

PARALOG
Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America





# Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Salem, OR 97305
503-362-7998
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OPVA is a 501(c)(3) Tax ID# 93-0713859 **OFFICERS** 

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800-949-1004 ext. 31665

**After Hours Number** 

888-233-8305

**Portland VA Contact Phone** 

Number

503-273-5308

**Patient Advocates** 

Katina Collins, Trish Hafer

**Kelly Williams** 

#### **OPVA Mission Statement**

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA), incorporated in 1976, is a chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. OPVA serves the needs of its Members – U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) – and helps them enjoy the highest possible quality of life. OPVA, Members, Associate Members, Family Members, Volunteers, and allied organizations work to provide leadership and advocacy in

- Improving health care and SCI/D research and education
- Protecting veterans rights and benefits
- Improving awareness of disability rights
- Offering sports and health-promotion activities
- Increasing accessibility and removing architectural barriers in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Idaho.

A 501(c)(3) charity, OPVA relies on grants and donations from members of the public.

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Cover photo: Mt. Bachelor Winter Sunset by Nate Wyeth

## Thank you to all our Sponsors!

The views and opinions expressed in the Paralog are not necessarily a direct representation of the views or ideas of Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America who hereby disclaims any responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors and printed in the Paralog.

# President News

# Happy New Year and... Be a Volunteer!



Larry Gardner – President

Happy New Year, I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. Now we are looking forward to a very busy year with lots of events already on the calendar.

I want to *THANK* all of our volunteers who assisted us at our events, we couldn't do it without you!

As we move forward into the New Year, we are always looking for more volunteers to make it a better year. What is very important is it doesn't matter if you are in a wheel chair or have other disabilities, can volunteer an hour or several hours. If you are interested in getting out and being involved with us all you need to do is join in. Your presents as a member or volunteer shows what Oregon Paralyzed Veterans is all about. Please call if you have any question about volunteering or any of our events, we are here for you.



All the dates and locations for the member pizza meetings are listed here in the Paralog. The meetings are in different areas of the state so we can meet and get to know as many of you as possible, enjoy some lunch and answer any questions we can and let you know what we are doing as a chapter.

So please look at the dates and location that will work for you and your family to be sure to join us.

## Ambassadors for the Portland, Coast and Idaho areas

We do recognize that having members so scattered about and trying to have events and work with everyone is very challenging. To help with this issue we started an Abassador Program, our first ambassador Ken Townsend, is in Central Oregon and he's been doing a great job. We are now in the process of setting up another ambassador in Southern Oregon - Dennis Hooper is considering this position.

Other areas we are considering are Portland, the Coast and Idaho areas, if you are interested in becoming an ambassador in one of these areas or other areas, please give us a call with any questions you have. There's no pressure and we will set you up with everything you need to get started and assist you until you are comfortable. We look forward to hearing from you!

It is just our way of reaching out to help OPVA, so stay up with our events by reading the Paralog, website, Facebook and flyers we send out and feel free to call us anytime.



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# ABILITY CENTER OF EUGENE

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# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

# OPVA would really appreciate your time and skills to assist us in carrying out our mission!

OPVA serves the needs of its Members – U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) – and helps them enjoy the highest possible quality of life.

OPVA, Members, Associate Members, Family Members, Volunteers, and allied organizations work to provide leadership and advocacy in

- Improving health care and SCI/D research and education
- · Protecting veterans rights and benefits
- Improving awareness of disability rights
- Offering sports and health-promotion activities
- · Increasing accessibility and removing architectural barriers in Oregon, Southwest Washington, and Idaho.

## The following groups/committees need volunteers:

Membership **Fund Raising** 

Sports & Recreation Special Events

Volunteers Outreach

Please contact us:

3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, 97305 • 503-362-7998 • www.oregonpva.org OPVA is a 501(c)(3) Tax ID# 93-0713859

## THANK YOU!

# MEMBERS PIZZA MEETINGS



WALERY'S PREMIUM PIZZA • SALEM 1555 EDGEWATER ST NW, SALEM JANUARY 26TH, 11:30 AM

ROUND TABLE CLUBHOUSE • LAKE OSWEGO 16444 BOONES FERRY RD LAKE OSWEGO FEBRUARY 16TH, 11:30 AM



OLD SOUL PIZZA • ROSEBURG 525 SE MAIN ST ROSEBURG FEBRUARY 23TH, 11:30 AM





ABBY'S LEGENDARY PIZZA • BEND 1115 NE 3RD ST BEND MARCH 2ND, 11:30 AM



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

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MEMORIES



PLEASE RSVP 503-362-7998

# Executive Director Report



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Happy New Year to everyone, 2018 was a great year here at OPVA and 2019 looks to be an even better year with events and actives.

I want to begin with thanking all of our sponsors this past year and looking forward to your support again this year, with your support we have been able to continue to fund the programs for the membership here at OPVA, as well as advocate for the disabled community in whole.



At our November Board of Directors meeting Jerry Walker (owner of Volcanoes Baseball Team) and Jerry Howard (Volcanoes Stadium General Manager) presented Larry Gardner (OPVA President) with a check for \$1,000.00 to support OPVA. The Volcanoes Organization was awarded the Patriotic award for the 2018 season.

We have a very active Board of Directors this year, I know they will be reaching out to let you know of the different actives that are on the calendar for 2019, with hopes that you will come on out and join in the fun.

Starting this month we will begin our member pizza meetings. This is a great opportunity for you to meet with members of the board, catch up on upcoming events and ask any questions you may have.

The first meeting will be in Salem, at Walery's Pizza in West Salem. Be sure to check the flyer out on page 7 of this Paralog.

In the past we have conducted several surveys to find out what type of events and or actives you like to be involved in. The #1 event was car shows, so we are scheduled to be in shows the first three months this year (we will be in more as the year rolls out). In January on the 18th and 19th we will be in the Albany Winter Rod and Speed Show then on February 16th & 17th we will be at the Salem Roadster Show, last but not least March 16th through 18th we will be back up to the Portland Roadster Show. If you would like to volunteer to work our booth at any of these show let the office know or if you are out enjoying the shows stop by one of the booths and say Hi.



November 19th we drew the winner of the Gun Raffle TICKET # 60557. Here is Robert receiving his winnings.

The last quarter of 2018 has been a pretty hectic one at the office. It started with a leak in the chapter office roof, which then lead to the ceiling getting wet, with the office being built in 1972 the ceiling was built with an asbestos popcorn ceiling, and then the furnace went out. So it began!!!

- Leaky Roof Repaired
- Soaked Ceiling Removed (Asbestos)
- New Sheetrock installed and textured
- Staff then Repainted Office
- Had New Energy Efficient Lights installed
- New Furnace and A/C Installed.

Needless to say the office was closed the entire month of November.

I want to thank the Business community for the generosity in helping out. Jeremy Turner with J Turner Solutions and Jeremy Stephens with Willamette Valley Bank came in and cleared the Office out so that the construction could happen. The Contractors who actually did the work I cannot tell how much we appreciate your donations to the organization.



- McGilchrist & Sons Roofing Replaced Roof
- Eagle Creek Contracting Removed Asbestos Ceiling
- Caslin Inc. Installed & Textured New Sheetrock Ceiling
- Caslin Inc. Installed New Insulation
- Distinct Electric Installed New Energy Efficient Lighting
- Melton's Heating Donated and Installed New Furnace and A/C

Again THANK YOU to all, it is with you generosity that we are able to continue to serve our great Paralyzed Veterans here at home.



# **Sports Report**



Dan Service—Sports Director

# **National Veterans Golden** Age Games

Next years Games will be in Anchorage, Alaska June 5-10, 2019, and registration is between February 25 - to March 8, 2019. The National Veterans Golden Age Games is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States, and the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. The VA Challenges and encourages senior Veterans to be proactive in embracing a healthier lifestyle, thus achieving the NVGAG "Fitness for Life" motto.



The Games are open to Veterans, ages 55 or older, who receive health care from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Sports will be Air Pistol; Air Rifle; Badminton; Basketball; Boccia; Bowling; Cycling; Golf; Disc Golf; Horseshoes; Nine Ball; Pickleball; Power Walk: Shuffleboard: Swimming: Table Tennis and Track & Field. If you are interested call the office to get things started.

## **National Veterans** Wheelchair Games

Louisville, Kentucky here we come! That's right, we are going to be sending an Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America team to next years event July 11 - 16, 2019. The team will be made up of our members participating in the Games (even if you are participating in sport by yourself). There will be 19 different events you will be able to participate in, you make your choice. Me, I'm going to do Bowling and Boccia, and who knows I might also do Horseshoes and Shuffleboard, I have never done Horseshoes or Shuffleboard from my chair, but I will be there anyway, so why not enjoy myself.

## **NVWG:** No experience needed

They will still have the other sports like Wheelchair Basketball, Softball, Swimming, Cycling, Power Lifting, Trap Shooting, and more you may choose from. The more members we have attending the bigger the OPVA team will be.

The nice thing about all these activities is that you do not need to be experienced. If you did any of them in the past, come and enjoy doing them again, there will be people to assist you. If you are interested call the office to get things started.

If you have an interest you would like to pursue give the office a call to get things started!





# MULLIE REPERS

The 39th Annual NVWG games registration will open on January 7th.

# The Oregon Chapter is looking for members to sign-up to participate in the games as a TEAM representing the Oregon Chapter.

If you have never participated in the games 100% of your Travel and Lodging is paid for. Returning athletes up to 50% of Travel and Lodging is paid for.

This year's games are being held in Louisville, Kentucky.

There will be more information coming, we would love to have you sign-up for some of the events and show your chapter PRIDE.

## Novice or experencied wanted!

Any questions call the office 503-362-7998.

# Wyoming Elk Hunt





Bill Gray-National Director

I headed out from Roseburg on October 28th driving to Heart Mountain Nature Conservancy Headquarters northeast of Cody Wyoming.

I arrived late in the afternoon on the 30th of October. I was the first one to get there, shortly after I arrive another hunter and his companion arrived and they were from Wisconsin, then another hunter arrives and they were from Wisconsin also. Finally, one last hunter who was from Idaho arrived and we all got settled in.

We were fed three square meals and snacks that were prepared on site and some were delivered from local neighbors who just wanted to help out.

We sighted our rifles in the next day and then went into town for general get together with all the hunters guides and helpers that make this organization work like a well-oiled machine and they fed us too! No wonder I've gained 14 pounds this year, I just couldn't resist the food.

Day three arrived and out I went heading to a blind that was in one of the fields a few miles away, it was before light when we settled in.

We saw many Does moving and heading down to the local watering hole but no Bucks were seen accept across the pasture and up on the far hillside on another landowners ground.

So, we regrouped and figured we should move to another blind located closer to the paths the deer were using. We headed back out around 2:00 pm to get set up before the deer started moving back and forth to the creek. A group of assistants were locating where the bucks might be and helped get them up and moving, the deer showed up finally. Five nice bucks! They started heading into the far pasture slowly working their way across and away from a local farm house making the shot safer.

It was 220 yards, and as the bucks moved in a bunch of does started to mingle in, after I picked out the best one, I had to wait for a good open shot as I didn't want to blow it. Boom, I made the shot and off the deer went, I hit him in the back leg and he still ran 90 miles an hour with the rest of the herd right towards the blind we were in. Rich the companion hunter peeked out the window and thought we were going to get tramped, the deer missed the blind by inches and Rich was beside himself shaken up a little but he made a shot at the buck to make sure it would go down before it got into the neighboring property owner who was not part of the land owner group that aloud hunting on their ground.



Well, down the Buck went, and it wasn't too far off, it happened to be the biggest one of the 5 bucks and he had a nice rack to boot. I finally shot a nice Mule deer how neat it is that! They got the buck and we headed back to the house where we were staying.

The Association volunteers skinned and gutted the deer and it was taken to a local meat processor for cutting and wrapping.



I stayed two more days and we had a final dinner and silent auction to celebrate the success of the all the hunters and volunteers that helped make this such a success.

May God Bless this organization as it continues to make a difference for Veterans and the Disabled community. So, if you would like to go on a great hunting opportunity get ahold of the Wyoming Disabled Hunters Association, they will fulfill your dreams of a great hunting adventure, Elk, Deer or Antelope. www.wyomingdisabledhunter.org.

Thanks a bunch for unforgettable deer hunt!





Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America "Serving Those Who Served"

The Oregon Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America is committed to the re-integration of our nations spinal cord impaired and diseased veterans

Please consider adding OPVA to your will or trust



# Recreation Fund Reports

## Dear OPVA,

I would like to thank OPVA again this year for the wonderful gift members receive each year so we can go out and enjoy activities we may not be able to afford otherwise. I was able to treat my family to a great Thanksgiving meal at Elmer's plus take a good friend of mine who has a brain tumor to breakfast.

Again thank you OPVA!

Sincerely, Tom Weare



## Dear OPVA.

Just a big thanks for having this fund. We had a wonderful time with family from out of town breakfast at Shari's always good dinner at the Golden Corral love it they have the best food. November 1st I am taking my granddaughter to a Blazers Game.

Thank you again, Steven L. Glogan

## Oregon PVA,

Shooting was a favorite activity but health challenges have precluded moderately recoiling firearms thanks to spinal arthritis. Air rifles have minimal recoil, noise, and low cost so I gave it a try purchasing an air rifle. That should get me back in the game and out of the house. Thank you Recreation Fund to make this activity possible.

Sincerely, Larry Ricklefs





### Hello OPVA.

I went on an overnight fishing trip to Prineville, OR. We started off at 4 AM driving for 2 hours.

The area was beautiful and the camp site was amazing. There were bathrooms, showers, fire pits with wood. I've haven't been camping in years and I know next time I'll have pack better for the weather. It was so cold! (That night)

I actually was too hot to fish when we got there and the fishing area had dried up or drained, there was no water! But later we found out that if we had gone another 2 miles or so, the water was there and the fish were biting. Well by that time we all were hot, tired, and hungry from the ride. So we sat at the camp ate and relaxed. Even after we all had gotten fishing license etc. We didn't catch a single fish but we had a wonderful time and now we know how to plan better.

When I say we, I went with 2 other elderly disable ladies and a couple of aides.

Sincerely, Bridget Selby



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Greetings,

My wife, daughter and I just returned from our trip to Oahu and Maui. We enjoyed our first-day trip driving around Oahu stopping at the shrimp farm on the eastern side, up to the North Shore watching surfers ride huge waves and finally to the pineapple plantation for a tour and tasty treats.

The next day, we enjoyed a luau but we found Honolulu in general and Waikiki in particular is too expensive, too crowded and too unwelcoming for our liking. By contrast, on Maui we had a great time where the beaches and venues were warm, welcoming and uncrowded.

took full advantage, swimming every morning before heading out for further adventures that included a scuba/ snorkeling boat tour and a long, crooked drive in 2-way traffic on a rugged cliff-side 1-lane road through jungle wilderness and scenic vistas as we explored the north end of the island. It took a few days to recover from the red-eye returning to Sea-Tac but all-in-all, the trip was well worth the lost sleep.

Thanx, Michael Clark

Thank you so much OPVA for the \$250. We used the fund for a purchase of a new weapon to use for small game of target shooting, could not have purchased without your help. Thank you.

Roger Robinson



Dear OPVA,

In September 2018, the Puget Sound very appreciative I am for the support and VA Hospital diagnosed me with Stage 4, encouragement OPVA has provided. terminal, colon cancer.

I am currently on hospice. My children wanted us to make one final vacation memory together so we rented a beach house on Alsea Bay.

We stayed there this past week and had a delightful time watching our children and grandchildren play on the beach, catch crab in the bay, put together a jigsaw puzzle, read to my grandchildren a dozen short stories I had written over the past 40 years, and even went virtual shark diving and did a virtual parachute jump using my grandson's VR setup.

As this may be my last communication with OPVA, I just want you to know how very appreciative I am for the support and encouragement OPVA has provided.

Most Sincerely, Bob Blackman





# **Remember to Use**

# **Your Recreation Fund**

Oregon PVA voting members are eligible to **receive \$250 each fiscal year** through the Member Recreation Reimbursement Fund.

It begins **October 1st** and runs through **September 30th** each year.

Include name, address, phone number, your receipts and a short description of what you did to have fun with your friends and family. We like pictures too (digital pictures are best), they may make it into the Paralog.

- **♦ Eating Out ♦ Movies ♦ Games ♦ Hobby Supplies ♦ Motel ♦ Sports**
- **♦ Event Tickets ♦ OPVA Events ♦ Guns ♦ Trips ♦ Vacation Expenses, etc.**

All receipts must be dated and used within this current fiscal year (10/1/18 - 9/30/19).

Mail or email to: **Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 - oregonpva@oregonpva.org** 

Your request must be received in the office no later than September 30th.

Earlier is better in case of any problems.



Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 if you have any questions or require additional information about the Recreation Fund.



Robert Batson1/3Susan Holt2/5Robert Forson1/4Kevin Airrington2/5Larry Ricklefs1/7Patricia Godwin2/7Thomas Shimon1/8Clyde Harmon2/9Karen Abramowitz1/8Richard Elliott2/9Michael Breshears1/10Floyd Freemyer2/10John Haber1/11Gerald Schroeder2/10Carolyn Hamstreet Shores1/11Cathy Roff2/10Gary Wright1/12Nathan Paine2/11Theodore Geck1/15Steven Lakin2/13George McCart1/15Charles Wilcox2/14Janice Crews1/15Larry Thompson2/15Terrill Lykins1/15Christopher Hulse2/15Michael Saenz1/18Roger Robinson2/17Donald Wyatt1/21Tommy Stratemeyer2/18John Buss1/21Kevin O'Reilly2/18David Landis1/22William Morgan2/19Connie Paulsen1/24Robert Van Buren2/21John Wilmot1/24Charlene Cash2/22John Phillips1/25Lee Presley C/O Mathews2/23Merle Cutler1/26Margaret Walker2/26Kenneth Cornelius1/28David Magee2/27Steven Fairin1/28Dewey Johnson2/27Beverley Service1/30Ronald Weisenberger2/27	Richard Dinges	1/2	Gaetano Amico	2/5
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Beverley Service 1/30 Ronald Weisenberger 2/27	Steven Fairin	1/28	Dewey Johnson	2/27
	Beverley Service	1/30	Ronald Weisenberger	2/27





# April 13, 2019 10am - 3pm

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# **January**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		New Year's Day				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	BOD 10:00 a.m.		



## **Save the Date**

Jan 18-19	Winter Rod Speed Show
Jan 26	Salem Members Pizza Meeting
Feb 16-17	Salem Roadster
Feb 16	Lake Oswego Members Pizza Meeting
Feb 23	Roseburg Members Pizza Meeting
Mar 2	Bend Members Pizza Meeting
Mar 15-17	Portland Roadster Show
Apr 13	OPVA Abilities Expo



# **February**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
•	•		•		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 Presidents' Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	BOD 10:00 a.m.		







# WASHINGTON UPDATE

Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

Written and produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America - Government Relations Department

(November 19, 2018 Volume 24, Number 11

# **2018 ELECTION BRINGS CHANGE TO WASHINGTON**

November 6th brought change to Washington when voters handed control of the House of Representations to the Democrats and expanded Republican control of the Senate for the new Congress starting in January.

The 116th Congress will see over 90 veterans serving in the House and Senate. Almost half of the veterans in Congress in January will be individuals who served after September 11, 2001. Three of the new members are women – former Navy helicopter pilot, Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ), Air Force veteran, Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), and former Navy commander Elaine Luria (D-VA) – and they will join three incumbent women vets – Representative Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA).

In the Senate, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will continue to serve as Majority Leader and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) was re-elected as Minority Leader. In the House, Nancy Pelosi is likely to assume the House Speakership, but her selection is not guaranteed as some of the recently elected Democratic representatives are calling for new party leadership. House Republicans have already chosen Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) to serve as Minority Leader, Outgoing speaker, Paul Ryan (R-WI), chose not to seek re-election to the House. Representative Mark Takano (D-CA) is aiming to take over the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC). Current chairman, Phil Roe (R-TN), will become ranking member of the committee. On the Senate side, Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) is likely to remain chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC). Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) won a close re-election campaign and will remain as ranking on SVAC.

In the new year, HVAC and SVAC are expected to engage in significant oversight of the implementation of major laws including the VA MISSION Act and the Appeals Modernization Act. The VA MISSION Act's requirements will see the creation of a new community care program as well as the expansion of caregiver benefits for veterans with service-connected injuries of all eras. The committees will also focus on the implementation of a new electronic health record management system for VA.

# DOT ANNOUNCES NEW COMPLIANCE DATE FOR WHEELCHAIR REPORTING

On October 23rd, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced a new compliance date for large domestic airlines to report the number of wheelchairs and scooters enplaned and subsequently damaged as a result of air travel. The announcement is in response to a PVA-supported provision in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 that requires the reporting requirement to become effective within 60 days of the bill's enactment. The President signed the FAA bill on October 5th.

According to DOT's announcement, covered airlines will need to submit reports by January 15, 2019, for the period of December 4th through December 31st. This is approximately one month earlier than the original delayed deadline. Importantly, the reports will include numbers from the holiday travel season.

In addition to advocacy on Capitol Hill to get the report reinstated to the original deadline of January 1, 2018, PVA also sued DOT in July 2017. DOT's decision will likely result in ending PVA's lawsuit, which is still pending. PVA is pleased that the reporting requirement is being implemented and looks forward to receiving the data.

# NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH MEANS A FLURRY OF EVENTS AND REPORTS ABOUT PROMOTING WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The D.C. Metro Business Leadership Network and Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business Global Social Enterprise Initiative hosted a day-long forum on October 29th exploring private sector best practices in and challenges to employment of people with disabilities.

Speakers included representatives from Bank of America, Ernst and Young, Walgreens, Marriott, and Starbucks who described programs their companies had put in place to enhance disability inclusion in their workforces. Common threads among their experiences included leadership commitment, ensuring accessibility through the application process to onboarding new employees to creation of networking systems that help employees with disabilities feel part of an organization's mission and that their success is important to that mission. Among the challenges many companies face is simply getting people with disabilities to self-identify because of unease that such information will disadvantage them.

John Kemp, disability rights advocate and cofounder of the American Association of People with Disabilities, spoke about his new role as CEO of The Viscardi Center in New York which sponsors a host of educational and vocational programs for people with disabilities throughout the state. Among the Center's resources is the National Business& Disability Council (NBDC), which is an employer organization and comprehensive resource for disability best practices. Recently, The Viscardi Center received funding to develop entrepreneurship programs for people with disabilities that will assist them in business plan development, identifying avenues to capital, and finding resources to help with accommodations.

The Department of Labor (DOL) celebrated NDEAM on October 30th with presentations by Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta; Jennifer Sheehy, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy; Craig Leen, Acting Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP); and Neil Romano, Chairman of the National Council on Disability (NCD). Secretary Acosta led with remarks extolling the nation's lowest unemployment rate since 2009 and noted that there are millions more job openings in the U.S. than job seekers.

This makes it imperative for companies to retain workers after they sustain an injury or illness. To that end, in 2018, DOL issued the first of a total of \$100 million in grants to states to explore successful return to work and stay at work policies and programs. Ms. Sheehy introduced the Public Service Announcement (PSA) produced by DOL for NDEAM, the theme for which was "Working Works." The PSA featured several individuals who acquired disabilities as adults and were able to return to work with support from their employers and state vocational rehabilitation agencies.

Director Leen outlined a new program being prepared by OFCCP that will recognize federal contractors that go above and beyond the legal requirements under which they operate to recruit and hire people with disabilities. Finally, Chairman Romano spoke about his own experiences of working with a disability and his late brother, a Vietnam veteran with a spinal cord injury, who he said was never encouraged to work after his accident. Romano said the Council will be begin a study next year of the medical field's response to the desires of people with disabilities to work.

Two new reports on disability employment were also issued in the month of October. NCD published its annual report on disability policy by revisiting a 2000 document - "Promises to Keep: A Decade of Federal Enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act" - that reviewed ADA enforcement efforts by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Department of Justice, Department of Transportation, and the Federal Communications Commission. For this progress report, "Has the Promise Been Kept? Federal Enforcement of Disability Rights Laws," NCD looked at efforts undertaken by EEOC, DOL, and the Access Board to implement the ADA Amendments.

Act and other federal disability rights laws and regulations. NCD recommended improvements in EEOC's ADA investigations processes, better consultation by relevant agencies with DOL's Office of Disability Employment Policy, enhanced data collection and enforcement by DOL's Wage and Hour division over companies with subminimum wage certificates, and urged the Access Board to expedite development of necessary standards and ensure timely complaint investigations. The full report can be found at https://ncd.gov/progressreport-publications/2018/has-promise-been-kept.

Also, aspart of NDEAM, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), ranking member on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, released a staff report titled "Disability Employment: Outdated Laws Leave People with Disabilities Behind in Today's Economy." Citing the Rehabilitation Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), ADA, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) and Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) as the foundation for the United States' modern national disability employment policy, the report observes that, despite these laws, labor force participation of people with disabilities (21.4%) lags far behind that of nondisabled peers (68.2%). The analysis looked into states' implementation of "Employment First" policies and promotion of competitive, integrated employment by WIOA and identified several federal programs that, according to the report, are out of step with the current disability employment paradigm. Recommendations included in the report were modernization of the AbilityOne program to end its use of subminimum wages and non-integrated work environments and repeal of Fair Labor Standards Act policies allowing people with significant disabilities to be paid below minimum wage. The report also addresses recent efforts to reopen the WIOA regulations governing competitive, integrated employment. After surveying all state agencies for vocational rehabilitation, the committee staff found no issues with their implementation of the current regulations and recommends that the Department of Education not change them at this time. The full report can be found at https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/ cache/ files/84084732-e011-470a-b246-1cdab87755c3/ staff-report-on-employment-for-people-withdisabilities-10-29-2018-pm-.pdf.

Then, leading into Veterans Day celebrations, DOL hosted its first awards ceremony for the HIRE Vets Medallion program on November 8th. Signed into law in May 2017, this program recognizes small, medium, and large employers that successfully meet a set of criteria for recruiting, employing, and retaining veterans. Information about the program can be found at www.HireVETS.gov. In remarks to attendees. Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta applauded the 239 companies receiving this year's award, noting that they were responsible for hiring over 8,000 veterans in the last year alone. Among the honorees were AbleVets, a serviceveteran-owned small disabled business. which helps veterans navigate the health care environment after transition from the military. Another awardee was The Independence Fund, a nonprofit charity that provides tracked wheelchairs to service-connected veterans, as well as caregiver support and adaptive sports programs.

# RESNA ATAT COMMITTEE MEETS IN PHOENIX

The RESNA Standards Committee on Accessible Technology in Air Travel met in Phoenix, AZ,

on November 1st at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport with Southwest as the host airline. The committee is charged with coming up with design guidelines for wheelchair and assistive technology manufacturers to make it easier for air carrier personnel to store such equipment in the belly of the airplane and return it to the passenger with a disability without damage.

Discussion focused on labeling and design requirements for wheelchairs designated for storage and transport in commercial aircraft. Areas addressed included how to identity the proper way to disengage the drive system and lifting points and ways to improve wheelchair securement during transport. Currently, there are no regulations governing securement of a wheelchair in the belly of an airplane and airlines do not typically secure wheelchairs using securement straps. Airline common practice is to secure a wheelchair in place by surrounding it with luggage and cargo that are also being transported. The committee believes that wheelchair design changes, stickers, and diagrams will help airlines better understand how to make a wheelchair ready for transport.

A lot of discussion was dedicated to how to isolate battery power. Airline personnel need to know the exact amount of wattage the battery can generate and have requested manufacturers to make that information transparent. Typical wattage information is on the battery and not the outside cover. A discussion evolved around whether the battery cover could have a window; thus, alleviating personnel from attempting to open the battery cover. Airlines are also concerned with lithium batteries that are smaller and can be combustible. Passenger with disabilities who use power assist wheels and other assistive devices that use lithium batteries must disengage the batteries before storage. Typically, these batteries would be under the passenger's control in a securement case stored onboard separate from the assistive device.

The next in person meeting of the RESNA ATAT Committee will be in the spring of 2019 where the focus will be on developing information and instructions for preparing wheelchairs to be stored and transported in commercial aircraft. In the meantime, the Committee will finalize the labeling and wheelchair design section, and prepare it for submission and approval.

# STATUS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VA MISSION ACT

PVA continues to monitor the implementation of the VA MISSION Act, the historic legislation signed into law in June that will reform VA health care and open the caregiver program to pre-9/11 veterans. Government relations staff have provided public comment for designated access and quality standards for the new community care program. They have also participated in numerous meetings with the VA's Office of Community Care, the office charged with overseeing the majority of the VA MISSION Act reforms. The final designated access standards are expected to be revealed by President Trump during January's State of the Union address prior to the March implementation of the new community care network.

In the meantime, in early October, VA announced TriWest Health Care Alliance would take over all community care programs nationwide. For the past five years, community care had been managed by TriWest and Health Net Federal Services. Health Net ended its work with VA in September. The new contract with TriWest makes them the sole provider until the current community care programs are replaced next year with the new network, mandated by the VA Mission Act. VA is confident the new contract will not cause disruptions to veterans' care, particularly for those cases formerly managed by Health Net that have been transferred to TriWest.



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

Government Relations Department 801 Eighteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006 (800) 424-8200 • (800) 795-4327 • www.pva.org





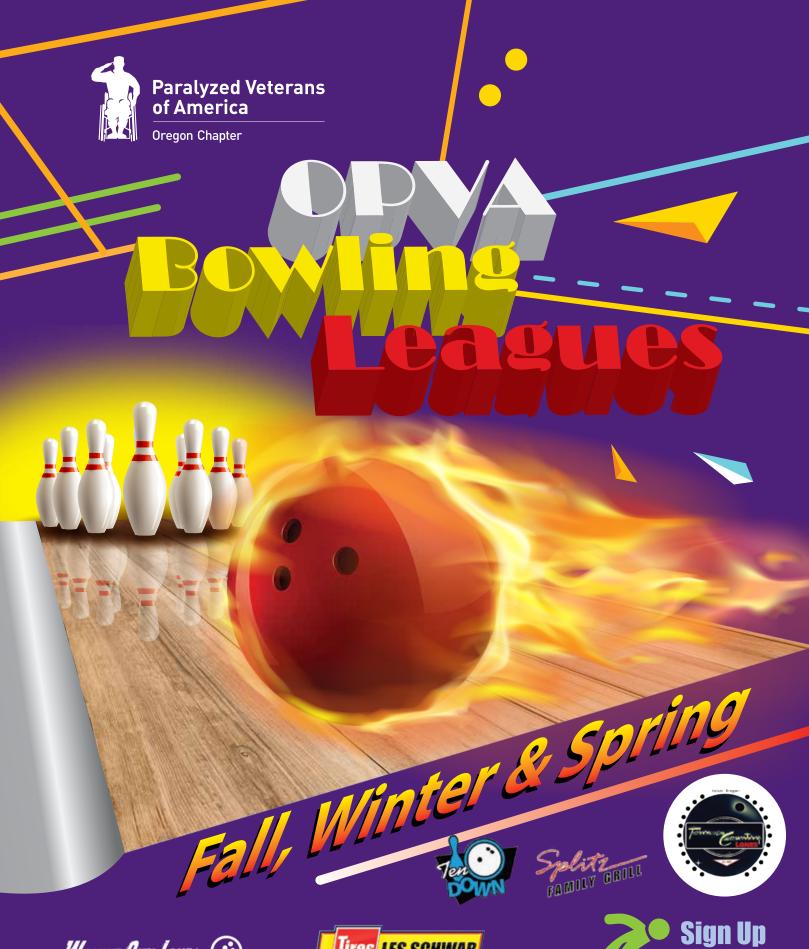


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# Classified Ads



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Bill Gray 541-671-2258



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## **Salem Chapter Monthly Meeting**

3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 - 8:00 pm Salem Hospital, Building D. 939 Oak St. SE Salem Take elevator to second floor, meeting room 1.

## Please Call if You Have Questions

TCF Phone # (503) 743-3930.

Janie Erickson (503) 931-1748



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# MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

An individual is eligible for membership by meeting the following criteria: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) was regularly enlisted, inducted or commissioned for active duty service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States, or our allies as evidenced by other-than-dishonorable character of service documented by a verifiable DD-214 or DD-215 (entry-level separation not acceptable); (3A) was separated from the service in the Armed Forces under conditions other than dishonorable; or (3B) is on active duty or must continue to serve after the cessation of hostilities; and (4) has suffered a spinal cord injury or disease (such as MS, ALS), whether or not service connected in origin. Membership is free. Complete and return application to the chapter or by mail, email, or fax to: Paralyzed Veterans of America Membership Department, 801 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; (E) ChristiH@pva.org; (F) 202.466.6549. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chapter Name: Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305					
First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:			
Date of Birth: / / Soc	ial Security Number:				
Race/Ethnicity:  Asian/Pacific Islander	☐ African American	/Descent   Hispanic/Latino			
☐ Native American/Alaskan Native	<ul><li>Caucasian</li></ul>				
Address:	City:				
State:	Zip:	Email:			
Home Phone:	Phone: Other Phone:				
VETERAN STATUS INFOR Please submit the following with apple					
<ul> <li>Proof of U.S. or U.S. Territorial Citizenship (Birth Certificate, Passport, INS Form, or Voter's Registration Form).</li> <li>DD214 showing character of discharge.</li> <li>Medical evidence of spinal cord injury or involvement (medical records or physician's statement).</li> <li>Proof of active duty status must be verified prior to membership approval.</li> </ul>					
Have you been discharged under cond	litions that are less th	an honorable?   Yes   No			
If yes, please explain:					
Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease service connected? ☐ Yes ☐ No					
DISABILITY CLASSIFICATION					
Injury or diseases involving the brain l		d do not qualify.			
SPINAL CORD INJURY Complete only if you have a traumatic		SPINAL CORD DISEASE Complete only if there is no spinal cord injury.			
Date of Injury: / /		Date of Diagnosis/Onset of Condition://			
Cause of Spinal Cord Injury:		Specific Disease Involving Spinal Cord:			
☐ Vehicular (car, motorcycle, aircraft,	etc.)	☐ Multiple Sclerosis			
☐ Violence (gunshot, explosion, etc.)		□ Poliomyelitis			
☐ Flying/Falling object		□ Syringomyelia			
☐ Sport/Recreation (swimming, diving	g, etc.)	☐ Amyotrophic diseases			
☐ Pedestrian (car accident, etc.)		(lateral sclerosis, transverse myeltis)			
□ Unknown	Unknown				
☐ Other traumatic injury:					



# MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

The Veterans Benefits Department advocates for quality health care for our members and can assist you to obtain the appropriate benefits available as a result of your military service.

Is Paralyzed Veterans of America presently your accredited representative?  $\square$  Yes  $\square$  No

If yes, I hereby request that my eligibility for membership in the Paralyzed Veterans of America be certified. I consent to process my submitted medical documentation to a confidential review by a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Medical Staff, to validate that my condition presents as having spinal cord involvement and to allow official Certification by the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Secretary. I have no objection and hereby permit Paralyzed Veterans of America Service Officers to provide information to the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Membership Department that pertains to my qualifications for membership/certification.

I declare that I have read and meet the qualifications. I understand that my membership/certification could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant Signature:	_ Date: / /
☐ I do not wish to become a certified member	

## **OFFICE USE ONLY**

#### **CAUTION TO ANYONE HAVING ACCESS TO THESE DOCUMENTS**

The documents provided by the requester are personal in nature and are for membership eligibility and certification only. Information contained within these documents shall be treated with extreme confidentiality and released only to those employees of Paralyzed Veterans of America authorized to access.

I certify that I have personally examined the documents provided by the requester and find him/her to be eligible for membership/certification.

National Secretary's Signature:	
Date Received: / /	Date Acted Upon: / /
Member ID Number:	
Date Received: / /	Date Processed: / /



# ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

## Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

January 28-29, 2019 San Diego, CA

# Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 6-7, 2019 Richmond, VA

# Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 30-31, 2019 Milwaukee, WI

# New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament\*

April 26-28, 2019 Brockton, MA

# **Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament**

April 26-27, 2019 Geneva, OH

\*indicates combined events

# PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

#### **North Central Trapshoot**

September 8-9, 2018 Sioux Falls, SD

# Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament and Handgun Shoot

November 9-11, 2018 Charles City, VA

#### Arizona Shooting Sports Tournament

February 8-10, 2019 Phoenix, AZ

#### Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

March 29-31, 2019 Redlands, CA

*Pistol Shoot - March 29, 2019* Lytle Creek, CA

#### Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

May 17-19, 2019

Rifle/Pistol Shoot - May 17, 2019
Green Bay, WI

#### Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament

May 31-June 2, 2019 Elburn, IL

# Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

June 14-16, 2019 *Pistol Event - June 14, 2019*Cedar Rapids, IA

#### Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament

June 21-23, 2019 Waxahachie, TX

#### PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

#### **Mid-America Bass Tournament**

September 21-23, 2018 Eufaula, OK

### **Vaughan Bass Tournament**

October 5-7, 2018 Whittington, IL

#### Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament

March 29-31, 2019 Tavares, FL

#### Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament

May 3-5, 2019 Kuttawa, KY

#### **Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament**

June 7-9, 2019 Henrico, VA

# ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

### **Mid-South Billiards Tournament**

October 12-13, 2018 Memphis, TN

# Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Battle at the Beach

November 16-18, 2018 Virginia Beach, VA

# Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem

March 22-24, 2019 Midlothian, VA

## Mid-America Billiards

April 5-7, 2019 Oklahoma City, OK

#### **Buckeye Billiards Tournament**

June 14-15, 2019 Wickliffe, OH Mountain States Billiards Tournament

June 21-22, 2019 Fountain, CO

## **BOCCIA**

#### **Gateway Boccia Tournament**

October 18-20, 2018 St. Louis, MO

#### **Bayou Boccia Tournament**

November 30-December 1, 2018 Gulfport, MS

#### **Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament**

January 2019 Richmond, VA

#### **Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament**

February 19-20, 2019 San Diego, CA

#### **Arizona Boccia Tournament**

April 6-7, 2019 Phoenix. AZ

# New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament

April 26-28, 2019 Brockton, MA

# ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

# **Great Plains Bowling Tournament**

July 12-15, 2018 Council Bluffs, IA

#### Mountain States Bowling Tournament

August 15-18, 2018 Colorado Springs, CO

## Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament

September 28-30, 2018 Glen Allen, VA

## **Nevada Bowling Tournament**

November 29-Dec 2, 2018 Las Vegas, NV

#### Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament

February 21-24, 2019 Tampa, FL

#### Mid-America Bowling Tournament

April 12-14, 2019 Shawnee, OK

#### Vaughan Bowling Tournament

June 27-30, 2019 Romeoville, IL

#### HANDCYCLING RACING

#### **Museum of Aviation Marathon**

January 12, 2019 Warner Robins, GA

#### PVA Racing High Performance Camp

January 26-February 1, 2019 Brooksville, FL

# Top End Euro-American HC Championships

February 2-3, 2019 Gainesville, FL

#### Valley of the Sun

February 16-18, 2019 Phoenix, AZ

#### **One City Marathon**

March 2, 2019 Newport News, VA

#### **Off-Road Spring Expo**

April 19-21, 2019 Chesterfield, VA

## **PVA Learn to Race Camp**

April 23-26, 2019 Gettysburg, PA

# Blue and Gray Half Marathon and Criterium

April 27-28 , 2019 Gettysburg, PA

## NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



For more information, visit: pva.org/sports



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