

January/February 2018  
Volume 22, Issue 1



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter

# PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

Happy New Year  
**2018**

"Serving Those Who Served"

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



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

### Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

3700 Silverton Rd. NE,  
Salem, OR 97305  
503-362-7998  
800-333-0782

www.oregonpva.org

Email - oregonpva@oregonpva.org

OPVA is a 501(c)(3)  
Tax ID# 93-0713859

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##### 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

##### Patient Advocates

Katina Collins, Trish Hafer  
Kelly Williams

#### OPVA Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

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*Presidents'  
Day*

**Thank you to all our Sponsors!**

The views and opinions expressed in the Paralog are not necessarily a direct representation of the views or ideas of 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

On October 4th I took advantage of my first Deep Sea Fishing trip with Dockside Charters out of Depot Bay sponsored by the chapter. I was a little anxious because I had not done this before. I thought I would be sick from the rocking and rolling on the waves, cold from the blistering wind, wet from the waves splashing all over me, but that did not happen. There was a nice cabin to sit in out of the elements. We all brought home 10 fish and 10 crabs. On top of that we all had a great time. I encourage you the member to participate in this free to member's event.



Earlier this month OPVA's van's window was vandalized. The Board of Directors had been discussing putting a wrap on the van that would help with public awareness. After the window was fixed, the van was wrapped just in time for the Albany Veterans Day Parade. It really looks nice. You might want to check it out on our web page [www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org) under Events, Photo Gallery, 66th Albany's Veterans Day Parade.

Albany Veterans Day Parade was a blast. We had 2 pickups, 1 van, 2 trailers, and 17 people that participated

in this year's parade. Not only did we represent Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, we also were able to thank other veterans along the route that served over the years as well. The weather was typical: overcast; a little wind; and a light touch of rain.

Tom Hurt, Larry Gardner, Ray Thompson, Carolyn H Shores, and I attended the Keizer Chamber luncheon in November where they were honoring veterans. Joseph Glover from Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs spoke about the great things they are doing to help the veterans in Oregon.

OPVA is working on establishing the "Ambassador Program" guidelines for our outlying areas of the Oregon Chapter, our goal is to be more involved with all the members. Be at the next Member Pizza Meeting in your area and we will explain what we are thinking about doing.

I hope and pray you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Christmas is just around the corner, please remember what the holiday is about, and celebrate a new and glorious New Year.



## Deep Sea Fishing Dates

- 08/14/18 @ 5:30 am
- 09/19/18 @ 7:00 am
- 10/18/18 @ 7:30 am

All dates subject to change

# PIZZA

## MEMBERS MEETINGS



WALERY'S PREMIUM PIZZA • SALEM

1555 EDGEWATER ST NW, SALEM

JANUARY 6TH, 11:30 AM



ROUND TABLE CLUBHOUSE • LAKE OSWEGO

16444 BOONES FERRY RD. LAKE OSWEGO

JANUARY 27TH, 11:30 AM



KALEIDOSCOPE PIZZERIA & PUB • MEDFORD

3084 CRATER LAKE HWY, MEDFORD

FEBRUARY 24TH, 11:30 AM

COME WITH YOUR FAMILY  
FOR A GREAT TIME



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

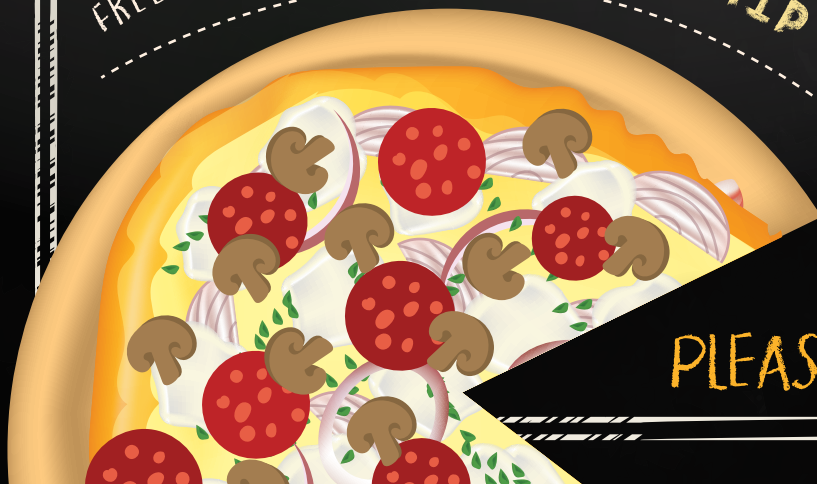
Oregon Chapter

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WE DELIVER  
GOOD  
MEMORIES



PLEASE RSVP 503-362-7998



# VICE PRESIDENT NEWS

OAS  
Oregon Adaptive Sports

**Heroes in Sisters  
Deadline  
December 29th**



Photo courtesy of OAS



Larry Gardner—Vice President

OK, winter is here and I hope everyone enjoys the holidays as much as you possibly can.

First thing coming up real soon, OREGON ADAPTIVE SPORTS in Bend Oregon is having their annual HEROES IN SISTERS ski event at Hoodoo ski area on January 19-21, 2018. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 29th.** If anyone is interested in this wonderful event, register online at [oregonadaptivesports.org](http://oregonadaptivesports.org) as soon as possible or call their office at 541-848-9390 usually there are cancellations that will open up as the event gets closer.

OAS has lots of volunteers that will be on site to help all veterans disabled or not with what they need.

Then on February 3rd MARYS PEAK HOUND CLUB is having their annual rabbit hunt at E E WILSON Wildlife refuge at Camp Adair about 10 miles north of Corvallis for disabled veterans. This area is wheelchair accessible for hunting rabbits, and the hound dogs are provided by club volunteers.

So if you have interest in this hunt call E E WILSON at 541-745-7311 ASAP. You must have a hunting license which comes with a parking permit, a red or

orange vest, and a shot gun with number 4 or 6 steel shot. Remember registration is requested.

Our Assistant Sports Director, Ray Thompson is in the process of starting a bocce ball program and a bowling program for our members. He is getting close to making these events happen.

## February 3rd is the annual rabbit hunt at Camp Adair

Now as a reminder we sent our last Paralog out with an updated survey form and not very many have been returned, if you haven't already would you please take a minute and get this information back to us so we know where to spend our time with our sports programs.

We also would like all of our members to give us your opinion on where to have the awards banquet. Should we have it at Spirit Mt Casino again? Or move it to a different location, please let us know your suggestions.

Coming up in March our trap team will be starting up the 2018 season, if there are any members that would like to join our team give me a call at the office.

We are also in the process of putting together a trap team with the Bend Trap Club so any members in central Oregon interested in shooting trap give me a call.

We have lots of events coming up like Car Shows, Fun Shoots, Abilities Expo, MS Walk, and many more as the year goes by, so here again we are always needing more volunteers to help us at our events or for you to attend.

Last of all the National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held in Orlando Florida this year July 30-August 4, 2018, registration starts January 1-April 15, 2018, so if you have any questions about the games give us a call, we can help get you on the way.

Well that's all I have for now so if you have any questions about our upcoming events please call.

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MPEDA, GAP, BBB

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



OPVA Members Meeting at Abby's Legendary Pizza, Bend , OR



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Merry Christmas!!!! I hope all enjoy the Holidays, what do you know its almost “2018”. Which means there are things going on that we would love for you to participate in. As I mentioned in the last Paralog our member pizza meetings are scheduled, the Bend meeting was on Dec 2nd we had a great turn out. Greg with the Bend Trap Club attended and talked about having the local members shoot at the club, Larry Gardner ( OPVA Vice President) is putting together a central OR trap team to shoot together.



We also had Pat from Oregon Adaptive Sports talking about their programs in the Bend area. Watch your mail for the flyers as we get closer to the events in your areas.

Here are the rest of the dates for the member pizza meetings in your areas.

- January 6th - Salem at Walery's Pizza
- January 27th - Lake Oswego at Round Table Clubhouse
- February 24th - Medford at Kaleidoscope Pizzeria & Pub.

Hope to see everyone at the get togethers. 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 a new program that will put an ambassador in your area to help promote the chapter throughout the charter. Our goal is to be able to support all of the membership.



Here at the office we are working hard to increase the awareness of Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America with the general public. We are doing this with in part through social media, i.e. Facebook, LinkedIn and blogging on our Website.

If you have not yet visited, please visit our Facebook page and like and share it with your friends. <https://www.facebook.com/OregonPVA/>

As your Executive Director I am very excited for the New Year. We already have quite a bit on the calendar 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 2018:

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

Our next big event we will be participating in is our OPVA Abilities Expo. This will take place at the Double Tree in Portland. April is PVA Awareness month, however we have opened the event up to all Non-Profits.

Our nonprofits can have table space at no charge and our for profit partners will only have a \$250.00 registration fee.



Keep an eye out for more information in the Paralogue as well at the events we will be attending, the date for the Expo is April 7th.

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 and assorted Sports Chairs and Bowling Balls.



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

Trip to las Vegas to celebrate birthday and dinner for son's birthday.

*Albert Bocanegra*





U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Nov. 29, 2017

# VA Announces Rollout and Application Process for New Veterans ID Card

**WASHINGTON** — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that the application process for the national Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is now available for Veterans — yet another action honoring their service.

This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor Veterans, and today's rollout of the ID card fulfills that overdue promise.

Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans.

“The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most Veterans to show proof of service,” said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “With the card, Veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain Veteran discounts and other services.”

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, Veterans must visit [vets.gov](http://vets.gov), click on “[Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card](#)” on the bottom left of the page and sign in or create an account.

Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at [vets.gov](http://vets.gov). A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December.

###

**OAS**   
Oregon Adaptive Sports

# 2018 VETERANS PROGRAMMING



**PADDLE**



**CYCLE**



**HIKE**



**SKI**



**CLIMB**



**GOLF**

## Heroes in Sisters January 19-21, 2018

OAS' annual Heroes in Sisters Weekend is back for the 11th edition. All inclusive weekend provides meals, lodging, and life-changing adaptive snowsports experiences for Veterans with disabilities and their families. Registration opens December 5th.



## Oregon's Heroes Outreach Events - Spring/Summer 2018

OAS has received base funding from Warfighter Sports and the VA to provide four outreach clinics throughout the state specifically for Veterans with disabilities in 2018. These clinics will focus on summer sports such as cycling, mountain biking, rock climbing, and paddling. OAS is targeting Portland, Eugene, White City/Medford, and Bend to host these events. These events will expose individuals to the various sports available to them and educate them how to pursue ongoing participation in a healthy, active and thriving life.



## Winter & Summer Programs

OAS has full slate of winter and summer programs that run year-round. These programs are open to ANY individual who would benefit from OAS' services and expertise. This includes veterans and members of the Armed Forces. Costs to participate are always kept low and OAS offers a robust scholarship program to prevent any financial barriers to participation. For more information, visit the OAS website, [www.oregonadaptivesports.org](http://www.oregonadaptivesports.org).



By Sergeant Peter Parsons – Member

Hello my name is Peter Parsons former Sergeant Parsons U.S. Army. I was diagnosed with ALS after my time in service. I am now a member of the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans. I have been afforded the opportunity as a member of the paralyzed veterans organization to do many different activities. One of my favorite activities is the deep sea fishing trips which the Oregon Chapter sponsors and it has been a highlight of my summers.

To spend a day on the ocean with other veterans, family and friends is something you should not miss out on. It's not all about fishing. You are able to see whales, orcas, porpoises, a multitude of sea life and seabirds. It is a day that is not soon forgotten.

For me to partake in the fishing trip I have a caregiver come with me. The crew and boat are well prepared for veterans with disabilities and wheelchairs. There is a ramp that makes the boat accessible. Dockside Charters cleans and vacuum seal the fish. They also prepare and cook the crab. Didn't I mention you also get to take home crab?



I am writing this article for those veterans who are in wheelchairs who think a deep sea fishing trip would be above and beyond their abilities.

You see I am a quadriplegic on a ventilator and I am still able to go on these fishing trips.



So please don't think twice, come join us fishing. Call the Oregon Chapter today to schedule your next adventure.

Thank you for your service.



**Two locations to serve you:**

**Ability Center of Portland**

9770 SW Wilsonville Rd.

Ste. 440

Wilsonville, OR 97070

(971) 224-5895

**Ability Center of Eugene:**

3574 Marcola Rd.

Springfield, OR 97477

(541) 726-4001



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## RECREATION FUND REPORTS



I recently took a trip to Washington D.C. area with my daughter and son in law. It was a great trip! We visited with lots of family and did a little sightseeing. Thank you for your support.

*Karen Abramowitz*



### 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**



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

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# DONATED ITEMS

## TESTIMONY

Dear OPVA

The old adage that good things come to those who wait is certainly true with Oregon PVA's assistance to us.

A year ago my power wheelchair was ready, but could not be delivered by the vendor due to contractual issues—no problem! A phone call to OPVA and Gary Atwood picked up my chair and delivered it to my home expeditiously.

This year, after many episodes of falling, and after encouragement from therapists and wife, I came to the realization I did indeed need additional devices to assist me with daily living. Another call to OPVA resulted in receipt of a very nice lift device from OPVA's donation program. Now when I fall my wife

has a safe (for both of us), dependable way to get me off the floor!

Once again Gary Atwood made the trip to our home to deliver the lift. It has been put to good use—my life is so much better now.

From my heart I thank OPVA for all you have done for me and my wife this past year. The donated home equipment has made substantial improvement in the quality of our lives. Thank you for your exemplary service, dedication and compassion.

Respectfully yours,

*Larry J and BJ Ricklefs*

## All items are "As Is" No Warranty



Shoprider  
Streamer Sport



ArjoHuntleigh  
Sara 3000



Quickie IRIS



Summit Indoor Stair Lift  
SL350

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**



# SUPPORT LOCAL HEROES

# DONATE NOW



Paralyzed Veterans  
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Oregon Chapter



## Donation Form

Oregon PVA is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit. Federal Tax I.D. # 93-0713859

To mail in your donation, fill out this form and make checks payable to **Oregon PVA** or visit our website, [www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org) to set up a payment or reoccurring payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Program requested support:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation      | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation       | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Enforcement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sport            | <input type="checkbox"/> General Donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy         |  |

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305. Tel: (503) 362-7998



## Vancouver VA Comprehensive Rehab Unit (CRU) it's...



Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison

Recreation therapy at the Vancouver VA offers daily activities in the Victory Room of the CLC next door to CRU. They offer daily coffee and pastries, entertainment, games and other activities in the community. They currently play bocce ball on Monday and Fridays and now have a bocce ball ramp available for use that was donated on behalf of Oregon PVA. I've enjoyed the opportunity to use the bocce ball ramp and find the game enjoyable. If you get admitted to CRU make sure to go over to the Victory Room and check out the monthly schedule of activities.

has allowed the SCI unit to increase admissions from 23 to 26 beds. The current goal is to be able to maintain 32 beds.

## Seattle SCI Unit

### Staffing

During the period January 2016 through June 2017 the SCI unit suffered a loss of over 20 RNs, LPNs and CNA staff. While nurse staffing at the Seattle SCI unit still remains an issue things are getting much better as nursing turnover has greatly decreased. SCI administrative staff worked hard with Seattle VA Human Resources to get RNs specialty pay to increase their wages. They were also successful at obtaining a sizable pay increase for LPNs as well. In addition to the pay increases the SCI unit has hired 23 nurses replacing prior staff that quit or transferred creating the shortage. With increased pay, staffing and improving morale only one of the nursing staff has left since June. This



In June the Veterans Administration raised the SCI patient to nurse ratio from 1.42 nurses per patient to 2.5 nurses per patient. This should greatly increase the quality of care SCI patients receive during inpatient admissions. This increase in nurse to patient ratio means SCI will need 80 nursing personnel RN, LPN, and CNA to maintain 32 inpatient beds. The SCI staff is looking forward to getting up to 32 beds and catching up with the backlog of patients who are overdue for annual evaluations and elective admissions.

## Food Service

Beginning the last week of November SCI patients will be able to make breakfast, lunch and dinner choices off of a menu rather than receive a mystery meal.

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.



Veterans Affairs Medical Center

*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](mailto:prosthetics@pva.org)*

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# 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



# Happy Birthday

Richard Dinges	1/2	Gaetano Amico	2/5
Robert Batson	1/3	Susan Holt	2/5
Robert Forson	1/4	Kevin Airrington	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
Michael Breshears	1/10	Gerald Schroeder	2/10
John Haber	1/11	Cathy Roff	2/10
Carolyn Hamstreet Shores	1/11	Nathan Paine	2/11
Gary Wright	1/12	Steven Lakin	2/13
Theodore Geck	1/15	Charles Wilcox	2/14
George McCart	1/15	Christopher Hulse	2/15
Janice Crews	1/15	Roger Robinson	2/17
Boyd Hixson	1/17	Tommy Stratemeyer	2/18
Donald Wyatt	1/21	Kevin O'Reilly	2/18
John Buss	1/21	William Morgan	2/19
David Landis	1/22	Robert Van Buren	2/21
Connie Paulsen	1/24	Lee Presley C/O Mathews	2/23
John Wilmot	1/24	Margaret Walker	2/26
John Phillips	1/25	David Magee	2/27
Merle Cutler	1/26	Dewey Johnson	2/27
Kenneth Cornelius	1/28	Ronald Weisenberger	2/27
Steven Fairin	1/28		



# WHEELCHAIR ADVENTURES

## Tiger Hunt



Louie Grimmer – Board Member

That year for deer hunting we got special tags to hunt the southern part of the state. Since I was raised in Grants Pass, I felt I knew the area we were to hunt making our trip easier.

Chuck and I traveled down that day and planned on staying the night in the high Siskiyou Mountains. We wanted to get an early start in the morning. I knew exactly where the special unit was for the special hunt. Pete was going to come down the next morning because he had to work at the Post Office in Salem.

We arrived four hours later at Williams, Oregon, and found the road that led to the Siskiyou Mountains. Chuck didn't think we were on the right road so he stopped at an old gas station and went in to ask directions.

Now, you must understand that southern Oregon people do not act, do, or think like the rest of the state. I told Chuck, "When we go down there you might notice things are a bit different." Of course he said nothing, being confident that he could handle most anything.



When Chuck knocked on the door of the gas station no one answered so he just walked in. Much to his surprise he walked right into a living room where the people were sitting around watching TV and smoking pot. Chuck, not wanting to show his disgust, just said, "Excuse me, is this the road that leads to the mountains?"

When he returned I finally got a response about the STRANGE way they do things down there. Who would believe that someone would have taken an old gas station and turn it into a home. Well, they do in southern Oregon.

We resumed our trip up into the mountains and all of a sudden we started seeing DEER everywhere in the head lights. Our comment was, "This is going to be an easy hunt and we will be going home the first day." WRONG!

We worked our way up to a suitable campsite to spend the night and get an early start after a good night's sleep. It was about 10:30 when we stopped to eat something before we went to bed in the Suburban. All of a sudden a pickup with lights glaring from a large light bar on top skidded to a stop in a cloud of dust. We were blinded by the bright lights while we were trying to find out what was going on. Someone stepped out of the truck and asked what we were doing? When we tried to explain he told us we could NOT camp there.

He was with the State Police and they were going to have a special task force there that night. He told us we could go down to a different location and spend the night and shouldn't worry about all the traffic (30 rigs) doing maneuvers. The night went by uneventfully because we moved off the main road.

The alarm clock went off at 4:00 a.m. Well, when you go hunting, starting early is the key. The old saying is "the firstest GETS the mostest." In other words, be the first, you might get a shot.

Anyway, we ate breakfast and got on a site that looked good before sun-up. We waited quietly for sunrise and figured we would make two shots and our hunt would be over. Well, the sun came up and you'll never guess what we saw. It was NOTHING but brush and trees.



He had pushed a 4-point BUCK out of the timber right in front of us about 100 yards away. Note: I could not see the animal from where I was but saw him taking aim at that moment. I was still waiting for the shot.

He explained that he did not believe what he was seeing and would I look and tell him that he was not seeing things.

Now you MUST remember at the start of this hunt I told Chuck that things down in southern Oregon are a bit different than up in the Willamette Valley. What we saw was a perfect specimen of a 4-point buck with the most impressive set of antlers ever. The thing that stopped us in our tracks was the size of the animal. There was no way either of us would shoot because it was no larger than a lawn statue.

### Things down in southern Oregon are a bit different than up in the Willamette Valley



It is very important to know the area or at least see it in the daylight hours to make sure what you are looking at when it becomes light.

Granted, we did not get there when it was light and I think Chuck understands the feeling of being handicapped. That is why people hunt the same area every year. Knowing the area is a solution to being successful instead of being frustrated. When we finally got to a location that looked promising we split up and Chuck walked out an old logging road and I stayed put (naturally) and watched over a large clearing.

After about an hour my partner came within view (no two-way radios then) and he noticed movement in the brush.

What happens is the deer population grows too big for the amount of food available and the deer cannot grow normally. Another problem is the winter months are too mild and the survivability of the deer increases and everything gets worse. The Fish and Wildlife people knew this and that is why they authorized a special hunt in that area.

This story gets worse because there were Mexican BOUGH cutters (Christmas decorations) roaming through the woods so you had to be extra careful

not to bag one of them. It didn't help to yell at them. They didn't speak English and there were NOT a few cutting boughs. The company that hired them does this every year around that time they hired about 80 for their crew.

You might say we were pretty discouraged when we heard on the CB, "Outlaw, Outlaw, this is Roadrunner. You got your ears on?" Well, now Pete was on the scene and we told him to meet us at the old bridge where we started up the hill. The location of that bridge was eight miles away and believe you me the ride with Chuck in the woods on old rutted, rocky, and muddy, logging roads is an adventure one never forgets. The rig Chuck drove was a 1989 Chevy Suburban 4x4. It was not a little Jeep but a full size, Texas Cadillac, "*The Mountain Corvette*".

We made it down to the bridge in 10 minutes flat. Now you know why I have no hair on top of my head. As we screamed along the dirt road, Pete said he could hear us coming about a mile away. When we neared the rendezvous the brakes were applied aggressively and we skidded to a stop. We told Pete about the little deer and thought it wouldn't be worth our while to continue hunting. Nevertheless, Pete suggested staying for the evening hunt and we did stay in an area closer to Cave Junction.

About 3:00 p.m. we were setting up for the late hunt because the sun was down about 4:30 and then it got real dark. After about 20 minutes into our stand we noticed a helicopter flying very low about two miles away. It was crisscrossing

the mountain slopes like they were looking for something. All of a sudden the copter turned and headed straight for our location. BUMMER! We then had a National Guard helicopter hovering directly over our heads about 100' up and telling us we MUST leave NOW.



That was it. Pete, Chuck and I loaded up and headed out to the highway at Cave Junction about 20 miles away. I got an earful telling me how horrible southern Oregon was and how the Deer were not much better and on and on and on. We finally arrived in Cave Junction and decided to go on to Grants Pass to have a bite to eat. I knew a place where the food was very good and not too expensive. Of course Chuck didn't trust me because of what I told him about that part of the state.

We finally arrived at the restaurant and placed our order. While we were waiting for the food to come, the radio was on and the six O'clock news came on. We could hear it very well and they said that a full grown Bengal tiger was on the loose in the hills above Cave Junction. It had escaped from a wildlife preserve early that morning. Thus, we were really on a Tiger hunt in Oregon.

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# Veterans Day Parade 2017: Impressions

*Veterans Day 2017 was your special day. A grateful America salutes you*



By Larry J and Betty Ricklefs

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is set aside to remember and honor the sacrifices of young men and women who gave some, others who gave all, who unselfishly answered the call to duty out of love of country.

The theaters of war from WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, and the infamous dunes of the Sand Box bring us together for a day of reflection, respect, and resolution as brothers and sisters in arms for a common cause join each other unified, determined, humbled and proud as Old Glory passes by touching the heart of every witness whether standing tall or saluting, our men and women in uniform. We love our veterans!

During the parade it rained but never dampened the warrior spirit. For a moment the parade vehicles halted permitting an unidentified young woman to give my wife her umbrella to protect her from the brewing wet weather.

Others along the lengthy parade route stood up and saluted, applauded, waved, and a smile a mile wide was always acknowledged. I was overwhelmed with displays of love and emotion it brought tears to my eyes.

Never before in my military affiliations have I seen and felt the welcome of a grateful nation as I did on Veterans Day 2017.

The parade over, I went home retiring my uniform to the closet, thankful for hard fought freedoms we enjoy today. To all who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, Thank you for your service! .





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



# CONQUER THE CHALLENGE

#NVMWG

JULY 30-AUGUST 4, 2018 • ORLANDO, FL



**VA** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Paralyzed Veterans of America

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

[wheelchairgames.org](http://wheelchairgames.org)

 WheelchairGames   #NVMWG





# January

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



**Office Closed**

Happy  
New Year!



# February

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	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Valentine's Day (February 14)

Presidents' Day (February 19)

BOD 10:00 a.m. (February 22)

 Office Closed

## Save the Date

- |                 |                                      |              |                                       |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>01/06</b>    | <b>Pizza Meeting - Salem</b>         | <b>04/07</b> | <b>Abilities Expo 2018 - Portland</b> |
| <b>01/19-20</b> | <b>Winter Road Speed - Lebanon</b>   | <b>04/14</b> | <b>MS Walk - Bend</b>                 |
| <b>01/27</b>    | <b>Pizza Meeting - Lake Oswego</b>   | <b>04/28</b> | <b>MS Walk - Corvallis</b>            |
| <b>02/03</b>    | <b>E E Wilson Rabbit Hunt</b>        | <b>05/05</b> | <b>MS Walk - Salem</b>                |
| <b>02/03</b>    | <b>Peterson Auto Auction - Salem</b> | <b>05/12</b> | <b>Fun Shoot - Hillsboro</b>          |
| <b>02/24</b>    | <b>Pizza Meeting - Medford</b>       | <b>05/19</b> | <b>Willamette Speed Way - Lebanon</b> |
| <b>03/16-18</b> | <b>Portland Roadster Show</b>        | <b>05/28</b> | <b>Memorial Day</b>                   |

## “Jeepers Creepers Where’d You Get Those Peepers?”

When is the last time they were checked out? If you have MS it’s important to know what Optic Neuritis is and how it can affect your vision. (peepers are eyes for those too young to recall the song!) According to Web MD Optic Neuritis affects the nerves that sends messages from your eye to your brain (the optic nerve to be exact).

The nerve becomes inflamed and in turn can lead to vision changes. I was surprised to learn that not only can it happen with MS but also diabetes or when certain medications are taken.

Possible symptoms include but aren’t limited to:

- Blurry vision
- Loss of color vision
- Pain upon eye movement
- Trouble seeing side to side
- Hole in the center of your vision
- Blindness in rare cases

Remember I am not a doctor (nor do I play one on TV.) However I’m here to provide information for you to think about and maybe get checked out by a professional. If you have any of these symptoms don’t hesitate to see your eye doctor. Symptoms may clear up but actions can be taken to intervene. Make that phone call today! Your “peepers” will thank you!!

Guess what 2018 brings? MS Walks to raise awareness and to further research into this complex disease. This year OPVA would like to expand our participation but, we will need your help. Further details will be provided but here’s where we are aiming for: Bend: April 14th, Corvallis April 28th, and last but not least Salem May 5th. If you are interested in volunteering/walking or being a team captain (do I feel a competition going on?) give us a call at the office and leave a message and we’ll go from there.

Until next issue... P.S. I got my “peepers” checked out and ended up getting an eye scan but all turned out well...



### FUTURE MS WALK AROUND THE STATE

Portland	04/07/18	Corvallis	04/28/18
Bend	04/14/18	Vancouver	04/29/18
Central Point	04/28/18	Eugene	05/05/18
		Salem	05/05/18

Dates for Eastern Oregon and the Rogue Valley will follow at a later date!

# GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Daniel Service – President

United Veterans Group of Oregon (UVGO) is an organization OPVA has been a part of for some time now. As a veterans' organization they take the time to work together with our state government officials to see that all veterans get help in many different areas.

Our latest endeavor was to work with Governor Kate Brown to get 18.7 million dollars from the Oregon State Lottery. That money will be spread out through the different organizations that assist our veterans. It has been brought up that the VA is looking to add a third Veterans Home in Oregon, but nothing has been decided on it.

At the October meeting Cameron Smith, the Director of Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, handed out and went through the Annual Report to the Governor listing the accomplishment achieved during the last fiscal year.



As President of OPVA I was asked by Governor Kate Brown to be at a signing of three bills; Senate Bill 80 – Directs Director of Veterans' Affairs to provide aid and assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon with regard to programs of service for Native American veterans and accreditation of federal tribal veterans representatives; Senate Bill 143 – Directs Department of Veterans'

Affairs to develop and implement one or more grant programs statewide to expand and enhance existing campus veteran resource centers and employ campus veteran resource coordinators on campuses of community colleges and public universities to help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, succeed in college, complete educational goals and transition from college to workforce and community; and House Bill 2891 – Establishes Department of Veterans' Affairs Veteran Services Grant Fund.

These bills may not be something all of us will be able to take part with, but it does help other veterans in the state of Oregon. It is an honor to have our organization recognized, and to be invited to participate in these activities along with other Veteran Service Organizations.

I was invited to participate in a Town Hall meeting with Congressman Kurt Schrader to discuss some of the problems Oregon veterans are experiencing. OPVA and other organizations that work with veterans were asked to share what is going on and where help may be needed.

Topics discussed were education and how difficult it is for veterans to transition from Community Colleges to Universities; Employment for veterans isn't easy when one is older, loses his job and can't get a new one because their job skills are being taken by the younger generation. Oregon used to have a program to help but it is no longer available; Transportation in the rural area for veterans is bad. Good news, every county will have a Veterans Service Officer.



# Wheelchair Basketball in the Willamette Valley:

## Come be a part of the Rolling Beavers at OSU



Oregon State University is building a Division-III traveling wheelchair basketball team, and we are actively recruiting competitors to help us build a championship-caliber program.

The coach, Joshua Gess, is a paraplegic who played intercollegiate wheelchair basketball for Auburn University for several years before becoming a professor in Mechanical Engineering at Oregon State University.

While the team requires commitment, hard work, and dedication, this effort is rewarded with instruction on how to play the game the right way. Through this commitment to teaching, it is expected that you can not only be proud of the skills you have acquired through our practice regiment but also teach your peers what you have learned.

This is the way the game is grown, and this is how veterans can become more active and visible in their communities.

The coach has seen this model work through skills challenges and clinics that were put on by the Auburn University team at Ft. Benning. Friends who were able-bodied were able to compete with their disabled peers in a way that was impossible before they had completed the several week-long wheelchair basketball practice regiments.

We here at OSU can provide the exact same training that the soldiers and disabled veterans acquired at Ft. Benning, so that you can be more active and involved in extracurricular activities with your peers and community.



From Coach Joshua Gess:

I grew up able-bodied in Lexington, KY before my accident left me a paraplegic on September 22, 2007. It was a day that changed my life forever, and at first this change was negative.

If you grow up in Kentucky, you know two things: Horses and Basketball. It was hard to watch the game that I loved as a kid without the ability to compete.

A game-changing day in my life was the day that Jared Rehm, my coach, got me an Auburn University wheelchair basketball uniform. To put on my school's colors (I was attending Auburn for my PhD at the time) filled me with a sense of pride that I hadn't experienced since playing high school ball able-bodied.

The rush of looking in the stands and seeing at least one hundred of my able-bodied peers chanting War Eagle while our team rushed down the court is something that gives me chills to this day.

That is why I'm starting this team. I want every disabled person in the Willamette Valley who wants to compete to feel this rush. Wait until you are at the visitor's arena, the game is one the line, the ball is in your hands, and hundreds of people are cheering your opponent. You'll feel it then too I promise.

We will practice at least once a week at the Albany YMCA. Times are TBD as we will do our best to work around individual's schedules.

For more information, email the team at [rollingbeavers@gmail.com](mailto:rollingbeavers@gmail.com). Even if you are an Oregon fan, you still have to wear Benny on your jersey. There were Alabama fans who played for Auburn's wheelchair basketball team, so you can do it too! And if you love Benny, well, then come down here and show the world that Oregon State University can have the first intercollegiate wheelchair basketball team on the west coast!



**Share Your Story**  
Please share your stories, photos, videos, and graphics about your air travel experiences as a passenger with a disability.

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pva.org

**ParalyzedVeterans**  
PVA1946  
#VeteransMatter

**AirAccess30.org**  
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**ACAA**

**Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
Oregon Chapter

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



# 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

December 18, 2017

Volume 23, Number 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.

## **Tax Cut Bill Moves Ahead But Preserves Disability Provisions**

As the Washington Update went to press, Congress was preparing to vote on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the major tax initiative of the Trump Administration and Congress. While taking no position on the overall issue of tax reform, PVA had expressed strong objections to provisions in the House bill that would have eliminated the deduction for significant medical expenses, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) that offers incentives for companies to hire veterans, people with disabilities and others with barriers to employment and the Disabled Access Tax Credit (DAC) which assists small businesses in making their establishments accessible to people with disabilities. PVA had also expressed concern about the impact on programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security of the tax bill's \$1.5 trillion addition to the federal deficit. While the final conference agreement to be voted on does not eliminate the medical expense deduction, WOTC or DAC, it will still add at least \$1.5 trillion to the deficit and debt which is likely to play out in 2018 in proposals to cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. PVA expects to be involved in efforts to combat any dramatic reductions in these safety net programs that are vital to so many members.

## **Senate VA Committee Advances Reform Bill**

On November 29, 2017 the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs voted to advance the "Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017." This legislation would consolidate the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) community care programs into a singular program and provide additional resources to enable VA to meet the ever-increasing healthcare needs of veterans. Since the establishment of the Veterans Choice program in 2014, VA has struggled with ever-changing program requirements enacted by Congress. The proposed legislation is the logical next step to finally solidify the ways in which VA provides care in the community and provide the necessary tools to keep pace with the needs of our nation's heroes.

Of great significance to Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the major VSOs, is expansion of eligibility to VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program. Currently, the program is restricted to veterans injured on or after September 11, 2001. This legislation would make eligible those veterans severely injured during and prior to the Vietnam War. Two years later the program would expand to include veterans of all eras. This will correct a shameful inequity that has gone on for too long, and asked caregivers and veterans to endure far too much.



**"Serving Those Who Served"**  
**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**

## **Press Conference on Expansion of VA Caregiver Program**

On December 6, 2017, PVA, DAV (Disabled American Veterans), The American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) presented nearly 200,000 petition signatures to House and Senate leaders urging passage of the “Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017” to expand access to the caregiver program. At a press conference highlighting the issue, longtime champion and architect of the bill, Senator Patty Murray, and Ranking Member Tester spoke of the bipartisan commitment among members of the Veterans Affairs Committee to see caregiver expansion is accomplished by the end of the 115th Congress. A similar commitment was offered by House of Representatives members Ranking Member Walz, and Congressmen Langevin and Costello. The bill now awaits passage in the full Senate and would then require passage in the House.

## **PVA Submits Comments on VA Claim Appeals Program**

In November, PVA submitted comments on VA’s changes to its claims and appeals system, including RAMP, directed in the Veterans Appeals and Modernization Act of 2017. It was PVA’s intent to provide observations on the process to date, provide comments on the information presented at a November meeting on the proposed CFR changes, as well as comments on the draft proposed regulations released on November 20.

Our general observations included that we believed continued open and transparent communication from the VA was the best way to ensure veterans organizations are able to work within the new framework and best represent our members. The meetings and contact with staff are very helpful, but we urged VA to promptly make available any internal training materials the agency is using so that we can train our staff in both the transitional phases, including RAMP, and the new appeals framework.

We also indicated that to be successful in rolling out the new framework, we needed to see where RAMP was working and where it was not. Throughout the discussions leading up to the passage of the Veterans Appeals and Modernization Act of 2017, VA emphasized the importance of creating a feedback loop to identify and correct RO-specific errors. We expected that the RAMP analysis would begin to provide this information and looked forward to seeing what VA had to report.

There were several areas of concern such as the agency sometimes using the term “dissatisfied” to describe when veterans might make a choice within the new framework. “Dissatisfied” is not a statutory term, so it should not appear in any regulations or other binding guidance. We expressed concerns about what happens after a case is remanded by the Board because if the case is not returned to the Board following continued denial, and it is not tracked in some way, then there is no way to ensure compliance with the remand order. This puts a huge burden on veterans and NSO representatives. PVA also had specific concerns with the RAMP draft Standard Operating Procedure and about notice being provided to representatives simultaneously with claimants, whether by letter, email, text, or phone.

PVA will continue to monitor this critical change to VA’s appeals process to ensure all veterans receive the compensation they are due and have earned.

## **PVA Raises Concerns on VA Automobile Adaptive Equipment Program**

PVA is very concerned about VA will no longer reimburse qualifying veterans with disabilities for standard Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE). VA argues that many items such as air-conditioning and power brakes or steering are now standard equipment and not eligible if the veteran does not have an invoice reflecting the specific cost. Unfortunately, many manufacturers now include these components as “equipment packages” without an itemized listing.

Interim Executive Director Carl Blake has met with VA Under Secretary of Health Dr. Clancy to express PVA's displeasure with the number of denials of reimbursement. He has also informed her that there has been no action in rewriting the AAE Handbook, but that when VA does decide to take action, they must involve the PVA and other VSOs in the development and writing of the new Directives. He has also told VA Secretary Shulkin that AAE is one of the top priorities for PVA.

PVA requested that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) provide an AAE briefing to the Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Prosthetic Workgroup in November. During the briefing PVA and other VSOs expressed their dissatisfaction with the AAE program's failure to allow for changes in the automobile industry technological advances to provide reimbursement for new technology in addition to the continuing failure of VA to reimburse vets for standard AAE.

PVA has met with VHA three times in the last two years to provide recommendations to improve the new Directive whenever VA takes action to rewrite it. PVA will consider to work on this issue and has included AAE as a policy priority for 2018.

## **Senate Briefing on Employment of Veterans with Disabilities**

Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and Jack Reed (D-RI) sponsored a briefing for Senate staff on December 7th about supports and strategies for increasing employment of veterans with disabilities. Bill Metheny, Director of Field Operations, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) described DOL VETS role in promoting veterans' employment among the various workforce development programs at the agency. Carol Glazer, Executive Director for the National Organization on Disability (NOD) outlined that organization's employment programs for wounded warriors. Susan Prokop, Senior Associate Director of Advocacy spoke about Paralyzed Veterans of America's (PVA) successful vocational rehabilitation program,

Paving Access to Veterans Employment (PAVE) that now operates in seven regional offices around the country offering services to veterans as well as their caregivers. Information about PAVE can be found at <http://www.pva.org/veterans-employment>.

## **PVA Serves as Panelist for Congressional Briefing on the Dangers of ADA Notification Legislation**

On November 29, 2017, PVA participated in a congressional briefing sponsored by the National Federation of the Blind in opposition to the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Education and Reform Act (H.R. 620). This PVA-opposed legislation would require a person with a disability to give notice to a public accommodation of an architectural barrier under the ADA and provide the business with an opportunity to "cure" the violation prior to filing a lawsuit.

The purpose of the briefing was to educate congressional staff about the ADA and why the notification requirements proposed by H.R. 620 would be devastating to public access for people with disabilities.

Heather Ansley, Associate General Counsel for Corporate and Government Relations, served as PVA's representative to the panel. Other participants in the briefing were Scott LaBarre, Chairman of the Disability Rights Bar Association Board of Directors and President of the National Association of Blind Lawyers; Andy Levy, Partner, Brown Goldstein and Levy; and Andraea LaVant, Self-Advocate, Girl Scouts of America. Former Congressman Tony Coelho, principle author of the ADA, served as the moderator.

In her comments, Ms. Ansley noted that implementing a notice requirement would effectively remove all incentive for businesses to fully comply with the ADA prior to being notified by a person with a disability about a violation. This is against the goal of Title III which is to prevent denials of access by ensuring that barriers are removed so that when a person with

a disability arrives at a business it is accessible to them. She also noted that compliance with the ADA is not burdensome as there are free resources available to help businesses comply with the law. For example, the federally funded ADA National Network provides free technical assistance through 10 regional centers located around the country. Businesses needing assistance can call 1-800-949-4232 to reach the center nearest them.

At this time, we still do not know when, or if, this legislation will move to the House floor. It was passed on a party-line vote by the House Judiciary Committee in September. In the meantime, please continue to contact your House Member to let him or her know that you oppose H.R. 620.

## **House Task Force Hosts Forum on Veterans Entrepreneurship**

On November 30th, the House of Representatives Democratic Caucus' Task Force on Reinvesting in our Returning Heroes held a Member briefing about challenges facing veterans in starting their own businesses. Attending the forum were House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joseph Crowley (NY-14), Vice Chair Loretta Sánchez (CA-38), task force co-chairs Representatives Julia Brownley (CA-26), Ruben Gallego (AZ-7), Donald McEachin (VA-4) and Brad Schneider (IL-10) along with Representative Marcy Kaptur (OH-9). Speakers included Sue Hoppin, President of the National Military Spouse Network,

LeRoy Acosta, Assistant National Service Director for Disabled American Veterans, Susan Prokop, Senior Associate Advocacy Director for Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Ed Vargas, veteran and owner of a small business in Maryland. The panelists discussed many of the problems veterans and military spouses encounter in starting a business when they return home and seek to begin their post-military professional careers. Prokop focused on the appeal of self-employment for veterans with disabilities and efforts in past sessions of Congress to overcome some of the unique barriers to entrepreneurship that these veterans often face. Mr. Vargas, owner of a Mr. Appliance franchise, spoke about

the difficulties that high franchise fees pose to many veterans who wish to establish a business, noting the introduction by Rep. Brownley of HR 4473, the Veteran Entrepreneurs Act of 2017 that would provide a tax credit worth up to 25 percent of initial franchise fees for eligible veterans.

## **PVA Leadership and Staff Visit Puerto Rico Chapter in Aftermath of Hurricanes**

PVA President David Zurfluh and Vice President Hack Albertson led a delegation of national staff to Puerto Rico on December 4 through 6 to meet with chapter leadership, check on PVA members and meet with federal officials for an update on recovery efforts in the wake of hurricanes Irma and Maria which devastated the island in September. Meeting at the chapter office on the day of their arrival, the group heard a presentation about the Puerto Rico Recovery Fund (PRRF) recently established by the Center for a New Economy (CNE). CNE is a non-partisan think-tank that advocates for the development of a new economy for Puerto Rico and created the PRRF to draw in nonprofit and corporate support for rebuilding the island. Jose Oramas with UPS [a PVA corporate supporter], another CNE PRRF partner described some of the work UPS has been doing through PRRF to activate charter flights moving supplies to Puerto Rico. PRRF has set up 11 distribution centers around the island for water, food, hygiene kits, and other material and have delivered 1.4 million pounds of supplies thus far.

December 5th the delegation visited several PVA members in the outskirts of San Juan and mountain areas in the middle of the island. Most of the members with whom the group spoke had power to their homes supplied by generators, but getting water continued to be an issue for almost all with whom they met. The VA Medical Center had established contact with some PVA members, but not others, and only one veteran reported contact with the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). In the meeting the day before, several chapter members had expressed varying degrees of frustration in their encounters with the FEMA bureaucracy.

December 6th was devoted to meetings with VA and FEMA officials from the Joint Field Operations center, which is the main office for federal agencies coordinating in Puerto Rico. Dr. Antonio Sanchez, the acting director of the VAMC outlined numerous challenges the hospital confronted in trying to contact and assist veterans after the storm because of the destruction of internet, phone and satellite capacity. Lack of street addresses in the medical center's patient registry made it difficult, if not impossible, to find many veterans in the more remote areas of the island. Dr. Sanchez observed that the center needs to do better at identifying patients who live alone and include plans for these people in their emergency preparation plans.

Dr. Nadal, the acting chief of the spinal cord injury unit, reported on the efforts VA has undertaken to offer training to other agencies involved in emergency preparation and response. One of the problems mentioned by several members in the visits the day before was difficulty in obtaining vital prescriptions in the immediate aftermath of the storms. The VA had implemented a pharmacy emergency system whereby veterans in rural and hard to reach areas were authorized to obtain prescription drugs from local drug stores. However, many local pharmacies were unfamiliar with this emergency program and were charging the veterans copays and other expenses. Dr. Nadal acknowledged that the VA needed to be more proactive in advertising its resources such as this.

The VA hospital had an open door policy during the emergency to anyone with a spinal cord injury, but the patients they received were considerably sicker than they expected. In addition, many of the 350 veterans with SCI on the VAMC registry were medically stable but most of the emergency shelters were a challenge for patients with spinal cord injury. Dr. Nadal said they ended up sending 15 patients to the mainland because they couldn't manage patients at all the shelters on the island and felt that more work is needed to develop better shelters for medically stable people with disabilities.

The meeting with FEMA representatives included Madeleine Goldfarb the FEMA Disability Integration Advisor in San Juan, Philip Shaw with the FEMA Volunteer Agencies Liaison (VAL) office and Josephine Carmona whose office is responsible for handling immediate needs of storm survivors. In discussing the apparent lack of contact among PVA members by FEMA, Ms. Goldfarb noted that a FEMA survivor registration number is needed in order for them to send out disaster assistance teams and Ms. Carmona added that they have to depend on local governments to inform them of the locations of people with disabilities, but once that information is provided, FEMA will then send in aid.

The FEMA officials expressed a desire to work more closely with PVA's chapter to resolve some of the problems that had been raised in the previous days and in the meetings. There also seems to be a need for improvements in the integration of the VA with the overall emergency management system and in its communication with veterans and the community about the resources it has to offer in disasters. At the same time, agencies like FEMA and voluntary organizations need to understand that the VA does not serve all of the needs of veterans with disabilities and, like other people with disabilities, their circumstances need to be taken into account in emergency preparation and response. In the months ahead, PVA plans to map out a set of recommendations for improving emergency preparation and response for its membership as well as the broader community of people with disabilities.



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

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**Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
Government Relations Department  
801 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006  
(800) 424-8200 • (800) 795-4327 • [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

### ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

#### Arizona Air Rifle/Archery & Boccia Tournament\*

Sept. 6-8, 2017  
Phoenix, AZ

#### West Virginia Air Rifle & Boccia Tournament\*

Oct. 27-28, 2017  
Martinsburg, WV

#### KY-IN Air Rifle & Boccia Tournament\*

Nov 16-18, 2017  
Lexington, KY

#### Cal-Diego Air Rifle Tournament

Jan. 22-23, 2018  
San Diego, CA

#### Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle Tournament

March 7-8, 2018  
Richmond, VA

#### Wisconsin Air Rifle Tournament

March 23-25, 2018  
Milwaukee, WI

#### Buckeye Air Rifle Tournament

April 21-22, 2018  
Geneva, OH

*\*indicates combined events*

### PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

#### Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

Aug. 4-6, 2017  
**Pistol & Rifle Tournament - Aug. 4**  
Green Bay, WI

#### North Central Shooting Sports Tournament

Sept. 8-10, 2017  
**Pistol Tournament - Sept. 8**  
Sioux Falls, SD

#### Keystone Shooting Sports Tournament

Sept. 22-24, 2017  
**Pistol Tournament - Sept. 22**  
Clairton, PA

#### Arizona Shooting Sports Tournament

Nov. 3-5, 2017  
**Pistol Tournament - Nov. 3**  
Phoenix, AZ

#### Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament

Nov. 10-12, 2017  
Charles City, VA

#### Florida Gulf Coast Shooting Sports Tournament

March 1-3, 2018  
Odessa, FL

#### Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament

March 16-18, 2018  
**Pistol Tournament - March 16**  
Las Vegas, NV

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

March 23-25, 2018  
**Pistol & Rifle Tournament - March 23**  
Redlands, CA

#### Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament

April 20-22, 2018  
Edwardsville, IL

#### Minnesota Shooting Sports Tournament

May 18-20, 2018  
Minneapolis, MN

#### Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament

June 22-24, 2018  
Waxahachie, TX

#### Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

June 15-17, 2018  
**Pistol Event - June 15, 2018**  
Cedar Rapids, IA

### PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR

#### Mid-America Bass Tournament

Sept. 22-24, 2017  
Eufaula, OK

#### Lone Star Bass Tournament

Sept. 29—Oct. 1, 2017  
Garland, TX

#### Southeastern Bass Tournament

Oct. 13-15, 2017  
Evans, GA

#### Vaughan Bass Tournament

Oct. 27-29, 2017  
Mt. Vernon, IL

#### Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament

April 6-8, 2018  
Kissimmee, FL

#### KY-IN Bass Tournament

May 4-6, 2018  
Kuttawa, KY

#### National Bass Tournament

June 1-3, 2018  
Marbury, MD

#### Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament

June 8-10, 2018  
Richmond, VA

### ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

#### Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament

Sept. 15-17, 2017  
Virginia Beach, VA

#### Mid-South Billiards Tournament

Oct. 13-14, 2017  
Memphis, TN

#### Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament

March 23-25, 2018  
Midlothian, VA

#### Mid-America Billiards Tournament

April 20-22, 2018  
Oklahoma City, OK

#### Mountain States Billiards Tournament

May 4-5, 2018  
Fountain, CO

#### Buckeye Billiards Tournament\*\*

June 22-23, 2018  
Wickliffe, OH

**\*\*non-sanctioned events**

### ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

#### Great Plains Bowling Tournament

July 6-9, 2017  
Council Bluffs, IA

#### Mountain States Bowling Tournament

Aug. 24-27, 2017  
Colorado Springs, CO

#### Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament

Sept. 22-24, 2017  
Glen Allen, VA

#### Nevada Bowling Tournament

Nov. 30-December 3, 2017  
Las Vegas, NV

#### Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament

Feb. 23-25, 2018  
Tampa, FL

#### Vaughan Bowling Tournament

May 3-6, 2018  
Romeoville, IL

#### Mid-America Bowling Tournament

TBD  
Shawnee, OK

### BOCCIA

#### Nevada Boccia Tournament

Jan. 26-27, 2018  
Las Vegas, NV

#### Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament

Feb. 22-23, 2018  
San Diego, CA

### PARALYZED VETERANS RACING

#### Pensacola Cycling Billiards Tournament

Sept. 16-17, 2017  
Pensacola, FL

#### Air Force Marathon

Sept. 16, 2017  
Dayton, OH

#### Pocahontas State Park Off-Road Ride

Sept. 30, 2017  
Richmond, VA

#### Army Ten-Miler

Oct. 8, 2017  
Washington, DC

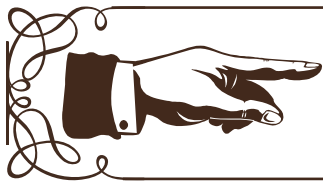
#### Blue and Gray

Oct. 21-22, 2017  
Gettysburg, PA

#### 38TH NVWG

July 30-Aug. 4, 2018  
Orlando, FL

For more information, visit:  
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# Classified Ads

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Conex Box 8x20 = 160 sf, Zoned CG. Jorie Girod Willers Principal Broker, GRI  
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### Salem Chapter Monthly Meeting

3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Salem Hospital, Building D. 939 Oak St. SE Salem

Take elevator to second floor, meeting room 1.

### Please Call if You Have Questions

TCF Phone # (503) 743-3930.

Janie Erickson (503) 931-1748



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**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

# MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

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

**Chapter Name:** Oregon

**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  
of America**

Oregon Chapter

Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR, 97305 • 503-362-7998

**PLEASE VERIFY YOUR MAILING ADDRESS ON THE BACK COVER**

**Make any corrections below and return to chapter office along with questionnaire below**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Cell

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

We need your input:

We are in the process of planning your 2018 Members Banquet.

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

Other Suggestions:

Spirit Mountain Casino

Monarch Inn off I-205

Quality Inn in Keizer

Embassy Suites in Lake Oswego

Holiday Inn in Wilsonville

Eugene Area

Write in Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_



**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
3700 Silverton Rd. NE  
Salem, OR 97305

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January/February 2018

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