

September/October 2019
Volume 23, Issue 5



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Oregon Chapter

PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



OPVA Members Banquet

— & —

Celebration of
HONOR

“Serving Those Who Served”

www.oregonpva.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305

503-362-7998 • www.oregonpva.org • oregonpva@oregonpva.org

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RESOURCES

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www.vets.gov

eVetRecords

www.archives.gov

Vocational Rehab & Employment

www.gibill.gov

eBenefits

www.benefits.va.gov

Women Veterans Health Care

1-855-VA-Woman

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.

We want you to join the OPVA Team! 2020



PORTLAND, OR
July 3-8

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Cover photo: Celebration of Honor at Chinook Winds, Casino Resort, Lincoln City, OR

Thank you to all our Sponsors!

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PRESIDENT NEWS



Larry Gardner – President

We have been very busy this summer with lots of events going on and lots more coming up. First of all I would like to thank our Ambassadors: Ken Townsend, Central OR; Dennis Hooper, Southern OR; and Don Wyatt, Idaho for all your volunteer work and time you do to help the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans, it is very much appreciated.

This year we have been getting involved in a lot more events than ever before and without our volunteer's this would not be possible, so we are always in need of more volunteer's as we continue to grow.

On July 20th we had the Members Picnic at the Salem Elks Club and with the help of Ed and Laura Lanssens. It was the best picnic I have seen in years and the attendance was fantastic! Thank you Ed and Laura for all the time and work you put in for this to be the greatest Members Picnic!



Then our biggest event in July was the OPVA Show and Shine Car Show at Home Depot in SE Salem. This event again was fun and exciting. As always thanks to all the hours of work and planning that our Executive Director Tom Hurt put into this to make it very successful. Thank you Tom for a great job done, and also thank you to all the volunteers who were involved to make this a great show.



I would like to remind our members that our annual Members Banquet is September 21st at the Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City, it is also the weekend of "The Celebration of Honor" for all the veterans at Chinook Winds Casino. We are looking forward to this great event. The banquet room this year has large windows down the outer wall looking out over the ocean giving us a very nice view.

The past couple of years we were asked if it would be possible to have the banquet on Saturday instead of Sunday, in order to do this we had to venture out and look for a different location, Chinook Winds was willing to reserve a Saturday in September for us on the "Celebration of Honor" weekend and it's at the beach!

We are wide open for suggestions for the banquet in the year 2020, please call us or send us a message with your opinion you may have about a place, day, or time, for the next banquet.

I hope everyone is enjoying our summer weather, it seems to be going by so fast. Ending my message I hope to see everyone at the Members Banquet September 21st for good food, music, our awards program, and a time of lots of fun. Don't forget to use your recreation fund if you haven't already. Thank you everyone.



Members Banquet


Chinook Winds
CASINO RESORT

777 NW 44th St, Lincoln City, OR 97367

Save the Date

Saturday September 21, 2019. 1 pm - 6 pm

RSVP by September 9th



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

Come to the banquet, stay for the weekend!!!

“Celebration of Honors” weekend at Chinook Winds

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



PORTLAND, OR
July 3-8, 2020



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Greetings. Just got back from Louisville KY for the 39th Annual National Veteran Wheelchair Games. As you are aware by now the 40th Anniversary of the games will be held in Portland and your Oregon Chapter will be the Host. If you have ever competed in the games or you would like to the chapter would love for you to sign up on the team. This was an amazing event, Team Oregon had 2 of our athletes participate as Novices, and they did GREAT. For more information you can contact the office or speak with the Team Captain Dennis Hooper.

We had a Great group of Car People at the Show and Shine again this year, we also drew the winner of the 1946 Willy's Jeep, and unveiled our next Raffle Vehicle "1970 Camaro" boy is it an eye catcher.



Wow July was a wild and crazy month, with the NVWG in Kentucky, Marion County Fair, MOPAR Car Show, ending the month with the OPVA Show and Shine Car Show.

August started with a big bang, this was the first year the chapter had a booth at the Douglas County Fair.

Roseburg welcomed OPVA with open arms, what a great community, we are making plans to participate again next year, we then followed up the next week down at the Josephine County Fair, this one is a bit smaller but the support for OPVA was huge, it was really nice that the local TV Station (Channel 12) came out and interviewed Dennis Hooper (Southern Oregon Ambassador). So not to be out done by Southern OR, the OR State Fair began Aug 23rd and runs through Sept 2nd.



These are just some of the things we are raising monies for. Your help at the events the chapter is at would be so greatly appreciated.

Remember the Annual Members Banquet is right around the Corner Sept 21st at Chinook Wind Resort this year, at the same time as the Banquet the resort is holding their "Celebration of Honor". This will be a great banquet this year, ***"Come for the Banquet and Stay for the Weekend"***

"Come to the Banquet and Stay for the Weekend"

I know you hear us talk about needing volunteers, well we do. Here is why, as the chapter branches out throughout the States (OR, ID & SW WA) these events need to have our booths manned to let people know what OPVA is and what the organization does and maybe has done for you. These events are also opportunities for the chapter to do some fund raising to help pay for the Recreation fund that some have been able to use or the Deep Sea Fishing trips that as a member you can participate in at no cost for the fishing.

We will be swearing in your new Board of Directors at the Banquet, and hitting the ground moving planning for great events to participate in, as well as New Sporting opportunities. We are committed to making next year better than this year, (And this year was pretty awesome). We need you to come on out and play with us. **The more we have involved the more fun everyone has.**



Support Our Local Heroes

Donate Now



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Oregon Chapter

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 OPVA, 3700 Silverton Rd NE, OR 97305

Or visit our website, www.oregonpva.org to set up a payment or recurring payments

Name: _____

Address: _____

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SPORTS REPORT

We want YOU to join the 2020 OPVA NVWG Team



Dan Service—Sports Director

Hi everyone! We are going to make some changes. In the past we have had a Sports Director who organized all the different sports programs. The problem is we all live too far away from each other to make a team, or to practice together, yet we all love doing things we are capable of doing.

What we propose is an Assistant Sports Director for each sports program. In other words, Grant Buehler is our Bowling Director, and Bob Mahler is our Table Tennis Director. We can have as many Assistant Sports Directors as there is a need for.

The Assistant Sports Directors will be in charge of assisting you with membership for the sport(s) you want to participate in. In other words, if you enjoy bowling and would love to be on our team, Grant will assist you in locating a Bowling Alley in your area, make sure it is wheelchair accessible (if needed), check for possible reduced rates, and make any agreements necessary.

Grant will also help you fill out the forms to join the National Bowling Association of which our team will be a member. A benefit of being a member of the OPVA team is you can bowl anytime, anywhere (during the week), up to 3 games a week, from October to the end of July.

Send in your scores from each week to the office, along with your receipts (to get reimbursed).

The scores and receipts must be turned into the office by the 3rd of the following month or you will not be reimbursed for that month.

I didn't give you all the particulars, they will be explained to you by the Assistant Sports Director over the sport you enjoy. Bob Mahler wants to encourage you to put together an OPVA Table Tennis team. By putting teams together OPVA will be in a better position to participate in the different events sponsored by the different National Associations for the different sports.

Next year *Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America will be the host chapter for the 2020 40th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG), held in Portland, Oregon.* If you haven't seen it yet, look through this Paralog for those who attended this year's NVWG in Louisville, Kentucky. Out of the different sports participated in, our team came home with 6 Gold, 2 Silver, and 2 Bronze Medals. Hooray for our Team!

We want You to JOIN the 2020 OPVA NVWG Team! The nice thing is that as a novice, or 1st time participant, you are reimbursed 100% for your registration, travel, and lodging! If you really enjoy it, the next time you participate you are reimbursed 50%. Still, it's like not paying for some of a vacation. That's so cool.

Here are some of the PVA's national sports events coming up:

- PVA Boating/Fishing Tour, Mid-America Bass Tournament, Sept 20-22, 2019, Eufaula, OK.
- Vaughan Bass Tournament, October 4-6, 2019, Mount Vernon, IL.
- National Shooting Sports Tournament, North Central Shooting Sports Tournament, September 6-8, 2019, Sioux Fall, SC.
- Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament, October 25-27, 2019, Charles City, VA.
- PVA/NWPVA Billiards Tournament, Mid-South Billiards Tournament, October 11-12, 2019, Memphis, TN.
- PVA/AWBA Bowling Tournament, Mid-Atlantic Bowling, September 13-15, 2019, Glen Allen, VA.
- Boccia, PVA National Boccia Tournament, October 22-26, 2019, St. Louis, MO.
- Handcycling Racing, Off-Road Fall Expo, October 4-6, 2019, Chesterfield, VA.
- Army Ten Miler, October 13, 2019, Washington, D.C.

If your up for it, there is also the Annual Air Rifle & Air Pistol Program, and Code of Honor Quad Rugby Invitational. Those are the PVA events, but if you are into any other sport, give me a call and we will see what we can do to get you going, both locally as well as Nationally.

Get out of your house! Use your Recreation Fund

That's not all folks! There is still the Recreation Program. Our goal is to help you get out of the house, be active in some sort of activity. Do you love sports, quilting, taking photos, drawing, painting, woodworking, writing articles, novels, short stories, working with computers, or maybe just doing family history. Whatever it is let us know. We will be happy to share your talents with our other members, and maybe show your stuff at the Annual Banquet.

We are proud of the great things our members do. We are not handicapped by our disabilities, we do everything at our own pace.



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SOUTHERN OR AMBASSADOR REPORT



39TH NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



By Dennis Hooper – Southern Oregon Ambassador

This July, I had the great fortune to attend the 39th National Veteran's Wheelchair Games in Louisville, Kentucky. The difference from the past annual events is that this year, Oregon had an organized team!

Our coach was first-year attendee Natascha Tulloch, from the Portland VA system, and I was appointed team captain.

The Oregon contingent this year was made up of two novices, Donnie Hedlind, David Summers and me. Team Oregon garnered a total of 10 medals, including 6 gold! There was mutual support at all events from our Executive Director Tom Hurt, Coach Tulloch, and other team members.

We made a good showing for such a small team.

The people in Louisville were great hosts and the city seemed to embrace the event wholeheartedly. There were lots of opportunities to taste the bourbon that flowed as freely as the Ohio River.



Photo courtesy of PVA



There was plenty of food to be had, sights to see, and people to meet.

I firmly believe that the games in Portland will be the **BEST** ever! Oregon will be well represented with both seasoned and novice athletes. The Oregon Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America is instrumental in supporting any local athletes interested in excelling in competition. July 3-8, 2020 will give Portland the chance to shine and I expect Team Oregon to bring home even more gold! *See you in Portland!*

The city made a wonderful effort to clean up the area around the convention center and it really showed. We felt comfortable, safe and welcomed throughout the city. The rich history of the area was available for all athletes to explore.

We got to meet some of the committee members for the Portland games for 2020. They were anxious to learn about the wheelchair games and the awesome atmosphere that is present throughout the event. The folks in Louisville embraced the staff from Portland in a friendly and helpful manner.



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Paralyzed Veterans of America

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IDAHO AMBASSADOR NEWS



By Donald Wyatt – Idaho Ambassador

All is well in Idaho (I think). At least no one has texted, emailed or called me for assistance.

The last three months have been a blur of health issues, broken down transportation and leaky plumbing (in the house crawl space and lawn irrigation). I hope things will be better in the future. Still no answer to why I am anemic.

I did meet with Larry Robertson, Gem County ADA coordinator about the handicap parking at the county fairgrounds along with handicap parking at his office. He is now working on it.



"Good morning Larry. The other day I was in to speak with you about the parking at the fairgrounds. I forgot to mention the barrier in the access aisle at the building where your office is located."

With this wheel stop in the way it is necessary for anyone in a wheelchair to go behind the vehicle and into the lane of traffic in order to access the sidewalk. Thank you, Don Wyatt".

"Thanks, Don, good catch. I just didn't think that one through did I? I have already sent a request to get that stop removed. I am meeting with the fairgrounds this afternoon about their parking. Larry D Robertson".

I haven't gotten a call from OPVA so I guess I didn't win the Jeep.

**OPVA Car Raffle 2019
Winning Ticket
#192157**

I still have a donated 3 wheel trike. It is not a racer type. It is a Quickie Shadow, Mach 3. It is a multispeed but I'm not sure just how many. If anyone has questions, let me know.



SUPPORT!
Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
Please consider adding OPVA to your will or trust

2020



PORTLAND, OR JULY 3-8, 2020

The VA Portland Health Care System is honored to join PVA in hosting the 40th National Veteran Wheelchair Games and welcoming America's veteran wheelchair athletes to our city. Portland strives to be an adaptive sports hub by offering best-in-class flexibility, support, and logistics for competitors and spectators alike.

The Wheelchair Games poses an excellent opportunity for veterans and their families to experience everything Portland and the Pacific Northwest have to offer, from food and entertainment to outdoor activities. We hope you enjoy your stay in the Rose City!

SPORTS

- Rugby
- Air Rifle/Pistol
- Basketball
- Softball
- Slalom
- Swimming
- Power Soccer
- Table Tennis
- Power Lifting
- Archery
- Golf
- Nine Ball (Pool)
- Boccia
- Field & Track
- Trapshoot
- Bowling
- Cycling



RECREATION FUND REPORTS



This was our first time using the Recreation Fund and is exciting! We were able to attend a Party Weekend with World Mark timeshares in Seattle, at the Camlin. It is right downtown so everything was within a block from the Camlin. It was manageable for Rex to walk the short distance.

We shared a dinner with others in the group at the Ruth's Chris Steak House

before walking to the Paramount Theatre to watch the Broadway play, "Wicked".

We had never seen it before and are ready to go again. What a wonderful treat. We also visited some longtime friends on the way home. Thanks OPVA for making this possible.

Sincerely,
Rex and Gail Stevens



Dear OPVA,
We enjoyed the Recreation fund to get a week's stay in a hotel room right on the Oregon Coast beach. It was interesting seeing all those people coming and going to the beach. During the week we traveled up and down Hwy 101 enjoying shopping, sightseeing, yard sales, beach combing, eating out, thrift stores, the beach, our English Bulldog, people watching and whatever else we saw. Thanks for the Fund.

John Phillips



Thank you, OPVA for the fund that allowed me to pay for my motel so that I was able to go on the bottom fishing trip this year.

Kenneth Townsend



OPVA
We had a wonderful trip to Lake Billy Chinook on Memorial Day weekend.
Thank you.

Russell D. P. Goffin



As you get a bit older and the “HUNTING” and shooting bug is still in you there needs to be an outlet or a way to satisfy that desire. One needs to look for an alternative, the plan “B” spring into action, now introducing AIR GUNS.

Where Powder Burners kick like a Mule and have a tendency to make you deaf whereas AIR GUNS do nether. In the old days the thought of an air gun was a “toy”, well let me tell you that these are now “replicas” of the actual rifle or pistol you use or carry every day.

If you go to www.replicaairguns.us and www.airgunsofarizona.com you will see for yourself, for example a Beretta Elite II for under \$50.00. I get a kick out of still being able to hit a target at 30 and even 100 yards without being deafened or shelling out a lot of \$\$\$

Louie Grimmer



Attended the Marine Corps League, Department of Washington convention on June 7, 8 and 9. No Marine of the year this time but did receive a Meritorious Commendation.

Bill Hauser



Dear OPVA

Each year my husband and I try to make a family trip with our son and his wife. This year we spent a week at the coast in Ilwaco, WA.

My daughter-in-law and I have MS and the temperature was perfect for sightseeing.

Thanks to the OPVA Recreation Fund for helping to make this trip possible.

Sincerely,
Dinah Wells and Family

Hi OPVA,

Here is for our rec fund. I just used one payment for our Honda side-by-side. That allows us to get out around our property and some other places. Thank you for all that you do

Thank you,
Travis



Once again I took my wife, Monika, on a fishing trip. This one was sponsored by Take a Veteran Fishing, held at Shelter Cove Resort on Odell Lake.

There were more boat captains than participants but we all had a great time.

The lake became fogged in and you could not see other boats on the water at times. A number of boats came in and returned to fishing after lunch.

Shelter Cove Resort provided the food. It was great and there were seconds if you wanted them. We stayed in a cabin. However, you can reserve a campsite with or without hookups too.

A great time was had by all. I look forward to returning again next year.

Thank you for the Recreation Fund. It makes our once a year trip a possibility.

R.E. (Bob) Moore

Dear OPVA,

I would like to start off by saying. Thank you to all those who make it possible for the Oregon PVA to have a Recreation Fund. It helps disabled Veterans to get out and enjoy the good life and surroundings. My wife and I truly appreciate it.

This past spring my wife and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. We spent a weekend in Bandon, OR and stayed at the Sunset Oceanfront Lodging.

Our room overlooked the beach, and what a view! The beach view and the sunsets were just beautiful. We had such a relaxing time, so much so, that we didn't want to leave.



What a precious time we had, so again, we say thank You... May God Bless you all in a special way!

Sincerely,
Don & Rosa Boss



Remember to Use Your Recreation Fund

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Earlier is better in case of any problems.



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



American Classic Barbershop

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Nov 4, 2019
9am - 5pm



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Agent Orange presumption extended to ‘Blue Water Navy’ Veterans



Submitted by Ken Fink—National Service Officer

Agent Orange was a powerful mixture of herbicides that U.S. military forces used as a defoliant during the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1971. Most commonly sprayed from helicopters, it served the dual purpose of eliminating dense tropical forest cover the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces used for concealment and destroying local crops.

In addition to its active ingredients, Agent Orange contained dioxin, an unwanted byproduct produced during the manufacturing of the herbicide. Over the past several decades, exposure to dioxin has been associated with a number of serious health issues. As a result, service connection for specific diseases has been granted to many veterans based on the presumption that they were exposed to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. Unfortunately, service connection has been denied to many other veterans who served in vessels offshore Vietnam...until now.

Background

In 1984, several chemical companies settled a class-action law suit out of court, while denying any link between Agent Orange and the medical conditions in question. The Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Relief Act, enacted that same year, required the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to prescribe regulations regarding service connection for veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange, even while scientific data was still being gathered regarding its effects.

Seven years later, and sixteen years after the Vietnam War ended, the Agent Orange Act of 1991 was enacted. Under this law, veterans who served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975 and had a disease that had been associated with Agent Orange were automatically presumed to have been exposed to it and were therefore eligible for service connection. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) interpreted this law as only applying to certain veterans.

A 1997 VA General Counsel Opinion and subsequent 2002 administrative decision held that service connection based on exposure to Agent Orange only applied to veterans who had actually set foot in Vietnam or served in its inland waterways. Accordingly, “Brown Water” veterans who served in the inland waterways were deemed eligible for benefits, while “Blue Water” veterans who served offshore were not.

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019

This past January, in *Procopio v. Wilkie*, the U.S. Court of Appeals overruled VA’s previous interpretations and found that service in the territorial waters of Vietnam is “service in Vietnam”. Subsequently, the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019” was signed into law on June 25, 2019, bringing an end to twenty-two years of litigation by extending entitlement to presumptive service connection based on exposure to Agent Orange to “Blue Water” veterans.



While not obvious based on the title, the new law applies to veterans of any service who served aboard vessels operating within 12 nautical miles of the “demarcation line” in the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. The demarcation line is a line that intersects eleven specific geographic points along the coast of Vietnam and Cambodia. Use of this line allows for the practical application of the law, while still incorporating all points within 12 nautical miles of any point of land in Vietnam.

The new law also expands benefits for Korean DMZ veterans who suffer from diseases and illnesses directly linked to Agent Orange, and provides coverage for children suffering from spina bifida whose parents were presumed exposed to Agent Orange while serving in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

The “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019” is applicable to all diseases previously determined to be Agent Orange presumptive conditions. These are:

- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne or similar acneform disease consistent with chloracne
- Chronic B-cell leukemias
- Diabetes mellitus Type 2
- Hodgkin lymphoma
- Ischemic heart disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin lymphoma
- Parkinson’s disease
- Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Prostate cancer
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea)
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, mesothelioma).

The law also allows provides for benefits for dependent survivors of veterans who meet the applicable service requirements and died as a result of one of these diseases. Possible widow’s benefits includes Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), a monetary burial award and CHAMPVA medical coverage.

Applying for Benefits

Claims may be filed under the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019” at any time, but the VA will not begin processing these claims, or claims and appeals that are already in the system, until the law takes effect on January 1, 2020. This delay was directed by Congress to allow the VA time to develop procedures and processes needed to adjudicate claims under the new law. The effective date of service connection

under this law will be determined on a case-by-case basis. It may possibly be retroactive to the date of the original claim or the previously denied claim. Veterans over age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing.

Note: VA will not be automatically reviewing claims that were previously denied and are not on appeal. It is the responsibility of the veteran to file a new Supplemental claim on VA Form 20-0995.

Application for benefits should include all available evidence of service in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the required timeframe, to include ship names, the dates you believe they were within the defined area off the coast, and medical evidence of a current diagnosis of an Agent Orange presumptive condition. Information on ships tracks is maintained in Deck Logs. Both the National Archives and the Blue Water Navy Association have developed data bases that contain information from a number of Deck Logs. Links to these data bases are <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/logbooks/navy-online> and <http://oldbluewater.com/carriers/carrierreports.htm>. The VA will assist veterans in obtaining medical evidence if requested.

In order to do this they need a completed medical release form with accurate contact information for the applicable medical facility and a narrow window for the dates of care if the actual dates are not known.



Additional information on the “Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019” may be found at <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/>.

End of article.

I was unable to find a graphic showing the demarcation line as defined by the points below. It might be a nice touch to include one if the graphic artists at PN would draft it.

“Points Geographic Names”	Latitude North	Longitude East
At Hon Nhan Island, Tho Chu Archipelago Kien Giang Province	9°15.0'	103°27.0'
At Hon Da Island southeast of Hon Khoai Island Minh Hai Province	8°22.8'	104°52.4'
At Tai Lon Islet, Con Dao Islet in Con Dao-Vung Toa Special Sector	8°37.8'	106°37.5'
At Bong Lai Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°38.9'	106°40.3'
At Bay Canh Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°39.7'	106°42.1'
At Hon Hai Islet (Phu Qui group of islands) Thuan Hai Province	9°58.0'	109°5.0'
At Hon Doi Islet, Thuan Hai Province	12°39.0'	109°28.0'
At Dai Lanh point, Phu Khanh Province	12°53.8'	109°27.2'
At Ong Can Islet, Phu Khanh Province	13°54.0'	109°21.0'
At Ly Son Islet, Nghia Binh Province	15°23.1'	109° 9.0'
At Con Co Island, Binh Tri Thien Province	17°10.0'	107°20.6'

LOOKING FOR A NEW OUTDOOR



ADVENTURE

Did you know that OPVA has a Track Chair that is available for our members to use? You could experience something new like getting out doors, going fishing, site seeing.

Experience the action track chair in the woods, on a stream or at your favorite lake. OPVA can be contacted about using it so, get on the schedule for a day or two or more. We want this Track to be used by our Veteran members to help them experience new opportunities out of their house.

It's controlled by a joystick and easy to operate. No Gas needed; its battery powered. There will be a trailer to tow it with available shortly after a couple modifications are done.

We also have a checkout policy that will have to be signed off on before its checkout. Any damage occurred while using the equipment will be the responsibility of the party that checked the equipment out. So, I would say that you need to give it a try before the summer is gone and go out and have some fun!

Call the Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America today!

Thanks

Bill Gray
OPVA National Director/Board Member
503-362-7998



H.A.V.E. Alaska

Helping American Veterans Experience Alaska



Bill Gray—National Director

Helping American Veterans Experience Alaska is what the H.A.V.E. stands for. Joe Halstead started this event two years ago. He hopes to expand the organization in the future with volunteers and funding. There will be another opportunity next year for this fun and exciting adventure, so stay tuned for more

Joe and his wife Samantha, went out of their way to make sure you had everything you needed. They gave us all nice all-weather jackets when we arrived. We could eat non stop if you wanted. The food was just great and neighbors brought food over making this a real community event.

We were treated to a smoked barbecue lunch at a local business with great tasting beef, pork or chicken.





ramp, by picking me up and dumping me on the second seat carefully. I kind of felt like I was a sack of potatoes!

Go on line to www.HAVEALASKA.ORG to find out more!

I want to thank our sponsors who were Papa Cat of Sutherland and Central Freight of Prineville, it cost \$2,500. per veteran to enjoy this adventure.

We also went to the Elks Club and they served up a great steak dinner with all the fixings. On our trip to the airport we stopped at a donut shop. I'm afraid I didn't lose any weight while I was there, its hard to turn down great food. Besides you wouldn't want to offend the host!

By the way if you do not want to wait till next year to fish OPVA offers a great Deep Sea Fishing trip out of Depot Bay. The last one is 9/11. Call OPVA 503-362-7998.

I had my cell phone die and guess what they went to the local store and purchased for me a new phone from AT&T.



I was shocked when they did this, they really went beyond the call, Joe even helped me transfer into the van which wasn't set up with a



OPVA RAFFLE VEHICLE WINNER



2019 Raffle
Jeep Willys

Winning Ticket 2019
#192157

Congratulations!

Emergency Preparedness

By PVA, National Advocacy Program

September is National Preparedness Month to promote family and community disaster and emergency planning now and throughout the year. The 2019 theme is **Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters**. In that spirit, this seemed like a good time to remind chapters of the resources and contacts in their communities to assist people with disabilities in an emergency. If you have questions about this material or have additional resources to share with PVA members and chapters, please feel free to contact Susan Prokop, National Advocacy Director at 202-416-7707 or susanp@pva.org.

As you know, most emergency preparation and response efforts are handled at the state and local levels and there is a certain degree of responsibility that falls on individuals when mass disasters occur. A wealth of information about emergency preparation, response and recovery can be found at **Ready.gov**.

Disaster Preparedness at the Local and State Level

Partner with your local/state disability coalition - If your chapter has not previously connected with allies in the disability community, you should reach out to your local Center for Independent Living (CIL) or Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) - [a **directory for local CILs and SILCs can be found at www.ilru.org**] or to your state **Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system** [a directory for which can be found at <https://www.acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/state-protection-advocacy-systems>]. SILCs and CILS have become increasingly active in disaster preparation and response because they are the cross-disability organizations most likely to be called upon by local governments in a major disaster. Ask your SILC or P&A if there is a disability emergency preparedness and response coalition in your state and how your chapter might become involved with that group or at least get a briefing about what your chapter members need to know in the event of a catastrophic emergency.

Contact your State and Territorial level resources - This page contains contact information for state and territorial emergency management agencies and offices - <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>. There, you will find an alphabetical listing by state and territory with phone numbers and websites for each office. Officials at these agencies should be able to connect your chapter with the individuals responsible for addressing the needs of people with disabilities in an emergency.

Is there a VOAD in your state, city or county? Some nonprofits are part of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) or Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), which are responsible for meeting disaster-caused unmet needs of disaster survivors. State VOADs work pre-disaster to promote training and preparedness. They work post-disaster to facilitate coordination of response and recovery efforts to assist in immediate coordination of voluntary agency response. The state VOAD often serves as advocate and liaison between member agencies and the state government agencies. Some communities develop COADs, which are coalitions of organizations based within a community or geographic area and composed of representatives from public, private, and not-for-profit agencies.

Disaster Preparedness at the Regional Level

Reach out to the FEMA Regional Disability Integration Specialist - Each regional office for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is supposed to have a **Regional Disability Integration Specialist (RDIS)** tasked with ensuring that people with disabilities are included in preparation, response and recovery plans. Your chapter should consider contacting the RDIS in your state to develop relationships with these individuals through invitations to your meetings or other community events. Below is a list of these

regional disability integration specialists and while some positions are vacant, you can contact the nearest RDIS for referral to an alternative official in your region or check with your state emergency management agency.

Region	RDIS
One - Boston	Kate Barnett McCarthy - Office of Regional Administrator Desk: 617-816-6351 Cell: 617-956-7552 Kate.mccarthybarnett@fema.dhs.gov
Two - New York	James Flemming Office of Regional Administrator Cell: 212-680-3685 James.fleming@fema.dhs.gov
Three -Philadelphia	Philip (PJ) Mattiacci Recovery Division Desk: 267-270-5804 Cell: 202-340-4289 Philip.mattiacci@fema.dhs.gov
Four - Atlanta	Vacant External Affairs
Five - Chicago	Rodney Garrott External Affairs Director Desk: 312-408-4492 Cell: 202-704-5429 Rodney.garrott@fema.dhs.gov
Six - Denton	Christin Bradley Recovery Division Desk: 940-297-0241 Cell: 202-705-9997 Christin.bradley@fema.dhs.gov
Seven - Kansas City	Georgette Wallace External Affairs Cell: 202-549-5681 Georgette.wallace@fema.dhs.gov
Eight - Denver	Mike Houston External Affairs Desk: 303-235-4763 Cell: 202-440-2740 Mike.houston@fema.dhs.gov
Nine - Oakland	Roxann Crawford External Affairs Desk: 510-627-7022 Cell: 202-440-2415 Roxann.Crawford@fema.dhs.gov
Ten - Bothell	Danielle Bailey Office of Regional Administrator Desk: 425-487-4780 Cell: 425-381-3400 Danielle.bailey@fema.dhs.gov

Updated: 10 Mar 19

Federal resources

Department of Homeland Security - This link - <https://www.dhs.gov/civil-rights-emergencies-and-disasters> - connects to a website for the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that contains resources for ensuring nondiscrimination in disaster preparation, response and recovery. It includes:

- Materials from Listening Sessions in Areas of Past Disasters
- Recommendations for Emergency Managers for Improving the Delivery of Disaster Assistance to Disaster Survivors with Disabilities
- Other Resources for Ensuring Nondiscrimination in Disaster Preparation, Response, and Recovery
- Requesting Technical Assistance
- Filing a Complaint
- Training Materials and Webinars

Department of Veterans Affairs – Although the VA’s role in natural disasters and catastrophic emergencies is to provide support to the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and DHS, it nevertheless seeks to ensure the preservation of its health system operations and that veterans continue to receive all assistance to which they are entitled. In the event of a natural disaster in your area, the Veterans Crisis Line - 1-800-273-8255 – connects to aid available from the VA. More information about the VA’s SCI/D outreach program, housing assistance from the VA, medical equipment support and other help in a disaster for veterans and their families can be found at <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/information/veterans>.

Some VA medical centers and VISNs have also put out preparedness information such as this from VISN 8 - https://www.visn8.va.gov/hurricane_tips.asp - with tips about “go packs”, family hurricane survival kits, what to do after the storm and more. Check your own VISN website for similar information.

If you haven’t already done so, your chapter can borrow ideas from other PVA chapters. Earlier this year, Wisconsin PVA rolled out a number of initiatives including Emergency Grab-N-Go backpacks containing start-up essentials someone might need in case of an emergency. They also planned to collaborate with their VAMC SCI staff to develop “red” medical alert dog tags for every veteran attending an SCI annual exam and

which would include the veteran's name, Emergency Contact phone number(ICE), blood type, any known allergies, level of SCI injury and/or ASIA scale and any risks that disaster responders might need to know. In addition, the chapter instituted a voluntary Medical Information "Smart Card" for PVA-WI members to download their VA healthcare record through the MyHealthyVet website to provide important medical information to non-VA healthcare providers.

Additional On-Line Resources - Below are links to two organizations that specialize in disaster preparedness and response for people with disabilities.

- Pacific ADA Center – this member of the network of ADA Centers has developed particular expertise in emergency preparedness and response for people with disabilities. They sponsor regular webinars on relevant topics and can be reached at <https://www.adapacific.org/>.

- Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies - The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies (the Partnership) is a national membership organization with a mission of equal access to emergency and disaster programs before, during and after disasters for people with disabilities. The Partnership's Disaster Hotline provides information, referrals, guidance, technical assistance and resources to people with disabilities, their families, allies, organizations assisting disaster impacted individuals with disabilities and others seeking assistance with immediate and urgent disaster related needs. The Disaster Hotline is always available for intake calls, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year at (800) 626-4959 and info@disasterstrategies.org.

TABLE TENNIS

The Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA), is making it possible for you to pursue the Olympic sport of Table Tennis in Salem by allowing the Salem Table Tennis Club (STTC) to link with them. The Salem Table Tennis Club, having been founded in 1997, is the oldest established Table Tennis Club in town.

The co-mission of OPVA and STTC is to give opportunity for Oregon residents to play recreational and competitive Table Tennis. All skills levels, ages, and physically challenged are welcome.

Here is the Kroc Center address: Kroc Center, 1865 Frey Dr. NE, Salem.

STTC members play regularly at the Kroc Center.

Play days and times:

Tuesday: 6:30 pm to 9 pm

Thursday: 11:30 am to 4:30 pm

The Kroc Center entrance is on the North side of Bill Frey Dr. Please visit the STTC website for complete schedule, tournament dates, and coaching information:
www.sunburstech.com/cttc

Please contact me, Bob Mahler at 503-589-4878 for more info.





Happy Birthday

Steven Herron	9/1	John Siemssen	9/28
George Weathers	9/2	Kristy McNulty	9/29
Charles Abernathy	9/2	Todd Walters	9/29
Gregory Pearce	9/3	Charles Demoss	10/4
Michael Angerinos	9/3	Julie Pollard	10/4
Henry "Evan" Burroughs	9/4	David Holt	10/5
Clydine Hernandez	9/5	Tom Weare	10/9
Samuel Learn	9/5	Travis Nelson	10/9
Darrel Von	9/5	Linda Parker	10/10
William Smith	9/5	Michael Johnson	10/10
Donald Boss	9/6	Jeffery Fortner	10/10
Edward McKinney	9/8	Bradley Barton	10/11
James Bender	9/10	Amy Sanders	10/13
Gary Cooper	9/11	Albert Wagoner	10/15
Michelle Beech	9/11	Matthew Denny	10/18
Colin Dye	9/13	Jerry Ryan	10/19
Grant Buehler	9/13	Barbra Townsend	10/19
William Kincaid	9/15	Gilbert Arendt	10/20
Rita Baugh	9/17	Shawn Kellar	10/20
Carlton Herron	9/18	Albert Bocanegra	10/21
Cara Overstreet	9/20	Linda Adams	10/24
Ira Rohling	9/21	Kathy Palominos	10/25
Martin Campos	9/21	Jerome Brewer	10/26
Jennifer Binder	9/22	Keith Wingfield	10/26
Lisa Hurt	9/24	Dennis Hooper	10/27
Kenneth Townsend	9/25	Stephanie Hartzell	10/28
Andrea Harris	9/25	Wayne Howell	10/28
Larry Rilling	9/26	Larry VonSchell	10/29
Jeffry Watkins	9/26	Steven Murphy	10/29
Michael Bigsby	9/27	John Jabson	10/30
Charles Montague	9/28	Mike Rosenbalm	10/30

Sue Holt – MS Liaison

WEB MD defines the different types of multiple sclerosis as the following:

Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis

“Most people with Multiple Sclerosis - around 85% have this type.” Eventually, most people with relapsing-remitting MS will move on to a secondary progressive phase of MS.

WEB MD States Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis - In this type of MS the disease worsens over time. About 10% of people with MS have this type. People who have this type are usually older when they are diagnosed. This type usually shifts to Secondary Progressive MS.

Now that you are fully confused I urge you to talk to your doctor or to visit WEB MD for clarification. My husband is counting the days until we hit the ocean again. We’ve had a good summer and like to end it with a bang. We started out having fun May 28th when I went fishing out of Depoe Bay-courtesy of OPVA.



I was glad to see some new faces and sad when we limited out early at 9:30 am. Next, it was the zoo in July. If you are able I urge you to go and see what the animals have been up to. Lots of building going on and lots to see...

in July we also attended the annual member’s picnic and met new people and saw some old friends.



A Shout out to Ed Lanssens who made the whole thing possible. Thanks so much Ed!

I didn’t get my summer reading done like I wanted to but have got my list ready for the winter. Below are books I have read in the past and would like to share with you...this in no way implies endorsement by OPVA or PVA. Just a share:

1. Home Accessibility: 300 Tips for Making Life Easier by Shelley Peterman Schwarz publishing health 2011.
2. Multiple Sclerosis For Dummies by Rosalind Kalb, Nancy Holland, and Barbra Gieseer, Publisher: 2007 For Dummies
3. Fall Down Laughing: How Squiggy Caught Multiple Sclerosis and Didn’t Tell by David Lander and Lee Montgomery
4. Speedbumps: Flooring It Through Hollywood by Henriette Mantel and Teri Garr

So here’s to winter and the next challenge down the road. If you have a book to recommend or a place that you have visited drop us a line or give us a call...who knows you might make a new friend or learn an easier way to do something... Glad to be back.....hope you are doing well!



OREGON STATE PARKS FOUNDATION

The Oregon State Parks Foundation desires to place Electric All-Terrain Wheelchairs in a number of the Oregon State Parks, for use by anyone with a mobility challenge.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLs_c-oPBRs&feature=youtu.be

These chairs will allow visitors to get off the paved paths and into the woods, on the beach or along the rivers – greatly expanding the areas they are able to explore in our State Parks.

The chairs will be housed in trailers in the maintenance yards of the parks. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to meet the guests who have reserved a chair, get the chair out of the trailer, show the visitor how to use it and check it out to them; and then reverse the process when they are done, checking the chair in, rinsing it down if necessary, and putting it away. The chairs will be available on a reservation-only basis, and the reservation will have to be confirmed with you before it is confirmed to the guest.

If you would be interested in talking with us about helping with this project, please send a note with your name, address, phone number and email to seth@orspf.org, along with an indication of which park or parks would be most convenient for you to help in.



September

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





October

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

Save the Date

Sept 6

Flywheelers -1st Friday

Sept 21

Members Banquet

Sept 6

The Dalles - Hot Dog Feed

Nov 4

Veterans Hair Cut Day

Sept 11

Deep Sea Fishing

Nov 11

Veterans Day Parade



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

August 20, 2019

Volume 25, Number 8

PVA TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL SECURITY 2100 ACT

On July 25, PVA Deputy Executive Director Shaun Castle testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in support of the Social Security 2100 Act (H.R. 860). Earlier in the year, Castle appeared before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security to speak in favor of this legislation introduced by Rep. John Larson (D-CT) and cosponsored by over 210 members of the House. H.R. 860 contains a number of provisions aimed at strengthening the Social Security system, improving benefits, and ensuring its solvency well into this century without harming beneficiaries.

Castle's testimony centered largely on his own experiences with Social Security disability benefits as a member of the millennial generation and the importance of Social Security's survivor, retirement, and disability programs to members of his age cohort. He also highlighted provisions in the bill that would establish a more realistic cost-of-living-adjustment for beneficiaries, strengthen protections for low-income workers and for all beneficiaries, cut taxes on benefits for nearly twelve million beneficiaries, and make long overdue adjustments in the financing mechanisms for the system. He also noted that Social Security actuaries have determined that this bill will ensure the long-term solvency of the Social Security trust funds without cutting benefits or raising the retirement age, as have been proposed by some Social Security reform proponents. PVA's full hearing statement can be found on the Ways and Means Committee website along with other witness statements and information about the

hearing at https://waysandmeans.house.gov/sites/democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov/files/documents/Shawn%20Castle%20Testimony_0.pdf.

LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE REAUTHORIZATION PASSES HOUSE

On July 24, the House of Representatives passed the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2019 (H.R. 2035). Led by bipartisan sponsors, Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), the measure authorizes \$200 million in funding over the next five years for the Lifespan Respite Care Program. Created in 2006, and run by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living (ACL), the program aims to coordinate and provide technical assistance to state and local agencies delivering community-based respite care services for family caregivers of children and adults of all ages with disabilities. State Aging and Disability Resource Centers are the agencies eligible to receive competitive grants under Lifespan Respite and must work in collaboration with a public or private nonprofit statewide respite care coalition or organization. As of 2017, grants were awarded to eligible agencies in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Since implementation began, ACL has funded the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center to provide technical assistance to the Lifespan Respite grantees and others in the field. More information can be found at <https://archrespite.org/home>. H.R. 2035 must now be voted on in the Senate.

VA AWARDS CONTRACT FOR REGION 4 OF COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK

VA recently awarded a contract to TriWest Healthcare Alliance to serve as the Third Party Administrator managing Region 4 of VA's new Community Care Network (CCN). Region 4 includes VA medical centers in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

CCN will be the standard contract vehicle that allows VA to provide access to care for veterans from community health care providers using industry-standard approaches and guidelines. Until CCN is fully-implemented nationwide, TriWest Healthcare Alliance will continue to support veteran community care through its community provider network.

Contracts for Regions 1, 2, and 3 were awarded to OPTUM Public Sector Solutions, Inc. Awards for Regions 5 and 6 are expected to be announced by the end of calendar year 2019.

SENATE BILL TO IMPROVE VA CAREGIVER PROGRAM INTRODUCED

In late July, Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) introduced legislation to improve VA's caregiver program. S. 2216, the Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for (TEAM) Veteran Caregivers Act, seeks to improve the current program by:

- Ensuring all caregivers are included in veterans' medical records. Currently, only certain caregivers participating in the Caregiver Support Program are included in veterans' medical records. Annotating all caregivers in medical records strengthens communication between VA and caregivers and recognizes them as an important part of the clinical team.

- Establishing a minimum standard of information in downgrade notification letters. S. 2216 requires VA to provide additional context and explanation leading to downgrade or termination decisions. Caregivers have reported that their decision letters are sometimes missing important information that would be necessary to file an appeal.
- Extending benefits for at least 90 days after a termination letter is sent for cases where a veteran is deemed "no longer clinically eligible" for the program. Caregivers have reported being dropped within a couple weeks of receiving a termination letter and have no time to appeal or make new accommodations. This provision provides the veteran and their caregiver a "safety parachute" and codifies the VA's goals of maintaining care.

Since the inception of VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, PVA has worked to ensure that the program meets the needs of service-connected catastrophically injured veterans. As VA prepares to roll-out the expansion of the program to veterans of all eras, this bill will help ensure that adequate controls are in place to govern what VA must consider before downgrading or terminating a veteran's participation in the program. PVA applauds introduction of this important measure and is working to ensure its swift passage.

WATCHDOG SAYS VA IMPROPERLY DENIED CLAIMS FOR NON-VA EMERGENCY CARE

In 2016, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims ruled that VA's regulation on reimbursement for non-VA emergency medical services, 38 CFR 17.100(2)(f), was at odds with VA statute, 38 USC 1725(b)(3)(B). As a result, the Court determined expenses not covered by

Medicare should be reimbursed by VA. A 2017 VA Office of Inspector General (VAOIG) audit, however, found that VA was still continuing to inappropriately deny claims.

In September 2017, former Representative Tim Walz (D-MN) expressed concerns about claims processors denying veterans' non-VA emergency care claims to meet production goals and receive incentives such as high performance ratings and bonuses. He requested VAOIG conduct an audit to determine whether processors of non-VA emergency care claims inappropriately denied or rejected the claims, and if so, whether the cause was pressure to meet production standards.

On August 6, VAOIG released a report titled, "Non-VA Emergency Care Claims Inappropriately Denied and Rejected." VAOIG determined that VA supervisors pressured staff to decide claims quickly, and some staff members said they were encouraged to deny claims to maximize productivity. This unfavorable culture "created systemic pressure to favor speed over accuracy," leading staff to incorrectly reject 31 percent of veterans' emergency care claims from April 1 to September 30, 2017.

According to VAOIG, these errors directly impacted 17,400 veterans who were stuck with a total \$53.3 million in medical bills that VA should have paid. According to the report, "VHA's (Veterans Health Administration's) claims-processing environment focused on production and prioritized quantity over quality." Furthermore, "[W]hen these claims are denied, non-VA facilities and providers can bill veterans for some or all the costs of the emergency care services provided."

PVA requested a briefing from VA on the current status of the program so we can determine what steps VHA is taking to rectify these errors. We intend to provide additional information in a future edition of the Update.

SSA INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT EXAMINES HANDLING OF VETERAN DISABILITY CLAIMS

The Social Security Administration's (SSA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released an audit report in July examining the agency's expedited handling of Military Casualty/Wounded Warrior (MC/WW) and Veterans Affairs 100 Percent Permanent and Total (VAPT) claims. The objective of the audit was to determine whether SSA followed its policy to identify and expeditiously process veteran and military casualty disability claims.

Several years ago, SSA established a program to expedite claims for Social Security disability benefits filed by current and former military service members. Military service has been covered under Social Security since 1957 and PVA and many other veterans service organizations had long advocated for changes to SSA's policies governing disability claims by veterans rated 100 percent permanently and totally disabled by VA. Many veterans with disability ratings of 100 percent found it difficult to understand why they should have to go through the entire Social Security disability process and PVA was pleased when SSA adopted this streamlined process for these veterans' claims.

However, the OIG found that SSA does not define "expeditious handling" of these veterans' claims, and as a result, processing times vary greatly from state to state. Nor could SSA provide evidence that it had followed its policies and procedures to ensure that these claims were properly tracked and monitored. In its response to the OIG, SSA reported that it had recently developed refresher training for SSA technicians to reinforce existing procedures to expedite MC/WW and VAPT cases and will act to better define the term "expeditious" for processing MC/WW and VAPT claims. SSA also committed to measuring processing time pursuant to the

definition and to implementing controls to monitor, track, and measure the processing of MC/WW and VAPT claims. The full OIG report can be found at <https://www.oversight.gov/sites/default/files/oig-reports/A-15-17-50227.pdf>.

CAP RELEASES REPORT ON ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

On the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Center for American Progress (CAP) held a briefing on a newly released report titled, “Advancing Economic Security for People with Disabilities.” The report discusses some of the most entrenched and under-explored barriers to economic security facing people with disabilities, and outlines several practical steps that policymakers can take to help level the playing field and provide economic security for these Americans. Barriers mentioned in the report include access to long-term services and supports, waiting lists for vocational rehabilitation, inadequate availability of accessible transportation and housing, and limited family and medical leave policies. Among the recommendations in the report, CAP proposes phasing out a program that allows people with disabilities to be paid below minimum wage, creation of a partial or temporary disability program within Social Security, and enhancing the earned income tax credit. The report urges the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to mandate that all federally-assisted housing units meet accessibility standards that allow aging in place and address the shortage of available units for low-income people with disabilities. In addition, the report recommends increased funding for Federal Transit Administration programs such as paratransit, the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program, and the United We Ride interagency initiative.

The full report can be found at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/disability/reports/2019/07/26/472686/advancing-economic-security-people-disabilities/>.

BIPARTISAN DISABILITIES CAUCUS BRIEFING ON DISABILITY POLICY 101

On July 26, the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus (BDC) held an introductory briefing on disability policy to celebrate the 29th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The BDC, co-chaired by Representatives Jim Langevin (D-RI) and Don Young (R-AK), serves as a forum for members of Congress and their staff to inform, educate, and raise awareness on issues affecting people with disabilities. Speakers included Heather Ansley, PVA Associate Executive Director of Government Relations; Phoebe Ball, Legislative Affairs Specialist, National Council on Disability; and Jennifer Mathis, Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. The briefing provided an overview of the ADA, examined how courts have interpreted the law, and discussed its effect on policy in the 116th Congress.

HOUSING ADAPTATION LEGISLATION CLEARS HOUSE

Last month, we reported on the introduction of a pair of bills to improve VA’s Specially Adaptive Housing (SAH) Grant program. H.R. 3504, the Ryan Kules Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019, and S. 2022, the Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019, started out with identical core provisions: raising the top grant amount from \$85,645 to nearly \$99,000; increasing the number of chances to utilize the grant from three to six; expediting claims for seriously ill veterans like those diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), and adding a supplementary SAH grant.

WASHINGTON UPDATE

August 20, 2019

Volume 25, Number 8

After a pair of hearings, House lawmakers amended H.R. 3504 to allow blinded veterans who have not lost use of a leg to be eligible for the Specially Adapted Housing grant and address a few education-related issues. On July 23, the full House approved the measure and it currently awaits action by the Senate.

PVA's Government Relations Team will be visiting Senate offices throughout the August recess, working to increase support for this important legislation. Our members can reinforce their efforts by calling the offices for their Senators and urging them to support S. 2022. If preferred, you can use the sample language we have prepared below to send them an email or a letter.

August _____, 2019

The Honorable _____ United States
Senate

Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator _____,

I am writing to ask you to please cosponsor S. 2022, the "Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019."

This important legislation reforms VA's Specially Adaptive Housing (SAH) program by: raising the top grant amount from \$85,645 to nearly \$99,000; increasing the number of chances to utilize the grant from three to six; expediting claims for seriously ill veterans like those diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), and adding a supplementary SAH grant.

VA's SAH programs help veterans with catastrophic service-connected disabilities (**like me**) to live independently in a barrier-free environment by providing critical housing adaptations.

Members of Congress should seize this opportunity to improve the lives of the most critically ill or injured veterans, their families, and caregivers.

As your constituent, I'm asking you to please do all you can to ensure S. 2022 is enacted in law.

Sincerely,

(Name) Address)

(Contact Information)

We got off to a fast start in the House, but it will take a lot of effort to get it through the Senate where everything moves much slower. Our hope is to have S. 2022 receive the attention it deserves sometime in the fall. Your calls, emails, and letters can certainly help bring that about.

STATUS OF BLUEWATER NAVY CLAIMS

In response to the passage of H.R. 299, VA imposed a stay on all Blue Water Navy (BWN) cases until January 1, 2020. Until that time, VA will not develop or adjudicate any claims for benefits by BWN veterans.

Multiple veteran service organizations (VSOs), including PVA, signed a letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie asking him to lift the stay and quickly adjudicate the claims for the veterans who have been waiting so long for their benefits; however, even with such strong opposition, VA has indicated that it has no intent to lift the stay and will proceed with adjudicating claims beginning in 2020.

During the stay, VA is implementing tools and processes to assist with the adjudication of BWN claims to include: revising policy letters for the Office of General Counsel, drafting new procedures for Regional Offices, and changing regulations to adapt to the new law. VA is also

WASHINGTON UPDATE

August 20, 2019

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in the process of scanning deck logs to determine the location of all the ships considered to be in Blue Water areas which should conclude by the end of November. There will also be a ship locator tool for Rating Specialists to assist with properly developing veteran's claims. VA has assured VSO representatives that they will have all the tools necessary to assist veterans with the development of their claims for benefits to include copies of the deck logs and the location tool. In addition, VA is developing a communications plan, to include outreach letters to be sent to all affected veterans.

ACCESS BOARD TO CONDUCT WEBINAR ON WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY

Access to websites is essential in today's digital environment for obtaining information, downloading data, sharing media, obtaining goods and services, and making other transactions. Many websites, however, remain off-limits to people with disabilities, particularly those with sensory impairments, because they are not structured and coded properly for accessibility. The U.S. Access Board, which maintains accessibility standards for information and communication technology

in the federal sector under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, is conducting free webinars in September on how to evaluate websites for accessibility.

An introductory webinar on September 5 from 2:30 – 4:00 (ET) will cover online barriers to accessibility and explain how to check that web content is accessible to all visitors using the Board's Section 508 Standards. Presenters will review key components of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines issued by the World Wide Web Consortium, which are incorporated by reference in the Section 508 standards. They will also discuss common problems and easy solutions and share practical tips for improving website accessibility. Attendees can pose questions in advance or during the live webinar. This session is intended for both a general audience as well as website designers and content managers who are experienced, but new to accessibility.

For more information or to register for this session, visit www.accessibilityonline.org. This webinar series is hosted by the ADA National Network in cooperation with the Board. Archived copies of previous Board webinars are available on the site.



Last Deep Sea Fishing Trip

September 11th - 6:30 AM
5 Hours Trip Lingcod & Rockfish

Voting Members FREE!
All Others \$65

Limited spaces left, call the office
503-362-7998

Fishing and shell license required, may be purchased at Dockside Charters



Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

January 27-28, 2020
San Diego Naval Base
San Diego, CA

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 4-5, 2020
Colonial Shooting Academy
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 21-22, 2020
Milwaukee Area Tech College
Milwaukee, WI

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament*

April 16-18, 2020
Spire Institute
Geneva, OH

*Buckeye Wheelchair Games

PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament

September 20-22, 2019
Lake Eufaula
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament

October 4-6, 2019
Rend Lake
Mount Vernon, IL

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament

April 3-5, 2020
Lake Harris
Tavares, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament

April 24-26, 2020
Lake Barkley
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament

June 5-7, 2020
James River
Richmond, VA

Capital Clash Bass Tournament*

June 12-14, 2020
Potomac River
Marbury, MD

*Year-end Tournament

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-South Billiards Tournament

October 11-12, 2019
Clicks Billiards
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem

March 20-22, 2020
Diamond Billiards
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament

April 3-5, 2020
Slick Willies Pool Hall
Oklahoma City, OK

Buckeye Billiards Tournament

June 5-6, 2020
Wickliffe Lanes
Wickliffe, OH

Mountain States Billiards Tournament

June 20-21, 2020
Widefield Corner Pocket Billiards
Fountain, CO

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament

August 1-4, 2019
Thunderbowl
Council Bluffs, IA

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament

September 13-15, 2019
Bowl America
Glen Allen, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament

December 5-8, 2019
Sunset Station Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

Mid-America Bowling Tournament

April 9-12, 2020
Firelake Bowling Center
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament

May 21-24, 2020
Bowlero
Romeoville, IL

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

North Central Shooting Sports Tournament

September 6-8, 2019
Crooks Gun Club
Sioux Falls, SD

Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament

October 25-27, 2019
Conservation Park of Virginia
Charles City, VA

Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament

March 13-15, 2020
Clark County Shooting Park
Las Vegas, NV

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament

Redlands Shooting Park
March 27-29, 2020
Redlands, CA

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament

Desoto Gun Club
Dates TBD
Waxahachie, TX

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament

June 5-7, 2020
St. Charles Sportsman Club
Elburn, IL

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament

June 12-14, 2020
Otter Creek Sportsman Club
Cedar Rapids, IA

Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament*

June 26-28, 2020
Brown County Sportsman Club
Green Bay, WI

*Year-end Tournament

BOCCIA

PVA National Boccia Tournament

October 22-26, 2019
The Pavilion at Lamay
St. Louis, MO

Bayou Boccia Tournament

November 8-9, 2019
Harrison County Shelter
Gulfport, MS

Buckeye Boccia Tournament*

April 16-18, 2020
Spire Institute
Geneva, OH

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament

May 6-8, 2020
Fort Monroe at
Community Center
Hampton, VA

Vaughan Boccia Tournament

June 26-28, 2020
Fountain View Recreation Center
Carol Stream, IL

*Buckeye Wheelchair Games

HANDCYCLING RACING

PVAR Hi Performance Off Road Camp

August 17-26, 2019
Crested Butte, CO

Off Road Handcycling Championships

August 23-25, 2019
Crested Butte, CO

Off-Road Fall Expo

October 4-6, 2019
Chesterfield, VA

Army Ten Miler

October 13, 2019
Washington, D.C.

CODE OF HONOR QUAD RUGBY INVITATIONAL

Dates TBD
Location TBD

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



For more information, visit:
pva.org/sports



MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

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

Chapter Name: Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, OR 97305

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

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / _____ **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
- 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:** ___ / ___ / _____

Albany Veterans Day Parade

Monday

November 11th, 2019



"Bright Stars - Brave Hearts"

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

1951 - 2019

or JOIN us on the OPVA float! Call to sign up
"Thank you for your service"



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

503-362-7998 • www.oregonpva.org



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

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Address Service Requested

September/October 2019

We proudly support the Paralyzed Veterans of America

If you have a **service-connected disability**, you may qualify for VA funding assistance for wheelchair accessible vehicles or driving modifications. If your current vehicle is more than two years old, you may even qualify for a brand new conversion.

Portland East

12905 NE Airport Way Portland,
 OR 97230 Local: 503.564.7155
 Toll-Free: 877.501.8267
 Formerly Performance Mobility

Portland West

4347 NW Yeon Ave Portland, OR
 97210 Local: 503.243.2940
 Toll-Free: 877.501.8267
 Formerly Performance Mobility

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
*Trade-In your accessible vehicle for a new one.
 Call us today to schedule your appraisal.*
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Proud Supporters of the

