

THE WHEEL

HELLO, VAUGHAN CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP,

From the Executive Director's desk,

As we transition from summer to winter and prepare for the upcoming year's events, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each member who actively participated in the events and outings organized by the Chapter office and Sports Director in 2024. Your involvement is not just a statistic but a vital element of our future planning and a clear sign of a more engaging 2025.



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I also want to stress the benefits of attending Vaughan's in-person membership meetings. Your participation is crucial and a testament to your dedication to our Chapter. These meetings provide a platform for you to connect with fellow members, voice your opinions, and influence our planning process. Attending these meetings may involve travel, but the rewards are worth it. We offer mileage reimbursement of fifty¢ per mile round trip and a \$65 stipend for caregivers of voting members. Additionally, we provide free lunch and a door prize raffle as a token of our appreciation for your commitment

I want to inform you that the Vaughan Chapter will be relocating to a new address within the next couple of months. The move of our Chapter office may prevent us from having a Veterans Day Luncheon this year. Rest assured; we will update you on this event as we get closer to November 11. Your inclusion and consideration are essential to us, and we are committed to keeping you informed about all the changes and updates in the Chapter, ensuring that you are always in the loop.

Continue on pg. 3

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

2024 Bi-Monthly Membership Meetings

Vaughan Chapter's goal this year is to reach out to every member in the surrounding areas; for this to happen, we will conduct in-person membership meetings near you. We will still have a few meetings in the Multipurpose Room at the Hines VA Hospital, Spinal Cord Injury Building #128, and in different areas of the Hines VA. As usual, the Chapter office will send reminders for the upcoming meetings; please mark your calendar for the 2024 membership meetings to attend in person; we are excited to see you there. All membership meetings offer FREE lunch and now door prizes.

Your attendance and feedback at these membership meetings are paramount to our chapter's continued success and our ability to serve 'you' the member, on a more meaningful level. Please take a look at the meeting dates below to see when the next membership meetings will take place.

Meeting Dates:

Wednesday, September 25th

Wednesday, November 27th





Photos captured at a VPVA.

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 Government Relations

Dennis Scanlan Robert Statem

Staff

Executive Director
Maria Hernandez
Keith Cooper
Keith Cooper
Keith Cooper
Ryan Dalton

Office Assistant Edward Millar

Service Officers

Winston Woodard, III Hines PVA SCI 708-202-5623 Whitney Brown Chicago PVA VARO 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

As we look forward to the rest of 2024, we have some exciting events lined up. Our next event is the annual picnic on Saturday, September 14, 2024. You should have received the invitation, and if you plan to attend, RSVP before the deadline. Our last event for 2024 will be our annual Christmas Luncheon on December 14, 2024. You will receive the invitation via email or regular mail. We hope to see you at these events!

Vaughan Chapter is holding an Election this September. You will receive a ballot, a returned envelope, and the candidate's letter of intent. The ballot will be mailed to VOTING Members on September 3. Ballots are due by the close of Business on September 30, 2024. Take this opportunity to cast your vote, elect the candidate of your choice, and be part of the difference.

We encourage you to visit our website for a comprehensive calendar and detailed information about each event and outing. It is a valuable resource that keeps you updated and informed about all our activities.

A recap of a few of the benefits you get as a member of the Vaughan Chapter is as follows:

A cash birthday gift to Vaughan voting members; you must call us on your birthday. Also, the life enjoyment fund available to voting members for up to \$200 per fiscal year (10/1 – 9/30); also available is the 3k annual sponsorship grant for voting members, which allows you to participate in any Vaughan sporting and recreation event with NO volunteer hours required for this fiscal year. Non-voting associate members receive \$1,000 a year. Both amounts include fees paid to your approved attendant.

IMPORTANT: Please call our office to update your contact information. Whether you have moved or acquired a new phone number or email address, your updated contact information is crucial for us to keep you informed about all the Chapter's activities. This way, you will not miss any important updates or events. I encourage you to utilize social networks, including our website, www.vaughanpva.org, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Please check your inbox emails to stay updated about recreational sports activities, events, and outings.

Thank You for letting me serve you,

Maria Hernandez Executive Director



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello fellow veterans,

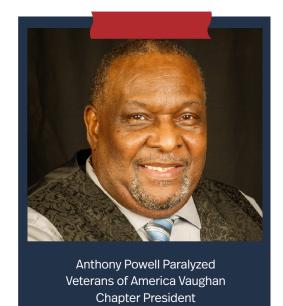
We have had a great last three months at the Vaughan Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. We advocated on behalf of our members' right to proper spinal cord care on Capitol Hill and Lobbied our Congresspeople about issues concerning our members' well-being and the well-being of the SCI/D community at large. The hearing we took part in went well, and it suffices to say that Congress realizes some changes need to be made regarding healthcare in SCI/D centers.

Another huge undertaking for our chapter this year was having 6 participants for team Vaughan Vets at the 2024 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in New Orleans, Louisiana. The event was spectacular, and we couldn't be prouder of the achievements of our members who took part and displayed incredible grit and determination competing at the highest levels of athleticism. We could not be prouder of what we accomplished here as a chapter and are looking forward to next year's NVWG.

I guarantee the chapter is dedicated to all our fellow Veterans. Remember, you are veterans who never accept defeat, so don't quit. Call your chapter and make us work for you. We're here to provide the support and resources you need. Have a great fall season and be sure to keep in touch to see what the chapter is up to.

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





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

Keith Cooper Director of Sports and Recreation

This year, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) was hosted in New Orleans, LA, from July 25th to 30th. All the events ran smoothly, the hotels were conveniently located, and the VA provided effortless transportation from the airport to the convention center and hotels.

Five athletes represented the Vaughan Chapter during this year's NVWG. Gerald Brown took home one gold (9ball) and one silver medal (Boccia). Josue Cordova took home a gold medal (Boccia). I(Keith Cooper) took home one gold (Table Tennis), one silver (Bowling), and one bronze (softball). Leo Moore took home five gold medals (Boccia) (Bowling) (Field



Event Club)(Field Event Discus)(Motorized Rally). RJ Anderson had two gold medals (Pickle Ball) (Disc Golf) and one silver medal (Air Rifle Open). That's a lot of hardware. Great job, Vaughan Chapter!





Partcipants even had time to enjoy the food and the scenery

Next year's NVWG will be located in the Twin Cities, about a five-hour drive from Chicago. We hope to double the number of Vaughan Chapter participants. Please remember that the Vaughan Chapter offers 3k sports and recreation reimbursements for full membership and 1k reimbursement for associate members.

NVWG 2024, NOLA





Sports and Recreation

The Chapter held its annual trap shoot at the St. Charles Sportsmen Club in Elburn, IL. The Elburn Village President, Jeff Walter, attended the opening ceremony and presented Vaughan Chapter PVA with a proclamation and this very cool shirt. Please take a moment to read the proclamation here. If you want to learn how to shoot Trap, please let me know. The chapter has range time and shotguns.

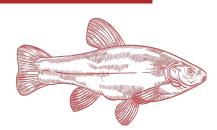




Keith Cooper VPVA Sports Director and Jeff Walter Elburn Village President, VPVA Trap Shoot Elburn Tour Stop May 24-26 2024



Memorial Day Parade May 25, 2024



Busse Woods Fishing Derby June 8th: What a great day for a picnic and bank fishing. Please join us next year for this one-day event. A Big thank you to No Limits Adaptive Fishing for helping the participants with all things fishing.



No Limits Adaptive Fishing hosted the Vaughan Chapter PVA members for a pontoon fishing trip July 13th on the Chicago River. A big shout out to Anthony Powel, chapter president, who doesn't like to eat or touch fish. Although Anthony didn't touch or eat any of the fish, he had the biggest catch of the day and stated he couldn't wait to fish again with No Limits Adaptive Fishing.

If you register and commit to participating in an event, it's very important that you attend. Most sports and recreation activities have limited space for participation, and when individuals drop out at the last moment, it is hard to get someone else to replace their spot. It costs the chapter money and inhabits the participation of others. Thank you.

Keith Cooper, Sports Director

eith Cooper, Sports Director KeithC@VaughanPVA.org





Friday thru Sunday, Oct. 25-27th \$400 USD Rink Fee per 4 person Team (\$100 per curler)



Event Details:

- Daily Lunch Provided Onsite -Free Snacks and Coffee Cash Bar Onsite
- Reception Saturday Evening the 26th - Onsite Buffet & Entertainment
- Final Awards Sunday the 27th after the last match
- Hotel information will be provided after registration



Location: 146 Roosevelt Rd., Villa Park, IL 60181

Register Here



Next Event:

Wheelchair Mixed Doubles National Championship, January For More Information:

Contact PVA Vaughan Chapter Sports Director Keith Cooper

Email: KeithC@VaughanPVA.org

August Communications Recap

Hello, members. Ryan Dalton, the Communications Director for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter, here. The summer of 2024 has been incredible so far. We have been making great strides in our ability to create more impactful communications for you, our chapter members. As such, I have had the incredible opportunity to accompany our members on many trips this year to capture the moment. I have already made so many wonderful memories in just a year, and I have no doubt our fellow members also share these memories.

One of the great honors I had this quarter accompanying our members as coach to the 2024 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in New Orleans, Louisiana. The amount of sportsmanship, grit, and determination I saw on display from Veterans this week alone was completely awe-inspiring. You can see the photos here

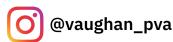


As always keep up to date with the latest Vaughan Chapter events and dates by visiting our website **VaughanPVA.org** or check out our social media pages:



@VAUGHANCHAPTERPVA





Commuications Outreach

Another incredible opportunity I had this year was the ability to accompany some of our members on a trip to Washington, D.C., to advocate for our members' rights and advocate for better SCI/D healthcare. Many of the aspects of the issues the SCI/D community faced that I learned here were enlightening, to say the least. I gained a newfound appreciation for our members' struggles even though I don't necessarily live through them myself. Just know that here at Vaughan PVA, we will continue to push forward regarding our member's quality of life and care.

I could not be prouder to be a part of this organization and will continue to do my best to represent and advocate for each of our members. I have had nothing but great experiences serving the PVA Vaughan Chapter community, and I only hope that those experiences will be able to continue in the future.

Check Out Our Recent Event Albums



Be sure to check out the Wheel Page:

The PVA Vaughan Chapter has an extensive backlog of all of its Wheel issues. If you would like to catch up on an issue you missed, or go back and reread past content be sure to visit: https://vaughanpva.org/the-wheel/





Photo captured at Captitol Hill in Washington D.C on the 2024 PVA Advocacy and Legislation Trip Credit to: Keith Mellnick

PVA VAUGHAN CHAPTER AT THE 2024 NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



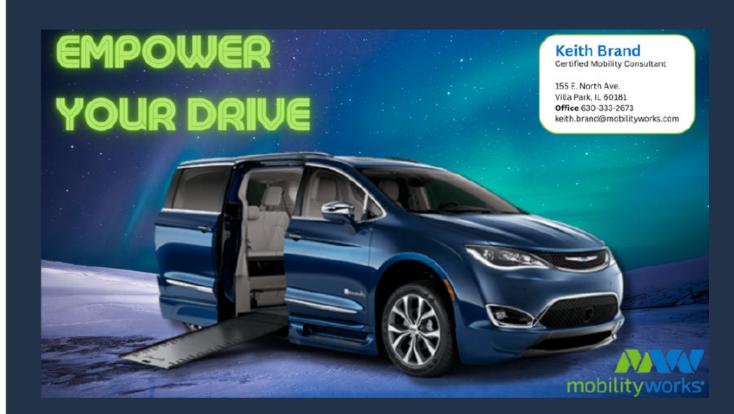












Avoiding a Break in Your TSA PreCheck: After Retirement

Now that you're retired, you're hoping to have more time to travel with your family for some real R&R. You booked your flight and packed your bags. Still, when you check in before departure, you notice you don't have a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) PreCheck indicator on your boarding pass. You're sure you entered your standard access card (CAC) ID in the Know Travel Number (KTN) field for all your airline profiles, so this would happen. What gives? When you call the airline, they can't seem to get your Department of Defense (DoD) ID to take. You note that you have recently retired from duty and discovered your DoD ID is no longer valid for TSA PreCheck.



TSA PreCheck- is a risk-based system allowing expedited screening for trusted travelers. When a civilian enrolls and is approved for the program, they receive a KTN. The whole application process involves a security threat assessment based on a background check. So, for years as a uniformed service member, you received TSA PreCheck through your continued military service and background checks conducted by the DoD. Upon separation/retirement from service, the DoD background check is no longer valid; therefore, your DoD ID can no longer be used as your KTN, regardless of if you have one on your retirement ID.

To avoid any break in your TSA PreCheck benefits, we encourage service members to apply for TSA PreCheck at tsa.gov/precheck (or another department of Homeland Security Trusted Traveler Program) at ttp.cbp.dhs.gov before retiring or transitioning out of service. The process starts with a brief online application from one of our enrollment providers. Next, you visit one of over 650 convenient enrollment locations listed here:

https://www.tsa.gov/precheck/enrollment-centers (searchable by zip code) and complete your enrollment by scanning your fingerprints, showing proof of citizenship, and uploading a photo. Most applicants are approved within 3-5 business days, and once enrolled, you will receive a KTN that is good for five years. The TSA PreCheck program also partners with credit cards and loyalty programs to offer application reimbursement. Win-win!

What about Family?

Just as when you were in service, your spouse, travel companions, and family members over 18 must enroll individually. Children 12 and under can always accompany you in the TSAPreCheck line for free, as well as children 13-17 when on the same reservation and the PreCheck indicator appears on their boarding pass.

Who do I contact with more questions?

TSA is here to ensure secure travel for all.TSA Cares (https://www.tsa.gov/tsa-cares/passenger-support) is here to help travelerswho require assistance at the airport and the TSA Customer Contact Center (https://www.tsa.gov/contact/customer-service) is avalible to adress traveler concerns.

Treasurer Report

From The Treasurers Desk:

From the desk of your treasure, October 1, 2024 begins the new fiscal year FY25. The key to a successful FY25 for the Vaughan chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America is your participation. The following is a list of some events available for member participation this Fiscal Year.

- Annual Picnic
- Chistmas Luncheon
- Paul Kolb Dinner
- Sweetheart Dinner
- Veterans Day Dinner
- Volunteers Appreciation DInner
- National Veterans Wheelchair Games
- National Golden Age Games
- Bowling Tournament
- Boccia

This above list was not meant to be all-inclusive; it was just a friendly reminder of some happenings in FY 25. I'm also reminding you that in your chapter of PVA, we'll cover the cost of airfare, hotel accommodations, mileage reimbursement, and a stipend for your caregiver. Here's how it works: Take a hypothetical member who lives 200 miles round trip from Hines Hospital. This member attends a quarterly membership meeting. The chapter will pay him or her the following:

- 1. \$0.50 a mile times 200 miles, equaling \$100:
- 2. his caregiver, a family member, and a friend. Making it possible for him to be in attendance would receive a stipend of \$65:

- · Trap Shooting
- Curling
- · Charter Boat Fishing
- Bussie Woods Fishing Derby
- · Quarterly Membership Meeting





Gerald L. Brown, Treasurer



That same member attending the national wheelchair games would include a national-sponsored PVA event or any chapter-sponsored PVA event that Happens over multiple days. The chapter will pay for the following. Travel to the airport \$0.50 a mile.

The cost of airfare, the cost of hotel accommodation A caregiver stipend equal to \$135 per day A daily per diem or, in some cases, reimbursement for meals while attending that event. Let me close by saying these members should update their personal information, including mailing addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. This helps staff mail out checks for birthdays and, this year, \$100 in place of a Veteran's Day dinner. To qualify, just call the office to update your information and request either your birthday check or your Veteran's Day gift. So, as a member, be sure to take advantage of the financial programs the chapter has in place to make your participation easier.

Respectfully,

Gerald L Brown, Treasurer VPVA



NEWSLETTER AD PACKAGES

FULL PAGE EXAMPLE

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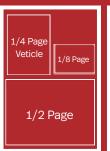


AD SIZES:

7.25" X 9.75" **FULL PAGE** 7.25" X 4.75" **1/2 PAGE 1/3 PAGE** 7.25" X 3.125" 1/4 PAGE [VERTICLE]3.50" X 4.75" 1/8 PAGE/ BUSINESS CARDO" X 2.25"

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EXAMPLE <<<<<<







ADRATES:

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

media@vaughanpva.org

FOR FREE AD OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT RYAN DALTON COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

(708) 947-9790

Join Us for the Following Events!







On demand adaptive fishing trips with No Limits fishing



(\$100 per curler)



- Daily Lunch Provided Onsite -Free Snacks and Coffee -Cash Bar Onsite
- Final Awards Sunday the 27th after the last match
- Hotel information will be



VPVA Wheelchair Cashspeil Oct. 25- 27th







Christmas Lucheon December 14th



AWBA Nationals Powered By VPVA May 2025









QUESTIONS?

keithc@vaughanpva.org











PVA VETERANS CAREER PROGRAM UPDATE

July 2024

PERSISTENCE PERSONIFIED



Andrea Ruiz's story can best be described as persistence personified. Andrea is a retired Army veteran, who joined the military in 2012 wanting to see the world. Her plan to pursue a life-long career in the military was cut

short after being diagnosed with Chiari malformation with an inoperable syrinx on her spine in 2017.

Andrea initially reached out to VCP vocational counselors looking for basic resources and peer support. Over time however, Andrea was able to get assistance in many different areas that can affect an individual's quality of life. For example, accessible home design, academic accommodations, and help finding a remote position.

Since becoming a client of the Veterans Career Program in April 2022, Andrea has made use of every opportunity presented to her. In November 2023, she obtained a fulltime position as a peer support specialist. Andrea has also started her own business, Sowing Soothing Seeds, with the help of the VCP self-employment program. Her business allows her to utilize her experiences with chronic pain and mental health to help others.

Recently, Andrea was offered a fellowship with RespectAbility's National Leadership Program. This program aims to train leaders who are committed to disability issues and plan to go into careers in public policy, advocacy, communications, diversity, equity and inclusion, fundraising, nonprofit management or faith-based inclusion.

MONTHLY IMPACT

16 Client Placements

- 13 Paid Employment
- 4 Education/Training
- 3 Volunteer
 - 16 Veterans
 - 0 Active Duty
 - 0 Family Member
 - 0 Caregiver
 - 3 PVA Member
- · The average salary for the 11 clients in full time employment was \$71,622; and the average income for the 1 client in part time employment was \$19,000.



DOG TAG FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



The Dog Tag Fellowship Program equips veterans, military spouses, and caregivers with the tools and education to build resilience, find renewed purpose, and forge community beyond the military. Dog Tag provides a bridge from military

service to the civilian world and acts as a catalyst for finding direction and moving forward. Fellows earn a business certificate from Georgetown University (DC program) or Loyola University Chicago (Chicago program); bring their coursework to life by learning the ins and outs of running a successful business in the bakery; build community with each other; and enhance their well-being by committing time to introspection, storytelling, and personal growth.

Applications for the Winter 2025 cohort are open until September 23, 2024: www.dogtaginc.org/pages/application.

If you have questions or difficulty accessing the application, please contact them at fellowship@dogtaginc.org.



PVA.org/VeteransCareerProgram

POWERED BY:

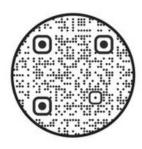




Ekso Indego Personal

What is Ekso Indego?

Ekso Indego is an FDA-cleared, powered exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries (level T3-L5)* to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.



Scan with your phone for more information on how you could receive your own Ekso Indego Personal.

Getting Veterans with SCI Back on Their Feet

A recently revised VA policy allows Ekso Indego to be issued to qualified veterans at no cost.**

- Modular design for easy transportation
- Improve your cardio & bone density
- Enjoy eye-level conversations again



Contact us to find out if you are eligible to receive an Ekso Indego at NO COST!

An evaluation by your provider at a SCI/D center is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device



Vaughan In Action

Boccia Nationals With Synergy Adaptive Sports

We could not be prouder of our board member Cheryl Gerdes and her attendance at the 2024 Boccia Ball Nationals in Omaha, Nebraska. Cheryl competed in the BC6/Open category and did an outstanding job. Although she lost her first match, she was put up against the number-ranked player in the country and put up an excellent effort. Cheryl then powered through, winning her next two games, allowing her to qualify for the quarterfinals. Unfortunately, she lost in the quarterfinals stage, still putting her at an immensely respectable 5th place finish for her first-ever Boccia Ball National tournament...



Cheryl Gerdes, 2024
Boccia Nationals

Kane County Cougars Game

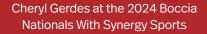
The PVA Vaughan Chapter had the wonderful opportunity to team up with the incredible nonprofit Operation Warrior Wishes to take some of our Vaughan Chapter Members out to see a Kane County Cougars Baseball game.

Here, Vaughan PVA Member and PVA National Vice President Josue Cordova had the opportunity to throw out the game's first pitch. VPVA Member Johnnie Baylark was recognized as the hometown hero of the game and given a brief spotlight at the game for the fans to recognize our Veterans for their outstanding service to our wonderful country.

It was incredible to see our members sit back and relax, taking a load off to enjoy an excellent baseball game in the summer season. It was great to see the smiles on their faces as they enjoyed this time with their family members and their friends. The event was an outstanding success, and we aim to plan another one like it next year.











June - August Member Birthdays:

The Vaughan Chapter would like this opportunity to celebrate all of our chapter members with March, April, and May birthdays, happy birthday to all!

June

Joshua Alexander • **James Thomas** Jeff Blair **Israel Sandoval** Mark Olhava **Christopher Collins Derrick Winding** Toyena Shamberger-Epps Ramiro Magallon John Lohman **Steven Krick** Lee Merritt **Terence Bowers Kermit Tate** Joseph Cruz Randall Faucett

Brent Thomas

Derrick Simmons Michael Miller **Gary Helsing Gary McDermott Thomas Lewis Demetrius Goodrich Robert Szott George Hasche Eddie Turner Lawrence Jumisko Raymond Hodor** Willie Nunn **Bennie McQueen** Alan Benjamin

Decoris Currie Yasenia Salgado Alberto Velasco **Brian Harris David Baer Dawn Mattson** Sean Nolan **Charles Johnson Terrance Moore Thomas King Edward Lagesse**

Kirk Bonnell Rinaldo Petterino **James Tilbury Emmett Harris Steven Haag** Leigh Schelsky Michael Charnota

Gregg Simmons Lawrence Kruzan Kimberly Powers Melton Morris Raymond Wyman Roy Alexander Calvin Choice George Leffler Michael Mac Diarmid **Louis Spina Charles White Lester Antos**

Daniel Maloney

Robert Laws

Harold Olson

John Kritzer

August

- **Dylan Pickett**
- **Brian Sawlsville**
- **Timothy Roath**
- **Josue Cordova**
- **Steven Johnson**
- **Jeremy Smith**
- **Darwin Coligado**
- **Cheryl Gerdes**
- **James Champion**
- **Kenneth Wolfe**
- **Robert Turner**
- Dale Shelton
- **Dennis Jones**
- **Donnell Pulliam**

- William Hall
- Johnny Barginear
- **Stanley Brewster**
- **Juan Quinones**
- William Walton
 - **Roy Patrick**
- **Russell Elmore**
- **Harry Graber**
- Jack Weigel
 - **David Boyer**

Richard Weber

July

Pat Capuzzi



Attention to all members with Birthdays: Be sure to call into the chapter office on your birthday to receive your birthday check



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SEPT.14TH | NOON - 4PM

Enjoy entertainment for all ages

Free Food | Entertainment | Prizes

Limit of 4 Atendees per Family

Forest Preserve 1st Ave & Roosevelt Rd, Maywood IL.

Miller Meadow -North Grove #2

Entrance on Roosevelt Rd, follow signs.

TO RSVP CALL 708-947-9790 OR EMAIL VPVA@VAUGHANPVA.ORG





Vaughan Chapter



www.VaughanPVA.org



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