

# THE WHEEL

Hello Vaughan Chapter Members,

From the Executive Director's desk,

Now that we're starting to enjoy the beginning of summer with these high-temperature days, let's begin this new quarter by participating in our upcoming membership events. Coming up two weeks later, you can also attend our annual Busse Woods, a one-day fishing derby on June 14th, 2025. It's a free, family-friendly fishing event. We provide lunch and mileage reimbursement.. Be sure to RSVP by June 9th. If you would like to reserve a slot on the chapter bus please call into the chapter, seating is limited. The bus will load from Hines RCF Building 221 at 8:30AM, so make sure you get there on time.



Please mark your calendars for our annual picnic, scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 2025, at Noon. Your participation in events, outings, and attendance at the bimonthly membership meetings is invaluable to us.

The Chapter acknowledges this by reimbursing .50¢ per mile round trip for attending events and the bimonthly membership meetings.

I encourage you to review the calendar of events and outings available for you to enjoy throughout the summer.

Many of you are already aware of the cash birthday gift to Vaughan voting members; call us on your birthday to remind us that it's your special day. Also, remember to take advantage of the Life Enjoyment Fund, available to voting members for up to \$200 per fiscal year (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025). Additionally, the \$3,000 annual sponsorship grant for voting members enables you to participate in any Vaughan sporting or recreational event. Associate members receive a \$1,000 sponsorship grant per fiscal year, provided their membership dues are paid in full. To qualify for the grant, you must have a **minimum of 50 hours** of volunteerism recorded in our database **before requesting sponsorship**. *Continue on pg. 3*

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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**

## 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, 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

### Fundraising Director

Keith Cooper

### Sports Director

Keith Cooper

### Communications Director

Ryan Dalton

### Office Assistant

\*\*\*\*\*

## Service Officers

Winston Woodard, III  
Hines PVA SCI  
708-202-5623

Whitney Brown  
Chicago PVA VARO  
312-980-4278

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Cover Story

*Continued from page 1*

Vaughan Chapter also offers a **\$500 death benefit** for all Vaughan Chapter voting members; the funds are dispersed to the person responsible for your funeral services.

We look forward to seeing you at all our events this summer, and we encourage you to take advantage of all our free outings to get outside and enjoy the experience with us.

**IMPORTANT:** Please call our office at 708-947-9790 to update your contact information. Whether you have moved or acquired a new phone number or email address, we must 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,

"As summer approaches, new things are coming our way. We have been bowling practically every day as a part of our chapter bowling program and just wrapped up our attendance and support of the 63rd American Wheelchair Bowling Nationals. Bowling is a fantastic event every year, and this year, we had the pleasure of working alongside the American Wheelchair Bowling Association to host a successful national tournament. We had some incredible bowlers come out to Lucky Strike in Romeoville to showcase their bowling skills. We also had a representative from Storm Bowling, Gary Hulsenberg, the Vice President of Marketing, come out to live stream the AWBA National finals. During this live stream, our communications director had the opportunity to shout out the PVA Vaughan Chapter and all that we do for our Veterans in the state of Illinois. The 64th AWBA Nationals will be held at Lucky Strike in Romeoville in May 2026, so make sure you save the date.

We are fishing coming up on June 14th with Chicago Adaptive No Limits Fishing. If you are a member of the Vaughan Chapter, be sure to come out and enjoy a lovely, relaxing afternoon of fishing with our other chapter members. We would love to see you all out there.

Our bus is ready to take you anywhere you want to go, so be sure to let us know what types of activities you would like to see us do as a chapter. Make sure to take advantage of your \$200 life enjoyment fund to treat your family to a nice dinner and get reimbursed, as long as you know that no alcohol is involved. I tell you these things because I want you to know that we have a lot of things for you in store this year, and we don't want you to be in the house with nothing to do; we are actively looking for volunteers to help us with all these different sports and recreation events that are coming up. If you need assistance with anything, please don't hesitate to call our office, and we will be happy to help".

Sincerely,  
Anthony Powell -President

Vaughan Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America



Anthony Powell Paralyzed  
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](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

## Keith Cooper Director of Sports and Recreation

Hello Chapter members,

In collaboration with Windy City Curling, Vaughan Chapter PVA hosted the Pick-Up Sticks tournament on March 9th.

Wheelchair users and able-bodied participants share the ice in a competitive, fun, winner-takes-all tournament. Great times were had, camaraderie was built, and Veterans and their family and friends increased their quality of life while curling.

This year's winners were the team of Veterans Roosevelt Anderson "RJ" and Jimmy "Two Stones" Jackson, along with Club owner Matt Galas and club curler Courtney Elder.

Frank Gobel, AWBA Secretary, provided the following bowling update.

The American Wheelchair Bowling Association (AWBA), powered by the Vaughan chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (Vaughan PVA), recently held its 63rd National Championship Tournament in Romeoville, Illinois.

Kicking off the gathering on Wednesday was the three-bowler Gene Ramus Team event. The team of John St. Andria (TX), Richard Goebel (VA), and Kevin Schaefer (CA) was on top by a 43-pin margin as Team champions.

Immediately following was the Nelson Welker Doubles; after three games, the top four teams qualified for a bracket play-off. The doubles champions, Curtis Wolff (CO) and Richard Goebel (VA), won both games.

Opening ceremonies were held Thursday morning with all participants, and Romeoville Mayor John Noak gave a warm welcome. Two four-game sets were bowled in three divisions, and a third set was bowled Friday morning.



Keith Cooper at the 63rd AWBA Nationals



Winners of the 2025 VPVA Pick Up Sticks Bonspiel



Photo Captured at the 63rd AWBA Nationals

# Sports and Recreation



## 63rd AWBA Nationals Continued...

The Scratch division was cut to the top eight bowlers following the third set (12 total games bowled). The group then bowled a round robin of head-to-head match play with their scores adding to their pinfall total, with an additional 30 pins added for every game won, no matter how high or low the score. A position round concluded the match play sequence, pitting the leader against the bowler, then in second place, the third and fourth place competitors faced off in turn, and so on. Following that, the field was cut to the top five, with the sixth-place qualifier, chairman Eddy Hutchens (CO), serving as alternate and taking the low cash prize.

In the stepladder playoff, fourth and fifth place Shawn Beam (TX) and David Nelson, Jr. (NE) bowled to a tie at 140; an exciting two-frame roll-off ended in a second tie at 37; a second even more exciting roll-off broke that tie with scores of 47 to 37 in favor of Beam; Nelson finished 5th. Beam then out-bowled Albert "Brooks" Martin (WV) 162-149 (Martin finished 4th); then faced ramp bowler Kyle Kennon (NJ), winning 167-146 (Kennon, 3rd). Leader George Holscher was victorious in the championship match with 165-130: Beam 2nd, Holscher 1st.

While the Scratch match play was in progress, the A and B Handicap divisions bowled three additional games to reach 15-game qualifying scores. At this point, positions six through eight were determined, and the top five bowled their stepladders.

In A Division, John Kellner (PA), Mike Marcheskie (FL), and Johnnie Baylark, Jr. (IL) were 8th, 7th, and 6th, respectively; Fifth qualifier Rich Goebel (VA) lost to Chris Murphy (SC), who then fell to Rick Mahaney (LA). Mahaney then out-bowled Chris Deckard (IN), and John St. Andria (TX) to claim his first National Championship title.



# Sports and Recreation

In B Division, Steve Harris (MO), Keith Cooper (IL), and Bill Burns (NV) were 8th, 7th, and 6th respectively; Fifth qualifier Sabrina Harge (IL) faced, in turn, Jimmy May (VA), Pam Fontaine (TX), Cheryl Gerdes (IL) who finished 5th, 4th, and 3rd; Harge then faced leader Gina Jenkins, settling for a 2nd place finish, with Jenkins becoming the third woman in AWBA history to claim a National Championship title.

Additional competitions included the Al Uttecht Tournament of Champions, won by George Holscher (VA) Scratch, and John St. Andria (TX) Handicap; the Richard Carlson All-Events won by George Holscher (VA) Scratch, and John St. Andria (TX) Handicap. The Buddy Cole Most Improved prize went to John St. Andria for out-bowling his scratch scores recorded in Fort Worth, Texas, in late 2023, and the Alma Ladwig Memorial Women's Champion was Gina Jenkins (TX).

Thank you to Frank for this write-up. I give a massive shout-out to Ryan Dalton for the great pictures.

On Friday night, the Vaughan Chapter of PVA and AWBA wheelchair bowlers completed a nine-pin no tap-up and down tournament. Like the Pick-Up Sticks curling event, the tournament pairs a wheelchair bowler with three able-bodied bowlers for great fun, excitement, and prizes. The night was completed with the silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and, of course, the winner for the second year in a row, Team Kennon: James Richmond, Ed Ciolkosz, Cynthia Ciolkosz-Davis, and Kyle Kennon, AWBA member and ramp bowler.

The tournament banquet was held Saturday night, and the 63rd National Championship Tournament was concluded. Enjoy the images, and we will see everyone next year.

Save the date!!

AWBA 64th National Championship Tournament, Romeoville, IL, May 13th-17th, 2026.



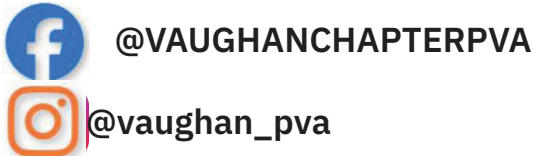
**Keith Cooper**, Sports Director  
[KeithC@VaughanPVA.org](mailto:KeithC@VaughanPVA.org)

## November Communications Recap

Hello, members. Ryan Dalton, the Communications Director for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter, here. This year has kicked off to such a great start and I am grateful that I get to share it with you all through our photo albums. We kicked off this year with the VPVA Pick-Up Sticks Bonspiel with Windy City Curling in March. It was great to see all of our curler getting back out there after the reopening of Windy City Curling. It always a great time seeing our curlers give it their all. If you are curious about the result please refer to the sports directors report above.

We also finally had the opportunity to bust out the chapters' I pads through our Chess tournament Pilot program we ran at the Hines Auditorium on April 19th. Veterans had the opportunity to learn how to play chess on our I pads through the Chess.com app. Thank you to Len Weber for being the tournament Director and teaching our members about chess notation and opening moves.

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:



**Check Out Our Recent Event Albums**



## 63rd American Wheelchair Bowling Nationals

This year I was sent out by our chapter to cover the 63rd American Wheelchair Bowling Nationals from the dates May 7-10th. It was so fantastic to get to see all the folks from the AWBA again after capturing last years annual bowling tournament and helping plan the communications aspect of the 63rd AWBA National tournament for the past 6 months. It was such a refreshing feeling seeing all of the committees hard work pay off at the bowling tournament and I hope you can see that captured in the photos taken through the rigorous competition the bowlers put up or the smiles on the bowlers faces as they got to come together for things like the Up & Down fundraiser night and Banquet.

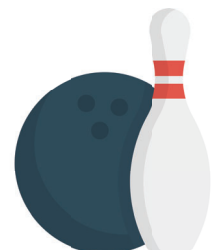
It is always such a joy to capture these event for me as I really feel like I am in my element capturing moments of others giving it their all and in the end making sure they can remember the moment. If you would like to see our chapters coverage of the 63rd AWBA Nationals you can do so by visiting our Flickr page or by clicking [here](#).

### 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/>



Photos taken at the 63rd AWBA Nationals





# More Photos from 63rd American Wheelchair Bowling Nationals

63rd AWBA Nationals  
A Division Winners



63rd AWBA Nationals  
B Division Winners



63rd AWBA Nationals  
Up Down Fundraiser  
Up Bowlers



63rd AWBA Nationals  
Scratch Winners



Eddy Hutchens  
Chairman of the  
AWBA and Gary  
Hulsenberg VP of  
Marketing at  
Storm Bowling



Winners of the  
63rd AWBA  
Nationals Up &  
Down Fundraiser  
Night





# BUSSE WOODS FISHING DERBY



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**June 14th, 2025**

**Call 708-947-9790 to RSVP**

#### EVENT INFORMATION:

- JUNE 14TH FROM 10-3 PM
- LUNCH IS FREE AND WILL BE PROVIDED
- RSVP BY JUNE 9TH
- BUSSE WOODS ENTRANCE OFF BIESTERFIELD & BEISNER
- BUS SPACE IS LIMITED CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, BUS LOADS AT 8:30 AM AT RCF BUILDING 221



More information can be seen at:

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

@VAUGHANCHAPTERPVA

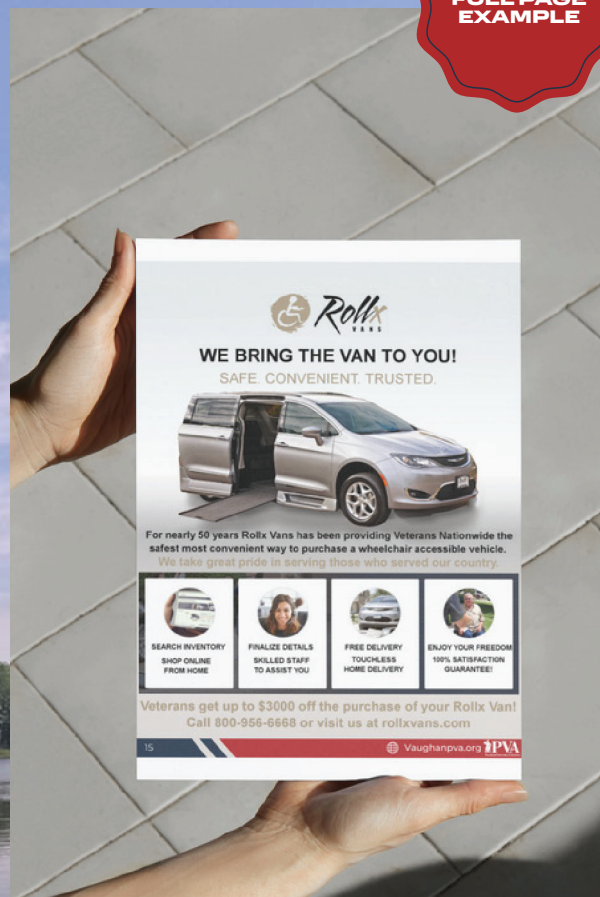




## NEWSLETTER AD PACKAGES



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FULL PAGE	7.25" X 9.75"
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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



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JULY 17-22, 2025

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# Ekso Indego® Gets Veterans Walking Again



Eligible veterans can receive an Ekso Indego exoskeleton at **NO COST!**

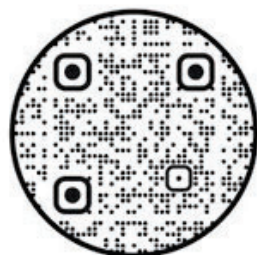
- Fastest walking speeds
- Lightest weight exoskeleton
- Walk at home and in your community



## 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

\* For full indications for use, visit: [www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/](http://www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/)

\*\* A screening process through the VA is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device



Proudly designed & assembled in the USA  
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PNP-044-028-001 Rev. C



# Vaughan In Action

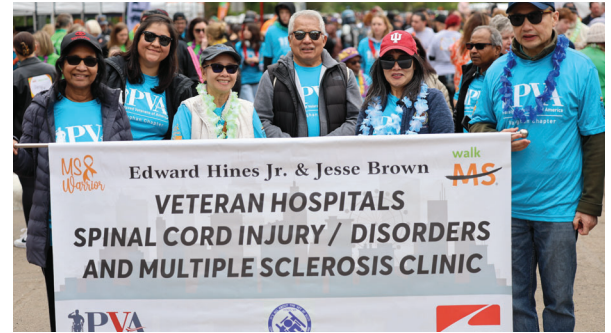
## PVA Vaughn Chapter Shows Strong Support at 2025 Chicagoland MS Walks

As a proud member of the Vaughan Chapter, I am honored to share my experience from this year's MS Walks in Chicago and Naperville. On Sunday, April 27th, approximately 25 members of our chapter, along with several friends and family members, gathered at the scenic lakefront in Chicago to participate in the 2025 MS Walk. Participants had the option of completing either the 1-mile or 3-mile route, and the energy and enthusiasm throughout the day were truly uplifting. Seeing the sea of PVA t-shirts, wheelchairs rolling alongside walking supporters, and the unity of purpose on display was truly powerful.



**Vaughan PVA at the 2025 Walk MS Chicago Walk**

One week later, on May 4th, in Naperville, we came together again for a morning of community engagement. Approximately 20 PVA Vaughn Chapter members and their supporters came together, joined by over 30 dedicated medical professionals from SCI at Hines VA Medical Center. Their presence and participation served as a strong reminder of the meaningful collaboration between our veterans and the healthcare providers who support us. Their commitment to our cause, both on and off the clock, was a testament to the power of community and shared purpose.



These walks were more than just fundraisers—they serve as symbols of hope and progress. As someone living with MS, seeing such a robust turnout filled me with gratitude and renewed determination. Every step taken, every dollar raised, and every handshake or hug shared at these events represents a stride toward a better future for people affected by multiple sclerosis. The impact of our collective efforts supports the National MS Society's critical research and advocacy work, and we are proud to play a part in it.

On behalf of the PVA Vaughn Chapter, I extend heartfelt thanks to all the members, families, friends, volunteers, and medical professionals who joined us in these important events. Your presence made a difference, not only to the MS community but to each of us who fight this disease every day. Together, we walk stronger.

**Susan Dochterman**, PVA  
Vaughan Chapter MS Liaison



March - May 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!

March

- Dominic Adkins •
- Michael Carter •
- Paula Chapman •
- Stephen Chavis •
- Yu Chen •
- Matthew Daly •
- Jmelba Davis Cotten •
- Russel Dill •
- Henry Dold •
- Ryan Eichner •
- Michael Filippi •
- Robert Foster •
- Maximilian Gross •
- John Guest •
- Anthony Harper •
- Michelle Harris •
- William Jeffries •
- Bryan Kulka •
- Theodore Lindo •
- Scott Massingale •
- Carey Messerle •
- Bryce Morville •
- Michelle North •
- John Okerblom •
- Hector Rodriquez •
- Vicky Saffrahn •
- David Schilling •
- Robert Skow •
- Christopher Timmer •
- Bruce Walker •
- Warren Wunderlich •

April

- Louis Allabastro •
- Joe Boyd •
- Lee Calabria •
- Antonio Del Rio •
- Booker Felton •
- Anthony Fuentes •
- Ronald Hamlet •
- Shonda Harrison •
- Sue Hensley •
- Edward Higbee •
- Donald Johnson •
- Dale Jones •
- John Klich •
- Jeremy Legrand •
- Jose Lopez •
- John Marson •
- Louis Mauricio •
- Jodi Meehan •
- Gerald Mennie •
- Harold Mills •
- Jimmy Mitchell •
- Robert Nuzum •
- Sam Sasone •
- Charles Stimac •
- Caleb Sullivan •
- Fidel Terrones •
- Lawrence Wagner •
- Bonita Young •

May

- David Aguirre •
- RJ Anderson •
- Larry Baker •
- Michael Cahill •
- Roy Carey •
- Eric Chriswell •
- Herbert Colen •
- Terence Davis •
- Henry Griffith •
- Timothy Hartney •
- Terrance Jones •
- Michael Kammerude •
- Donald Klinger •
- Darla LeNoir-Kujawinski •
- Timothy Lindgren •
- James McCray •
- Neal Millette •
- Michael Mink •
- John Mosman •
- William Newton •
- Otis Nunn •
- Robert Olson •
- Robert Petitt •
- Anthony Powell •
- Edward Regester •
- Steven Rehberg •
- John Robinson •
- Kerry Ryan •
- Adam Sherman •
- Michael Sherwood •
- Robert Statam •
- Thomas Taylor •
- Roger Thomas •
- Clifton Williams •
- Jerry Woodwald •
- Bryon Zuehlk •



Happy Birthday!



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

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



Vaughan Chapter



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



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