

March/April 2021
Volume 25, Issue 2

PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

“Serving Those Who Served”

www.oregonpva.org



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31665 (Portland)

800-949-1004 ext.

31665

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888-233-8305

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503-273-5308

RESOURCES

ID Cards

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

US Disaster Hotline

(800) 626 4959

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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Thank you to all our Sponsors!

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Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

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503-362-7998 • www.oregonpva.org • oregonpva@oregonpva.org • OPVA is a 501(c)(3), Tax ID# 93-0713859

PRESIDENT NEWS



Larry Gardner – President

OK, here we go, into spring of 2021 with my saying of 2021 will be a better year than last year of 2020, that really should be very easy to accomplish because it has to only get better.

The chapter has many events planned for this year. We are looking for different locations such as outdoors for our member meetings and picnics, and are wide open for ideas. An example is I'm personally looking into is St. Loise Ponds near Gervis. We can have a picnic and meeting at the park. It has paved walk ways going to each pond and accessible ramps and docks for fishing. The ponds are full of many different species of fish, we will keep you updated on this.



We have made a few changes in our sports programs by increasing available sports: bowling; bocchia ball; archery; fishing; trap shooting; air guns; and table tennis. With a volunteer coordinator working and

concentrating on just one sport each for better success. Anyone who has some interest in any of these sports please call the office.

We are short a couple of coordinators so if any one has any interest please give us a call with any questions you have. Also, we are looking for a Membership Director, and a MS Liaison for the board, there again if interested please call us.

We are looking for
MS Liaison &
Membership
Director

OK all members should have received a membership update form in the mail. This form is very important for us to keep our roster current but also for you so we have good communications. We are offering a gift card for all who return a completed form to make it worth your time, just be sure to mark your choice on the form.

Well with everything still moving so slow that's all I have for now so keep reading your Paralog for all updated news and events coming up, or call us any time you have questions.

Thank you very much and stay safe

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UP DATE



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Greeting all, happy March to everyone. Looks like everyone got a bit of a taste of Snow or Ice this winter, if you like snow I hope you got to enjoy it if you don't I hope you at least enjoyed it from the warmth of your home.

There are many opportunities for all of you, the membership, to get involved with activities that National PVA has been offering Virtually during these days of COVID. You can go to their website at <https://www.pva.org/adaptive-sports/special-events/> to sign up and enjoy, there are a bunch of things that you can participate in from the comfort of your own home.

If you do not have a way to easily get on-line to participate in these virtual events we may have a solution for you. In conjunction with Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection and Oregon Health Authority, we have available some iPads. These iPads will be given out to members who complete the questionnaire insert in this Paralog and return to the chapter office by April 1st.

There are a limited number of iPads so they will be given out as a first come most needed basis. Please Note: these iPads are Wi Fi only so you will either need Wi Fi at your house or be able to locate Wi Fi service that you can access.

Don't forget the National Veterans Wheelchair Games will held in New York this year. Registration is open NOW and until April 2nd. This is a great opportunity to try out new sports or attend and encourage fellow members. Reminder that our Novice Athletes will qualify for travel and lodging paid either by National or your local chapter. The dates for this year's games are August 8th thru 13th. Visit the website <https://www.wheelchairgames.org/athletes/registration/> or you can contact the chapter office for more information.



As far as local chapter activities are concerned, we are in the process of putting together some of the member meetings. This year we are looking to do meetings in the Park, with BBQ, games and some updated information.

However, we are planning on waiting for the weather to warm up a bit. Another bright note is it looks like the Chapter will be holding the 12th Annual Gold Cup Golf Tournament this year, so we will be looking for golfers and volunteers to help with this event. Last year we had a record 112 golfers supporting OPVA.

trips are – May 20th, June 18th and September 23rd. remember these trips are at no cost to our membership.

DOCKSIDE CHARTERS

As we look ahead our future is bright for things starting to open up, and your chapters leadership is moving forward to have events and activities in place so that when the gates open we are ready to roll. Your Sports Director along with the President and Vice President are getting NEW and exciting sports and activities ready to go. A huge addition this year has been the expansion of our Sports Coordinators, these people are solely focused on their particular sport and can make it the best for you the members.



Also, on the horizon are the annual Deep Sea fishing trips out of Depot Bay with Dockside Charters again this year. We have three trips scheduled so get signed up early, the dates for this year's

Stay Safe – Stay Healthy Brighter Days are HERE.

Getting Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again with Indego®

New VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® Exoskeleton at no cost.



What is Indego? A robotic device that enables veterans to walk again.

Indego is an FDA-approved exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.

Indego can currently be used with spinal cord injury levels of T3 to L5 in community or home settings. The device offers:

- Lightweight, modular design
- Slim profile compatible with most wheelchairs
- Rapid setup and breakdown for easy transportation
- Can be used with forearm crutches or walker

Free Indego Webinars

During the first Thursday of every month you can join a free live webinar to learn more about the Indego and hear from a veteran who owns a device already.



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Email: support.indego@parker.com

Phone: 844-846-3346





NATIONAL VETERANS
**WHEELCHAIR
GAMES**

40th Anniversary

NYC

**AUG 8-13
2021**



Paralyzed Veterans
of America



VA | U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

WheelchairGames.org



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Salem, Oregon 97301



Needed a Membership Director and a Multiple Sclerosis Liaison



Bill Gray—National Director

It's already March. Can you believe it? A lot of fun activities are being planned for the coming year. We are trying to be hopeful that this COVID-19 ordeal will go away sooner than later. There will be some new events for those who want a little change or more challenge.

Thank you, members for all of you that participated in our membership survey, the response was great! Enjoy your token of thanks if you are to receive one of the options in gift cards.

National Paralyzed Veterans mandates that we have a Membership Director in our chapter. This would involve attending monthly Board of Director meetings at the chapter to report on membership changes from the National PVA office. And this could include new members, applications for transfer, and those who have passed away. Also, you would be working with the National Service officer on new member possibilities.

Other duties would be contacting members in the chapter for wellness checks and general information.

To recruit new members and to insure appropriate members records are maintained. Our Membership Director guidelines are outlined on our Chapter manual of operations for greater detail if you are interested. We need an energetic, can do individual to step up and join our team to help make Oregon Paralyzed Veterans better in this coming year!

And we additionally need someone to help with reaching out to MS membership, to encourage and organize events which could include MS Walks and put on fundraisers to draw attention to our OPVA mission in supporting all those members with MS and making their life experience better.



This would include working with the Chapter Hospital Liaison and making contact with possible new MS afflicted Veterans. Also, reaching out to the MS Society organization in Portland, bringing together their outreach and events to further reach out to those afflicted with this disability. Some of the duties of this would require attending monthly board meeting to report the latest news and events and putting together a specific plan to accomplish OPVA overall mission of reaching members and letting them know of events they can get involved in if possible. If you are interested please let us know at the Salem Oregon Paralyzed Office 503-362-7998
See you at the next event!



Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton*

Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?

**Contact ReWalk for more Information:
rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2**



R&J Mobility Service honors American veterans for their **service**, **courage**, and **sacrifice** for our country

Thirty years ago, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, but the needs of people with mobility disabilities continue to be overlooked and unheard. According to a recent study by BraunAbility, nearly half of people with disabilities still feel excluded from community participation because of their mobility impairment.

Most people can agree, 2020 was a year like no other. After having experienced restricted mobility and isolation under shelter-in-place orders, the same study showed nearly 70 percent of the general population expressed having a greater willingness to understand and accommodate others who experience isolation or challenges because of a mobility impairment.



This is where R&J Mobility Service comes in. We are here to help you live your life with no limits! We have multiple products, from scooters to wheelchair accessible vans and even mobility aids to keep you living a great life.

Our customers come from many different backgrounds, including those who have served in the military. R&J Mobility Service honors American veterans for their service, courage, and sacrifice for our country. There are many resources to help veterans obtain mobility equipment and adapted vehicles. In fact, a disabled veteran may be eligible for as much as \$49,000 towards the cost of a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

One such senior Veteran, David, suffered injuries during his Service that made it difficult, or even impossible, to get out and do the things he loved because walking caused so much pain.

He wanted to find a scooter so he could regain some of his independence and have easier mobility.

“R&J Mobility helped me find the perfect scooter to get back out and experience life again,” said David. “I am so happy I can now easily go to stores, go camping, and take my wife out to dinner again. Working with the VA and R&J Mobility was easy and they both helped me along the way.”

At R&J Mobility Service, we work hard to find out which benefits and grants you may be entitled to receive. That is why we have a mobility consultant who specializes in helping Veterans. Since 1979, R&J Mobility Service has been a locally owned and operated business that specializes in helping Veterans, seniors, and many other individuals with mobility needs overcome the barriers to freedom. R&J Mobility believes in the ability to live life without limitations and are ready to help. Contact us today to find out how R&J Mobility Service can help you live your life with no limits.



12th Annual

Since 2009

20 21



Oregon Chapter

SATURDAY JULY 17TH

Registration 10 am - Tee Off 1 pm

PRIZES

- \$10,000 Hole in 1
- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Putt
- Longest Drive
- Prizes on holes 4, 7, 8, 10, 15, 17, & 18

AWARDS

- Teams Mens, Womens & Mixed

COST

- Individual \$125
- Foursome \$400

REGISTER ONLINE

www.oregonpva.org
503-362-7998



155 McNary Estates Dr N
Keizer, OR 97303

SPORTS

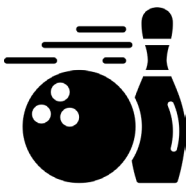
Corner



Bob Mahler – Sports Director

Bob Mahler, Sports Director here. We are introducing a new combined column with this issue of OPVA's Paralog and we trust you enjoy the trim, slim, yet informative format: SPORTS CORNER!

It is eye catching and sums up OPVA's current sports activities at a glance. Whoever first said "bigger is better" was at least partially correct. With the help of OPVA's super TEAM of Leadership and Sports Coordinators, we are building a stronger, efficient, and more varied Sports & Recreation program.



BOWLING

GRANT BUEHLER

Hello Everyone! I hope you are all doing well during this time of uncertainty. It has been almost a year since we suspended the OPVA Bowling League. Unfortunately, we are still unable to start league activities as we had hoped. Even though we are still suspended, we are still looking for anyone who is interested in joining. Many of the counties are slowly opening which gives us hope that we will be bowling again soon. We are all anxious to restart individual and team activities. Stay tuned as we are working on a bowling event at The Rec (formerly Town and Country Lanes) in Keizer. Hope you all are keeping safe and I will keep you informed on all significant changes as they arise. Contact the chapter office for additional information at 503-362-7998



National Veterans
Wheelchair
GAMES
•NYC•

Registration for NVWG 2021

DEADLINE APRIL 12TH

contact OPVA 503.362.7998



TRAP SHOOT

LARRY GARDNER

The Oregon chapter's trap shooting season is going to start on March 12th ,13th, 14th with the annual St. Patrick's shoot at Hillsboro Oregon Trap and Skeet Club. If you are an OPVA member in Oregon, Idaho, or SW Washington you may attend any Pacific International Trap Association (PITA) shoots in your area. For reimbursement of your registration fees, please call the office. Also, there are several PITA multiplex shoots throughout the year, if you want a PITA shooting schedule just type in Pacific International Trap Association and print it off. I'm currently working on putting a trap shoot fundraiser together at the Albany Trap Club in Albany and will be sure to keep everyone up to date on this and future events.



LACROSSE

DENNIS HOOPER

Last month I had the great opportunity to sit in on a wheelchair lacrosse seminar. The WLUSA has been around for over ten years now and PVA is helping to expand the league even further. There are already 12 teams from coast to coast. They hold a national tournament each year (COVID-19) exceptions. It seems like a great contact team sport and something I myself will look into further. I hope that all our members will consider expanding their horizons. Perhaps someday we will see a lacrosse team form in Oregon. It is something our members will enjoy.



AIR RIFLE/AIR PISTOL

DUSTIN SIMMONS

I'm in talks with the Board of Directors on getting new weaponry for the program. Once the order is placed, I can give another update on possible upcoming events and locations for practice. We have several options based on the regions in which OPVA members are located. I reached out to those who have inquired about air rifle/ air pistol. I ask again any who are or might be interested in air rifle or air pistol please contact the OPVA office at (503) 362-7998 or send an email to oregonpva@oregonpva.org.



Photo courtesy PVA

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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 legible 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 - 9/30).

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.

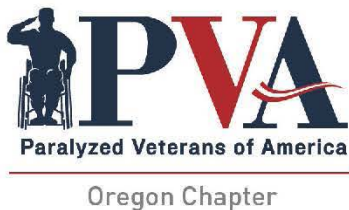
Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 if you have any questions or require additional information about the Recreation Fund

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gerald Lamb 3/1
 Ronald Clement 3/2
 Steven Tweton 3/2
 Joseph Welsh 3/3
 Bridgette Selby 3/3
 C. Greg Danielson 3/5
 Brian Beninger 3/6
 John McClaran 3/7
 Mark Turpin 3/8
 Leslie Woods 3/9
 Lane Lamoreaux 3/9
 Richard Blair 3/11
 Robert Kloehn 3/12
 Mark McClellan 3/13
 Mitchell Wood 3/14
 Ronald Beriault 3/14
 Charles Feringa 3/18
 Laura Lanssens 3/20
 Victor Marquardt 3/21
 Daniel Service 3/23
 Larry Gardner 3/24
 Maynard Epling 3/27
 Steven Grogan 3/28
 Bruce Freeberg 3/29
 Brenda Marsters 4/1
 Edward Suhr 4/1
 Darrel Ackerman 4/3
 George Nordling 4/4
 Jeffery Johnson 4/4
 Daniel Watts 4/5
 Steven Willard 4/7
 Clinton Black 4/10
 Michael Clark 4/10
 Kelly Tadlock 4/10
 Justin Hurt 4/10

Raymond Roberts 4/12
 Dana Strasheim 4/15
 Paula Townsend 4/15
 Timothy Hagberg 4/16
 Frank Schindler 4/16
 Angela Tunnissen 4/16
 Michael Williamson 4/16
 Richard Montiel 4/17
 Christopher Weatherby 4/17
 Jonathan Cline 4/18
 Melvin Johnson 4/18
 Dustin Simmons 4/18
 Kirk Loftus 4/21
 John Olson 4/22
 Bruce Henion 4/23
 Robert Phillips 4/26
 Harriet Schmidt 4/26
 Rick Williams 4/27
 Markus White 4/29





Voting Members FREE! All others \$65

Dates & Boarding Times

- May 20th - 5:30 AM
- June 18th - 5:30 AM
- Sep 23th - 6:30 AM

5 Hour Trip - Lingcod & Rockfish

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Fishing and shell license required, may be purchased at Dockside Charters. Complementary coffee is provided. Bring your own lunch, snack or drinks. Face mask required.

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OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

March

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	31	ZOOM BOD 10:00 a.m.		



April

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 ZOOM BOD 10:00 a.m.	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Save the Date

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Apr 9-10 | Pear Blossom Festival |
| May 13-16 | Keizer Festival |
| May 20 | Deep Sea Fishing Trip |
| May 22-23 | Salem Roadster Show |
| Jun 18 | Deep Sea Fishing Trip |
| Jul 8-11 | Marion County Fair |
| Jul 10 | Outdoor Adventure Raffle (Marion County Fair @ 2 PM) |
| Jul 11 | ATV Raffle (Marion County Fair @ 3 PM) |
| Jul 17 | 12th Annual OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament |
| Aug 3-7 | Douglas County Fair |
| Nov 11 | Veterans Day Parade - Albany |



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

February 12, 2021

Volume 27, Number 3

PVA'S PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2021 ARE NOW ONLINE

PVA's 2021 policy priorities are now available on pva.org. Our priorities include: improving the VA health care system and available services, improving VA benefits, and improving and protecting the systems and civil rights that support people with disabilities. PVA's full list of priorities is available [here](#).

SENATE CONFIRMS VA SECRETARY

On February 8, the Senate voted 87-7 to confirm Denis McDonough to be the next VA Secretary. In a statement released following McDonough's confirmation, PVA Executive Director Carl Blake stated, "PVA has enjoyed a close relationship with the VA in the past and hopes to build upon that rich history with an even more collaborative and transparent partnership." Blake also stated that, "With a career in public service, we are hopeful Secretary McDonough's understanding of government and politics will help him navigate the challenges inherent in the second-largest federal agency, and America's most complex health care and benefits system." At the end of January, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing on McDonough's nomination. During the hearing, Secretary McDonough told Committee members that most of his decisions would be based on whether they increase access and improve outcomes for veterans.

INDEPENDENT BUDGET VETERANS AGENDA AND VA BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS RELEASED

On February 1, the Independent Budget Veterans Service Organizations (IBVSOs)—DAV (Disabled American Veterans), PVA, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) released The Independent Budget: Veterans Agenda for the 117th Congress and our VA budget recommendations for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 advance appropriations. In the Veterans Agenda for the 117th Congress, the IBVSOs elected to focus on 11 critical issues addressing health care, benefits, and education and employment. Several of the critical issues, including ensuring veterans access to long-term care and support services and sufficient VA health care staffing, directly relate to PVA priorities.

For FY 2022, the IB recommends Congress appropriate approximately \$120.3 billion for all VA programs and services, a 10.2 percent increase over FY 2021 appropriations levels. The IB estimates the VA health care system will require \$81.5 billion in FY 2022, an 8.5 percent increase, to provide care to more than seven million unique users. This recommendation would allow VA to fill over 10,000 health care vacancies, complete the caregiver program expansion, increase home-based long-term care services, and address inequities in health care delivery to women and minority veterans.



*Please consider adding OPVA
to your will or trust*

\$2.25 MILLION AVAILABLE IN AMTRAK DOJ SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

On January 29, Amtrak began accepting claims for monetary compensation from passengers with mobility disabilities who were not able to travel or wanted to travel but were denied service at 78 Amtrak stations due to physical barriers in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Claims must be submitted by May 29, 2021.

Amtrak was given 20 years to comply with the ADA and in 2013 the National Disability Rights Network filed multiple complaints with the Department of Justice (DOJ) claiming that Amtrak was out of compliance as they were a public service and were subject to Title II requirements. DOJ in a 2015 letter of findings submitted that Amtrak was indeed out of compliance as of July 27, 2010, and found systemic violations including:

Parking: Amtrak failed to make parking readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by the Department of Transportation (DOT) Standards. For example, access aisles were too narrow or not adjacent to the parking space. Some spaces were not on an accessible route or the shortest distance to the entrance.

Routes from Accessible Parking to Buildings: Amtrak failed to make the routes from accessible parking, public streets, sidewalks, and public transportation stops to the entrances of buildings accessible to individuals with disabilities as prescribed by the DOT Standards. For example, the running slopes and cross slopes of some walking surfaces and ramps were too steep, other surfaces along certain routes were not stable, firm, and slip resistant.

Building Entrances: Amtrak failed to make building entrances readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by the DOT Standards. For example, the entrances at some of these buildings had door openings that were too narrow, or had

doors with maneuvering clearances that were too small.

Waiting Areas: Amtrak failed to make waiting areas readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by the DOT Standards. For example, routes throughout the waiting areas at particular stations had excessive cross slopes or were too narrow.

Elevators: Amtrak failed to make elevators readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by the DOT Standards, including at the following stations: Atlanta, Georgia; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Marshall, Texas.

Toilet Rooms: Amtrak failed to make toilet rooms in buildings readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by the DOT Standards. For example, some station toilet room doors lacked maneuvering clearance for wheelchairs, and some station toilet room doors had hardware that required tight grasping, pinching, and twisting of the wrist to operate.

Passenger Platforms: Amtrak failed to make passenger platforms readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by the DOT Standards at 29 stations. Several passenger platforms had running and cross slopes that were too steep, and some passenger platforms had no detectable warnings at the boarding edges.

Passenger Platform Heights and Gaps: Amtrak failed to make the passenger platforms readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities as prescribed by the DOT Standards at 10 stations. These stations had excessive horizontal gaps or vertical height differences between the passenger platforms and the rail car floors.

Under the agreement, Amtrak has committed to make its intercity rail stations accessible, prioritizing stations with the most significant barriers to access. Over the next 10 years,

Amtrak will design at least 135 stations to be accessible, complete construction at 90 of those stations, and have at least 45 more under construction. Amtrak will also train staff on ADA requirements and implement an agreed-upon process for accepting and handling ADA complaints. For a list of stations and information about how to file a claim see the DOJ announcement.

NEW MASK MANDATE IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND HUBS

Following the issuance of an Executive Order, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued an Order on January 29 requiring travelers to wear masks on public conveyances, including airplanes, trains, subways, taxis, and buses, to prevent the spread of COVID. Operators of transportation hubs must also require all persons to wear a mask when entering or on the premises of a transportation hub. The CDC Order exempts from the mask requirement people with disabilities who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, for reasons related to the disability.

In response to COVID-19, U.S. and foreign air carriers generally have implemented policies requiring passengers to wear masks onboard aircraft even before the issuance of the Executive Order and the CDC Order. Some carriers have adopted policies that expressly allow “no exceptions” to the mask requirement other than for children under the age of two. Following the CDC Order, DOT has released a notice of enforcement policy stating that airlines are expected to review their face mask policies immediately and to revise them as necessary to comply with the Air Carrier Access Act.

The Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) security procedures also now require that all individuals must wear masks at the checkpoints and baggage screening locations. In the event that a person with a disability advises a TSA Officer that they have a disability that prevents them from wearing a mask, the TSA Officer may notify a supervisor to assist.

Medical documentation to support an exemption from the mask-wearing mandate should be on the passenger’s licensed physician’s letterhead, and should include the passenger’s name, and clearly state that he or she cannot wear or safely wear a mask. Passengers may be asked if they can wear a mask during screening for a short-duration, only when additional screening may be required (e.g., pat-down) and social distancing is not possible. If passengers have concerns before, during, or after your screening, they may ask for a Passenger Support Specialist or Supervisory TSA Officer.

NEWS ITEMS OF NOTE

- A Framework for Integrating Family Caregivers into the Health Care Team

RAND Corporation published a study in mid-January examining the role of family caregivers in a health care team and making recommendations for effective involvement of caregivers in supporting loved ones with disabilities or chronic health conditions. Four themes around barriers to integrating caregivers into health care teams emerged from the study report including: (1) identifying caregivers; (2) communication and information-sharing; (3) time limitations and competing demands; and (4) trust and cultural barriers. The authors also identified six policy areas in which initiatives could mitigate these barriers: (1) identify and record information on family caregivers; (2) incentivize providers to engage with family caregivers; (3) invest in programs that provide supportive services for family caregivers; (4) expand access to and funding for care coordinators to support caregivers and connect them to clinical information; (5) implement training programs for providers and caregivers to facilitate effective communication; and (6) develop, test, and improve caregiver access to technologies that foster caregiver-provider care integration and information-sharing. A downloadable version of the report can be found [here](#).

- ODEP Posts Recommendations on eRecruiting Screening Systems

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) Employer Assistance and Resource Network (EARN) on Disability Inclusion and Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) have released the "Checklist for Employers: Facilitating the Hiring of People with Disabilities Through the Use of eRecruiting Screening Systems, Including AI." eRecruiting systems, including artificial intelligence, are becoming more commonly used to screen candidates, streamline the application process, provide training, disseminate information to employees, and increase productivity in the workplace. This publication highlights questions and issues that business leaders, human resources personnel, equal employment opportunity managers, and procurement officers should consider about contracts with vendors regarding the content of eRecruiting screening tools.

- NCSL Report on COVID-19's Impact on Disability Employment and the Economy

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) published a report, "The Pandemic's Effect on the Economy and Workers," that examines economic data and workforce trends following the emergence of COVID-19. The report shows how the pandemic has accelerated the adoption of telework and digital services, which present new employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and features federal and state responses to the pandemic. The report is the first in a series developed in collaboration with the State Exchange on Employment & Disability on the opportunities and challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the employment of people with disabilities.

- Recovery Stalls for People with Disabilities

The January 2020 Jobs Report - National Trends in Disability Employment was

recently issued by Kessler Foundation and the University of New Hampshire. As COVID-19 outbreaks continue to affect national and local economies, the job market struggled to maintain momentum, according to the Monthly Update (nTIDE). The report does note that, in the coming months, prospects for recovery may improve as vaccine availability increases and the federal government implements new public health measures and considers additional economic relief.

WEBINARS

- U.S. Access Board Webinar: Medical Care and Long-Term Care Facilities

The next webinar in the U.S. Access Board's free monthly series will take place March 4 from 2:30 – 4:00 pm ET and will provide an in-depth review of ADA and Architectural Barriers Act requirements for medical care and long-term care facilities, including hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, and other facilities. The presenters will review scoping and technical requirements for exam rooms, patient bedrooms, bathrooms, accessible routes, accessible parking, and other spaces and elements. They will also provide a brief overview on the Board's voluntary Medical Diagnostic Equipment Standards. Visit www.accessibilityonline.org for more information or to register.

- PVA Webinar: Access to the COVID Vaccine for SCI/D Veterans

In an effort to provide our members with more information about VA's rollout of the COVID vaccine, we are hosting a webinar with VA on Friday, February 26 at 1:00 pm ET. Please register in advance for this webinar [here](#). This webinar will present members with an opportunity to hear directly from VA leadership about the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Membership 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 of choice or by mail/email to:** Paralyzed Veterans of America Membership Department, 801 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; (E) members@pva.org. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Chapter Name: Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, 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: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

Please submit the following with application:

- 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: _____

Are you a United States citizen? Yes No

Do you have a spinal cord injury or disease? Yes No If disease, specify: _____

Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease service connected? Yes No

If Paralyzed Veterans of America is your accredited representative, do you permit PVA Service Officers to provide information to PVA National Membership Department relative to your membership eligibility? Yes No

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I have read and meet the qualifications and I understand that my membership could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Witness Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____



Membership Application

Physician's Statement Form

_____ is a veteran who has a spinal cord injury or disease.

His/her diagnosis is:

- Paraplegia
- Quadriplegia
- Brown Sequard Syndrome
- Cauda Equina Syndrome
- ALS
- Multiple Sclerosis (involving the spinal cord)
- Transverse Myelitis
- Other (please specify) _____

Physician's Signature

Physician's Name

Physician's Title

Physician's Phone/Email

Date Signed



Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
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