

January/February 2017  
Volume 21, Issue 1



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter

# PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



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## *Winter Rod and Speed Show*



**January 20-21, 2017**

Friday 7 PM - 10 PM

Saturday 9 AM - 6 PM

**Linn County Fair  
& Expo Center**

3700 Knox Butte Rd E,  
Albany, OR 97322

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COVER VIEW: Bob CREEK Wayside, FLORENCE, OR

## Correction Notice

In the November/December issue of the OPVA Paralog. It was stated that the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America is Celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Please note that it should have read that this is their **40th Anniversary**. We apologize for any confusion.

Thank you to all our Sponsors!





**Paralyzed Veterans of America**

Oregon Chapter

**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**

3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305

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**OPVA Mission**

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America is committed to taking those actions necessary to improve the quality of life and to protect the rights of spinal cord injured or neurologically impaired veterans through: veterans benefits protection; advocacy; legislation; sports and recreation; hospital liaison and spinal cord research.

**Vancouver VA Primary**

**Care Contact Phone Numbers**

360-696-4061

503-220-8262 ext. 31665

(Portland)

800-949-1004 ext. 31665

**After Hours Number**

888-233-8305

**Portland VA Contact Phone Number**

503-273-5308

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Trish Hafer

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# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



(Left to right): Jack Howell, Larry Gardner, Tom Hurt, Dan Service, Bill Blake, Sue Holt, Dave Parker, Bill Gray and Mike Rosenbalm



Louie Grimmer – Vice President

When you serve with a group of people there is one major factor you learn quickly and that is we are a team.

Over the years while being a member of Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA) as a Board Member or other positions even as a Member I have found a place to hang my hat so to speak. We are in the same boat trying to do our best at life and we can serve others as we trundle down the pathway of life.

**We are a TEAM**

I have always stated that because of OPVA. I am who I am and I am very grateful and that is why I do what is necessary to pay back my portion.

Now as Vice President I have the great opportunity to help the chapter while our president is in the hospital, believe me this was not in the script that was in my mind but it is here and stepping up to the plate is what I will do.





# WHEELS HELPING WARRIORS

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### Donate today!

Call or visit us online to donate your vehicle today:

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**wheelshelpingwarriors.org**



## Hypothermia & Frostbite



Daniel Service – Treasurer

### Hypothermia Highlights

- When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced.
- Low body temperature may make you unable to think clearly or move well.
- You may not know you have hypothermia.
- If your temperature is below 95°, the situation is an emergency—get medical attention immediately.

When exposed to cold temperatures, your body begins to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold will eventually use up your body's stored energy.

The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature. Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This makes hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know it is happening and won't be able to do anything about it.

Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or submersion in cold water.

Victims of hypothermia are often (1) elderly people with inadequate food, clothing, or heating; (2) babies sleeping in cold bedrooms; (3) people who remain outdoors for long periods—the homeless, hikers, hunters, etc.; and (4) people who drink alcohol or use illicit drugs.



# Recognizing Hypothermia

Warnings signs of hypothermia:

Adults:

- Shivering, exhaustion
- Confusion, fumbling hands
- Memory loss, slurred speech
- Drowsiness

Infants:

- Bright red, cold skin
- Very low energy

## What to Do?

If you notice any of these signs, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95°, the situation is an emergency—get medical attention immediately.

If medical care is not available, begin warming the person, as follows:

- Get the victim into a warm room or shelter.
- If the victim has on any wet clothing, remove it.
- Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin—using an electric blanket, if available. Or use skin-to-skin contact under loose, dry layers of blankets, clothing, towels, or sheets.
- Warm beverages can help increase the body temperature, but do not give alcoholic beverages. Do not try to give beverages to an unconscious person.
- After body temperature has increased, keep the person dry and wrapped in a warm blanket, including the head and neck.
- Get medical attention as soon as possible.

A person with severe hypothermia may be unconscious and may not seem to have a pulse or to be breathing. In this case, handle the victim gently, and get emergency assistance immediately. Even if the victim appears dead, CPR should be provided. CPR should continue while the victim is being warmed, until the victim responds or medical aid becomes available. In some cases, hypothermia victims who appear to be dead can be successfully resuscitated.

## Frostbite Highlights

- Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing.
- Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color in the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes.
- Seek medical care if you think you have frostbite.

Frostbite is an injury to the body that is caused by freezing. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color in affected areas. It most often affects the nose, ears, cheeks, chin, fingers, or toes. Frostbite can permanently damage the body, and severe cases can lead to amputation. The risk of frostbite is increased in people with reduced blood circulation and among people who are not dressed properly for extremely cold temperatures.

## Recognizing Frostbite

At the first signs of redness or pain in any skin area, get out of the cold or protect any exposed skin—frostbite may be beginning. Any of the following signs may indicate frostbite:

- A white or grayish-yellow skin area
- Skin that feels unusually firm or waxy
- Numbness

A victim is often unaware of frostbite until someone else points it out because the frozen tissues are numb.

## What to Do?

If you detect symptoms of frostbite, seek medical care. Because frostbite and hypothermia both result from exposure, first determine whether the victim also shows signs of hypothermia, as described previously. Hypothermia is a more serious medical condition and requires emergency medical assistance.

If (1) there is frostbite but no sign of hypothermia and (2) immediate medical care is not available, proceed as follows:

- Get into a warm room as soon as possible.
- Unless absolutely necessary, do not walk on frostbitten feet or toes—this increases the damage.
- Immerse the affected area in warm—not hot—water (the temperature should be comfortable to the touch for unaffected parts of the body).
- Or, warm the affected area using body heat. For example, the heat of an armpit can be used to warm frostbitten fingers.
- Do not rub the frostbitten area with snow or massage it at all. This can cause more damage.
- Don't use a heating pad, heat lamp, or the heat of a stove, fireplace, or radiator for warming. Affected areas are numb and can be easily burned.

These procedures are not substitutes for proper medical care. Hypothermia is a medical emergency and frostbite should be evaluated by a health care provider. It is a good idea to take a first aid and emergency resuscitation (CPR) course to prepare for cold-weather health problems. Knowing what to do is an important part of protecting your health and the health of others.

Taking preventive action is your best defense against having to deal with extreme cold-weather conditions. By preparing your home and car in advance for winter emergencies, and by observing safety precautions during times of extremely cold weather, you can reduce the risk of weather-related health problems.

*From: CDC, Center for Disease Control and Prevention*



## Walk MS: Salem 2017



### Walk Details

**Date:** April 22, 2017

**Start/Finish Location:** Riverfront Park, Salem, OR

**Time:** Registration opens at 9 a.m.; walk begins at 10 a.m.

**Join our team! Call at 503.362.7998**

### Walk to create a world free of MS.

Ending multiple sclerosis for good will take all of us. Walk MS helps us team up with friends, loved ones and co-workers to change the world for everyone affected by MS. Together, we become a powerful force. And with every step we take, every dollar we raise...we're that much closer. Together, we will end MS forever.



# April 8, 2017

10am - 3pm

Open to the Public (Free)

**Double Tree by Hilton Portland Hotel**

1000 NE Multnomah St. Portland, OR 97232

**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**

3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 Phone: 503.362.7998 Toll Free: 1.800.333.0782

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

email: [development@oregonpva.org](mailto:development@oregonpva.org)

# SPORTS NEWS ALERT



Larry Gardner—Sports Director

Winter is here and our slower time of year, but we still have several events coming up.

A couple of past events were the Veterans Day Parade in Albany, Oregon on November 11th that we participate in every year. Our Gun Raffle Drawing on November 21st that went to a lucky winner out of Beaverton, Oregon. Soon will be having another gun raffle.

As a reminder Oregon Adaptive Sports out of Bend, is having their annual “Heroes in Sisters” winter ski event January 20th–22nd at Mt Bachelor and Hoodoo Ski Resorts. I went last year and what a blast, if interested you can call OAS at 541-306-4774 or the OPVA office at 503-362-7998 for any information. This is a FREE event, lodging, meals and skiing for the family.

February 4th Mary’s Peak Hound Club is having their annual Rabbit Hunt at EE Wilson Wildlife area in Camp Adair Oregon, the area is accessible and lots of fun.

February 11th we are having a Fun Shoot fund raiser at the Hillsboro Trap and Skeet Club. There will be prizes of Valentine’s Candy. Also Raffle items and more, it’s a lot of fun and is open to the public for family and friends, come out and enjoy the day. First timers are welcome, we will help get you started.

We are working on the dates for our member meetings around the state. We want to visit get to know our members and for you to meet us and have lunch. The meetings will be held this year at local accessible bowling allies. So those interested in bowling can play and enjoy or come just for the pizza.

Then as a reminder for all OPVA Members our fiscal year started October 1st, so get out and use your Recreation Fund.

That’s all I have for now, so if you have any questions about our sporting events or events in general call: 503-362-7998 or my cell 503-930-9589. Thank you very much, your Sports Director, Larry Gardner.

# Fun ♥ Shoot

## February 11, 2017

Valentines Celebration  
Shooting games with Candy Prizes



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter

**Location:** Hillsboro Trap & Skeet Club

33295 NW Wren Road,  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Time:** Registration is at 9:00 a.m.

Games 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Event Type:** Fun Shoot

**Cost:** \$4.00 each game

**All proceeds support OPVA Trap Team**

Prizes - Raffles items from Cabelas,  
Sportsman's Warehouse & Leupold. All shooters welcome



Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America - 3700 Silverton Rd. NE - Salem - OR 97305 - Office: 503-362-7998

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

[oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org)



# RECREATION FUND REPORTS



Here is my request for the Recreation Fund. Each year I go to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

We went recently, spending 2 nights. As always, the plays, restaurants and people were wonderful.

It's great being able to spend such fun time with family.

Thank you.

*Karen Abramowitz*

Dear OPVA Office,  
I, Michelle R. Beech, had a VA appointment in Portland. My husband and I stayed three nights this trip, due to the long drive, at a RV park (as the overall cost were remarkably less expensive than a hotel room). We met up with family and friends at a local bar, shopped at the local stores and ate delicious food at several restaurants. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

*Michelle Beech*



In October my computer went south and cost too much to repair, but fortunately I had the Recreation Fund at my disposal and made use of it, \$250.00 paid a quarter of the total cost. Thanks OPVA for that help.

*Roger Robinson*



I really enjoyed getting my yearly Christmas card, Thanks. I think it helped me get into the spirit of the season.

I then went to IHOP for my FREE Red, White & Blue Pancakes for Veterans Day, they were very good.

I started planning our holiday family party with a lunch buffet to straighten out the details. I purchased Christmas Decorations for the party at Big Lots. It all will turn out so good! I'll have another year to celebrate with my family.

Thanks so much for making this event happen.

Bridget Selby



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 along with a one to two paragraph 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 (10/1/16 - 9/30/17). - Mail to: **Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305**

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

**Special Thank you to our Recreation Fund Sponsors**

- **Marie LamFrom Charitable Foundation**
- **The Edward+Romell Ackley Foundation**



**Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 or 1-800-333-0782 if you have any questions or require additional information.**



# DONATED ITEMS

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**



**All items are "As Is"  
No Warranty**

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Rascal 655 Scooter



EasyStand 5000 Series  
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# DONATED ITEMS

## TESTIMONY

35 year ago before VA my husband was diagnosed with MS then he lost his job and our income. We didn't even have money to buy a manual wheelchair, and he could no longer walk.

When I saw your brilliant idea in the OPVA magazine where you advertised that veterans are welcome to free medical equipment yes I said free. When I made my phone call I was treated kind and welcome to come get what I needed for my husband to make his life easier.

When I arrived I met a wonderful man named Gary. He shared when Veterans or the families were no longer using their medical equipment they can donate their medical equipment for free to OPVA, such as standing frames, wheelchairs, walkers, chairs, etc. to be given to other veterans to use.

So hats off to you OPVA. It's a noble thing you're doing.

Our appreciation,  
Gary and Sherrie Cooper



OAS  
Oregon Adaptive Sports

9th Annual  
"Heroes in "Sisters"

January 20 - 22, 2017

Sisters, Oregon at the Hoodoo Ski Area, and Mt. Bachelor Ski Area



Please contact us to schedule a time at  
[info@oregonadaptivesports.org](mailto:info@oregonadaptivesports.org) or give us a call at 541-306-4774

# MEMBERSHIP AND LEGISLATION



Roger C. Robinson – Membership Director

As most of you are aware the lottery measure passed allowing 1.5% of those funds to be turned over to the Department of Veterans Affairs, State of Oregon. We, the veterans community need to come up with some new programs relating to veterans issues. Some examples: shelters for homeless veterans; health care to those needing it; transportation to and from Portland VA Hospital, with lift equipped vans, and many other programs.

Your impute is needed and you can send your suggestions to me at our office: [oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org)

United Veterans Group of Oregon (UVGO), will be a large part of approving new programs. We have our work cut out for us this season, the state would love to use the funds for DAV budget. We are here to stop that, these funds are over and above their yearly funding, for new programs only.

## Measure 96 - Lottery Proceeds for Vets

1.8M votes counted

0%

50

100

**Yes**

**83.7%**



**No**

**16.3%**



Oregon Live | The Oregonian

# HOSPITAL LIAISON REPORT



Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison

The following is a brief update to keep you posted as to what's happening.



## Seattle VA SCI/D Unit

The Seattle SCI Center continues to have issues with the ongoing nurse shortage. Currently admissions are capped at 23 of the 38 bed capacity. SCI leadership is working with human resources in effort to fill vacant nursing positions and recently hired 3 Nursing Assistants and 2 Registered Nurses. In addition, one notable staff change to be aware of is that Ryan Webb, physician assistant has left the VA SCI unit and SCI leadership is currently working to fill this position.

## Upgrades to the Seattle SCI Center

- **Environmental Controls**

The SCI unit is planning to install 30 Environmental Control Units (ECU). The current plan is to install one single ECU for testing and training in December. Then start installing the remaining 29 ECUs in January. As a quadriplegic, I cannot tell you how excited I am to see these ECUs be installed. It will be nice to be able to operate the bed controls and TV independently without help.

- **Cellular/Wi-Fi signal**

Recently the VA installed Wi-Fi hotspots in the SCI unit. The hotspots in the SCI should be turned on shortly. It will greatly improve the availability of Wi-Fi signals in the SCI hospital rooms. The long-term plan is to install Wi-Fi not only in the SCI unit, but other patient centric areas of the hospital. Money for the Wi-Fi project is in the 2018 budget which begins October 2017. Wi-Fi will greatly enhance the patient experience throughout the hospital.



## Portland VA/Vancouver Campus

Courtney Schoenfeld, SCI Coordinator located at the Vancouver campus will be on leave until sometime in February.

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.

# THE AGENT ORANGE



By Wes Carter – Member

The recreation fund allowance for several years has helped me support veterans advocacy projects dear to me. The first of these was for the C-123 Veterans Association, the men and women who flew these former Agent Orange spray aircrafts in the years following Vietnam. This effort started in 2011 as an Oregon resident and continued after we'd relocated to Colorado to be nearer our children.

The VA insisted, even though the aircraft tested as contaminated with Agent Orange, there was no way that contamination actually exposed us to the deadly toxin in the herbicide. I used my Oregon PVA recreational allowance to help prove VA wrong. Mostly, this involved travel to Washington DC between the years 2011-2015, with each journey costing around \$1500. Postage, websites, printing and other expenses all added up.



Wes Carter during his service in the Air force. Photo courtesy Wes Carter

Several trips a year created a serious impact on our family as I was already 100% service connected for spinal cord injuries, and dependent on my VA and Air Force retirement income.

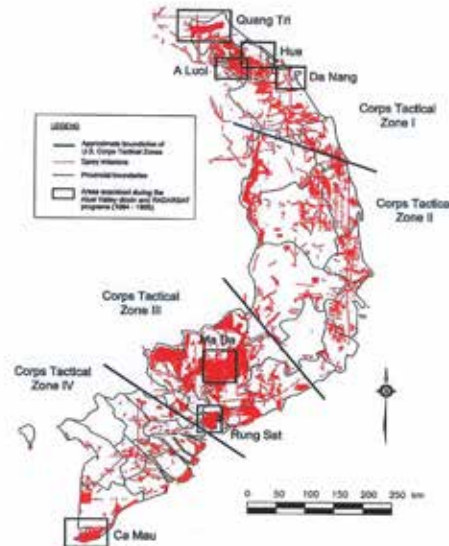
Challenging the VA involved contacting scientists in and out of government but particularly those in the CDC in the National Institutes of Health. Here I found support from experts who disagreed with the VA and insisted our exposures we're very harmful and, in fact, we should have been flying the airplanes wearing full HAZMAT protection.

The VA responded by saying these experts' opinions were unacceptable, and that VA had "an overwhelming preponderance of evidence" against our exposure injuries having been caused by Agent Orange on the aircraft. We countered the VA arguments with stacks of evidence from medical schools and other universities as well as independent scientists and several government agencies. Enough controversy was created that eventually VA submitted the issue to the Institute of Medicine for public hearings.

I appeared at these hearings and offered my input regarding aircraft and aircrew details, plus information about the post-Vietnam use of these former Agent Orange spray C-123s. The Institute of Medicine Committee considered the issue for nearly a year before publishing their conclusion: Yes, C-123 aircrews and maintenance staff were indeed exposed and harmed.

On January 18 2015 VA Secretary Bob McDonald finally authorized full VA benefits for our veterans if diagnosed with any of the recognized Agent Orange ailments.

The OPVA recreation didn't begin to cover everything needed over these five years, but it helped. Every little bit helped. The Vietnam Veterans of America helped with a \$3000 dollars grant for travel and expert witnesses, and PVA was the only other veterans' organization helping me win vital veterans benefits for our 2100 men and women. I'm very grateful.



Aerial herbicide spray missions in southern Vietnam 1960 - 1971 (Source: US Dept. Of the Army).

# Rabbit

February 4th

# Hunt

Mary's Peak Hound Club

800 NW Meadow View Dr.  
Corvallis, OR 97330

Info: 541.745.7311

# DEVELOPMENT REPORT



Tom Hurt – Development Coordinator

Greeting from the Development Dept. 2016 is now behind us and 2017 is upon us. We are looking forward to a great year full of fun and exciting events this year. With that being said we would love for any and all of the membership to come out and participate with the chapter.

We are in the process of putting the membership meetings together for the year, so you can meet your Board of Directors for this year. The meetings this year will be pizza with bowling. There will be one in each of the following; McMinnville, Bend, Roseburg, Gresham, Salem. Addresses to follow shortly, keep an eye out in the mail for your flyer in your area. Hope you all can make it to at least one of the meetings. We will be talking about what we did in 2016 as well as what is on the calendar for 2017.



As you read this Paralog we at the office are preparing for the Albany Winter Rod and Speed Show. This is held at the Linn County Fair and Expo,

January 20-21, 2017. The car show opens Friday night of the 20th from 7pm to 10pm and then Saturday the 21st from 9am to 6pm. If you would like to volunteer and help work the OPVA booth that would be great. We will be setting up 4 hour shifts, please call the office to sign up for your time slot. If you can't volunteer please come to the show and stop by the OPVA booth to say hi.



## Recreation Program

I am pleased to let you know that in 2016 we had 71 requests for the recreation fund, this is awesome. Some of the requests. Trips with family; Night out to a play; Dinner out with their spouse; Sporting equipment; Reuniting with family; Tools for their hobby. Your options are endless, so please remember that as a Voting Member of OPVA you have that \$250.00 allowance available to you each year. We would love to see everyone out and about. Even better if your outings can bring you to some of the events that your chapter puts on for you the members, that would be great.



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America  
Oregon Chapter

“Serving Those Who Served”  
**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**

We have MANY opportunities for you to come participate with in the chapter at events that we are holding as well as many that we are participating in. As always we are in need of more volunteers to help support the events.



*As always for any of the events to be a success I am asking for your assistance, the most successful events we have or participate in are the ones where the members are attending and or volunteering at.*

*So as you read through the Paralog and you see something we are doing or attending, check your schedule, hope to see you there.*

Jan 20th - 21st	Winter Rod and Speed Car Show; <b>Albany</b>
Feb 11th	Hillsboro Fun Shoot
April 8th	Abilities Expo; <b>Portland</b>
Jun 3rd	Free Fishing Day; <b>Detroit Lake</b>
Jun 23rd	OPVA Golf Tournament; <b>Salem</b>
Jul 6th - 9th	Marion County Fair; <b>Salem</b>
Jul 11th	First Tuesday <b>Sublimity</b>
Jul 22nd	MOPAR Cruise-In
Jul 23rd	MOPAR Woodburn Drags
Aug 12th	OPVA Show & Shine Car Show; <b>Salem</b>
Aug 25th - Sept 4th	Oregon State Fair; <b>Salem</b>
Sept 16th	Albany Fun Shoot
Sept 17th	Members Banquet <b>Spirit Mountain Casino</b>



**Paralyzed Veterans of America**

Oregon Chapter

# Volunteers Needed

Our chapter will succeed if members come forward to volunteer some of their time and experience. If you have experience and interest in any of the committees below you are urged to contact:

Office: (503) 362-7998

Email: [oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org)

Or visit our website:

- [www.oregonpva.org/Programs/Membership/](http://www.oregonpva.org/Programs/Membership/)
- Scroll down to Volunteer Opportunities, click on the Link:
- “Volunteer Application Form”
- Print and fill it
- Mail to OPVA  
3700 Silverton Rd., Salem, OR 97305

The following committees are now being formed:

- Membership
- Sports & Recreation
- Volunteers
- Fund Raising
- Special Events

# WHEELCHAIR ADVENTURES



Louie Grimmer – Vice President

Sometimes after Deer, Elk, Bear, and Cougar seasons are over there was Duck or Goose hunting to keep your hunting itch satisfied while coming off big game hunting.

The trip down to Klamath Falls was pretty normal with a pit stop at Rice Hill (South of Eugene on I-5) that had GOOD Umpqua Ice Cream for everyone. Chuck was driving a little blue Datsun pickup with his dog, Mandy, in the front seat. I had my wife's blue 1985 Chevy Celebrity station wagon with Chuck's son, Christopher, and three of my sons, Jared, Matthew and Andy.

When we finally got there we found the entire lake frozen over along with everything else. That did not

discourage us because we came all that way and we were going to hunt.

We hunted all that first day with little success but we all enjoyed ourselves (I think). We decided to look for a KOA so we could pitch our tent and enjoy some comfort together but trying to locate something in the dark was pretty frustrating.

Being that time of the year, there was no traffic so we decided to stop at the rest area near the town of Keno and cook up some dinner. This rest area had hot water and restroom facilities and picnic tables to eat on. It was so cold that almost everything was FROZEN. Directly across the highway we could see an old abandoned building with an area large enough to



pitch our tent. There was not much room in that old tent after everyone put all the sleeping bags and everything else that people carry with them inside. The wheel chair was just one more thing to find a place for.

I elected to sleep in the back of the station wagon when we all decided to turn in for the evening. The next day would be a full day of duck hunting after a good night's sleep.



We turned in about 10:00 p.m. and snuggled down in our sleeping bags trying to stay warm. At 3:35 a.m. there was the most horrendous sound you will ever wake up to. The train tracks were 30' away from our camp site and the Amtrak Coast Starlight went whizzing by blowing every horn known to man, removing our few moments of deep sleep. By then I was reminded of the cold in a big way but it was not time to get up. I tried to block out the freezing cold and go back to sleep. That was NOT going to happen because there was one more train that went by shortly after, making sleep an impossible task.

We broke camp while it was still dark and scampered over to the rest area to make breakfast but when we got there six or eight vehicles had pulled in for the night. We had company.

Kids are not quiet and shortly the temporary residents started to stir and you should have seen the looks we got with the boys running in and out of the restroom, slamming doors and using up the available hot water to warm their hands. All of this while the adults were cooking breakfast on one of the picnic tables.

After breakfast we went out in the field to the so called "FIRING LINE" to get some ducks. There were thousands of ducks and geese everywhere but they were not within range. My son Jared decided to walk over to the area where the birds were seemingly within range. About half way (1/2 mile), a flight of SWANS were headed in his direction and flew right over him. He took careful aim with my double barrel 20 gauge shotgun and started shooting. BANG – BANG reload BANG – BANG reload BANG – BANG. Well, Jared didn't get anything BUT that was a GOOD thing because swans are PROTECTED by law.

The day wore on and everyone got a bunch of shooting in and we got a few nice ducks. Then it started to SNOW.

The snowflakes there are not little dainty snowflakes like we were accustomed to seeing. Those were the MOTHER of snowflakes that were about 2" around and fell like horse blankets.

We decided to move to a different location and as we got situated we decided to have lunch. During that time we heard 300 or more snow geese taking off from a nearby field and they were headed directly for our location.

Now, we had Andy along for the ride and Jared with the trusty 20 gauge double barrel and Matthew with his pump 20 gauge. Chris (Chuck's son), had his shotgun and I was there with a 12 gauge. This is where the story gets interesting.



I reloaded my own shells at that time and there were times that I scraped up all the spilled shot and utilized it to fill some of the remaining shells with the scraps I found lying around. There was everything from #8 shot to buckshot. I questioned why I should throw this stuff away when it would be alright for target shooting.

As we sat in the car eating our lunch waiting for those snow geese to come within range we were all keyed up in anticipation of getting something. That moment was getting closer.

The boys wanted to jump out of the car and start shooting but I told them to hold until they were right on top of us, you know the old saying: “NOT UNTIL YOU CAN SEE THE WHITES OF THEIR EYES.”



At the precise moment we all jumped out of the car with shotguns in hand. We had just started shooting when I noticed my gun seemed to be smaller than usual. Come to find out in the excitement that Matt grabbed my gun and I grabbed his. We just went on shooting.

One of the boxes of 12 GA shells I brought along must have been loaded with the dregs of the reloading bench. When Matt shot, the impact of the 00 buckshot blew one of the wings off the snow goose but did not kill it outright. It fell in the field about 100 yards away. Andy and Matthew took off after it and it started to run.

There were a series of shots then they stopped to reload and ran toward the goose. A new volley of shots rang out then another reload then more

running then one more shot and the loose goose finally stopped. When they returned with their prize goose there was one buckshot lodged in the side of the head of the goose that finally halted his escape.

## It was so cold that almost everything was FROZEN

There was only one goose shot and that was Matthew's. After a long day of hunting we tossed that goose on top of the car for the night because we were going to spend the night in the car with the engine running (exhaust pointing downwind) all night to keep us warm because it was dropping below zero.

The next morning we awakened and everything was frozen tight. The goose we tossed on the top of the car was frozen to the top of the car quite securely.

After we ate breakfast (junk food) the decision was made to head for home because the weather was getting worse. We tried to find a gas station that was open on January 1st because we needed gas to get home. Ill prepared was the state we were in because we had a gas card but not for the station we found. We used cash. Yup, we had a total of \$2.43 to make it to the next station. Meanwhile the pickup Chuck and his dog, Mandy, were in had no heat because the heater quit and we had at least a six hour drive home in the snow.



# OPVA Birthday List



Richard Dinges	1/2	Steven Neumeyer	1/29
John Dixon	1/3	Gaetano Amico	2/5
Robert Batson	1/3	Susan Holt	2/5
Robert Forson	1/4	Kevin Airington	2/5
Larry Ricklefs	1/7	Patricia Godwin	2/7
Thomas Shimon	1/8	Richard Elliott	2/9
Karen Abramowitz	1/8	Floyd Freemyer	2/10
Terry Brown	1/9	Gerald Schroeder	2/10
Michael Breshears	1/10	Cathy Roff	2/10
John Haber	1/11	Steven Lakin	2/13
Carolyn Hamstreet Shores	1/11	Charles Wilcox	2/14
Gary Wright	1/12	Christopher Hulse	2/15
Theodore Geck	1/15	Roger Robinson	2/17
George McCart	1/15	Tommy Stratemeyer	2/18
Janice Crews	1/15	Kevin O'Reilly	2/18
Boyd Hixson	1/17	William Morgan	2/19
Donald Wyatt	1/21	Barry Brandt	2/20
John Buss	1/21	Robert Van Buren	2/21
David Landis	1/22	Lee Presley C/O Mathews	2/23
Connie Paulsen	1/24	Margaret Walker	2/26
John Wilmot	1/24	David Magee	2/27
John Phillips	1/25	Dewey Johnson	2/27
Merle Cutler	1/26	Ronald Weisenberger	2/27
Ronald Coffman	1/28		
Kenneth Cornelius	1/28		
Steven Fairin	1/28		



*Happy*

*Birthday*



# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Winter Road & Speed Show	21 Winter Road & Speed Show
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				BOD 10:00 a.m.		
29	30	31				

 **Heroes in Sisters**

## Save the Date

**Happy  
New Year  
2017**

- 1/20-22 **Heroes in Sisters**
- 2/4 **Rabbit Hunt**
- 2/11 **Fun Shoot**
- 3/17-19 **Portland Roadster Show**
- 4/8 **2nd Annual Abilities Expo**
- 4/22 **MS Walk**
- 5/19-20 **Iris Golf Tournament & Parade**



# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Rabbit Hunt
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 BOD 10:00 a.m.	24	25
26	27	28				



**Fun Shoot/Hillsboro**

## Save the Date

<b>5/29</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>8/12</b>	<b>Show &amp; Shine Car Show</b>
<b>6/3</b>	<b>Free Fishing Day</b>	<b>8/12</b>	<b>Car Raffle</b>
<b>6/17</b>	<b>Car Show Spirit Mountain Casino</b>	<b>8/22</b>	<b>Deep Sea Fishing</b>
<b>6/23</b>	<b>8th Annual OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament</b>	<b>8/25-9/4</b>	<b>State Fair</b>
<b>7/4</b>	<b>Independence Day</b>	<b>9/16</b>	<b>Albany Shoot</b>
<b>7/6-9</b>	<b>Marion County Fair</b>	<b>9/17</b>	<b>Members Banquet</b>
		<b>10/4</b>	<b>Deep Sea Fishing</b>
		<b>11/11</b>	<b>Albany Vets Day Parade</b>

# Wyoming Elk HUNT



Bill Gray—National Director

Last July while I was in Cody Wyoming, I met a rancher who told me about an organization in Wyoming that helped disabled veterans get out and hunt big game, such as deer, and elk. I went on line and filled out an application and sent it in with a copy of my DD214. I requested a Bull Elk hunt if available.

They told me that they would draw names in May and let me know if I was successful.



May arrived and it was the second week and I was dying to know if I was picked for the Bull Elk hunt, so I called and talked to Anita, who was involved with the Wyoming Disabled Hunters Organization. By the way she was the chief cook and boy did they feed us great food. I think I gained weight! So back to the Bull Elk hunt after we talked and some questions were answered Anita let me know that I was picked to hunt a Bull! Wow I couldn't believe it, so I told my wife about it and she suggested that I ask someone to accompany me with long drive out. So I approached the mighty Tom Hurt and asked if he would join me. He said sure, but not to tell his wife yet, after all we know whose the boss! Ha Ha The day of departure had arrived, October 15th I left Roseburg to head north to pick up Tom and off to Missoula, then to Cody, then to Hyattville, WY.

In preparation I had been to the gun range twice and shot some hot hand loads using 175 Nosler Partition Boat Tail Bullets and was sighted in for 300 yards if I needed to take a long shot. I didn't want to blow this hunt of a life time. I just wanted to shot a good legal bull elk, a spike would be just fine.

**Day One** Tom and I headed east and Tom helped keep me entertained as we made our way. In Missoula we ate at a Shari's Restaurant, and as Tom was paying the bill the waiter ask him if that was his dad was in the Navy! (I was wearing my Navy hat) She thought I was Toms dad! How could this be? Needless to say, from then on Tom proceeded to call me Pops! What ever you say son! It was good for a laugh. We arrived finally after a short detour, I thought it was this way and it wasn't it that way, so after about an hour we arrived, and we were greeted by the host.



We were staying at a ranch house that was on an 11,000 acre spread. What a beautiful place. Three other hunters were already there and they were on the back deck watching for elk crossing the hillside across from the house. And there they were!

We spotted about 50 elk moving through and feeding. Wow! I think we are in the right spot, this was getting exciting and I wasn't even hunting yet. We all sat down to dinner and got acquainted. One hunter was from Cody, WY. one was from Illinois, and one was from Ohio.

**Day Two** we planned out who was hunting with whom, and what area's we would hunt in. There were several volunteers that helped with this effort and we sure were thankful. We got our rifles out and made sure they were still on target. I climbed into a track chair that had a rifle rest on it we got it adjusted to fit me and I took three shots and felt I was good to go.

**Day Three** we arose at about 5:00am ate a bite of food, got our gear and headed out to the blind that Larry my hunting guide and Tom were to hunt out of. We got to the blind and settled in about 6:30, and there we sat and watched and waited. It was about 7:30 and a couple cow elk came through the draw to the east of us, they headed down toward us and then back to the east. Suddenly from the east came three bull elk slowly moving from the east of us out into the hillside about 240 yards from us. Wow there was a nice one out in front. I had my gun already loaded, I sighted and took a shot. Boom! Nothing happened. I missed! I couldn't believe it, so Larry handed me another bullet and I loaded and took aim, as they were starting to move across the hillside. Boom! I think I hit him this time. Tom assured me that he was hit and hit hard. The bull took about 5 steps and laid down. I was just sure that he would get up and head for the hills, but both Tom and Larry agreed that he has down for the count. It was about ten minutes before he put his head down, which seemed like an eternity to me. I had just breathed a breath of relief it was over and I just shot my first bull successfully and it was a 240 yard shot! I was shaking a little, I could not believe it, it all seemed to have happened so fast. We waited a good hour before making any moves to retrieve the animal.

By then Matt, who was a very experienced hunter and rancher arrived with one of the other hunters Shawn and his wife, and he headed up the hillside Shawn's wife and Tom also went up.

It was a longer climb then they had anticipated. Tom with his short legs was breathing hard when he arrived and could not believe how big the elk was. What a beauty! He said. He took a couple pictures and I'm glad he did. As you can see it was a great shot from down below where I was sitting. Matt caped the head out so, I could get it mounted, and then packed the elk head down to where I was. What a great job he did, and he was so excited that I had shot such a great bull. We put the elk head in the freezer while the meat was being processed.



**Day four** took the elk head into the town Cody to the taxidermist, who was impressed with the size of horns. They scored them and it came out to be 335 points. Which from what others have told me is a kill that only ½ of a percent of all elk hunters ever successfully shoot. Needless to say that's why I'm getting a full head mount. We got back to the ranch and packed up so we could head back home Friday morning.

**Day Five** we picked up the meat all cut and wrapped and frozen, stopped in Cody for some dry ice to keep the elk meat frozen and off we went. What a great adventure this was. I will not forget this hunting experience for the rest of my life. The three other hunters also got there bulls by Saturday.

So if you are interested in a great hunting opportunity, go on line and see what the Wyoming Disabled Hunters Association are offering disabled veterans.

Happy Hunting!

## DEDICATED TO THE PAST MEMBERS OF OREGON PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA



Shelton, Jack M.  
Hoxworth, John L.  
Schneidau, Norman E.  
Lester, Stephen P.  
Weaver, Robert L.  
Ellis, Sherwood K.  
Ellison, Clifton R.  
Guillot, Gary M.  
Hamel, John L.  
Haselton, Norman L.  
Smith, Henry B.  
Lyons, John A.  
Bordeaux, John C.  
Corwin, James C.  
Cowlthorp, Irwin L.  
Whetstine, Bobby G.  
Henry, John  
Walker, William L.  
Gould, Jay E.  
Church, Felix F.  
Copeland, Jack V.  
Kelly, Raymond  
Alvarado, Benjamin L.  
Livingston, Loren D.  
Robrecht, Joseph T.  
Smith, Gaylord L.  
Swanson, Carl G.  
Todoroff, Theodore R.  
Walruff, Warren G.  
Stark, John L.  
Pugh, Ralph W.  
Bowman, Donald S.  
Frear, Richard A.  
Dryden, Victor J.  
Beaty, William E.  
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Andrist, Bill D.

Delong, Ora D.  
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Bresser, Brian D.  
Penn, William C.  
Sanders, Harry L.  
Johnston, Alfred F.  
Carter, Ernest R.  
Leaf, John M.  
Burt, Harold R.  
Alexander, Joseph C.  
Jones, Tommy D.  
Weinstock, Al  
Jones, Lewis L.  
Beairsto, Craig C.  
Fowler, Floyd R.  
McKean, Samuel H.  
Littlejohn, Wilbur E.  
Cheshier, Donald  
White, Robert J.  
Lowell, Delos D.  
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Diekmann, Norman H.  
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Krofft, Floyd W.  
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Schwab, Donald F.  
Miller, Robert B.  
Holpainen, Carl  
Rady, Fred  
Wilkes, Cecil E.  
Hubbard, Dale  
Dullea, Edward V.  
Hawes, Otho E.  
Holmes, Clarence L.  
Maloney, Robert W.  
Stern, Leah P.

Colt, Greg L.  
Bauer, Leo L.  
Turpen, Timothy C.  
Bailey, Dennis J.  
Dellest, Herbert L.  
Burgess, Joseph E.  
Pescod, Arthur B.  
Bell, James B.  
Boren, Eileen F.  
Kirkelie, Ernest F.  
Butler, Randolph H.  
North, Ernst R.  
Shipley, Wallace H.  
Buffum, Jack R.  
Ollivant, Gary D.  
Rohse, Tom  
Carter, Dean H.  
Loos, Florenz F.  
Church, Frank E.  
Sanders, Lynn H.  
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Carico, Curtis T.  
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Spencer, Larry D.  
Bible, Martin A.  
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Rhine, Dewey L.  
Braley, Bruce E.  
Bond, Jay  
McDonald, Jim L.  
Pratt, Roland C.  
Mason, Merwin E.  
Vieira, Joseph L.  
Elgin, George V.  
Spain, Kirk J.  
Bowman, Donald V.  
Mazzocco, Victor E.



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Lathan, Brozie	Dickerson, Virginia L.	Thiel, Norman G.
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Olsen, Wayne A.	Dock, Albert J.	May, Frank H.
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Hunt, Mel	Bigelow, Robert C.	Akers, John F.
Griffiths, Clarence D.	Kelly, Carl	Morton, Richard J.
Thompson, Thomas R.	Blahm, Gary L.	Koller, Everett A.
Moss, Robert E.	Smith, Albert L.	Bertsch, Ruth L.
Williams, Sterling E.	Redberg, Carl O.	Mowers, Larry J.
Rambo, William P.	McKay, William R.	Uhl, Franklyn S.
Jones, Jason L.	Wonacott, Newton H.	Bakken, Odin A.
Kelley, Donald J.	Pizer, Michael D.	Urban, Eugene R.
Amen, Vincent B.	Quinby, Jack R.	Magee, Robert V.
Halterman, Ed E.	Marchbank, Charles S.	Johnson, David L.
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Murphy, John J.	Guimond, Bruce J.	Dolezal, John C.
Eudaly, Charles J.	Tiller, Owen D.	Foelker, Roseanna M.
Carter, Jim R.	Ruffner, Donald L.	Arnett, George C.
Hovatter, Roscoe B.	Kowal, Kenneth F.	Brookman, Charles L.
Shelley, Grace K.	Andrews, Raymond V.	Cristler, Robert W.
Hood, William D.	Oman, Fred L.	Libby, Dorls G.
Knick, Arnold L.	Wade, Roy E.	Blucher, David N.
Schotthoefer, Max D.	Schon, George D.	Lamb, Richard J.
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Murphy, Danny J.	Beaty, George D.	Gibbs, Curtis J.
Neumann, Clara L.	Baker, James W.	Vik, Trygve S.
Strong, Kenneth A.	Bettis, Wade P.	Meyer, Paul P.
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Hidalgo, Adolph G.	Gauthier, Kenneth E.	Bashaw, Kenneth R.
Snella, Jerome P.	Cornelius, Bert L.	Tilden, Dale H.
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Harville, Xlyn L.	Spore, Leland	Freeman, Bill J.
Pross, George J.	Wilson, Danniell K.	Allen, Robert E.
Shenk, John R.	Ethridge, Wallace L.	Weigel, Judith A.
Brown, Thomas L.	Lehman, Joe E.	Weigel, Judith A.
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Norstegaard, Keith A.  
Kucera, Frank J.  
Hamilton, Rod  
Tate, John M.  
Hawes, Dee A.  
Marcy, Dan S.  
Bradshaw, Bert M.  
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Stroud, Benny C.  
Dressen, Gary E.  
Burnett, Classen  
Friedman, Herb  
Baker, Robert L.  
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Jackson, Henry C.  
Nowalis, Daniel P.  
Lydon, Kevin B.  
Eves, Fred A.  
Butherus, Duane E.  
Bensch, Ernest H.  
Wheelock, Michael A.  
Kelley, Michael T.  
Kinnaman, Robert  
Condit, John L.  
Porath, Brian C.  
Barnett, Cecil B.  
Bryhn, Walter V.  
Macsisak, Phil P.  
Phillips, Richard D.  
Baker, Robert E.  
Gerlt, Danny H.  
Davis, Dennis E.  
Constande, Stephen  
Searcy, Brett A.  
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Thompson, Norman A.  
Brown, Clyde E.

Copeland, Phillip W.  
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Cummins, Donald H.  
Erickson, Donald A.  
Sinor, Larry E.  
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Livermore, Ralph E.  
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Talimao, Uili  
Hansen, James L.  
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McMaster, Franklin  
Johnson, Daniel I.  
Jennings, John W.  
Cornie, Michelle M.  
Wilbur, Douglas P.  
Jones, Kemric D.  
Gravelle, Candace O.  
Adams, Jonathan Z.  
Robb, Wendell A.  
Redberg, Michael L.  
Burton, Leslie O.  
Conant, Neil W.  
Lawson, David L.  
Roy, Kenneth W.  
Bridge, Hudson E.  
Baumgartner, William L.  
Perkins, Donald F.  
Clary, Robert D.  
Schultz, Neal J.  
Esmay, David R.  
Fisher, Robert R.  
Talbot, Robert D.  
Hershey, Alan H.  
Jones, Joseph M.  
Fitzgerald, Robert E.  
Wood, Roger D.  
Hockley, Rodney W.

Harmon, Stanley W.  
Sipp, James R.  
Mulrooney, Patrick E.  
Willer, Wilfred  
Fletcher, Chester E.  
Hendricks, Thomas F.  
Sizemore, Stanley B.  
Kahler, Ferdinand F.  
Hall, Louis C.  
Boughton, Robert V.  
Taylor, Ron H.  
Strode, Judy A.  
Kight, David L.  
Cooper, Robert A.  
Cooper, Roger W.  
Huff, William F.  
Soukkala, Wesley D.  
Nichols, Stuart W.  
Way, D.R. (Doug)  
Goldstein, Barbara C.  
Faulkner, Jimmy D.  
Hardin, George L.  
Hoisington, Clinton W.  
Martin, James R.  
Reddekopp, Ronald R.  
Coon, Nancy A.  
Harreschou, Robert C.  
Newcomer, Eugene L.  
Leonard, Irving O.  
Taggart, Joshua M.  
Miller, David G.  
Bilbao, Joseph  
Collins, Dale E.  
Tucholke, Thomas O.  
Dove, Thomas W.  
Harmon, Steven S.  
Kilmartin, Patrick L.  
Schwartz, Mayer D.  
Kozic, Lois A.  
Fernandez, Hal B.  
Myers, Mark W.  
King, James E.  
Hudson, Steven D.  
Cook, Jerry L.  
Edmon Gillespie

## Remembering those who have past

Visit our website for more information



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Oregon Chapter

**[www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)**



## What is My VA311?

A new, national toll-free number 1-844-698-2311 through which Veterans can access all VA has to offer. The project is designed to support two of the Secretary's twelve Breakthrough Priorities that the Veterans Experience Office (VEO) is responsible for: (1) Improving the Veterans Experience and (2) Modernizing the VA's Contact Centers. The 1-800 number was not available.

*The number is 1-844-MYVA311 (698-2311)*



Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison

### How does MyVA311 work?

Dial 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311) and you will hear a menu of options that you can select from to route you to the right place depending on your inquiry. For example, you can be connected to find out more information about VA healthcare or other benefits such as pension, disability, home loan or cemetery services. You can also be connected directly to the Veterans Crisis Line. There are also several self-service options available. For example, you can locate a VA Medical Center, Veterans Benefits Regional Office or Cemetery near you.

### When did MyVA311 go live?

November 14th, 2016

### When I call, will I speak to an operator?

When you call 1-844-MyVA311 you will hear an automated list of options that you can select to be routed based on the inquiry. If that place you get routed to provides an operator, you will be connected to an operator. If that place you are routed to has another call tree with self-service options, you will be connected to those options.

### Will the direct numbers to the other contact centers still work?

Yes. You will still be able to dial the phone numbers you are used to dialing. 1-844-MyVA311 is an added convenience to assist you when you do not know what number to call.

### What hours/days can I call

#### MyVA311?

1-844-MyVA311 is available 24/7. However, the places where you will be connected to will operate under their normal business hours.

### What's the difference between MyVA311 and the National Call Center?

The VHA National Call Center - Health Resource Center is one of the resources you can reach simply by dialing 1-844-MyVA311. In addition, you will also be able to reach the Veterans Benefits Administration, the National Cemetery Administration, or the Veterans Crisis Line simply by calling this single toll free number.

## Who is running MyVA311 at VA and what organizations are involved?

MyVA311 is being launched and supported by VA's Veteran Experience Office (VEO). Other offices and administrations involved include

- Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA),
- Veterans Health Administration (VHA),
- National Cemetery Administration (NCA),
- Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), and
- Office of Information and Technology (OI&T).



## Why?

Vets.gov has delivered value to Veterans already with providing better online access to health care, education benefits, career and employment resources, facility locations, and other benefits.

## Why is VA changing its website and building out vets.gov?

Today, Veterans must navigate numerous websites and manage multiple logins to meet their needs. It is too much information spread across too many sites. Veterans have told us they want simple, clear information and tools that are easy to find and use, which is exactly what vets.gov offers.

## Why doesn't VA just update its current website—why is VA creating another website?

Outdated technology - Vets.gov is being built on a modern, secure, and single technology platform, which will improve performance and interoperability, thereby requiring Veterans to need only one login and password in order to access everything they need.

**A Different Approach** - Vets.gov is focused on enabling Veterans to “do something,” specifically to discover, apply for, track, and manage the benefits they have earned on a single site. A simpler design & more plain language.

## How does VA know what Veterans want on the website?

Since early 2014, the VA Office of Veterans Experience has been conducting rigorous user research directly with Veterans all over the country.

## Where can I get more information about vets.gov?

You can get information on the vets.gov website “playbook” <https://www.vets.gov/playbook/> or contact the vets.gov team at [vavetsgov-team@va.gov](mailto:vavetsgov-team@va.gov). You can also contact your Administration's Web Communication Office; they have been working with the vets.gov team since 2015.

## What is vets.gov?

Vets.gov will be the single, public facing VA website that enables Veterans to discover, apply for, track, and manage the benefits they have earned. Relevant content and features from more than 524 public facing VA websites is already being migrated to vets.gov

## When will vets.gov go live?

The initial release of Vets.gov was launched November 2015! The vets.gov team has been “developing in the open” and most recently has launched the online healthcare application that will increase Veteran access to apply for healthcare online—using any device—from just 10% in 2015 to 50% in 2017.

## Can I provide my feedback, preferences, and preferences for the new vets.gov website?

Yes. We want feedback from users—specifically Veterans. Please email the vets.gov team at [feedback@va.gov](mailto:feedback@va.gov). Additionally, anyone can provide feedback on vets.gov “feedback forum” on the bottom of the homepage.

*Source: Veteran Connection.  
VA Portland Health Care System Newsletter  
November 2016*



Sue Holt - M.S. Liaison

2017 is here whether we're ready for it or not. Weren't we ready for our computers to crash at the turn of the century? Time flies! At least we have exciting events coming up - March 2017 is MS Awareness Month.

"Where ever you turn, you can find someone who needs you. Even if it's a little thing do something for which there is no pay but the privilege of doing it. Remember you don't live in a world all of your own"

*Albert Schweitzer*

It encourages both, public officials and residents to organize and take part in activities meant to raise awareness about those of us who struggle with this disease.

Contact your local National Multiple Sclerosis Society and get involved today (or better yet call us here at OPVA and volunteer – we'll put you to work!)

One way the National MS Society raises awareness is through different events - MS Walk for the Salem area will be April 22, 2017 at River Front Park. Hope to see you there!

Walks will be held all over the state so if you want one closer to home call us... There's plenty to do besides walk so get involved!

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America  
503-362-7998.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
5331 SW Macadam Ave. Ste. 290  
Portland, OR 97239  
Phone: 503-223-9511  
Fax: 503-223-2912





# 37<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



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of Veterans Affairs



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# Washington UPDATE

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

**December 15, 2016**

**Volume 22, No 12**

**\*\*\*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](http://www.AirAccess30.org) and share your story.

## **Key Leaders Chosen for House and Senate Committees**

During the lame duck session following the November election, the Republican and Democratic caucuses in the House or Representatives and Senate chose the members who will serve as the Chairmen and Ranking Members of Committees during the 115th Congress beginning in January 2017. In the House, Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) was chosen as the next Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Rep. Roe is replacing Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) who is retiring at the end of this year. Rep. Roe is a doctor who has used his experience to inform his views on the reform of veterans' health care delivery. He has supported greater choice for care in the community for veterans, but he has generally opposed outright privatization of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system. The House VA Committee Ranking Minority Member position has not been decided yet; however, it is expected to be either Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) or Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN). Leadership for the four Subcommittees is expected to be chosen in January.

In the Senate, Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) will continue as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Senator Isakson has previously expressed support for expansion of the Comprehensive Family

Caregiver Program—a high priority for PVA—to veterans of all eras. He has also lead efforts to improve accountability without undermining employees' rights. Importantly, he also supports greater choice for veterans seeking health care. Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) will be the new Ranking Minority Member of the Senate VA Committee.

The National Advocacy Program staff will continue to work with a number of key committees through our work on the Air Carrier Access Act, entitlement reform, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The expected chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee is Senator John Thune (R-SD), who is the current chairman of the committee. Also returning will be Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL). The returning chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is Rep. Bill Shuster (R-PA), while Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) is expected to remain the ranking member of the committee.

PVA's efforts to strengthen the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) must go through these committees. PVA worked with these committees in 2016 when we were successful in having PVA-drafted language included in the 2016 FAA Extension. This language required GAO to conduct a review of disability-related training for airline staff and their contractors. In 2017, we will be working to ensure that legislation to reauthorize the



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FAA, which must be completed by September, includes additional PVA-supported language that will increase enforcement of the ACAA and improve the travel experience for passengers with disabilities.

A number of committees will address potential entitlement reform, specifically the Social Security and Medicare programs. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) is expected to remain the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. Also returning will be ranking member Ron Wyden (D-OR). The new chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee is Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), while the Ranking Member is expected to be Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ).

The returning chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee is Congressman Kevin Brady (R-TX), while Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA) is expected to become the ranking member. The outgoing chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX), recently dropped a placeholder Social Security reform bill that focuses on benefit cuts. This legislation is expected to be the basis for reform during the 115th Congress beginning in January 2017. The expected new ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee is Rep. John Larson (D-CT) who is the main sponsor of a bill to expand Social Security.

We also anticipate work that will have an impact on ongoing implementation of the ADA. With this in mind, the expected chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee is current Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA). Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) will be the new ranking member of the Senate committee. The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee is current Chairman Robert Goodlatte (R-VA). Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), current ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, is expected to retain his position.

PVA's efforts to protect the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are under the purview

of the Senate and House Judiciary Committees. PVA is concerned about efforts to require people with disabilities to notify businesses of architectural barriers prior to filing a lawsuit under the ADA. Legislation that would have required notification was introduced in the House and Senate in the 114th Congress and passed the House committee. We anticipate this issue to return in 2017.

There are also additional committees that the Government Relations Department will engage with during the 115th Congress. The expected chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee is Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), who is the current chairman of the committee. Also returning will be Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA). The new chairwoman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee is Rep. Virginia Fox (R-NC), while Rep. Robert Scott (D-VA) is expected to be the ranking of that committee once again. The expected new chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee is Senator Michael Crapo (R-ID), and the returning ranking member is Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH). The returning chairman of the House Financial Services Committee is Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), and Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) is expected to remain the ranking member of the committee.

We will update PVA members as additional key leadership positions in the House and Senate are determined early in January.

### **“Veterans Mobility Safety Act” Approved by Congress**

On November 29, 2017, the House gave final approval to H.R. 3471, the “Veterans Mobility Safety Act.” The revised bill includes significant language changes to address concerns brought by outside equipment dealers to PVA leadership earlier this year. Gabe Stultz, Associate Legislative Director, deserves a great deal of

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credit for his relentless advocacy work on this issue. This bill was championed by Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN), who is a member of the House VA Committee, and it was pushed in the Senate by Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS).

PVA has spent the last year working to get this important piece of legislation enacted. Support for this legislation was compromised at various points by competing business interests that appeared to be more interested in getting an advantage over their competition, rather than focusing on the most important priority of the legislation—veterans being served. Fortunately, Congress managed to overcome a great deal of misinformation, and in some cases blatant falsehoods, to take this positive step.

Moving forward, PVA will work with the VA to ensure that we have a prominent role in the implementation of this requirement.

### **Large Veterans Omnibus Bill Approved by Congress**

Prior to adjourning the 114th Congress, the House and Senate passed a large veterans omnibus bill that contained a wide array of provisions that had previously been considered throughout the course of the last two years, but not finally approved. On December 6, 2016, the House approved H.R. 6416, the “Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act.” The Senate approved the bill by voice vote prior to adjourning for the year.

While the bill is a tapered version of the “Veterans First Act,” which passed the Senate unanimously in May, it does contain 76 provisions pertaining to veterans’ health care, disability benefits, and homelessness assistance. However the bill excludes two important concepts that were high priority issues with bipartisan support—expansion of the VA’s Comprehensive Family

Caregiver Program to veterans of all eras and Appeals Reform.

The measure is named after Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), former Ranking Member of the Senate VA Committee, and retiring Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL). It temporarily increases the number of judges for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims from seven to nine to help address the large backlog of veterans’ appeals that may soon arrive at the court.

The act will allow for the hiring of more mental health providers and emergency room doctors and extends education benefits to surviving family members. It also begins the research needed to help descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances.

PVA is ultimately disappointed that the House and Senate sacrificed some extremely important programs and legislative priorities in the interest of passing “some” legislation to improve benefits and services for veterans.

### **U.S. Access Board Updates ADA Guidelines for Buses and Vans**

The U.S. Access Board has issued a final rule updating sections of its accessibility guidelines for transportation vehicles covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The rule revises provisions in the guidelines that apply to buses and vans to enhance accessibility and to address industry trends and improvements in design and technology. The guidelines, which the Board originally published in 1991, apply to new or remanufactured vehicles.

The guidelines for buses and vans address boarding access, fare devices, interior circulation, seating and securement, signs, lighting, and announcement systems. The rule

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reduces the maximum slope for vehicle ramps because low floor buses are now ubiquitous in fixed route systems. New provisions also address level boarding systems and incorporate updated standards for wheelchair securement systems. The rule improves communication access by requiring that buses in fixed route systems with at least 100 buses have automated stop and route announcements that are visual as well as audible. Further, access to over-the-road buses, which are typically used in commuter and long-distance bus lines and charter services, is more comprehensively addressed. In addition to these substantive changes, the rule features a new format and numbering system. An assessment of the costs and benefits is included with the rule.

The Board previously issued versions of the rule in draft and proposed forms for public comment and has finalized the rule based on the feedback received. At a later date, the Board will propose updates to sections of the guidelines covering vehicles in fixed guideway systems, including rapid, light, commuter, and intercity rail, according to recommendations from an advisory committee it chartered, the Rail Vehicles Access Advisory Committee, which submitted its report to the Board last year.

The Board's vehicle guidelines serve as the basis for mandatory standards issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT) under the ADA. Compliance with the updated requirements for buses and vans will become mandatory once specified by DOT in a future update of its ADA standards.

### **PVA Trains Wheelchair Attendants for Virgin America Airlines**

In early December, Senior Associate Advocacy Director Lee Page and Heather Ansley, Associate

General Counsel for Corporate and Government Relations, met with representatives from Virgin America Airlines at Dulles International Airport (DIA) in northern Virginia. The meeting was at Virgin's request to facilitate a discussion around the boarding process and demonstrate proper techniques for transfers in and out of an aisle chair. Virgin America contracts with Huntleigh USA Corp. at Dulles for wheelchair assistance to assist passengers with disabilities in boarding and deplaning as part of their responsibility under the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA).

After introductions, Mr. Page and Ms. Ansley thoroughly explained the Air Carrier Access Act and the legal responsibilities of the airline--Virgin America--and its contractor--Huntleigh--in what services are required to be provided to qualified passengers with disabilities. Mr. Page with the assistance of Huntleigh personnel demonstrated proper transfer techniques on and off two different aisle chairs that were provided. Whereas Huntleigh personnel knew what to do in the transfers, Mr. Page emphasized that they need to take direction from the passenger with the disability.

The discussion lasted about two hours and included approximately 25 participants from Virgin America, Huntleigh USA, and a few representatives from Alaska Airlines. PVA agreed to work with Virgin America and Alaska Airlines to develop future opportunities to educate personnel on the specific needs of passengers with disabilities.

### **PVA Attends Universal Access in Airports Conference**

From November 14 – 16, 2016, Senior Associate Advocacy Director, Lee Page and Heather Ansley, Associate General Counsel for Corporate and Government Relations attended the sixth Universal Access in Airports (UAIA) conference in San Francisco. The conference was hosted by the Open Doors Organization (ODO) of Chicago.

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ODO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Chicago, Illinois, was founded in 2000 for the purpose of creating a society in which all persons with disabilities have the same consumer opportunities as everyone else. They aspire to teach businesses how to succeed in the disability market, while simultaneously empowering the disability community.

The UAIA Conference focuses on what's new in aviation, to include regulations, technology, and innovative best practices. The conference also addresses service gaps and barriers that still prevent air travel from being fully accessible to older adults and people with disabilities. Attendees to the conference included representatives of airlines, DOT and FAA regulators, Architects and ADA coordinators for airports, TSA, customer service senior management, product manufactures, contracted service management and persons with disability.

The two days of information sharing included a briefing from the Department of Transportation on the recently concluded ACCESS Committee that had consensus agreement for rulemaking around Lavatories on single aisle aircraft of a certain size, and inflight entertainment and communication for the deaf and hard of hearing and those who are blind or limited vision. Other panels focused on products of accessibility that could increase access at airports in the realm of seating design and website accessibility.

A consumer panel focused on the experience of navigating through the airport and the problems of going through TSA security checks and the utilization of contract service employees who assist passengers with disabilities. Overall, this conference is heavily attended by the airline industry and provides a good opportunity to network. The next conference will be in Minneapolis, MN in 2018.

### ADA Transportation Survey

The ADA Participation Action Research Consortium (ADA\_PARC), a collaborative research project of the ADA Regional Centers, is conducting a study on the accessibility of public transportation for people with disabilities. The purpose of the study is to increase the knowledge base about transportation access for people with disabilities with the hope of improving access to transportation at the regional and national levels.

The survey is available at: [https://unco.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_00wcGeTOzGL2lQ9](https://unco.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_00wcGeTOzGL2lQ9). It will be open until mid-January 2017.

We encourage our members to participate in this important study.



**PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
Government Relations Department  
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Consider adding **Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America** to your **Will or Trust**



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Oregon Chapter



# 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  
of America**

# 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

Show & Shine

# CAR SHOW

August 12, 2017



Location: Home Depot - 3795 Hagers Grove Rd. SE, Salem, OR 97317

● Free Admission ● Vehicle Registration: \$15.00

● Gates Open at 9:00 AM

● Show begins at 10:00 AM ● Presentation of Raffle at 2:00 PM



Information: 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305. Tel: 503-362-7998

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



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