

THE WHEEL

Hello Vaughan Chapter Members,

From the Executive Director's desk,

As we finalize 2025 and start planning for 2026, I want to extend my gratitude to each member who actively participated in the sporting events, outings, and membership meetings. As I have said, your participation is crucial to continuing to run the mandated programs. If you are an associate member be sure to get in your 50 volunteer hours. We promise to keep you busy and active in 2026. Also, I want to update you on the following benefits the Board of Directors approved to be increased and effective immediately for voting members:

The cash birthday gift is \$50. Please call us on your birthday. The life enjoyment fund is \$300 per fiscal year (10/1 – 9/30). The death benefit of \$1,000 is available to all Vaughan Chapter voting members. This money will be dispersed to the person designated to pay for your funeral services. The 3k annual sponsorship grant for voting members stays the same, no changes. This grant 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.

As many of you already know, for Veterans Day, a cash gift was offered to voting members instead of having dinner. Many of you should have received your gift if you replied to the email or called our office. If you have not yet claimed your gift, you still have until December 1 to do so.

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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, 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

Whitney Brown

Hines PVA SCI

Chicago PVA VARO

708-202-5623

312-980-4278

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cover Story

Continued from page 1

Our Annual Christmas Luncheon this year will NOT be at Hines VA Hospital, Auditorium; instead, we have it scheduled at LA BELLA EVENTS 5412 S. Lagrange Rd, Countryside, IL 60525 708-354-8884 on Saturday, **December 13, 2025**. Invite sent via email and mailed to your address if no email address is on file. You should have received the invitation by now. If you plan to attend, you must **RSVP before the deadline**.

A special thank you to Mr. Lawrence "Louie" Mullins, Vaughan Chapter Liaison, for his visit to the Chapter on October 20th and 21st, for taking the time to meet with us, and for his recommendations on how to improve our service to you.

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, 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.

Please join us at the six membership meetings held throughout the year to stay informed and give us your input and suggestions to serve you better.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2026 and to continuing to serve you. Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!!!!!!

Thank You for letting me serve you,

Executive Director – Maria Hernandez



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello fellow veterans,

As we wind down 2025 I wanted to thank all our members who participated in the Sports and Events our Chapter hosted this year. Your Participation is the reason we can continue to serve our community for year so come and for that you have our heartfelt gratitude!

The Chapter still has a few more programs to round out the end of the year; including our Bi-weekly curling practices as well as our Christmas luncheon on December 13th so please RSVP when you are able we would love to see you there to close out the year in fellowship.

If you have any questions about the chapters programing please don't hesitate to reach our to our Sports Director Keith Cooper or our Communications Director Ryan Dalton as they can help get you answers to any programming questions you may have. We thank you for your continued participation and would love to see that participation remain strong through the new year.

We are grateful for everything that the 2025 has brought us in friendship and camaraderie. Here's to an event greater 2026. We have some incredible programming and new events in store for our chapter members and stakeholders so stay tuned to the chapter for updates and announcements. We are all looking forward to this new year, let's make it a great one!

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



Anthony Powell Paralyzed
Veterans of America Vaughan
Chapter President
(Left)

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

Hello Chapter members,

As we approach the holiday season, please check the website for updated scheduling. We are back on the ice and preparing for a cash spiel in Portage, WI, on December 4th. If you haven't tried curling, come on out to Windy City and throw (push with a delivery stick) a few stones. Vaughan Chapter PVA is excited to share that it will be rebooting its air gun program.



Keith Cooper Curling at portage

We have electronic targets on the way, and we are narrowing down the best place to have monthly practices. We hope to start air guns, bowling, and bocchia practices after the new year. We are working with Synergy Sports to bring Bocchia to Hines Residential Care Facility monthly. Trap and Bowling competitions are in May, and the Vaughan Chapter will be taking the bus to Detroit for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

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.

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

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



Keith Cooper, Sports Director
KeithC@VaughanPVA.org



2024 Portage Bonspiel



2024 Pick Up Sticks Bonspiel, Windy City Curling



2025 US Open Wheelchair Bonspiel \$\$\$ CASH SPIEL \$\$\$

WHERE: Portage Curling Club 107 W Albert St.

WHEN: December 5 – 7, 2025

COST: \$500 USD per team with a 12-team limit

DEADLINE: November 17, 2025

***CASH PAYOUT:** 50% of the entry fees will be paid out - Pools: 1st, 2nd and 3rd or Bracket: 1st/2nd Event Winners and 1st Event Runners Up

***FORMAT:** Round robin or pools

***GAMES:** Will start on Friday. Starting time will depend on the number of teams.

***FOOD & BEER:** Lunches and dinner will be available at the club and the banquet location at no cost to the teams and coach. A donation basket will be out for anybody else.

***NOTE:** Cash payout, format, and number of games are dependent on the number of teams.

***BANQUET:** Friday night fish fry at the Knight of Columbus Hall.

Contact Information: Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Team Information: Skip: _____

Third: _____

Second: _____

Lead: _____

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



**EXPLORE
PORTAGE
WISCONSIN**

Contact: Vietta Kampen, vkkampen@gmail.com, 608-697-6510
Shawn Sadowski, ssadowski74@gmail.com, 608-494-0027

Send checks to:

Portage Curling Club
PO Box 55 Portage, WI 53901
OR

Venmo: @portagecurlingclub



HOST HOTEL

Best Western – 2.2 miles

2701 County CX
Portage, WI 53901
608-742-2200

\$99/night + tax/ 2 people/room

Group ID: US Wheelchair Bonspiel

There are 9 handicap accessible rooms plus 6 others in the block.

Cutoff date: Friday. Nov. 14.

OTHER HOTELS

Super 8 – 1.8 miles
3000 New Pinery Rd.
Portage, WI 53901
608-742-8330

Comfort Suites – 5.5 miles
5780 Kinney Rd.
Portage, WI 53901
608-745-4717

Ridge Motor Inn – 1.5 miles
2900 New Pinery Rd.
Portage, WI 53901
608-742-5306

Photos From the VPVA Curling Program

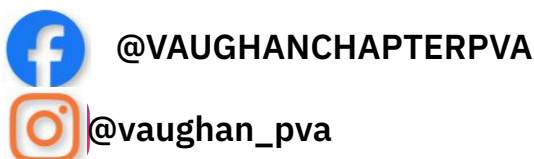


November Communications Recap

Hello, members. Ryan Dalton, the Communications Director for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter, here. This fall and winter have been packed with great chapter events and opportunities for our members. We are continuing our curling program with BI-weekly Tuesday practices, if you are at all interested in joining us to curl this winter Season Please get in touch with the Chapter Sports Director Keith Cooper.

We are very excited to be hosing our Annual Christmas Luncheon this year. The Luncheon will be a great opportunity to spend your time among our members, family and friends this holiday season. I always personally enjoy taking pictures at this event and seeing everyone's joyous smiles. I hope to see you there on December 13th be sure to bring your best smiles.

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



The New Year

This year is soon coming to a close and with it the chapter will be winding down a few weeks for the Holiday season. Not to worry though as we have you covered for the 2026 season with many returning programs to the chapter and new ones being created to expand our programming. Look forward to bowling in the spring season with the 64th AWBA National Championships just around the corner. We are continuing to build upon our Chess programming, we have the infrastructure set up we are just looking for continued participation to make it a regular event. We also have a brand new air guns program being developed which is right around the corner so stay tuned to chapter news for the latest information. This year has been another incredible experience for me. Thank you so much for allowing me to work alongside you all in order to capture some incredible moments in time. I truly appreciate each and everyone of you and I hope to see you all at the luncheon this Holiday Season and in the new year.

Ryan Dalton,
Communications Director
Rdalton@vaughanpva.org



Photos taken at the
2024 Christmas
Luncheon



Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (**PCAFC**) for legacy participants was set to expire on September 30, 2025; however, the VA has extended the program through September 30, 2028. The Veterans Administration (VA) announced an extension to ensure eligibility for PCAFC would continue while the VA considers possible changes to the program.



For many years Veterans and their families that participate in the program rely on the stipend and other **PCAFC** benefits. This extension allows participants to continue receiving these benefits while the VA considers implementing changes which may include eligibility criteria for legacy participants.

The **PCAFC** program started with a 2010 federal law that established benefits for family caregivers of eligible veterans with serious injuries incurred in the line of active duty on or after September 11, 2001. In 2018 the program was expanded to include Veterans who have a serious injury in the line of duty before September 11, 2001, and established new benefits.

In 2021 VA identified a legacy cohort for participants and family caregivers that were approved under previous eligibility criteria. The legacy cohort consists of those who applied for **PCAFC** before October 1, 2020. A one-year transition period was established through September 30, 2021, for the legacy cohort to ensure participants would continue to receive **PCAFC** benefits. Additional extensions have led to the current extension that keep legacy participants eligible through September 30, 2028.

PCAFC provides Veterans family caregivers with the necessary training to ensure proper care for seriously injured Veterans and mental health counseling. Additionally, primary caregivers can receive a monthly stipend, Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (**CHMPVA**) enrolment, free legal and financial advice for the needs of the injured Veteran and access to military commissaries, exchanges and recreational facilities.

For more information about **PCAFC** you can visit the VA website at VA Family Caregiver Assistance Program | Veterans Affairs or contact your National Service Officer.



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Vaughan Chapter

JOIN US FOR OUR

Christmas LUNCHEON

DECEMBER

13th

AT 12-4 PM

LA BELLA EVENTS

5412 S LEGRANGE RD, COUNTRYSIDE, IL 60525

RVSP TO BY DECEMBER 8TH BY CALLING 708-947-9790
OR EMAILING VPVA@VAUGHANPVA.ORG

Ⓛ GUEST PER MEMBER

From The Treasurers Desk:

From the desk of your chapter treasure an illustration of the chapter's budget.

The Vaughan Chapter's PVA FY 26 budget is as follows.

Revenue

PVA Chapter grant \$158,000 23.0%

Donation goods and services \$100,000 14.5%

Advocacy legislation Grant \$2,000 0.3%

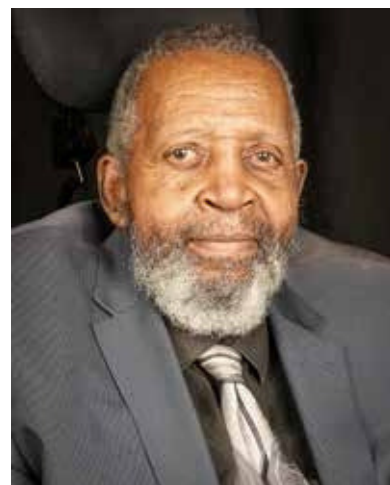
Newsletter advertisement \$1,000 0.1%

Membership dues \$200 0.0%

Sports and recreation grants /Program income \$77,250 11.2%

Portfolio revenue, transferred in \$349,328 50.8%

Total revenue \$687,778 100.0%



Gerald L. Brown, Treasurer

The Board of Directors and staff along with the finance committee deserves a thank you for putting together the chapters FY 26 budget. A special shout out to the finance committee, it should be noted that 51% of budgeted revenue comes from our portfolio. The finance committee has done an outstanding job managing the chapter's return on investment.

What we need from members is your participation in the programs and events that this budget supports. We need to hear more from our members in Springfield, Bloomington,

and Danville area. Your participation will help us to continue to develop and use the chapter's resources.

Let me conclude by saying happy birthdays to all you Marines, and happy Veterans Day to all who have served. I am looking forward to FY 26 and hope you are too.

Respectfully,

Gerald L Brown, Treasurer
VPVA

Expenditures

Total expenditures membership \$88,400 12.9%

Total expenditures government relations \$22,000 3.2%

Total expenditure services \$2,700 0.4%

Total expenditures liaison \$19,500 2.8%

Total expenditures communications \$111,593 16.2%

Total expenditure on sports and recreation \$177,026 25.7%

Total expenditures fundraising \$17,644 2.6%

Total expenditure Administrative and general \$238,915 34.7%

Total expenditures research and education \$10,000 1.5%

Total program expenditures \$687,778 100.0%

CURLING

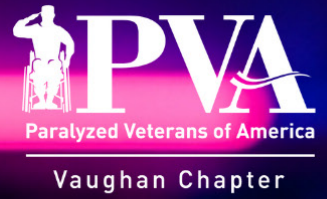
VAUGHAN PVA

CURLING PRACTICE



BI-WEEKLY ON TUESDAYS
PRACTICES 1-3 PM CST

www.vaughanpva.org
Email: Keithc@Vaughanpva.org for more details and to confirm practice times



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 – Happy Fall! Over the past few months, I have attended some amazing events filled with great people, fresh ideas, and lots of inspiration.

At the end of September, I joined Anthony Powell at the annual Les Turner Walk for ALS that took place just outside of Soldier field. We had a great location until the sun shifted, and the volunteers promptly relocated us to a nice shady spot, where we continued to make connections and hand out literature to potential new members that were not aware of our organization. The energy was AWESOME!

At the end of October, ALS United of Chicago invited PVA once again to their Educational Symposium at the beautiful Cantigny Park located in Wheaton. Robert Statham and I had a table with a perfect location for traffic, since the dining hall and restrooms were nearby! Like Anthony, Robert knew lots of people in attendance. The keynote speakers took my breath away.

This week on Tuesday, Veteran's Day, I had the honor of going to Riverside Brookfield High school for a patriotic assembly after a delicious breakfast. The name tags we picked up as we entered the school had a room number and corresponding teacher's name. Following the assembly, the teachers collected the Veterans accordingly, and we went to the classrooms to speak with the students. Be still my heart, what a rewarding experience! I had a freshman class that had many questions, and even gave me a round of applause at the end! Thank you, Dennis Scanlan, for your persistence recommending this Veteran's Day option.

These events left me feeling proud to be a veteran, a member of PVA, and thankful for the benefits I receive. I encourage you to participate anytime you can.



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



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

September - November 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!

September

- Stanley Bell
 - Bryan Bridgewater
 - Linda Courtice
 - Israel Sandoval
 - Jay Cox
 - Ronald Cramer
 - Paul Dawkins
 - James Donovan
 - Anthony Favarulo
 - Adam Ferrett
 - James Gardener
 - William Gill
 - Scott Grosvenor
 - Michael Hill
 - Michael Horist
 - Wade Hurt
 - Thomas Jones
- Charles Jordan
 - Kenneth Kern
 - Jon Lennox
 - Ronald Miner
 - Oscar Montenegro
 - Edward Phillips
 - Carty Ross
 - Judith Ruiz
 - Marc Schwartz
 - Corey Shelton
 - Gerald Williams
 - Darryl Woods

October

- Steve Aoyagi
 - Hector Bruno
 - Kevin Buchanan
 - Steven Butts
 - Mark Celeskey
 - Susan Dochterman
 - Larry DuBois
 - Lawrence Egner
 - Lynell Ghant
 - Charles Harnish
 - Michael Higgins
 - Earl Hines
 - Stephen Hutton
 - Daniel James
 - Robert Johnson
- Russel Newton
 - John Pavlak
 - Ramon Perez
 - Terry Rolfs
 - Dennis Scanlan
 - Joseph Scittine
 - David Sinwelski
 - Chris Steinberg
 - Mitchell Towns
 - Kaleb Wilson
 - Craig Woodward
 - Darrell Young
 - John Jones
 - Gregory Miller
 - Keith Mulkey

November

- Brain Anderson
 - Robert Arciola
 - Kavin Ayala
 - Derrick Ball
 - Norman Bowens
 - Michael Boyes
 - George Bradford
 - James Donovan
 - Victor Chandler
 - Rudolph Crusoe
 - Phillip Eichelberger
 - Juan Gonzales
 - Eric Guidish
 - Gary James
 - Wilson James
 - John Yeo
- Wilson James
 - Rhonda Jenot
 - Kevin Link
 - Bernard McFarland
 - Pedro Medina
 - James Moore
 - Dannie Mowen
 - Soloman Parker
 - Calvin Pendleton
 - Gary Pettus
 - Richard Reese
 - Danny Romeo
 - Michael Rozell
 - Alex Scott
 - Julia Shannon
- Mark Silver
 - Scott Stepek
 - Steven Strang
 - James Trevino



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



*Follow
-US-*



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@vaughan_pva



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