

# THE WHEEL

Hello Vaughan Chapter Members,

From the Executive Director's desk,

As the summer months end and fall and winter approach, let us enjoy the remaining hot days and start planning for the upcoming year's events.

I want to extend my gratitude to each member who actively participated in the events and outings and utilized the Vaughan's enjoyment fund, as well as the 3k and 1k sponsorship funds available to voting and associate members. As we plan the budget for next year, we hope to continue offering these benefits and have them available to you.

Your participation is crucial to continue running the eight mandated programs. One way to do so is by attending the bi-monthly membership meetings, where you can connect with fellow members, voice your opinions, and influence our planning process. Those who participate in these meetings are aware of the mileage reimbursement and the \$65 stipend for a caregiver for voting members, as well as a free lunch and a door prize raffle.

As we look forward to the rest of 2025, we have our last outdoor event lined up with the annual picnic on Saturday, September 13, 2025. You should have received the invitation via email.

If you plan to attend, you must RSVP before the deadline. Lastly, the last event for 2025 will be our annual Christmas Luncheon. The date and invitation will follow. We hope to see you at these events!



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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, 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*

A recap of some of the benefits you get as a member of the Vaughan Chapter:

A cash birthday gift is available to Vaughan voting members; please call us on your birthday. The life enjoyment fund is available to voting members for up to \$200 per fiscal year (10/1 – 9/30); 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 per fiscal year. Non-voting associate members receive \$1,000 a year, which includes fees paid to your approved attendant. Lastly, a death benefit of \$500 is available to all Vaughan Chapter voting members. This money will be dispersed to the person designated to pay for your funeral services.

**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 our website, [www.vaughanpva.org](http://www.vaughanpva.org), for any forms you may need. Also, please check your inbox emails to stay updated about recreational sports activities, events, and outings. Our office is always eager to assist you or answer any questions you may have. 708-947-9790 or send me a direct email to [mhernandez@vaughanpva.org](mailto:mhernandez@vaughanpva.org).

Thank You for letting me serve you,

Executive Director – Maria Hernandez



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello fellow veterans,

As summer winds down and we approach the autumn months, I wanted to reach out to all my fellow Veterans. We've had a fantastic summer filled with engaging games and activities, and I hope you all participated and enjoyed yourselves!

We're excited to announce that we have several more community-related activities planned before the year's end. We're always looking for new and creative ideas for the coming year, so please don't hesitate to contact the office with any suggestions you might have.

I'm hoping for a winter filled with fun and outdoor activities, and I'm sure many of you feel the same! We're already working on a diverse range of events for the fall and winter months. To learn more about these upcoming opportunities and how you can participate, please get in touch with the office and check the website at your earliest convenience. We'll be happy to share details and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you so much to the lovely ladies over at "Sisters Concrete Creations" (Pictured below) who donated three concrete constructed Veteran statues to our members at the 2025 Schaumburg Abilities Expo. This kindness very took aback our members, and I, for one, had a fantastic time painting mine. It just goes to show how much kindness is still in the world.

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,

The National Wheelchair Veteran Games were held in the Minneapolis Convention Center and the surrounding Twin Cities community. In this Sports Director's opinion, it was a great success. Ryan Dalton, who is the games coach and our wonderful communication director, takes the lead for the event, along with capturing all the great content. I am super excited to be back at the Games next year in Detroit, MI.

If you are interested in attending and haven't been in a while, or if Detroit will be your first game, please reach out to me ASAP [keithc@vaughanpva.org](mailto:keithc@vaughanpva.org)

The Vaughan Chapter is starting an online chess club on the platform Chess.com. After you create your chess.com account, please join the "PVA Vaughan Chapter Chess" club. Or scan this QR code. From there, you can follow the chapters' weekly live get-togethers and get more info on upcoming live tournaments. We hope that other chapters will create clubs, allowing us to have friendly competitions.

Fall curling leagues are starting! In collaboration with Windy City Curling, they have graciously offered to waive all registration fees for Vaughan members. Please get in touch with [keithc@vaughanpva.org](mailto:keithc@vaughanpva.org) for further details. We hope to start regular curling practices in October and travel to Portage, WI, as a team on the chapter bus in December.

Stay tuned into chapter news for potential new and exciting opportunities in October in the form of an Air Guns Program.

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

Scan the following QR  
Code to Join the  
Vaughan PVA Chess  
.com Club

Check Out the  
2025 NVWG  
Coaches  
Write Up on  
Page 8



2024 Portage Bonspiel



2024 Pick Up Sticks Bonspiel, Windy City Curling



[Vaughanpva.org](https://vaughanpva.org)



# Sports and Recreation



## VPVA and Synergy Boccia Program Updates

The Synergy Boccia team has grown to 15 athletes, with 5 of them being members of the PVA Vaughan Chapter. We are training hard in preparation for the last regional tournament next month. Our major event will take place on September 27th and 28th, as we host the Chicagoland Regional Boccia Tournament, which is a USA Boccia-sanctioned competition.

Synergy, LWSRA, and the Vaughan Chapter are collaborating to organize this event. On September 6th, we will have an international referee visit to conduct a referee clinic for our volunteers. We expect athletes from several programs, including the St. Louis PVA, DASA (St. Louis Adaptive Athletics Program), Youth Challenge (Cleveland Program), as well as local teams such as M-NASR, Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, and UCP Seguin. This could be an exciting collaborative competition, featuring a healthy mix of veterans and individuals with disabilities.

If you're interested in getting involved, we invite you to join us! We practice almost every Saturday from 12 PM to 2 PM at the Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center in Glen Ellyn. Please get in touch with Phil before you come.

Phil Eide  
Western Dupage- Athletics & Synergy Manager





# Photos From the 44th National Veterans Wheelchair Games



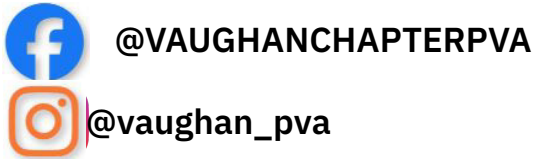


## August Communications Recap

Hello, members. Ryan Dalton, the Communications Director for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter, here. This Summer season was a whirlwind of activities for myself and our PVA Vaughan Chapter Members. I had the opportunity to kick off the month of June by helping man our PVA Vaughan Chapter booth along side our members at the 2025 Schaumburg Abilities Expo. It was a fantastic three days; it is always great to get out and see the adaptive community and the new creative devices that are being developed it assist in everyday living.

In the month of July we made headway in starting up our PVA Vaughan Chapter Chess program so that we can play matches with each other as a club (To register please scan the QR code on pg5). Our hope is that other PVA Chapters develop similar chess programs so that rivaling clubs can compete against one another. We are still in the early stages of the program, but are very excited to see where it takes us!

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**

## 44th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games

This year I once again had the honor of being team Vaughan Vets Coach for the 44th National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Our team had a fantastic time in Minneapolis, Minnesota competing at our highest levels. It was very inspiring to see our team give it their all in the various events they competed in. The events our athletes competed in ranged from table tennis and e-sports to Wheelchair Rugby and Swimming. I could not be more proud of the performance our team put on. Below you can read a bit about the medals our team received. Team Vaughan Vets concluded the 44th National Veteran Wheelchair Games with **16 Medals; 13 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze.**



## 44th NVWG Athlete Showcase

Our athletes put up incredible performances at the games and below is a count of each of their individual medals. Keith Cooper: Gold Table Tennis Class V Open, Gold Bowling Class V Manual, and Bronze Wheelchair Soft Ball. Babette Peyton Gold in 025 Seniors Breaststroke, Backstroke, Butterfly, Freestyle, and Table Tennis Senior Division. Kaleb Wilson: Gold in Freestyle 050, Javelin Open and Shot Put Open. Gerald Brown: Gold in 9-Ball IA, IB, IC Division, Boccia IB Division, and Bronze in Air Rifle Seniors Division. Bennie McQueen: Silver in Archery Recurve Bow Seniors Division. Finally, RJ Anderson: Gold Air Rifle Open.



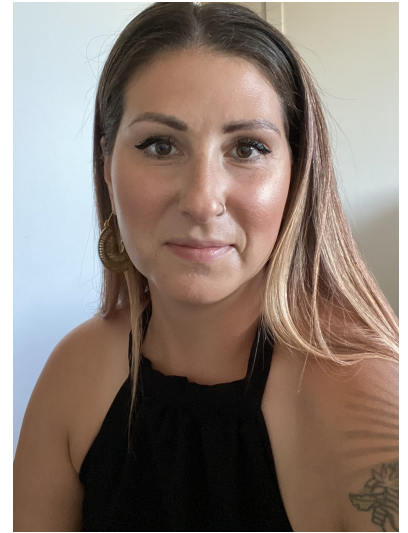
Photos taken at the 44th NVWG





## How Adaptive and Assistive Technology is Being Integrated to Meet ADA Requirements

Americans with Disabilities Act (**ADA**) is a broad and extensive civil rights law which prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications. The fundamental elements of the **ADA** are; reasonable accommodations, accessibility requirements, definition of disability. Signed into law on July 26, 1990, the **ADA** has made significant impact on the lives of those with disabilities through inclusion and equality. Enforcement of the **ADA** is the responsibility of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (**EEOC**) and the Department of Justice (**DOJ**).



Under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (**EEOC**), Employment (**Title I**) addresses employment practices such as hiring, interviewing and providing reasonable accommodations.

Public Services (**Title II**) enforces accessibility to state and local government programs and services to ensure people with disabilities can participate to the fullest in all areas of civic life.

Public Accommodations (**Title III**) handles privately owned business that serve the public.

Telephone and Website Requirements (**Title IV**) mission is to ensure access to telecommunications services, websites and mobile applications for individuals with hearing and speech impairment.

Living in a tech-based world, it's of utmost importance that ADA laws are created and enforced in areas of telecommunications and digital accessibility on the Internet. Web content accessibility guidelines (**WCAG**) under the Department of Justice published rules which set technical requirements for state and local governments to operate under, ensuring their websites and mobile apps are accessible to people with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Web and Mobile Application Accessibility Rules goes into effect April 2026 or April 2027 depending on the size of the business. Taking necessary steps to become or remain in compliance is highly important as it directly impacts members of the community who have visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive and neurological disabilities.

Assistive technology can be applied to mobile phones, computers, and self-service terminals in ways that creates equal access and inclusivity. Through varied methods, adaptive technology is created for users, whether it be adaptive equipment or software that is written with adaptive functionality and features.

Accessibility for visually impairment people can be provided assistive technologies such as; screen readers (reads content aloud), enlarged text (magnifying lens feature), and speech recognition (voice command or speech input). Additional considerations for accessibility could be extending the length of time before a website or application times out, website and application design as well.

*Continue reading on Vaughan PVA NSO Blog*





# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

RSVP BY  
**6th**  
September

*Picnic*



September  
**13th**

- Free Food
- Games
- Family Fun
- Limit of 4 per family

**Miller Meadow-North**

**Grove #2, Entrance on Roosevelt Rd**

**12 Noon - 3PM**

**To RSVP Call the Chapter office at 708-947-9790  
or email the chapter at: [vpva@vaughanpva.org](mailto:vpva@vaughanpva.org)**

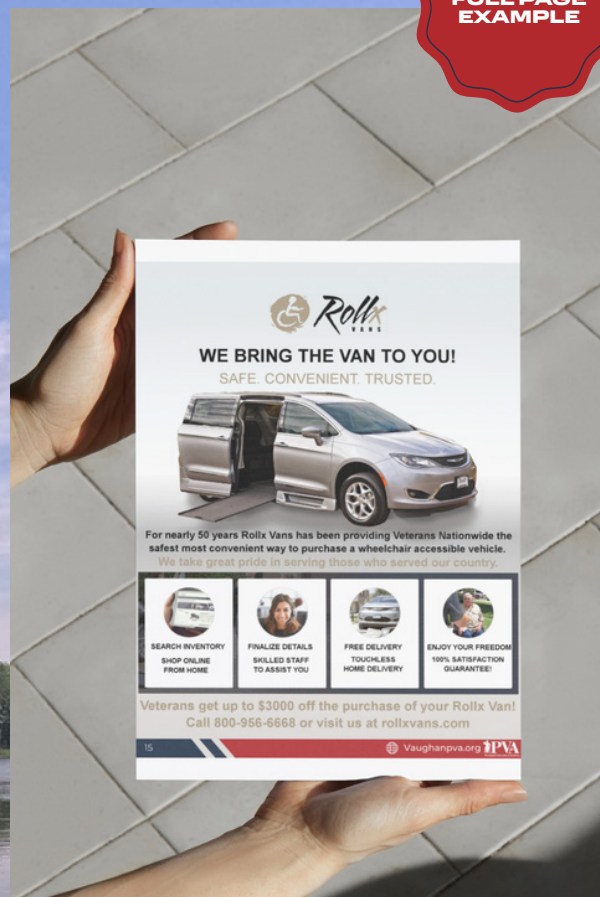




## NEWSLETTER AD PACKAGES



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



# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CNLF AND VPVA FISHING EVENT



## Event Information

- Transportation from RCF
- Free lunch is Provided by CNLF
- Pontoon Boat and Accessible Pier Fishing
- Adaptive Fishing Equipment provided

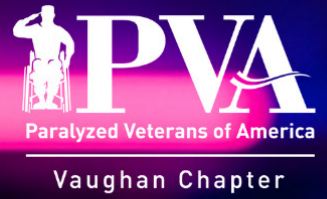
## Location Information

- Park #571 Eleanor Boathouse
- 2828 S. Eleanor St., Chicago, IL 60608
- 10-4PM, September 20<sup>th</sup>
- Free Entry

**Register Now**







# 64th AWBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Save The Date**

**May 13-16th, 2026**  
**Lucky Strike Romeoville, Illinois**





# Vaughan In Action

## Susan Dochterman Vaughan Chapter MS Liaison

**Fellow MS Warriors** – This has been a long hot summer! We still have plenty of nice weather ahead of us and time to beat the cool weather and do some things inside or outside or anything that interests YOU. Personally, I craft anything and everything, and I am an avid gardener in my yard. Since it has been so hot, I am in and out of the house quite often to cool off. I also have purchased some pretty useful cooling products that I am loving, a misting fan for my growing produce and me, some large and small cooling towels, a cooling hat that is life changing, some small hand held misting fans that broke before I was able to test them out, and the Doctor ordered the Onyx Vest for me, which is the approved cooling product for us to receive through the VA, however something entirely different came to my house that is not portable, so perhaps the vest is on back order.

Please check your email to join a Zoom call via your phone or your computer. If you do not want to be seen on video that is fine, I get it, believe me. While I am talking to the Warriors, I am also talking with anyone who wants to connect. Members, associate members yada yada...The idea is truly to get us out and about, off the couch etc! We have a beautiful Bus, some of us drive, we can figure it out, we were soldiers! And we have the upcoming picnic just around the corner, woo hoo! Praying for awesome weather!



*Susan Dochterman, PVA  
Vaughan Chapter MS  
Liaison*



As and aside; I wanted to share a few pictures from my mini vaca with my daughter this summer to Grand Haven, MI. Hannah is a teacher, so we squeaked it in last minute and had a lovely time. Much to our surprise, the Coast Guard was celebrating their 101st Anniversary, and my daughter the history major never misses a ship tour...this was our second trip to this part of MI in the last few years, and I enjoy seeing the shops, the art scene, and the coast guard celebration brought a whole new flair to the trip. Blueberries were in season, along with lavender, so of course we had to visit both farms and buy a little of each. Blessed to be able to share with my PVA family. Would Love to hear about your current and past jaunts!

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



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 •

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- 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 •

July

- 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 •
- Pat Capuzzi •

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  
2225 Enterprise Drive, Suite  
2502 Westchester, IL 60154



Vaughan Chapter



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



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