

THE WHEEL

Hello Vaughan Chapter Members,

From the Executive Director's desk,

As we have just started summer, let us be initiative-taking and stay as busy as possible. Let us stay active. As the Sports Director, Keith Cooper has programmed a variety of sporting events and outings for all our Vaughan Chapter members to join us and participate. We hope to see you at each event, if possible. Summer is short, let us all enjoy it before the winter gets here. As you are aware, if you need a caregiver to assist you in getting to us, they will receive a \$65 reimbursement plus mileage. Coming up, we have the Memorial Day parade, one day fishing derby at Busse Woods, Picnic, Boat fishing events with No Limits Adaptive Fishing, new event coming up Braveheart horsing riding, Chess, Bingo, Poker, Salmon Run in Wisconsin and potential outings White Sox and Chicago Wolves games and lastly the Annual Christmas luncheon with plenty of prizes, entertainment and of course a delicious lunch.

Quarterly Membership meetings are important for you to attend, as we plan and gather your input and opinions on the activities you would like to do. We provide a free lunch, door prizes, and reimbursement for caregivers and mileage.

All we want for you is to be active and outdoors, enjoying the beautiful days of the summer.

If you have any questions, please contact us and let us know how we can help you.

Please participate and be as active as you can. We also provide transportation from the Hines VA Hospital RCF building #221; all you must do is get there to ride the Chapter bus. Hope to see every one of you at our upcoming events



President Anthony Powell and Bod Member Dan James 2026 Chicago Memorial Day Parade

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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, July 22nd
- Wednesday, September 23rd
- Wednesday, November 25th



Benny McQueen captured at the 2026 Chicago Memorial Day Parade

Chapter Officers

- Anthony Powell, President
- Cheryl Gerdes, Vice President
- Dennis Scanlan, Secretary
- Gerald Brown, Treasurer

Chapter Board of Directors

- Daniel James,
- Leo Moore

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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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

Our 2026 Busse Woods Fishing Derby will be on Saturday, June 20, and the annual Picnic will be on Saturday, September 12. Mark your calendar and hope to see you at all of Vaughan's planned events.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: As a REMINDER, here are some of the benefits that are available to you. 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 \$1,000 death benefit 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. 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.

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 and important information.

Thank You for letting me serve you,

Executive Director – Maria Hernandez



Anthony Powell and Dan James at the 2026 Chicago Memorial Day Parade



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello fellow veterans,

As we start the spring passes us by and we get into the summer months I want to thank our members for their continued participation and camaraderie. Our events and programming have had strong participation from our chapter so far this year and are very much looking to continue this momentum going into our summer programming.

The Chapter is continuing the year strong with programs; including our monthly bowling practices, and Bocchia practices and a new air rifle program just around the corner; so be sure to check the chapter calendar to see how you can get involved; we would love to see you out there participating.

This year we have one of the largest groups in recent chapter history attending the NVWG 2026 in Detroit with a total of 11 members for team Vaughan Vets. We are truly excited to participate in the upcoming games as it is always a highlight for our chapter every year.

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 already started this year off strong and are aiming to keep that momentum going throughout the summer months.

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



Anthony Powell Paralyzed
Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter
President
At 2026 Chicago Memorial Day Parade

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 sports programs continue to bring Veterans together through competition, camaraderie, and opportunities to try something new. Our recent bowling tournament featured 14 Veteran competitors and strong competition across team, doubles, singles, and scratch divisions.

In team competition, the championship team included Rich Goebel, Steve Harris, and Brent Patterson.

In doubles competition, Rich Goebel and Brent Patterson captured the championship, while I teamed up with Brooks Martin to finish fourth.

The singles competition also featured several standout performances. In B Division, Brent Patterson earned the championship, and I finished as runner-up. In A Division, Rich Goebel claimed the championship, while Vaughan Chapter member and Tournament Director Johnnie Baylark placed fifth. In the Scratch Division, Jason Nelson earned the championship, and George Holscher finished runner-up.

The PVA Trapshooting Series Vaughan Chapter stop was held May 22–24, 2026, in Elburn, Illinois. PVA's trapshooting series features singles, handicap/yardage, and doubles competition, with shooters taking aim at clay targets in a challenging outdoor environment. We look forward to sharing additional highlights and results from the event as they become available.

Looking ahead, the VPVA Pick Up Sticks Bonspiel will be held June 12–14, 2026, at Windy City Curling, located at 146 Roosevelt Road in Villa Park, Illinois. The event is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. For registration details or additional information, contact me at KeithC@VaughanPVA.org.



Keith Cooper 64th AWBA Nationals Doubles 4th Place



64th AWBA Nationals, Jason Nelson Scratch Champion



64th AWBA Nationals Brent Patterson B Division Singles Champion

Continued on pg. 7



VAUGHAN PVA WINDY CITY OPEN



Event Information

- Friday, Saturday, Sunday Tournament (2-2-1)
- Fee \$300 a team (6-8 teams)
- Payment holds your teams slot
- Tournament format and Payouts Subject to change based on the availability of more teams



TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE:

JUNE 12-14 2026

146 ROOSEVELT RD, VILLA PARK, IL
60181

- FREE BREAKFAST, COFFEE, SNACKS AND LUNCH PLUS GOOD TIMES PROVIDED!

PRIZE POOL

1ST-\$1,000
2ND-\$300

VETERANS
CURL FREE

FOR INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

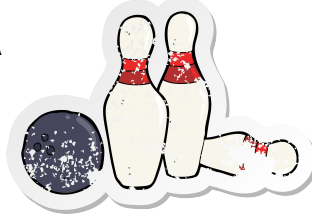
EMAIL: KEITHC@VAUGHANPVA.ORG

+708-947-9790

Sports And Recreation Continued

Pickle ball Callout: Interested in pickleball? I would like to hear from members who want to play, learn, or help build future pickleball opportunities within the Vaughan Chapter. Whether you are experienced or just curious about the sport, please contact me at KeithC@VaughanPVA.org to gauge interest and plan future activities.

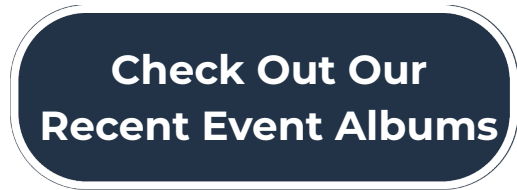
Keith Cooper, Sports Director, Vaughan PVA
KeithC@VaughanPVA.org



May Communications Recap

Hello, members. Ryan Dalton, the Communications Director for the Paralyzed Veterans of America Vaughan Chapter, here. This spring was action packed with many fun sports and recreation events that all of our member could enjoy. To name a few; the Vaughan Chapter once again helped host the 64th American Wheelchair Bowling Nationals in Romeoville, Illinois at Lucky Strike bowling alley. The following week we showed our national pride and participated in the Chicago Memorial Day Parade. It was great seeing our members from the Hines VA RCF out and about having a great time. Finally the following day we wrapped up the PVA Trap shoot Tour Series Elburn tour stop. As always it was a pleasure seeing our trappers from Wisconsin come down to Illinois to participate. It was also a real pleasure getting to meet the new PVA Trap Program Manager Eric Newby who hails from Illinois.

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:



National Veterans Wheelchair Games 2026

While the registration deadline has passed for the Wheelchair games; if you are apart of team Vaughan Vets and registered for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games this year, please keep an eye on your email for important updates.

We are super excited to bring a team out to the NVWG games again this year. It has been one of our most well attended sports and rec events as a chapter since I have been brought on to the Vaughan Chapter team. As always, it will be my absolute pleasure to be Coach for the Vaughan Vets again this year.

If you are Vaughan Chapter Member and are attending the wheelchair games this year be sure to take advantage of the Vaughan Chapter **Sports and Recreation Membership Reimbursement Fund**. This allows members to reimburse up to \$3,000 annually for any chapter related Sports and Recreation opportunities. With that being said I am very excited to be your coach again this year. I will see you at the Games!

Ryan Dalton,
Communications Director
Rdalton@vaughanpva.org



Photos taken at 2026 Memorial Day Parade and 64th AWBA Nationals



Join Us for the Following Events!



Windy City Open
Curling Tournament
June 12-14th



Busse Woods
Fishing Derby
June 20th



Golden Age Games June
27- July 2nd Tampa,
Florida



45th National Veterans
Wheelchair Games, Detroit
July 9-14th 2026



Monthly VPVA Bowling
Practices Resume
7/24, 8/14, 9/18, 10/9



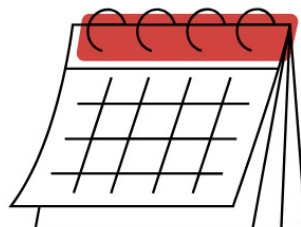
Air Rifles Program
Coming Soon



CNLF Fishing Trip
Dates Coming Soon

Questions about programming?

keithc@Vaughanpva.org



SCAN ME



VAUGHANCHAPTERPVA



PVA_Vaughan



vaughan_pva



SAWA'S OLD WARSAW

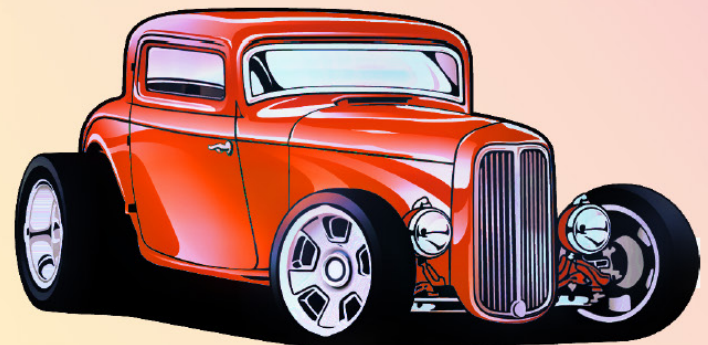
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Dine In • Carry Out • Catering • Delivery

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May 17th to Sept 6th
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



 **Open to the Public**

 **Free Admission**

 **Cash Bar**

 **Polish Taco w/ Chips ~ \$5**

 **Show open for Cars, Bikes & Trucks**

For All Attendees

Please use the North Parking Lot accessible from 17th Ave for general parking. Bring your own chairs for outdoor seating.

*Cars for display can arrive at 11 a.m. to claim a spot.
All slots are offered on a first-come, first pick basis.
Please check in with bartender upon entry.*

Event Coordinator: Mike D. ☎ 773.910.3120



Sawa's Old Warsaw ❖ 9200 W. Cermak Road ❖ Broadview, IL ❖ 708.343.9040
Reservations Welcome ❖ Ample Parking Available ❖ Large Families Welcome

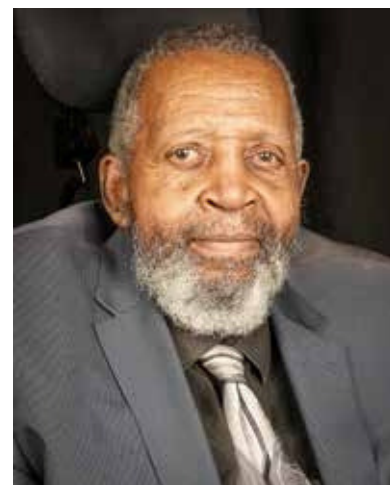
From The Treasurers Desk:

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 thank you to all of our members for continuing to take advantage of our chapters programs. We can't wait to see you much more over these summer months!

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%

45th



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

DETROIT 2026
JULY 9-14

CO-PRESENTED BY:

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
WHEELCHAIRGAMES.ORG

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Vaughanpva.org



ONWARD MEDICAL



AJ Walker, ARC^{EX} User,
US Navy Veteran

Every Gain Counts

ARC^{EX}® is the first FDA-cleared, non-invasive spinal cord stimulation therapy designed to improve hand strength and sensation in people with chronic, incomplete cervical spinal cord injury (SCI).

Scan the QR code to start your journey
with ARC^{EX} or email support@onwd.com



The ARC^{EX} System is intended to deliver programmed transcutaneous electrical spinal cord stimulation in conjunction with functional task practice in the clinic and with take-home exercises in the home to improve hand sensation and strength in individuals between 18 and 75 years old that present with a chronic, non-progressive neurological deficit resulting from an incomplete spinal cord injury (C2-C8 inclusive).

The ARC^{EX} System is intended to be operated in medical centers by Rehabilitation Professionals and at home by Patients and Persons Providing Assistance to the Patient as needed.

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The Wheel May Word Search

VPVA MAY Newsletter Word Search



E	D	A	R	A	P	N	U	P	D	O	W	N	S
T	R	A	P	S	H	O	O	T	A	D	E	D	G
S	F	L	O	A	T	I	L	I	N	E	A	N	L
O	M	T	U	Q	C	T	Y	M	O	U	I	T	C
O	U	A	U	N	H	A	L	U	Q	L	A	A	O
C	D	A	E	T	I	R	D	S	W	N	R	A	I
P	L	G	C	T	C	B	C	O	A	R	L	A	S
S	F	A	S	L	A	E	B	O	A	M	M	O	I
H	U	A	Y	P	G	L	S	H	O	T	G	U	N
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L	O	W	A	L	K	C	G	D	G	A	L	F	L
L	B	F	U	N	D	R	A	I	S	E	R	U	E
B	A	L	L	D	L	S	E	L	B	U	O	D	S
A	W	M	E	M	O	R	I	A	L	D	A	Y	A

TEAM
 CLAY
 FLAG
 BOWLING
 BALL
 CELEBRATION
 SHOTGUN
 FUNDRAISER
 FLOAT
 CHICAGO
 MEMORIAL DAY
 TRAP SHOOT
 WALK
 SQUADS
 UP DOWN
 SHELL
 DOUBLES
 CURLING
 PARADE
 AMMO
 SINGLES

Vaughan PVA The Wheel May Word Search: Fill out the May Word Search with words based on the Sports and Recreation Events the Vaughan Chapter hosted from the previous quarter.

If you like this Quarters word search give us some feedback and let us know if you would like it to make another appearance in the next issue of The Wheel quarterly newsletter.



Vaughan PVA
2225 Enterprise Drive, Suite
2502 Westchester, IL 60154



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