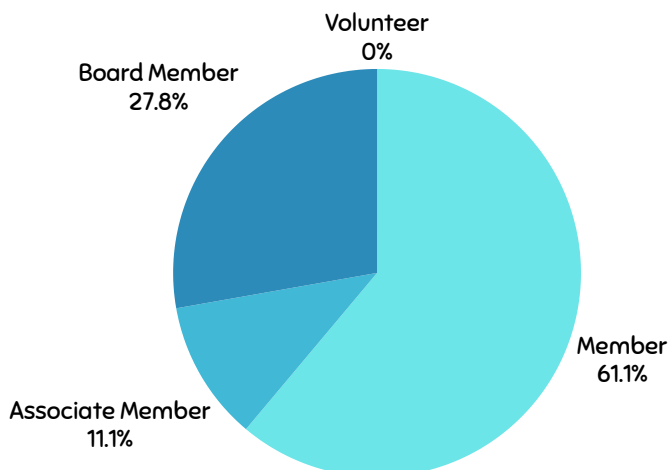


[WWW.VAUGHANPVA.ORG](http://WWW.VAUGHANPVA.ORG)

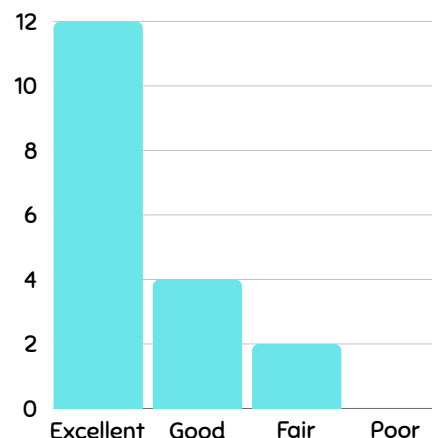


**Note: The following results are not reflective of chapter membership as a whole, but rather those who engaged with last quarters membership survey.**

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



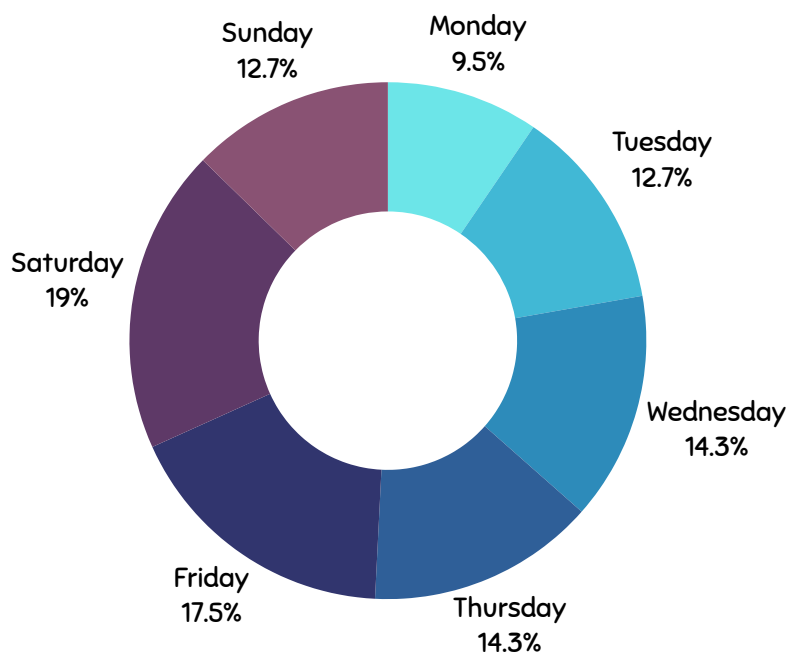
2. Overall, how would you rate your experience as a Vaughan PVA member?



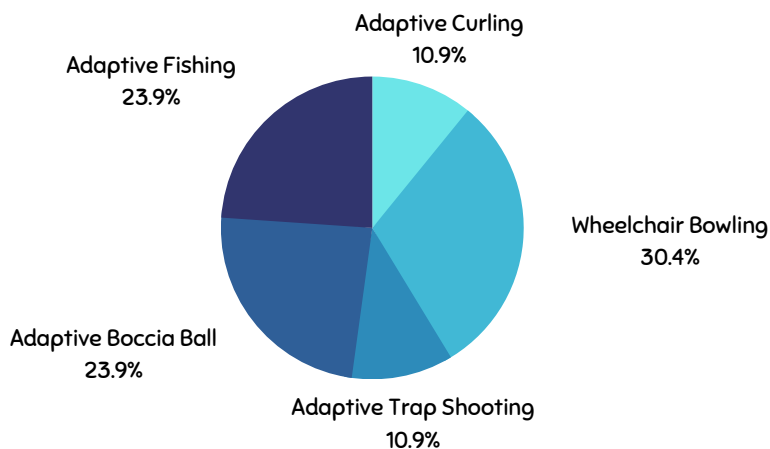
3. When was the last PVA Vaughan Chapter/PVA event you attended?

Most occurring answers were Vaughan Annual Membership Picnic, or the RCF Cubs Game

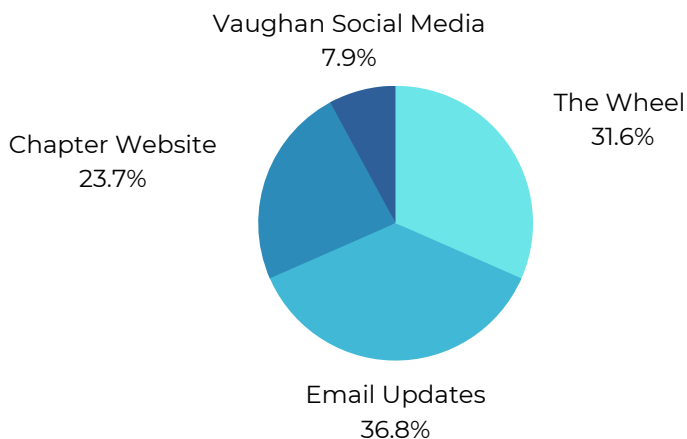
4. What day of the week are you most available to attend Vaughan Chapter events?



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



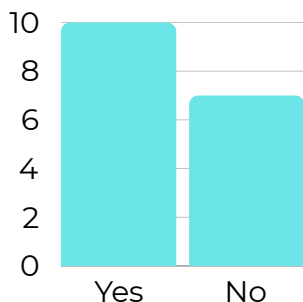
6. How do you receive your PVA Vaughan Chapter News Updates? (Select All That Apply)



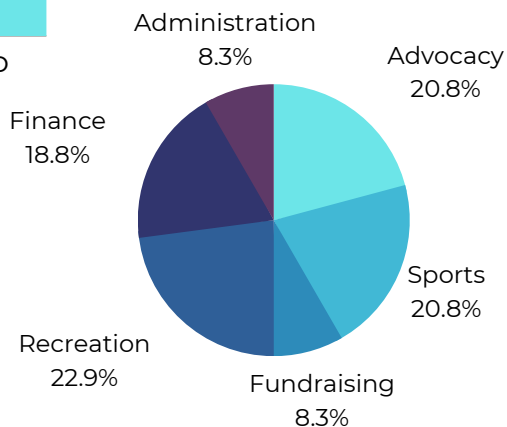
7. What could be done to improve the PVA Vaughan Chapter membership experience?

Most common answers were more participation and more events

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



9. What membership opportunities would interest you?



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

Allow family to volunteer, post flyers about events

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

Make funding more accessible for members, members would like board to involve them more



Vaughan PVA  
2235 Enterprise Drive, Suite  
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Vaughan Chapter



[www.VaughanPVA.org](http://www.VaughanPVA.org)

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