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Volume 21, Issue 6



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Oregon Chapter

PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



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HOLIDAYS

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Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Salem, OR 97305
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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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The views and opinions expressed in the Paralog are not necessarily a direct representation of the views or ideas of the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America who hereby disclaims any responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors and printed in the Paralog.



PRESIDENT NEWS



Daniel Service – President

I have a challenge for all members. Do you remember when you took your first job? You probably had no idea what you were going to be doing, but you were instructed you would be trained, or mentored for the position. We are seeking assistance in our different programs (many hands make lighter work).

We are even looking at video meetings as a way for you to attend.

**I have a challenge for all members...
Our challenge to you is to step forward to give us a hand**

We would like to:

- Start a financial committee to assist our Treasurer.
- We have a good Sports program, but with a sports committee we can expand it and make it better.
- We could use a committee to help our MS Director expand the program since almost half of our members have MS.
- Our Hospital Liaison and Government Relations have done a wonderful job, but their health is not the greatest so any help that can be given to them is appreciated.

The PVA Administrative Guide says, “To enable PVA to continue to honor this commitment, we must recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for PVA to achieve its mission.”

Our challenge to you is to step forward to give us a hand. When I was asked to help by volunteering I said sure. I later found out I could do more, so I became the Treasurer. I am now the President of OPVA, and loving it. There is work involved, and the rewards are great because you are helping someone else. We have people who will train, or mentor just like your first job. Please don't think to yourself that someone else will help out, the more people involved the better the programs.



We can work around many of the challenges that some of you face. If your health isn't the greatest or you live too far away, let's discuss what you can do from home. If you feel like you might consider being on the Board of Directors but you can't make it to every meeting, you can conference call.

It has been an honor to serve with the last three Boards. OPVA is a Non-Profit corporation that is run as a business that serves those who have served. Come enjoy the fruits of your efforts and watch us grow.



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November 6, 2017. 9 am - 5 pm

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America invite you to get your VETERANS DAY Haircut All proceeds support OPVA. Information: 503.362.7998 or www.oregonpva.org



VICE PRESIDENT NEWS



Larry Gardner—Vice President

As the new elected Vice President, I would like to first introduce myself to everyone who I have not had a chance to meet. My name is Larry Gardner, I've been a member with the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America since 2010 and served on the Board for the last 5 years, and Sports Director for the last 2 years, and now elected Vice President.

My biggest goal for 2018 is to work with the members of this chapter and make this coming year a better year than last year. If we don't set goals to be better, then we probably won't, it takes our members and volunteers to make this all happen.

We are always needing more volunteers for our events and members to join in on our Board. All members and volunteers are more than welcome to attend our Monday morning meetings

at the chapter office at 10 am and our Board meeting once a month on the last Thursday, we would really like to encourage you to attend.



Our awards banquet was September 17th at Spirit Mountain casino in Grand Ronde, I think overall it was one of the best award banquets we've had. The one thing that we need to improve on is the attendance, so I'm asking for everyone's opinion on how to make this better, do we change the location, have different entertainment, have different

meal choices, or just leave it all as is? I would really like all members to give us your opinion. On page 51 is a short Banquet survey about what you think will help. We really want your opinion to hopefully make it better.

The Veterans Day parade is coming up November 11th in Albany, our chapter always attends this parade, pulling our decorated trailer with members on the deck and riding in the van.



We also will have the raffle truck in the parade with some extra room for riders, so if you're in a chair or can walk we would love you to join us for this event. If interested call the office as soon as possible as the space available fills up.

Well that's all I have for now and if anyone has any questions please call the office at: 503-362-7998 or my cell at 503-930-9589.

Thanks to all of you. VP Larry Gardner.



Year-End Giving

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Oregon Chapter

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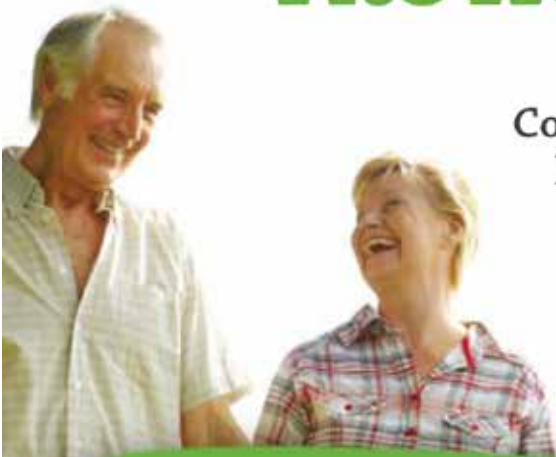
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PIZZA

MEMBERS MEETING



ABBY'S PIZZA

1115 NE 3RD ST. BEND OR 97701

DECEMBER 2ND, 11:30 AM



Paralyzed Veterans
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Oregon Chapter

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A GREAT TIME

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**GOOD
MEMORIES**



PLEASE RSVP
503-362-7998



I am very excited to work with your Board of Directors



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

It is that time of year for your Board of Directors to get out and about and meet with the members. We now have dates for the Member meeting pizza get togethers. Watch your mail for the flyers as we get closer to the events in your areas.

Here is what we have so far.

- December 2nd Bend at Abby's Pizza
- January 6th Salem at Walery's Pizza
- January 27th Lake Oswego at Round Table Club House
- February 24th Southern Oregon location TBD.

Hope to see everyone at the get together. This is a great opportunity for you to look your Board of Directors in the eyes and ask any questions you may have. Also we will be able to give more details on the upcoming events in 2018.



We are currently working on programs to be able to reach deeper into the state to do more local events throughout your chapter's coverage area. These meetings will be a great opportunity to let me know of events that you would like to see the chapter participate in or at.

Our goal for 2018 is to reach out to the different areas of the state and participate with you at your local events.

Back in September the chapter held the annual Members Banquet and awards at Spirit Mountain Casino. I would like your input as to whether you would like to continue having the Members Banquet at the casino or if you didn't attend, where would you like to see it move to, so that we can have you come and participate with your fellow members. Remember this Members Banquet is for YOU!

As your Executive Director I am very excited to work with your Board of Directors this year as well as our growing list of volunteers. We already have quite a bit on the calendar already for 2018, but like I said our GOAL for 2018 is to reach out to the different areas of the state and participate with you at your local events.

Here are some of the events already scheduled for 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:

- Albany Veterans Day Parade
- Members pizza meetings
- Abilities Expo
- Car Shows various locations around the state
- OPVA Show and Shine Car Show
- Trap Shoot Fundraisers
- Car Races
- Golf Tournament
- Community Festivals
- County Fair
- Oregon State Fair
- INSERT YOUR EVENT HERE
(Let me know where you would like us)



that the chapter does. On that note we are in desperate need of more volunteers to continue and grow the events we do and new events we wish to participate in, our volunteers are the life blood of this organization, whether you are a voting member volunteer or an able body volunteer, your support is greatly appreciated.

Please remember we NEED your volunteer hours turned into the office by the 5th of the month following the month you volunteered. We have to turn in our total volunteer hours to PVA National.

As you are planning your outings please keep in mind that the chapter does have some equipment that can be loaned out to you such as Hand cycle, Freedom Chairs, assorted Sports Chairs and Bowling Balls.



Our next big event we will be participating in is the Albany Veterans Day Parade. This is the Largest Veterans Day Parade west of the Mississippi. If you would like to be part of the OPVA Float in the parade please give the office a call, we have plenty of room and would love have you come join us. If you don't want to be in the parade, you should come down and cheer everyone on. Remember this is YOUR parade.

I want to thank our Volunteers, without you it would be a struggle to attend all of the events

Wow can you believe that Thanksgiving is only a couple weeks away and then Christmas will be upon us, this year just flew by. If you are traveling for the Holidays, please travel safe and enjoy your time with family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all and God Bless.

In closing I want to thank All who help keep things moving forward. Please remember we are here for YOU, if you have a question, concern or just want to shoot the breeze, give me a call at the office. 503-362-7998



RECREATION FUND REPORTS

I plan to do some target shooting with the gun I purchased.
Al Wagoner



SPORTS NEWS ALERT



Larry Gardner—Sports Director

Hello Members,
October 1st was the beginning of our new fiscal year thru September of 2018. We have had a great year of events this past year car shows, golfing, trap shoot, member meetings with bowling, Free Fish Day at Detroit lake, deep sea fishing out of Depoe bay, county and state fairs, chapter picnic and more.

Now that fall is here we are preparing for our winter events, so we still need more volunteers to help our events to be more successful, so call the office at 503-362-7998 or my cell at 503-930-9589 so we can get you on our volunteer list.

As the Sports Director I have been working on some other sports programs such as bowling, bocce ball, air guns, hunting, and our growing trap team.

This has become very time consuming, so recently one of our volunteers stepped up to help as our Sr. Assistant Sports Director, Ray Thompson. He will be assisting in the sports programs, so anyone who has interest in any of the sports listed above or other ideas call us and let us know what you're thinking.



We had three deep sea fishing trips this year out of Depoe Bay, Oregon that were very successful with plenty of bottom fish and crabs caught. Our chapter fun shoot at the Albany Gun Club went very good considering a low turnout of people due to other shooting events going on the same day, we still had a great time.

**If interested in our
"Rabbit Hunt" at E. Wilson
wildlife unit, please call
541-745-5334
to Preregister.
Thank you**

We also had our raffle gun drawing at the Albany Fun Shoot and a lady from Newberg was the lucky winner.

Our trap team had multiple shoots this year at trap clubs from Roseburg OR, to Spokane WA. They were all very successful and lots of fun.

Now the team has slowed down for the season with the multiplex shoots once a month.

We have a new survey about our sports programs, on the last page and we really need these sent back to us so we can see where the interest is so we focus in the right direction. So let's all look forward to making this a better year.

Thank you all so much.
Your Sports Director, Larry Gardner.

66TH ALBANY'S VETERANS DAY PARADE

November 11, 2017. 11:00 am



**Paralyzed Veterans
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Oregon Chapter

**Come to the Largest
Veterans Day Parade
West of the Mississippi!**

or JOIN us on the
OPVA float!
Call to sign up

“Thank you for your
service”



RECREATION FUND REPORTS

Dear Oregon PVA

I want to thank you for the recreation fund. I just finished my second fishing trip of the season. I am very surprised more of our members do not fish. Both trips produced a lot fish, as well as 7 and 10 crabs each respectfully.



Maybe if others knew about the services Dockside Charters provide more veterans and guest would take part. If you have ever cleaned and cooked crab, I would bet it was only once. It is something that needs to be done outdoors. Dockside Charter has 2 young men who clean and cook the crabs for \$1.00 each and I suggest a tip.

At \$20.00 a crab in the market it is well worth it. The fish are filleted at \$1.00 to \$2.00 each and a very special vacuum packing is provided free charge by Mr. and Mrs. Lars Robinson.

Fishing on the Samson all these trips I have gotten to know the Captain and deck hand. Members in the wheelchair get special treatment getting to and from the boat and fishing on the deck of boat. For the best spot, ask Jack! It was also nice to see Francisco and his son on this trip taking pictures.



I will almost guarantee I will take off 2 days from deer hunting to go fishing on the October 4th trip if the boat has room for one and a guest or two looking forward to 3 fishing trips. Respectfully,

A grateful veteran Steve Bergsen



Please contact the office at 503.362.7998 or 1.800.333.0782 if you have any questions or require additional information about the Recreation fund.



Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Oregon Chapter



I want to thank OPVA for the 2017 recreational fund. Had a great year tuna fishing and crabbing on the new boat. I got a new cart to haul all the gear down to the boat. We barbecued and fished and had a great time this year thank you very much.

Kanaka Morgan

Dear Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, I would like to thank you for providing the recreation fund to Oregon PVA members such as myself. This year I was able to use the recreation fund to purchase tickets to the Seahawks season home opener game against the 49ers.

The weather was perfect for a fall football game in the Pacific Northwest. Not too hot, not too cold and only a couple light rain showers. The atmosphere in CenturyLink Field can only be experienced when you're there in person. You can feel the excitement and your adrenaline level raise a bit when the Seahawk fans better known as the 12th man, raise their voices to a roar in an attempt to cause chaos and confusion to the opponent's offense.

It was truly an enjoyable day and game for my wife and I. We would not have gone to the game if not for the generous financial assistance from the chapter recreation fund. Thank you again for what you do for the Oregon PVA chapter members.

Michael and Jodie Rosenbalm



MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Carolyn Hamstreet Shores – Treasurer / Membership Director

The autumnal equinox has come and gone and we are now in the beautiful fall season. The kids and grandkids are back at school; the blistering heat is gone; the leaves have begun to turn; the forest fires are mostly under control; Oregon has begun the greening up process after three months of excessive heat and no rain; everyone has settled into his/her routine for the rest of the year and the holidays are lurking right around the corner. Where has the time gone?

August and September were filled with activities and events. There were several Trap Shoots, a couple of car shows, the Oregon State Fair where we visited with many of you at our booth, deep sea fishing on our glorious Pacific Ocean, where we filled our coffers with delicious rock fish, tasty ling cod and the sweet and tender dungeness crab. We also were in Sublimity for their First Tuesdays in the park and at their Harvest Festival.

We closed out September with our Annual Members Banquet at Spirit

Mountain Casino with good music, delicious steak and salmon, lots of comradery and many door prizes. A good time was had by all.

All of these events have one thing in common. Each one is a chance to volunteer. It is a time to give something back and a chance for you to help other veterans in their needs.

As good as the Membership Banquet was, there was something missing. That something is the majority of YOU. Out of our membership of 339 there were around thirty (30) members, not including your Board of Directors, who attended.



That is less than 10% of our membership.
Why is that?!

I realize that it is a long way for some of you to travel; some of you may have been too ill to attend; some of you may be homebound; some of you may need transportation; some of you may have other challenges; some were on vacation; the list goes on and on. However, are these reasons or excuses? We want to know. We want to know how to make it easier for you to participate in your Members Banquet and other events. Please complete the survey on page 51 and return to OPVA.

Do we need to move the location of our banquet? How do we decide on a venue? Approximately 1/3 of our members live between Southern Washington and Canby; 1/3 are located between Woodburn and Albany and the remaining members live south of Albany and east of the Cascades, others are spread out in Idaho, Hawaii and beyond, as well as those of you who live on the coast.

To this end we are sending you a questionnaire and will be calling you in the next few weeks to get your thoughts and ideas as to how we can better serve you.

Are you aware that all of our members are welcome to attend our monthly Board Meetings held at our office at 3700 Silverton Rd. here in Salem on the last Thursday of every month at 10:00 am? Do you have any suggestions as to where you would like to have our banquet? How close to you would it have to be for you to come? Which day of the week is the best? What activities would you be interested in attending and/or volunteering? What about our member meetings during the year? Would you make an effort to come to meet your Board Members, to meet fellow members who live in your area, to share any concerns you might have and to learn of events near you where you can participate and/or volunteer? Add to this a free meal and what more do you need?

Our events are held throughout the year in various places around Oregon to give you an opportunity and a reason to get out of your house, enjoy yourselves, greet old friends or meet new ones and enjoy an activity in your area. It's also a chance for you to have any questions you might have to be answered.

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RECREATION FUND REPORTS

The OPVA recreation fund is more than just money, its smiles, its family, and its good feelings.

Gordon Pike (Member since 1970)



My wife and I recently attended the Cirque Du Soleil show "Kurios". It was a wonderful way to enjoy a sunny afternoon when the heat wave was plaguing Portland. A lite lunch before the play and some afternoon shopping afterwards made for a wonderful day. I want to thank the Board of Directors of OPVA for continuing to support the Membership Recreation Fund.

Keith Wingfield



Dear OPVA
Because of the Rec Fund we were able to take our daughter and 3 of our grandkids to enjoy endless shrimp at Red Lobster. Thank you for this treat you give to us.

Ed McKinney

This year at Matthew Knight Arena we attended three University of Oregon men's basketball games, and the green and yellow came away with a win for each game.



Duck basketball is a family favorite! Also at this venue we got to enjoy the music and piano of legend Sir Elton John. What a powerful talent he is!

December 30 we traveled to the Rose Quarter in Portland to see the American rock band Trans-Siberian Orchestra. We have never seen a band/orchestra like this that had us so enthralled.



This was music with a twist of pyrotechnics and laser lights. We broadened our horizons and were amazed.

Food Network star Alton Brown visited our local performing arts theater in Eugene for an entertaining night of food science.

Father's Day at the cost was sunny and beautiful for the Oregon Divisional Chainsaw Carving Championship in Reedsport featuring both domestic and foreign carvers. How amazing to witness an artistic sculpture being created from a new log!



Then in July we took advantage to go to the Chainsaw and Arts Festival closer to home in McKenzie River. The Lane County Fair this summer brought the Eli Young Band country act on the opening fair day. We enjoy seeing country talent here locally.

Thank you, OPVA, for encouraging your members to continue enjoying life regardless of disabilities thru your generous recreation fund program!

Sincerely,

Traci and Michael Williamson



This is for our Rec Fund Reimbursement. Beautiful evening after dinner at the beach. Skies finally cleared up. Sun is out!! Very quiet, peaceful.

This was our last night at Lincoln City. First time out together in about five years except VA Hospital. It was a break for my Wife from cooking and everything else that goes along with taking care of me. It rained most the time we were there but the last day before coming home Sept. 22nd. The \$250 really helped to make it possible to cover this time away.

Thanks for your care and love for your VETS.

Bear & Kaye Rilling

I'm thankful for the "REC Fund" because I like to cook and now I bought an Instant from Walmart it is made by Farberware. Now one might think that I am some kind of chef. Well my cooking has been quite limited or as I call it "cooking within REACH", it is time consuming but now it will be much easier. With the "Instant" I will be able to whip out a more delicious meal in a fraction of the time the old Crockpot took.

Hold on recreation is not all works so remember that – All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, or should I say Louie. I also bought some luggage because ours was worn out.

Louie Grimmer



Thank you for the opportunity to take the family out for dinner to celebrate birthdays and a reunion at one of our favorite restaurants. It was a rare and memorable time with our family.

Dennis and Karen Harbour



Greetings,
Please find the enclosed receipts from our recent trip to Portland.
We were invited to an exhibition at Blue Sky in downtown Portland where my nephew's first foray into fine art photography opened to the public.

He is an accomplished and frequently published extreme sports photographer, but this exhibition was extraordinary because of its contrasting subject matter and the public reaction to it.

His series of stylized large-scale photographs were an assortment of the various collections, "junk" and general clutter found in my Mother's house immediately following her funeral. Memories of what we had long considered a ghastly example of poor housekeeping suddenly transformed in to fine art, exposed not only in his renderings but in the provocative conversations with the disassociated viewers. We were left with a profound sense of respect for the perspective of others. Thanks.

Michael Clark



Remember to Use

Your Recreation Fund

Oregon PVA 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.

Simply send in your receipts any time during the year along with a short description of what you did to have fun with your friends and family. We like pictures too, 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 within this current fiscal year and used within this current fiscal year (10/1/17 - 9/30/18). - Mail to: **Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305**

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

DONATED ITEMS

TESTIMONY

I want to thank the OPVA and especially their donation coordinator Gary Atwood for bringing me a power chair to my home to use while my VA issued chair waits to be repaired or replaced.

The OPVA donation program is a great resource. I once received an exercise bike from them that is still being used to keep me active.

Thank you so much OPVA for keeping me going with the donated power chair! Without it and the OPVA donation program my quality of life would be more like surviving than living.

Hooray for the OPVA!

Ken Swiderski

OPVA has many items that have been donated to us for the purpose of giving to someone who needs it. Check with us before you purchase. All these items are given out **FREE** of charge.

If you or someone you know needs one of these items, contact Gary Atwood, Donation Coordinator, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at 503.362.7998

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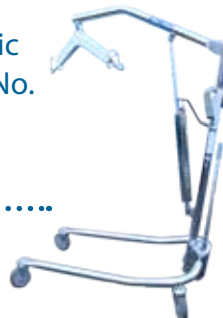


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Foundational Investment in VA Choice Care Challenges Claims of Imminent Privatization

Source: <http://www.pvablog.com/foundational-investment-in-va-choice-care-challenges-claims-of-imminent-privatization>

With all the talk about changes in VA policy too include “Veterans Choice Program” and “Foundational Services” reforms, I thought it would be good to share the following article written by PVA Executive Director, Sherman Gillums Jr.



Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison

Paralyzed Veterans of America was one of the earliest and most vocal opponents of privatizing Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare when recent efforts began to gain steam in 2014, following the Phoenix VA scandal. I, along with my fellow paralyzed veterans, knew all too well what awaited us in the private health sector: well-meaning health providers who lacked the level of expertise to treat and sustain the life of veterans with spinal cord dysfunction with the competence to which we’d become accustomed.

On balance, many non-veterans with spinal cord injury or disease find themselves in capable hands at places like Craig Hospital, Shepherd Center, and Spaulding Rehab. But if the best non-VA specialized care is a Mercedes, the best VA specialized care is an Aston Martin, and veterans in VA’s spinal cord injury system of care know that. For that reason, the forces for privatization—whether they were lobby groups, presidential candidates, or lawmakers—faced a

counter force so formidable that the word “privatization” would eventually become a label with which no one wanted to be associated.



David Shulkin, VA Secretary

Enter, a new buzzword: Choice. Specifically, the Veterans Choice Program in the form of sweeping reforms across the VA that include dramatically increased private-sector options for veterans. Since its inception, the Veterans Choice Program has shifted more than 30 percent of VA appointments into the private sector, up from fewer than 20 percent in 2014. As this number increases, so too do the concerns of those who do not want to

see VA privatized and believe Choice is a Trojan Horse intended to drive demand away from VA-provided health care, thus ultimately eroding the infrastructure due to lack of use.



Because of this, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin now has to spend much time trying to convince detractors that his efforts to improve the VA are not merely a ruse to privatize veterans health care. He wrote in a July 2017 USA Today editorial: “Some critics complain that letting veterans choose where they get certain healthcare services will lead to the privatization of VA. Nothing could be further from the truth...What we do want is a VA system that is even stronger and better than it is today. To achieve that goal, VA needs a strong and robust community care program.”

Now, I’m not the type who takes any government official’s word at face value. As an admirer of the work of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, I embrace the belief that “the secret of all victory lies in the organization of the non-obvious.” If Secretary Shulkin does intend to privatize VA, he will certainly not make it apparent, particularly to those who vow to resist such efforts. But the more I hear about the “fear of privatization” every time new initiatives, cost control measures, expanded care options, and workforce improvements are discussed, the more I fear that entrenched bureaucratization—the extreme opposite of privatization—will ensure that VA never improves in those places where veterans are not getting the healthcare they need and deserve.

The best state of equipoise for VA, between privatization and bureaucratization, is one characterized by customization, where delivery of care accommodates the needs of all veterans. This includes both general and special populations, such as blinded or paralyzed veterans. An increasing number of veterans want to get their surgeries, cancer treatments, and rehabilitation closer to home in the private sector, and it is Secretary Shulkin’s job to ensure those systems work for those veterans. At the same time, many veterans will not be best served by providers outside the VA and want access to VA’s “foundational services.” Foundational services are those that require military cultural competency and are part of VA’s national commitment to provide, and it is Secretary Shulkin’s job to ensure those systems work for veterans as well.

**“the secret of all victory
lies in the organization
of the non-obvious”**

Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius

Ultimately, action trumps rhetoric, appearances, and assumptions. Recently, Secretary Shulkin took the noteworthy step of authorizing the hiring of 800 to 1,000 nurses in VA specialized services over the next year. He also directed VA facilities to invest five percent of their budgets toward building up in-house blinded rehabilitation and spinal cord injury or disease programs so that more inpatient beds could be activated and more veterans with specialized needs could be served. These actions indicate a desire on his part to improve upon what VA does well, not eliminate VA—as some claim—simply because he’s finding other ways to deliver services that VA does not do so well.

Even as a skeptic of the government’s intentions by nature, I am not only convinced but certain that improving healthcare for veterans is as much about economizing its operations, with the help of community health sectors, as it is about

strengthening the VA's foundation. Community care and foundational services are inextricably linked, and adequately serving both is only achievable once hackneyed reactions and persistent status-quo mentalities give way to progressive thinking and innovative approaches are embraced.

That said, some will still claim to have divined the Secretary's motivations and hold fast to the notion that closing underused, costly VA facilities, encouraging more veterans to access care in the community, implementing tougher accountability standards, and imposing cost offset measures are evidence of a slow march toward privatization. And in a vacuum, one where rhetoric and headlines largely inform opinion, I'd likely believe the same. I see major investment in VA's foundational services happening, though, as part and parcel of the expansion of Veterans Choice into the community. As long as that's the case, I believe the VA Secretary is on the right track and that he deserves an opportunity to execute his vision.



Sherman Gillums Jr. is a retired U.S. Marine officer who suffered a spinal cord injury in 2002, while serving on active duty. His career with Paralyzed Veterans of America started in 2004 after he completed rehabilitation at the San Diego VA Spinal Cord Injury & Disease Center. He is an alum of University of San Diego and Harvard Business School.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

Remember the chapter is here to serve you. We would love to hear from you about your experiences with the SCI/D care you receive from Seattle – Vancouver – Outpatient Clinic.

Please let us know if you have had delays in receiving your healthcare and/or prosthetic equipment as well as if you've had exceptional service from a program and/or employee.

Call the PVA Oregon Chapter office at 503-362-7998.

Oregon PVA members if you experience a prosthetics delay that is more than 30 days old. Please complete the **Prosthetics Delay Report Form** on the next page. Fax the completed form to (202) 416-7754 or email to prosthetics@pva.org



RECREATION FUND REPORTS

Hi OPVA Secretary

First I would like to thank you for the recreation fund. I have enclosed receipts from different restaurants where my husband and I ate this past year. This money makes it possible for us to eat with a group of friends, about once a month. Thank you.

Brenda Marsters





Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Prosthetics Delay Report Form

Responsible PVA Service Office: _____ Date: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

SSN: _____ *no dashes* Age: _____ PVA Member: Yes No

Description of disabling condition that necessitates reliance on prosthetics,
including the date of injury:

Are you service-connected: Yes No

Item/Device/Equipment ordered:

Date Ordered: _____

Prescribing Clinician/Therapist: _____

VA Medical Center: _____

Veteran Integrated Service Network (1-23): _____

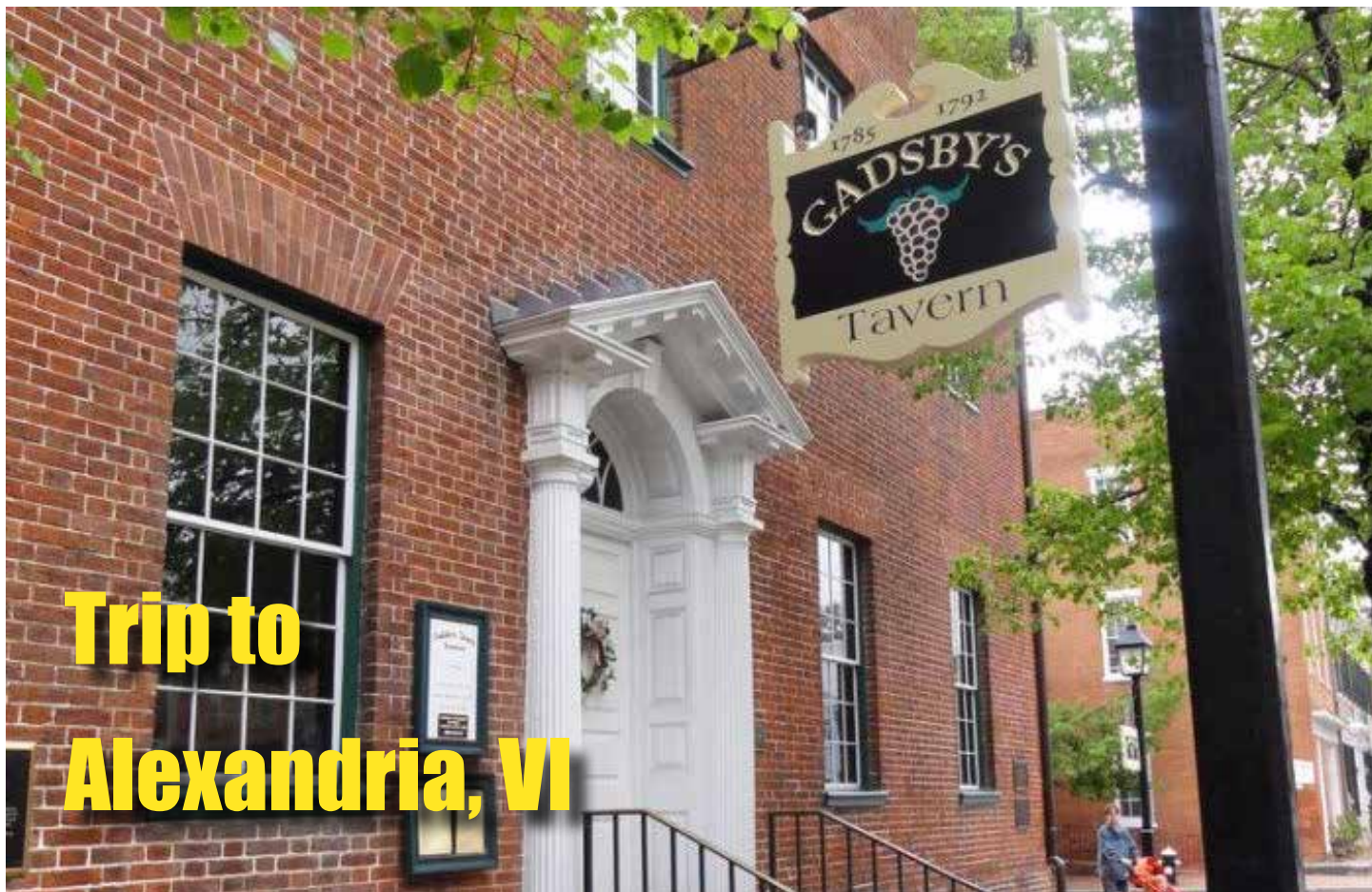
Order delayed more than 30 days: Denied:

Reasons given for decision:

Impact of delay/denial:

Fax the completed form to (202) 416-7754 or email to prosthetics@pva.org

Clear Form 2014



Bill Gray – National Director

Hi, I just thought I'd share a side trip my wife and myself were able to do while at the spring National Convention in March 2017.

We planned to stay a couple extra days so we could see some of the local historical sites of this great Country. We attempted to go to the home of George Washington, first President of the United States, we were originally told that it would not be a problem, they could accommodate a wheelchair. Needless to say, once we were there in Maryland we made contact with the agency who offered transportation to Mount Vernon, they told me a different story and it was not going to be accessible as I was previously told. It seems the best way to see it would

be if you rented a car and drove to it yourself. We decided to see other sites instead that were located in the town of Alexandria.

The first was the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. It was started by Edward Stable in the year of 1792. It served customers like Martha Washington and Robert E. Lee. The business was operated up until 1933 when the depression forced its closure. Today the museum still contains many of the original herbs and containers and medical devices, devices such as a blood letting tool, used to rid the body of its dreadful diseases. So, if you get the chance to visit Alexandria be sure and catch tour of this historical site.

The second site we took in was the Gadsby's Tavern Museum which opened in 1785, it was a place of hospitality, dinning, lodging and entertainment. It was frequented by the likes of Washington, Jefferson, Adams, and many other founders of this great country. We made our entrance through the back door which was accessible.

We were early as they didn't start dinner till 5:00 pm so we were able to soak up a little history and realize the many famous individuals that came through the back door. Once inside, it was pretty much original as it was in the day of its opening. Wood floors creaked as we crossed it, the bar was as it was originally and the rooms were large and open.



They had several Inaugural Celebration's there as well as birthdays, it was a popular gathering place. They had off to the northeast side of the building an opening that was 17 feet 2" in diameter. It was there that they put ice that was cut off the Potomac River to keep all their food supplies in good order. Since they were they only Tavern and Inn that had such a great food storage setup they were always busy and known for their great food. You had better plan ahead if you need a room for the night.

It was pretty neat to think that my wife and I had just set foot in a place with such historical significance. The food was great, they served food that was made from recipes common to the day and time of the establishment. It was a real treat to eat there and have a tall mug of beer right from the barrel. If you are hungry and thirsty and want to be entertained I suggest you stop by.



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RECREATION FUND REPORTS



Dear OPVA,
Please accept this request for a reimbursement from the Entertainment/Recreation Reimbursement Fund.

Attached is Vacation Rental Agreement for the Surf Rider Condo at San Diego, CA. We rented the Condo from September 6 to September 11, 2017. The highlights of our vacation included visiting the USS Midway CV-41 which I had served on in 1968 as well as visiting Old Town San Diego, eating some celestially awesome Mexican meals, and enjoying the people and views of Mission Beach. If the OPVA

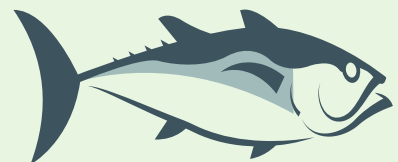
Entertainment/Recreation Reimbursement Fund, would be willing to reimburse any part of this joyous trip, it will only add to what was a most pleasurable week. I believe this is my eleventh year of using your marvelous Entertainment/Recreation Reimbursement Fund.

Please know that is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the paralyzed veterans in Oregon. The Oregon PVA really does make life easier and more enjoyable. Most Sincerely,

Bob Blackman

Without the recreational fund my time enjoying these fishing trips would be less numerous. Thank you for letting me have access to this fund.

Don Linwood



Dear Oregon PVA and Miss Marcie,
Thank you for another great year at Silverwood!
It was a blast for our family as it is the last year we will be near it. Our boys really enjoyed all the rides and the fun. We were able to go quite a few times as a family. I recommend this place to other members as they seem to be wheelchair friendly and accommodating.

Thank you, *Travis Nelson*



Dear OPVA,

I have always wanted to stay in a Yurt and my wife surprised me by finding an accessible one near Florence, Oregon. We took a 3 day trip to the campground south of Florence the day after the eclipse. Betty was very happy to learn the yurt was self-contained (accessible bathroom with shower in unit). It was a nice unit just outside Florence and we were easily able to see the sights, go out to eat, and even visit the casino while there. We relaxed and had a very enjoyable time. Thanks for making this possible!

Larry Ricklefs

Dear OPVA,

Enclosed are my receipts to claim recreation fund reimbursement. My recreational activities involved eating out with a friend at some of our favorite restaurants: Red Lobster (28 July and 5 September), Elmer's (17 August), and Burgerville (14 September).

As always the food at these eating establishments was fantastic. In particular, I highly recommended Burgerville seasonal Marionberry milkshakes!

Sincerely,

Kris McNult



2017 MEMBERS BANQUET



Daniel Service – President

I couldn't be more pleased than I was at the Membership Banquet for 2017 at Spirit Mountain. After the Oregon State Fair was over Tom Hurt, your Executive Director, and I started working on the Banquet. We were concerned because of the short amount of time to prepare, but after a couple of deep breaths we figured everything out.

Tom and I were fortunate to be able to greet just about everyone at the door that showed up and what a great bunch of people. We had folks come all the way from central Oregon, southern Oregon, and the northern coast, as well as from different areas within the valley. We enjoyed some Hors d'oeuvres to begin our afternoon.

After we had the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance I made a few welcoming

comments then we enjoyed ourselves listening to some soft music by Tony and Dan while we visited for a while. The meal was to die for. We had a Salad and the choice of Vegetarian, Salmon, or Beef along with some Brussel Sprouts, Veggies, and Potato's. Throughout the afternoon we gave away many door prizes.

We were happy to have Joe from Department of Veterans Affairs join us and give some comments about what they are working on to help all the veterans of Oregon.

We handed out certificates to the volunteers that participated at our different events and activities. Unfortunately not everyone was able to make it, but we will have their certificates mailed to them.

We gave awards to the following individuals:

- The Speedy Award for a member of Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America was given to Larry Gardner for his work he has put forth in redeveloping the Sports Program.
- The non-member Speedy Award went to Hillsboro Trap and Skeet Club for their many years of seeing that we are able to give our members a place to gather and have some fun.
- The Sterling Williams Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Margaret Leach for the many years of service to all of us – you may remember Margaret, she is Ken Fink’s go to person.
- The John L. Stark Disability Awareness Award was given to Gary Atwood for the great job he is doing as our Donation Coordinator. Taking care of the equipment, picking up and delivering the equipment as the need arises to Members and Non-members.
- The President’s Award was given to Marcie Ceja – she has spent many of her own countless hours devoted to seeing that things are completed properly, legally, and in a timely manner, and we can’t thank her enough.



Larry Gardner, Sports Director & Vice President; Hack Albertson, Nat. VP PVA; Bill Gray, Secretary & Nat. Director; Dan Service, President; Jack Howell, Board Member

We enjoyed having our PVA National Vice President Hack Albertson with us for the Banquet. Hack was able to join us at the Albany Fun Shoot where we also drew the name of this year’s winner of the Ruger SP-101. “Heidi” was very pleased to have learned of being this year’s winner.

Next Tom Hurt called forward the 2071-18 Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America Board of Directors.

President	Daniel Service
Vice President	Larry Gardner
Secretary	Bill Gray
Treasurer	Carolyn Hamstreet Shores
Board Members	Jack Howell
	Roger Robinson
	Louie Grimmer

Hack Albertson gave a few comments regarding the responsibilities of the Board and then swore them in as the new Board.

My closing remarks are the same to all members of OPVA. We operate a business not a club. We must follow the laws and regulations imposed upon us by Oregon State Laws as well as the guidelines of Paralyzed Veterans of America. We thank everyone who is enjoying the benefits of our labor, we are here for you.

The comments about this year’s Banquet from those who attended were very positive. Everyone left stuffed from the meal, even those who did not win a prize were glad they came. We wish more had planned to be there, and next year we hope you will join us. Thank you to everyone that participated this year.



RECREATION FUND REPORTS

I am no longer able to get around as well as I used to, so now I watch TV & Sports for entertainment. I love to watch baseball and football.

Sincerely,

Fritz VonAllmen



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Veteran's Day Hair Cuts	7	8	9	10	11 66th Albany Veterans Day Parade
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26	27	28 Giving Tuesday	29	30 BOD 10:00 a.m.		

 **Office Closed**

Happy
Thanksgiving





December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31 New Year's Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30

Office Closed December 17th - January 1st



Merry
Christmas



RECREATION FUND REPORTS



The OPVA recreation fund is more than just money, its smiles, its family, and its good feelings.

This year, thanks to OPVA recreation fund I was able to travel to Vancouver, Canada for a week where I hooked up with my daughter and family. I only see them once a year as they live in Charlotte, NC so this was a very special time.

My two grandkids, Hayden (grandson) seven and Presley (granddaughter) three really made my day. It was a wonderful week of sightseeing and play time; we even had connecting rooms so the fun never ended. So all I can say is thank you OPVA and keep up your great work.

Gordon Pike (Member since 1970)



I am still in the process of restoring my 1940 Plymouth Coupe. Progress is slow because my medical doctor will only allow me to be out of bed for 2 hours a day.

I have enclosed a receipt for an aftermarket electric windshield wiper kit.

This is surely a big improvement over the original wipers that ran off the engine's manifold vacuum. I remember the days of having to momentarily let off the gas so the wipers could keep up with the rain. Thank you for providing these funds. Sincerely,

Vernon L. Sheldon



Dear OPVA,
 We recently enjoyed a beautiful restaurant meal to help celebrate my veteran husband's 59th birthday! Since we both have MS and rarely get out, was a wonderful treat. It is with much appreciation, we thank OPVA for the recreation fund that made this possible.
 Thank you OPVA!

Michael & Linnae Angerinos
 U.S. NAVY (Ret)



Westby House Inn



Enclosed please find photos (postcards since we forgot camera!) of our trip to Wisconsin to visit my wife's sister there. Went by train. It was amazing, saw lots of northern state scenery, met many wonderful folk, saw a beautiful state. Ate excellent food (probably gained many pounds) (lot of notes about food!) Hmmm, like food!

Since I was raised in Easter Oregon in horse country, particularly enjoyed seeing draft horse and harness race at Vernon County Fair saved many years to do this trip, am thankful to you from the bottom of my heart (wife, Leoni, wrote this for me).

Randy Black



OPVA, Recreation Fund

Thank you for the assistance I received to travel to my Daughter's Graduation.

The fund would make it possible for me to travel, along with my niece/caregiver, to Austin, TX, for my Daughter's College graduation. My daughter received her degree (Summa Cum Laude), making me a very happy man. Thank you so much for making, this possible.

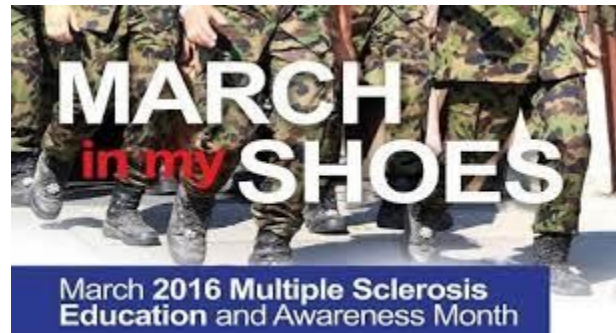
Gerald Caldwell

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND THE VA

Part II

By Cassandra Crosby

Whether service connected or not, the VA also offers other benefits to all veterans who have MS besides disability compensation. The VA has [Multiple Sclerosis Centers of Excellence](#) to serve these veterans with specifically targeted treatments, benefits, and care.



What if I am not service connected? Can I still get benefits?

Yes, veterans who are non-service connected for MS are still eligible for benefits in several ways. First, of course, check to see if you are within the presumptive period and apply for disability compensation. Or, if you or your doctor can link symptoms back to that presumptive period, even if you were not yet diagnosed, go ahead and file a claim. You don't have anything to lose.

Now, without receiving disability compensation, veterans with MS are may also be eligible for an array of other services.

- **Medical Care:** even under non-service connected status, many veterans may be eligible for health care for their MS
- **Prosthetic and Sensory Aids:** this includes devices such as hearing aids, eyeglasses, speech and communication devices, home dialysis, orthopedic, wheelchairs, respiratory aids, hospital beds, and other daily-living aids.
- **Home Improvement Grants:** there are several types of grants veterans can apply for to modify or purchase specially adaptive homes due to severely debilitating diseases such as MS.
- **Mobility Benefits:** this includes referrals for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services or other interdisciplinary specialties and evaluation of needs for mobility such as power chairs.
- **Driver Rehabilitation:** Service such as driver retraining and assessments to help veterans maintain independence
- **Modifications:** [automobile adaptive grants](#) cover the one time purchase of adaptive equipment for such items as van lifts.
- **Clothing Allowance:** Veterans may receive an annual monetary allowance to assist with the purchase of clothing that is damaged due to orthopedic appliances such as wheelchairs, etc.
- **Prescription medications:** MS medications are expensive, and sometimes insurance copays are almost as expensive when the medications are Tier three or not covered at all, based on eligibility, VA prescriptions may be able to help with those costs.
- **Aid and Attendance:** Veterans and survivors who are eligible for pension and require the aid and attendance of another person due to being housebound or inability to care for themselves alone, may be eligible for additional monetary payment
- **Mental Health Services:** All mental health services are available to eligible veterans, and there is legislation to expand those services to all veterans soon. MS victims have the extra burden of emotional issues due to the neurological damage that MS wreaks on the person's brain.



- Respite Care: everyone needs a break now and then, and while we recognize that the person suffering from MS never gets a break, those who care for them need those breaks from time to time to deal with not only the physical demands, but the emotional ones as well. Respite is an often under-utilized service that is available to those eligible for it.

For Caregivers:

The MS Centers for Excellence also provide services for caregivers. Caregivers are an important part of the lives of Veterans with MS. Whether they are part time, full time, family members, friends, or paid; they have a responsibility that outweighs every other; the responsibility of another person's well being and health. For all care givers, this is an enormous responsibility and one that often wears them down emotionally over time. However, with those caring for MS patients, it can often be extra difficult due to the emotional issues.

People with MS often experience what we call in my family, lack of emotional filtering, this is especially true when there is damage or an active lesion to the nerves that are in the brain stem areas. This is the part of the brain that deals with emotion and instinct. Couple this with any issues in the regulation parts of the brain, and you have someone who says everything they think, good or bad, no matter what the consequences. And it can sometimes be very hurtful if you are a loved one caring for them. Having support for caregivers is a very needed service for those who care for Veterans with MS due to this unique aspect of the disease.

The caregiver program, [MS Caregivers](#), provides a toll free hotline, up to 30 days of respite care per year, a support network including the Caregiver REACH program (one specifically designed for those caring for Veterans with MS); and telephone and in person based support groups. There is a huge amount of resources from the VA and the MS Foundation for caregivers to utilized.

Studies and Treatment

There are also studies and treatment available. The MS Foundation has a booklet available for free download called [Disease Modifying Therapies](#) for MS that is found on the VA's website and goes through all of the main 13 current treatment modalities so that Veterans can discuss them with their doctors. This brochure covers injectables, orals, and infused medications and reviews pros, cons, and approvals.

The MS Centers of Excellence also offer a Smartphone App for Apple iPhone, Android, and Blackberry Torch. The app links Veterans to med information, coverage information on adaptive equipment, caregiver resources, and other VA benefits, symptom management, and VA resources. Instructions for downloading can be [found here](#).



The MS Centers of Excellence also works hard at keeping up with the latest therapies, advancements in research, and technology. Below are links to their site and some others that are valuable to anyone with Multiple Sclerosis.

- [MS Centers of Excellence – Veteran's Administration](#)
- [National MD Society](#)
- [Multiple Sclerosis Association of America](#)
- [Multiple Sclerosis Foundation](#)
- [Veterans with MS](#)





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

October 17, 2017

Volume 23, Number 10

PRIORITY

The Government Relations staff is still looking for stories about problems that our members have experienced during air travel. Please visit www.AirAccess30.org and share your story.

House VA Committee Holds Hearing on Asset Review Proposed Legislation

On October 12, 2017, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a legislative hearing to review a draft bill—the "Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Act." This legislation was originally discussed during a full Committee round table in September. Carl Blake, Associate Executive Director (AED) of Government Relations, testified on behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). PVA generally supports the intent of the legislation; however, we expressed some significant concerns with the proposal as presented.

The draft bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to undertake an asset review process that mirrors the BRAC process previously used in the Department of Defense (DOD). During the hearing, PVA expressed our support for the notion of rightsizing the VA's infrastructure footprint. However, we emphasized that a BRAC-style process is not necessarily the optimal process to achieve that end. Representatives from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Congressional Research Service (CRS) explained that the key to making the process work is spending all the time necessary to do advance planning, laying out the desired end goals and the processes needed to analyze the complete VA health care system. GAO explained that DOD had fully three years before a BRAC Commission was empaneled to consider the infrastructure alignment of DOD. Meanwhile, this bill establishes a process whereby the VA will complete all of its preparatory work within one year and the Commission will then submit its final recommendations to Congress within six months following that date (by May 2019), effectively giving VA and the Commission only 18 months to outline the complete realignment of the infrastructure footprint of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The draft

legislation essentially ignores what GAO identified as the most critical point to ensure success of this process—time.

Moreover, this legislation appears to be putting the cart before the horse. We strongly believe that VA should have the opportunity develop and put into operation its integrated health care network before any decisions are made about what the footprint of VA should look like. It makes no sense for VA to make decisions about what its infrastructure alignment will be without first understanding what its capacity to deliver services currently is and how an integrated network must be designed to enhance that capability. Central to that effort is the completion of a thorough market assessment before the network can be fully established and implemented. With that in mind, the draft bill requires modification to its overall timeline in order to accommodate more time for market assessment.

We also have serious concerns that fitting a BRAC model to VA presumes that the nature of the VA health care system is not fundamentally different from the DOD base alignment that was considered during its own BRAC process. This proposal ignores the fact that the DOD BRAC addressed a static military population and simply consolidated and moved units to fit its planned infrastructure alignment. It was relatively easy, though not politically, to simply move military families to new locations to support the force realignment. This fact does not apply to the VA health care system and the population it serves. Decisions to close or downsize a VA medical facility will have a direct impact on the veteran population being actively served in that selected community.

Our last concern is the impact initiating a BRAC process will have on current major and minor construction activities at VA. When VA initiated its Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) process

nearly 15 years ago, the most devastating result of this process was the moratorium placed on virtually all construction for a two-year period while the process was conducted. Congress has compounded that problem every year since that time by woefully underfunding the major and minor construction requirements of VA. Many facilities are now in serious decline simply because they were not upgraded or modernized, and because Congress continues to provide inadequate funding for VA's infrastructure needs, and now many of those facilities face the possibility of closure because of that neglect.

With the establishment of an Asset and Infrastructure Review Account we believe that Congress will continue to ignore its responsibility to provide critically-needed funding for ongoing construction projects in an effort to wait for the outcome of the Commission. This is an unacceptable proposition for PVA.

The prospects for this legislation remain uncertain. The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs is much less inclined to take up similar legislation. The bill may also be unnecessary as the Secretary has already laid out plans to deal with unused and underutilized facilities.

To read PVA's full written statement, please visit www.pva.org.

House VA Committee Conducts Roundtable on Choice Reform Legislation

On October 3, 2017, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a round table to discuss a draft bill that would make the Veterans Choice program permanent. The bill presumably reflects bipartisan efforts of both Chairman Phil Roe (R-TN) and Ranking Minority Member Tim Walz (D-MN). Carl Blake, AED of Government Relations, represented PVA at the round table and was accompanied by Lana McKenzie, AED for Medical Services, who offered key insights into the ideas being considered by the Committee and how the provision of spinal cord injury (SCI) care will fit into this proposal.

PVA generally supports the draft bill that has been presented. The bill authorizes the development of an integrated health care network to support the VA health care system. Veterans would be assigned a primary care provider either within the VA or in the community dependent upon availability. Access to the

community would then be governed by a determination of clinical need between the veteran and his or her primary care provider, the availability of services at the local VA medical center or in the community, and the performance of the local VA in providing those services in a timely, quality manner. Veterans needing specialty care must be referred into the community. Much of the structure of this proposal mirrors the concepts of an HMO.

Our emphasis during the round table was on ensuring proper coordination of care, particularly when veterans with catastrophic disabilities such as spinal cord injury are referred to providers in the community. We also recommended that the Committee revise the draft bill to allow more time for the completion of market assessments that will outline the capacity of VA to provide services. We do have concerns that those market assessments are focused too much on examining a way to allow for the community to provide more care when gaps are identified, rather than also outlining potential alternatives that will expand VA's internal capacity.

The bill also lacks an urgent care benefit that many veterans' service organizations and key stakeholders have recommended in the past. In fact, the VA's draft community care plan presented earlier this year included an urgent care benefit. We have argued that urgent care options for veterans would potentially relieve significant pressure on the emergency care and primary care functions at the VA.

This legislation will be considered in a legislative hearing by the House VA Committee later in October. It remains unclear how the House and Senate VA Committees will resolve the significant differences that currently exist between the bills they are considering.

Of note, at the end of the round table, Chairman Roe emphasized that the notion of unfettered choice is a false choice. He explained that the only people who get unfettered choice in their health care in America are those who pay completely out of pocket. Otherwise, all other people seeking health care do so through a type of managed care. This is a critical point as some continue to advocate for unfettered choice within VA.

Amendment Addressing Passengers with Disabilities Added to TSA Modernization Bill

On October 4, 2017, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee marked up S. 1872,

the “Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Modernization Act.” At the markup, the Committee accepted a PVA-supported amendment on improving the screening of passengers with disabilities. The amendment was sponsored by Chairman John Thune (R-SD), Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL), Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA).

The amendment includes several provisions that would improve the travel experience for people with disabilities. One provision would require TSA to work with disability and veterans’ service organizations to develop specific training requirements for TSA personnel regarding the proper screening of passengers who use wheelchairs, indwelling medical devices, prosthetics, and service animals. As part of this process, TSA would be required to revise its current training to implement needed changes.

Another provision would require TSA to record each disability-related complaint, identify the most frequently concerns raised or accommodations requested, and determine the best practices for addressing the most frequent complaints and accommodation requests. The amendment would also require signage at security checkpoints informing passenger with disabilities of their right to request assistance with disability-related complaints. Importantly, it would also improve accountability by requiring TSA to report to Congress on an annual basis metrics related to the experiences of passengers with disabilities.

PVA will continue to work with Committee staff in the coming weeks to ensure additional protections for passengers with disabilities in transiting security are addressed before the bill heads to the Senate floor.

House and Senate Budget Resolutions Assume Cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security

On October 4, 2017, the House of Representatives approved its 2018 budget resolution that lays the groundwork for its tax reform plans through the process known as reconciliation. Adopting an overall \$4.1 trillion spending plan for the federal government for fiscal year 2018, the budget resolution contains a set of instructions to Congressional committees to turn the budget resolution into implementing legislation.

Contained in the budget resolution are instructions to House committees to find \$487 billion in savings over ten years from Medicare, \$1 trillion in savings from Medicaid and \$5.4 billion from Social Security. Proposed changes for Medicare include a gradual increase in the eligibility age from 65 to 67, raising income related premiums for Parts B and D (the physician services and prescription drug programs) of Medicare and converting this program for older Americans and people with disabilities to a premium support system of financing. If enacted, Medicare beneficiaries would be given a flat payment or voucher with which to buy health insurance either under traditional Medicare or through the private market. All plans competing in the program would have to match the benefits and services of traditional Medicare and insurers could not deny coverage to any beneficiary. Although the impact on beneficiaries of this plan is unclear, previous analyses by the Congressional Budget Office have indicated that a premium support system would increase costs for those enrollees in traditional Medicare. The \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid are assumed to come from adoption of provisions that were included in previous House-passed health care reform bills such as turning Medicaid into a block grant to the states and ending the Medicaid expansion.

For Social Security, the budget resolution proposes reducing Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits to those beneficiaries receiving Unemployment Insurance compensation. Such a move could prove to be a work disincentive for SSDI recipients who attempt a return to work but lose their jobs through no fault of their own. The vote in the House in favor of the FY 2018 budget resolution was on a nearly party-line voted of 219 to 206.

The Senate is expected to take up a similar budget resolution as soon as the week of October 16. Passing the budget resolution through both chambers sets in motion the process known as reconciliation by which changes to the tax code can be passed with a simple majority of 51 votes in the Senate. The changes proposed in the budget resolution to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are only a road map for authorizing committees to turn into legislation. However, PVA remains concerned over their potential harm to beneficiaries and will oppose measures that adversely affect the earned benefits of older Americans and people with disabilities.

Advocacy Staff Participate in Site Visit on Improving Air Travel Accessibility

In October, PVA Associate General Counsel Heather Ansley and Senior Associate Advocacy Director Lee Page travelled to Minden, NV, to meet with Peter Axelson of Beneficial Designs. The meeting was meant to educate our staff regarding Mr. Axelson's research into accessible air travel. Specifically, Mr. Axelson and Beneficial Designs received a 2014 award from PVA's Research Foundation to investigate assistive technology for non-ambulatory passengers in air travel. Staff had the opportunity to walk through the research protocol and learn more about the various boarding chairs and lift systems designed to help people with disabilities board and deplane an aircraft.

While in Nevada, staff also had the opportunity to meet with John McGuinness of HAYCOMP of Australia, a company that manufactures lift devices for persons with disabilities including aviation lifters. Information about their product can be found at: <http://www.haycomp.com.au/aviation-lifters/>. The lift device is able to assist a person with complete immobility on an off an airplane as an alternative to the standard aisle chair. HAYCOMP is working with the PVA Florida Gulf Coast Chapter and the coordination committee for the 38th National Veteran Wheelchair Games that will be held in Orlando, FL, from July 29-August 4, 2018. The lift will be available in Orlando to assist veterans who need the assistance it provides to board and deplane in a safe and effective manner.

President Issues Executive Order to Expand Health Insurance Options

In the wake of Congressional inaction on repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), President Donald Trump signed an executive order (EO) on October 12 directing several federal agencies to issue regulations to broaden Americans' access to lower cost health insurance options. The EO focuses on promoting greater use of three different types of health coverage plans: so-called association health plans (AHPs), short-term, limited-duration insurance (STLDI), and health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs).

The Labor Department (DOL) is given 60 days to develop proposed regulations to make it easier for small businesses and individuals to join together to purchase health insurance through nationwide association health plans. Association health plans already exist but DOL could amend rules so that these

plans fall under similar regulations governing large-employer health insurance policies. Large employer health insurance plans are not required to abide by all of the ACA mandates such as coverage of prescription drugs, rehabilitation services or other essential health benefits. While this move could allow AHPs to restrict coverage based on medical history, the administration has said that employers participating in these plans would not be allowed to exclude employees or develop premiums based on health conditions.

DOL as well as the Departments of Treasury and Health and Human Services were assigned the two other tasks covered by the EO. Within 60 days, they are to devise proposed regulations to expand the availability of short-term health insurance policies, which also don't have to comply with ACA protections, for those with pre-existing conditions. Typically used by persons who are between jobs, these STLDI plans are not required to offer the comprehensive set of benefits called for under the ACA and were limited by the ACA to no longer than 90 days. The order extends the term of these plans to a year. Within 120 days, these same three agencies are directed to propose regulations or revised guidance to increase the use of HRAs, to expand the ability of employers to offer HRAs to their workforces, and to allow HRAs to be used in conjunction with non-group coverage.

Critics of these proposals are concerned that allowing these health plans to sell more limited benefits and exclude persons with high cost health conditions may draw younger and healthier people to them, leaving older persons and those with disabilities or chronic conditions in the ACA health exchanges. That in turn would cause insurance premiums in ACA plans to spike, making insurance increasingly unaffordable and possibly leading to greater numbers of people without insurance.

All of the proposals contained in the executive order must go through the regulatory rule-making process so it may be at least six months before any changes are finalized by Labor, Treasury and HHS.

Easy Beginnings of Earthquake Preparation

NEIGHBORHOOD CORE

by Vernell J. Judy

The first thing each of us can do to prepare for living well once the shaking subsides is to build our Neighborhood Core.

Roads and bridges will be impassable thereby making our neighborhood our “family”. Select those closest to you comprising about six to eight households. This is your “Neighborhood Core”.

Each Core household is responsible for assembling their own personal preparedness kit including water, food and personal sanitation supplies. The Neighborhood Core is for the purposes delineated below.

Make a list including each member of all the households. Find out if there will be family and friends who may be sheltering in the home after the quake. These may include people who work or attend school closer to your neighborhood than their own homes. Initially they may shelter with your neighbors and it is a good idea to know who they are.

Determine who among you have special needs and will require assistance. After all there will be no emergency responders. The Neighborhood Core will be the first, and probably the only, responders for quite some time.

Every group is comprised of individuals with special skills. Find out who knows how to operate a chainsaw, “man” a hammer tacker, set a bone or bandage a wound, etc.

Find out who has special tools like ladders, jacks, wheelbarrows, saws, tarps and extra fuel to power up chain saws. Tree removal will “fall” (no pun intended) to each individual neighborhood.

Because windows will be shattered, plastic sheeting to cover both inside and outside each

exposed opening will have to be applied to keep out weather and unwelcome critters. This is more easily done as a group project with one person measuring, one cutting plastic sheeting, some holding it in place and some using a hammer tacker to nail it up. While each household will supply their own sheeting and staples from their preparedness kit, you can all share ladders, hammer tackers and scissors. Just don't forget to all buy the same staples that the tacker requires.

There will be a need for two distinctly different disposal sites. These should be predetermined by the Core. The first one is for dry waste like broken glass, fallen plaster, broken furniture, etc. By placing these items in one convenient location your neighborhood will remain less of a hazard.

The other disposal site is for composting wet items, food scraps and the like that will be accessed by your neighborhood critters. You want this site to be in one location far enough from your homes that you will not be overrun with hungry varmints.

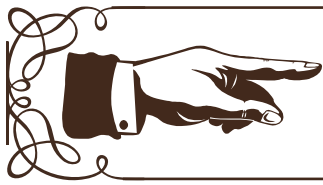
Keep a loud whistle within easy reach. Let your neighbors know that you will be tweeting if you need help. The Neighborhood Core should be aware to listen for whistles.

Stay tuned for the next installment. And, as an assignment, put your intelligent imagination to work on what you think you will need. This little exercise doesn't cost anything nor take much time but the personal rewards are huge. Sometimes looking the enemy (in this case a 9+ earthquake) in the face and familiarizing yourself with what could happen prepares you better than anything. Neither fear nor hope equals preparation. Good planning reduces anxiety associated with the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Somehow, I feel like I am preaching to the choir. I can almost hear you singing from here.



Richard Kyser	11/2	Patrick Cain	12/5
Paula Fox	11/3	Steven Terry	12/9
Ken Allen	11/5	Jarlin Medlock	12/10
Martin Halsey	11/5	Ivan Nance	12/10
Lynette Nobel	11/5	Louis Hatfield	12/11
Louis Grimmer Jr	11/7	Loyal Rookhuyzen	12/12
Irwin Storer	11/10	Scott Larsen	12/13
Linda Jespersen	11/12	Brian Price	12/13
Jack Howell	11/13	Angel Enriquez	12/13
Edward Lanssens	11/13	William Hauser	12/14
Dennis Harbour	11/20	Donna Schymanski	12/15
Steven Ross	11/21	Paul Dahlke	12/16
David Peddicord	11/22	Vernon Shelden	12/19
John Balbin	11/22	Paul Donovan	12/21
Carl Hay	11/23	Duane Ingersoll	12/22
Arnold Bondley	11/24	Brian Barlow	12/24
Daniel Brophy	11/27	James Ledridge	12/25
Robert Haberman Jr	11/27	Richard Dean	12/30
Michael Olin	11/30	Michael Mayea	12/30
Joseph Theriot	12/1	Edward Lawrence	12/31
Ronald Latham	12/4	Jeffery Cox	12/31
Kathryn Shear	12/4		





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**Paralyzed Veterans
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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) 202.416.1250. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chapter Name: Oregon Chapter

First Name: _____ **Middle Initial:** _____ **Last Name:** _____

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / _____ **Social Security Number:** _____ Male Female

Race/Ethnicity:

- Asian/Pacific Islander African American/Descent Hispanic/Latino
 Native American/Alaskan Native Caucasian

Address: _____ **City:** _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Email:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Other Phone:** _____

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

Please submit the following with application:

- Proof of U.S. or U.S. Territorial Citizenship (Birth Certificate, Passport, INS Form, or Voter's Registration Form).
- DD214 showing character of discharge.
- Medical evidence of spinal cord injury or involvement (medical records or physician's statement).

Proof of active duty status must be verified prior to membership approval.

Have you been discharged under conditions that are less than 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 but not the spinal cord do not qualify.

SPINAL CORD INJURY

Complete only if you have a traumatic spinal cord injury.

Date of Injury: ___ / ___ / _____

Cause of Spinal Cord Injury:

- Vehicular (car, motorcycle, aircraft, etc.)
 Violence (gunshot, explosion, etc.)
 Flying/Falling object
 Sport/Recreation (swimming, diving, etc.)
 Pedestrian (car accident, etc.)
 Unknown
 Other traumatic injury: _____

SPINAL CORD DISEASE

Complete only if there is no spinal cord injury.

Date of Diagnosis/Onset of Condition: ___ / ___ / _____

Specific Disease Involving Spinal Cord:

- Multiple Sclerosis (involving bowel & bladder)
 Poliomyelitis
 Syringomyelia
 Amyotrophic diseases
 (lateral sclerosis, transverse myelitis)
 Other: _____



**Paralyzed Veterans
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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? Yes 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:** ___ / ___ / _____



**Paralyzed Veterans
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Oregon Chapter

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We need your input:

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WE WANT YOU TO ATTEND. Where would you like for it to be held?

Please mark the location(s) where you would attend

Locations: Past Banquets

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Monarch Inn off I-205

Quality Inn in Keizer

Embassy Suites in Lake Oswego

Holiday Inn in Wilsonville

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Write in Other _____

Any other suggestions - time of year, food, entertainment, etc. _____



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