THE WHEEL

HELLO, VAUGHAN CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP,

From the Executive Director's desk,

As we start a new year, 2025, we have also begun serving you at our new location. The Vaughan Chapter has moved our office and has already begun preparing for a full year of events. Our new address is 2225 Enterprise Drive, Suite 2502, Westchester, IL. Again, as mentioned before, your involvement is not just a statistic but a vital element of our future planning and a clear sign of a more engaging 2025.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Director's Report • P. 3

Presidents Report • P. 4

Sports & Recreation • P. 5-7

Communications • P. 8

Christmas Luncheon Photos • P. 9

Service Officer Report • P. 10

Treasurer Report • P. 11

Event Calendar • P. 13

Vaughan In Action • P. 17

Members Birthday's • P. 18

Thank You Donors • P. 19

We started 2025 with the first bi-monthly membership meeting on January 22, 2025.

Thank you to all members who attended and to our guest speaker, Amelia Betzold from Quest Healthcare. These meetings provide a platform for you to connect with fellow members, voice your opinions, and influence our planning process. Your participation is crucial! For attending Membership meetings, we offer mileage reimbursement of .50¢ 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.

As a reminder to Vaughan Chapter members and associate members, here are the policies approved in 2024 to encourage your participation in all activities, meetings, and sporting events.

We offer 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;

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

2025 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 2025 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, March 26th Wednesday, May 28th Wednesday July 23rd Wednesday, September 24th Wednesday, November 26th





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

Service Officers

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

Other benefits avalible to members include 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.

Vaughan Chapter also offers a \$500 death benefit for all Vaughan chapter voting members. This money is dispersed to the person responsible for your funeral services.

We plan on making 2025 a fantastic year for our members filled with activities for them to engage with and explore starting off with bowling and curling practices which take place every Tuesday.

We appreciate all of your partcipation as it is the cornerstone of our chapter and at the heart of all our operations, be sure to visit our webstite www.Vaughanpva.org for all the latest chapter news and event information.

Lets make 2025 a year that the Vaughan Chapter can be proud of, we will be starting the year off with a major Vaughan Chapter Chess event, more details will come in the following weeks but we are planning for a timeframe of March.

Stay warm with the cold weather still about and we will see you at our next member event!

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 visit our website for a comprehensive calendar and detailed information about each event and outing.

Thank You for letting me serve you,

Maria Hernandez Executive Director





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello fellow veterans,

We had a fantastic 2024 for our chapter. We curled, bowled, shot trap, played boccia, and attended baseball games, hockey games, and many chapter events that brought our members together; there was a wide variety of activities for our members to stay active and get involved.

We appreciate all the members who made the effort to attend. As we all know, it isn't always easy, but that is why our chapter focuses on accessible programs. For example, our chapter's wheelchair-accessible bus allows RCF residents and members to travel to events and practices.

I am very hopeful for our chapter coming into this new year. All our aforementioned events are on the docket again this year, and some brand-new and returning programs, such as air rifles and chess, are being introduced.

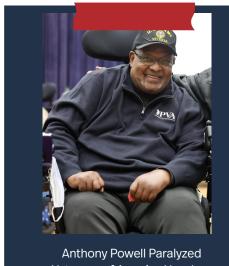
Bass fishing will return to Rend Lake again this year for the PVA National Bass Fishing Tournament Land Of Lincoln Tour Stop sanctioned by B.A.S.S. Although our chapter has not hosted it this year, we highly encourage our members to take the trip out, and we will be running the chapter bus to the event. The tournament lasts from May 2-4 at Rend Lake, Illinois. For more details, please visit: https://pva.org/adaptive-sports/bass-tournament-series/

We are preparing to run our first-ever chapter chess event in March, utilizing the iPads our chapter has been granted from Christopher Reeve's Foundation. Stay tuned for registration details.

We at the PVA Vaughan Chapter wish you a great 2025! Sincerely, Anthony Powell -President

Vaughan Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America





Veterans of America Vaughan **Chapter President**

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

Vaughan Chapter of PVA is excited to offer bowling, curling, and boccia in the first quarter of 2025. We will alternate bowling and curling practices on Tuesdays. Bowling practices will culminate with the Vaughan Chapter hosting AWBA for their 63 National Wheelchair Bowling Championships in May. If you think our annual bowling tournament is incredible, wait for this sizeable culminating wheelchair bowling competition. In collaboration with Windy City Curling, the Vaughan Chapter will host our "Pick up Sticks" Bonspiel. This round-robin tournament will feature six teams, with one wheelchair curler paired with three "up" curlers.



The winning team will be remembered on the Pick-Up Sticks enduring plaque on the wall at Windy City Curling. Boccia will again take place in collaboration with Synergy Sports. Registration for boccia is now open. Please visit the Synergy Sports page.

Save the date for the PVA Bass fishing tour stop at Rend Lake May 2nd -4th and the PVA Trap tour shoot in Elburn May 23rd-25th. Vaughan PVA is working with No Limits Adaptive Fishing for local fishing stops this spring. We are also working on Air Gun opportunities—please reach out if interested.

Please check the website for dates, locations, and times of practices and competitions. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

2024 PVA Trap Tour Series Elburn Tour Stop





Sports and Recreation



2025 Boccia Program with Synergy Adpative Athletics

Dive right back into Boccia with our chapter through Synergy Adaptive Athletics.

2025 Schedule:

Ackerman only has 2-4pm available until March 15th.

Beginning March 22nd, we will practice 12-2pm.

*April 12th is a one-off, where we will need to meet 2-4pm.

2-4pm Practices

• 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, and *4/12*

Location:

Ackerman Sports & Fi 800 St. Charles Rd. Glen Ellyn, IL, 60137

12-2pm Practices

- 3/22 9/27
- *4/12 is 2-4pm

Ackerman does not have any gym space for us (NO PRACTICE DATES) 4/26, 5/17, 5/31

PVA National Bass Fishing Tournament Land Of Lincoln Tour Stop

The PVA Vaughan Chapter Is proud to announce the return of the PVA Bass Fishing Tour Series Land of Lincoln Tour Stop, this time hosted by the PVA National Chapter.

This tournament tour stop will be taking place May 2-4, 2025. If our chapter sees enough interest we will be sending members to location via the Vaughan Chapter Bus. If you are interested visit https://pva.org/adaptive-sports/bass-tournament-series/ and register for the Land of Lincoln tour stop. More info on (page 18).

Keith Cooper, Sports Director

KeithC@VaughanPVA.org



The VPVA

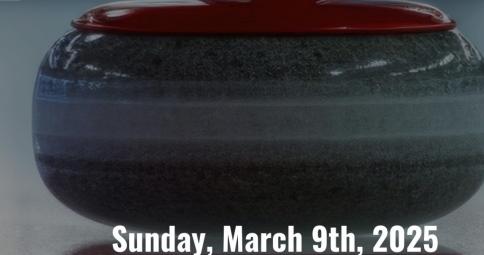


PICK UP STICKS

EVENT DETAILS

- 3-GAME ROUND ROBIN
- 8:00 AM FIRST DRAW
- 12:30 PM SECOND DRAW
- 3:30 PM THIRD DRAW
- LUNCH IS PROVIDED
- AWARDS FOLLOW LAST GAME

No Sweep Bonspiel



HIT THE ICE ■ Villa Park, IL ■ ∧ II

AII

Skill Levels Welcome

Get Your Team On The ENDURING PLAQUE!

November Communications Recap

Hello, members. Ryan Dalton, the Communications Director for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter, here. The Winter Season of 2024 Was packed with all sorts of cool events such as poker, hockey games and our annual Christmas Luncheon. I always appreciate the opportunity to get out members at these events it is one of my favorite parts of being the chapters communications director. Capturing the story of our members at events. We have alot more events for you in 2025 so if you see me there be sure to smile for the camera.

The 2024 Christmas Luncheon was such a fantastic event this past year with a massive member turn out. If you would like to see pictures from the event Visit our webstie at www.Vaughan pva.org or click 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





@vaughan_pva



The annual return of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is right around the corner. I had the honnor of being the Coach and Phorographer for our team last year, that our Chapter has decided to give me the honnorary role again this year.

As our chapter's coach again thiis year there is afew things you need to know:

- Registration for NVWG 2025 is already open, Visit: <u>https://wheelchairgames.org/athletes/registration/</u>
- Registration needs to be complete by June 1st however VA Medicals need to be submitted to the VA registration box as soon as April 4th, 2025
- When Registering for the Wheelchair Games for our chapter please select team Vaughan Vets
- A more detailed Guide Will be sent out to those who register with their email using the link above
- Looking forward to coaching again this year See you in Minnesota!

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/







Check Out Our
Recent Event Albums



Photos taken at the VPVA 2024 Christmas Luncheon



Photos from 2024 Christmas Luncheon















Automobile & Adaptive Equipment Allowances for Veterans

New legislation signed into law, January 2023, will now allow eligible veterans to use the Automobile allowance grant, from VBA, every 10 years. The Adaptive Equipment Allowance may cover multiple claims over time for repairs for mobility, replacements, or reinstallations.

The automobile allowance new current rate is effective October 1, 2024. If you have a service-connected disability that prevents you from driving, VA may pay up to \$26,417.20 toward a specially equipped vehicle.

Understanding the Process

The process involves coordination between the veteran, the local VBA Regional Office, the local Prosthetics Department, and the vehicle seller. Veterans should be aware that eligibility checks and processing involve multiple departments and steps.



Veteran Actions

Review with Physician: Veterans will need to request their primary care provider to consult with the Driver's Rehabilitation Specialist. A prescription is developed for eligible Veterans so Prosthetic Service can work with the vendor to provide the needed adaptations for the conveyance.

Review with VSO: Veterans must be valid drivers or passengers and the vehicle only being registered and titled to the eligible veteran. Make sure to review eligibility for the benefit with your VSO or representative.

Automobile Allowance

Initiate Application: Complete VA Form 21-4502 in duplicate and submit to your Regional Office (RO).

RO Processing: The RO confirms eligibility (21-4502 Page 2) and sends part of the form back to the veteran.

Vehicle Acquisition: After purchasing the vehicle, the veteran completes (21-4502 Page 2) of the form and the seller invoices the RO for payment.

Payment: The RO's finance department reimburses the seller directly.

Adaptive Equipment Allowance

Application: Fill out VA Form 10-1394, usually provided by the VA Prosthetic Services.

<u>Prosthetics Department:</u> This department forwards the application to the RO finance department and ensures the adaptive equipment prescription and safety measures are met.

Approval and Payment: If approved, the finance department arranges payment to either the veteran or the equipment seller/installer.

Continue reading on Vaughan PVA NSO Blog

From The Treasurers Desk:

From the desk of your chapter treasurer a summary of the chapters FY 25 budgeted revenue and expenditures. Program expenditures include their prorated portion of general administrative costs.

FY 25 BUDGET Vaughan Chapter

Revenue		
Chapter Grant PVA	\$ 150,656.00	23.84%
Donations goods and service revenue	\$ 115,000.00	18.20%
Advocacy and legislation Grant	\$ 2,000.00	0.32%
Newsletter revenue	\$ 1,000.00	0.16%
Membership dues	\$ 200.00	0.03%
Troubleshoot grant	\$ 8,000.00	1.27%
Transfers in from portfolio	\$355,134.00	56.19%
Total revenues	\$631,990.00	100.00%

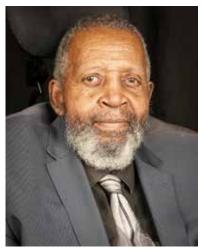
Expenditures		
Membership Expenses	\$ 119,925.00	18.98%
Government Relations Expenses	\$ 50,825.00	8.04%
Service Expenses	\$ 34,515.00	5.46%
Liaison Expenses	\$ 47,325.00	7.49%
Communication Expenses	\$ 102,525.00	16.22%
Sports and Recreation Expenses	\$ 169,615.00	26.84%
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 46,425.00	7.35%
Administration Expenses	\$ 30,835.00	4.88%
Research and Education	\$ 30,000.00	4.75%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$631,990.00	100.00%

To recap our report made in December this year's data shows an increase membership awareness and participation. More than 25% of the members participated in this year's election for president and vice president.

As you will notice the majority of our funds or allocated to membership expenditures communication expenditures and sports and recreation expenditures. In my opinion we Need to continue to increase membership participation.

Communication expenditures approximately 16.22% of the budget support the newsletter, website, advertising and corporate solicitation. Also Publishers the calendar of chapter events read your newsletter stay informed.

Membership expenditures approximately 18.60% of the budget supports the chapters events, all listed in the chapters calendar and found either in the newsletter or on the website.



Gerald L. Brown, Treasurer

Sports and recreation expenditures approximately 26.84% of the chapter's budget supports the following,



A more detailed list of both sports and membership activities can be found in the newsletter and on the website. Let me close with this approximately 56% of our budgeted revenue comes from our portfolio we need your participation to continue to justify using our savings that way, so let's make FY 25 fiscal year an improvement over previous fiscal years.

Respectfully,

Gerald L Brown, Treasurer VPVA







NEWSLETTER AD PACKAGES

FULL PAGE EXAMPLE

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MAY 2023





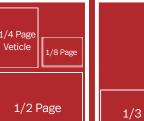


AD SIZES:

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 3.50" X 2.25" CARD

>>>>>

EXAMPLE <<<<<<







ADRATES:

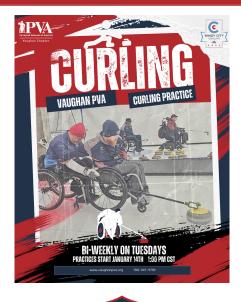
FULL PAGE \$100 **1/2 PAGE** \$65 \$50 1/3 PAGE 1/4 PAGE \$30 \$20 1/8 PAGE

media@vaughanpva.org

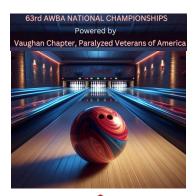
FOR FREE AD OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT RYAN DALTON COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

(708) 947-9790

Join Us for the Following Events!

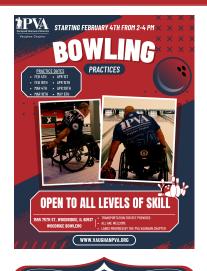


Curling Practices Bi-Weekly On Tuesdays Until April 24th



AWBA Nationals Powered By VPVA May 7th-10th 2025





VPVA Bowling Practice Bi Weekly On Tuesdays **Ends May 6th**



PVA St.Charles Trap Shoot May 24th-26th 2025





QUESTIONS?





Pick Up Sticks Bonspiel Windy **City Curling** March 9th



NVWG 2025 Minnesota



keithc@vaughanpva.org



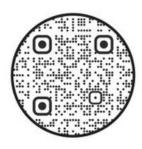




Ekso Indego Personal

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



December - February Member Birthdays:

The Vaughan Chapter would like this opportunity to celebrate all of our chapter members with September, October, and November birthdays, happy birthday to all!

December

- **John Casev**
- **Marion Steele**
- **Charles Noves**
- **Robert Ives John**
- **Robinson Martin**
- **Dislers Larry**
- **Garrett Gloria**
- **Ross James Fouts**
- Joe Rodriguez
- **Bobbie Surall**
- **Joseph Hereau**
- **Steven Marcy**
- Fred Wagner John
- Kinnare Marshall
- Willaby

- Marlon Green
 - **David Jones Kevin**
 - Floyd Andres
 - **Gallegos Theresa**
 - **Harrison Brian**
 - **Connery Henry**
 - **Torgeson James**
 - **Pych Andre**
 - Williams Keith
 - **Lambert Angelo**
 - **Perez Winston**
 - Woodard (III)
 - Melissa Klocker **Daniel McConchie**
 - **Mario Medina**
 - **Haley Gilbraith**

- **Steve Brend** William Maule
 - Rolf Kufeld
 - Gerald Brown
 - **Dennis Schultz**
 - **Bartholomew Demma**
 - Robert Milkowski
 - Charles Kowalewicz
 - Walter Durk
 - Peter Joannides Mitchell
 - Betlei
 - **Robert Grandt**
 - **Fred Dust**
 - **Anthony Montgomery**
 - **Danny Harvey**
- Thomas Pavela
 - John Kellv Willie Garrett

January

- **Thomas Williams**
 - **Brent Parker**
 - **David Smith**
 - **Thomas Fitzgerald**
 - **Jerry Simms**
 - **Thomas Wilson**
 - Hal Krause

 - **David Norris**
- **Adrian Iniguez Eric Sauerman**
- **Clifford Johnson**
- **Anthony Becker**
- **David Wilsman**
- **Carlos Flores**
- Juan Alvarado
- **Steven Jennings**
 - Nitzia Martin
 - **Charles Hartzburg**

February

- **Wiley Mims**
- **Allen Barnes**
- **Roger Campfield**
- **Christian Carlson**
- **Leonard Chenier**
- **Margarita Colon**
- **Keith Cooper**
- **Kenneth Durham Chriselle English**
- **Robert Ford**
- **Jason Green**
- **Tom Hayes**
- **David Herst**
- **George Humphrey**
- **Brandyn Hunter**

- **Gregory Kelsey**
- Stephen Lenker
- James McFarlin
- **Lance Mercado**
- **Reddick Mickle**
- Raymond Mulvihill
- **Charles Novosel**
- Kaney O'Neill
- Robert Palucki
- **Timothy Rhodes**
- **Anthony Scott**
- **Brandon Sidler**
- **Eastman Tiu**
- **Debbie Ussery Eldridge White**

- **Ronald Williams**
- **Winston Woodard**



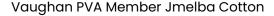


Attention to all members with Birthdays: Be sure to call into the chapter office on your birthday to receive your birthday check

Vaughan In Action

PVA Womens Retreat

This is my second time attending the retreat and the experience was amazing both times. Just to be among beautiful women veterans like me that have a story to tell about there journey and path that has brought life and a light to our life as a women in the military. When I joined PVA I didn't know what to expect but my busy life has brought some friendships that are ever lasting. In the military we travel around the world and meet people along the way that become friends for life and the retreat I have met friends for life that I can call and say I'm in your town . Thank you Vaughan Chapter for all you have done for me and the experience of your journeys .



It is always incredible to see the different programs that PVA has in place that brings the Veteran community together. The womens retreat is an especially important event that brings together Womens Veterans together a group that is often under represented. The women had a fantastic time enjoying themselves and bonding over the course of the PVA retreat.

We are glad that PVA continues to support Women Veterans by giving them their own platfrom and venue for community bonding. We certainly hope that it is an event they continue to run in the future so we can show our support for all women Veterans and their supporters just like they did when they chose to work for the sake of the American people in their different branches and roles of service.



Jmelba Dallas Cotton, 2024 Womens Empowerment Retreat



Thank You Our Women Veterans!

Associate Access

Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter Associate Member Jose Cheriyampurathu won the NTRP Racine Fast and Furious Adult Men's Singles Tennis Tournament (18 years and older) 3.0 held at 5100 Briarwood Ln, Racine, Wisconsin on 11/29/24 and Advanced to the USTA National Championship at Orlando, Florida in April 4th to 6th 2025.

We are wishing him the best of luck in the upcoming championship tournament in April and have no doubt he can win it all!

Keep up to date with Associate member stories' like Jose's by tuning into the new Associate Access column new to the Wheel, where we celebrate the acheivements of our chapter's associate members!

We hope you had a great time reading the Wheel February 2025 edition, be sure to tune back in for the issue coming in May!

Ryan Dalton, Communications Director rdalton@VaughanPVA.org







Sports & Recreation

PVA National Tournament

LAND OF LINCOLN

Stop 5

Sanctioned by B.A.S.S

May 2-4, 2025 Rend Lake, Illinois

Event Cut Off Date:

April 18, 2025

Tournament Contact:

Jen Purser | 804-398-0446 Neal Lazarus | 407-383-4223

Host Hotel:

Seasons Lodge 12575 Golf Course Road, Whittingham, IL 62897

Marina Information:

Wayne Fitzgerald State Park 11094 Ranger Rd, Whittington, IL 62897

#PVASPORTSANDRECREATION



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!



Vaughan Chapter

Thank you all for finacially supporting our chapter, it is because of donors like you we can continue puttting on events and adaptive sports programs for our membership and SCI/D community to enjoy!



Lynn Stasenka

Jane Ramirez

Exelon

Robert E. Coulter, Jr., Post 1941

A Bartkus

JZ Giving Fund

Marie-Sikora Giving Fund

John White

Christopher Reeve Foundation

Richard & Karin Baines Charitable Fund

HCA Healthcare

James Dalton

Karen Lebron

The Joseph R & Sara J. Gutgsell Fund

Laura Neiberg

Charles Orman

Quad Cities Community Foundation - "Mildred Crespin-Croegaert Fund"

Irina Galperin

Krystiana Pierson Hernandez

Mary Fredericks

Marc Kritzer

Stephanie Eide

Cindy Darling

Audrey Baran









Vaughan Chapter



www.VaughanPVA.org



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