

September - October 2022  
Volume 26, Issue 5



# PARALOG

**Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter**  
**Serving Oregon, Idaho and SW Washington**

**“Serving Those Who Served”**

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



**OFFICERS**

- Larry Gardner** President
- Bill Gray** Vice President
- Dennis Hooper** Secretary
- Carolyn Hamstreet Shores** Treasurer

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- Ken Cornelius**
- Don Hedlind**

**PROGRAM DIRECTORS**

- Mike Rosenbalm** Peer Mentoring
- Dan Service** MS Contact
- Don Hedlind** Membership Director
- Don Hedlind** Government Relations

**AMBASSADORS**

- Don Wyatt** Idaho
- Dennis Hooper** Southern OR
- Stephen Bergseng** Central OR

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

- Bill Gray**

**OPVA OFFICE STAFF**

- Tom Hurt** Executive Director
- Marcie Ceja** Office Manager
- Scarlett Guerra** Graphic Designer

**PARALOG**

- Marcie Ceja** Editor in Chief
- Scarlett Guerra** Graphic Designer

**NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER**

- Matt Paige**
- Email: [matthewp@pva.org](mailto:matthewp@pva.org)
- Phone: 503-412-4762

**PORTLAND/Vancouver VA Primary**

<b>Care Contact Phone Numbers</b>	<b>After Hours Number</b>
360-696-4061	888-233-8305
503-220-8262	<b>Portland VA Contact Phone Number</b>
ext. 31665 (Portland)	503-273-5308
800-949-1004	
ext. 31665	

**RESOURCES**

<b>ID Cards</b>	<b>eBenefits</b>
<a href="http://www.vets.gov">www.vets.gov</a>	<a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov">www.benefits.va.gov</a>
<b>eVetRecords</b>	<b>Women Veterans Health Care</b>
<a href="http://www.archives.gov">www.archives.gov</a>	1-855-VA-Woman
<b>Vocational Rehab &amp; Employment</b>	<b>US Disaster Hotline</b>
<a href="http://www.gibill.gov">www.gibill.gov</a>	(800) 626 4959

**PVA Tri-State Chapter Mission Statement**

Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter, incorporated in 1976, is a chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. We serve the needs of our Members – U.S. military veterans with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D) – and help them enjoy the highest possible quality of life.

Tri-State Chapter, 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, PVA Tri-state Chapter relies on grants and donations from members of the public.

**The views and opinions expressed in the Paralog are not necessarily a direct representation of the views or ideas of Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter who hereby disclaims any responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors and printed in the Paralog.**

**PVA Tri-State Chapter - 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305**

# PARALOG CONTENTS

- 4** President News
- 8** Executive Director Update
- 12** Membership Director Update
- 16** Rec Fund Reimbursement
- 21** Sports Corner
- 22** National Service Office Corner
- 24** Shooting Sports Corner
- 25** Sports Corner
- 26** Southern OR Ambassador Report
- 27** Idaho Ambassador Report\
- 36** Washington Update

## Event Flyers:

- Page 5 Air Gun Competition
- Page 6 PVA Tri-State National Trapshoot
- Page 11 Salmon Deep Sea Fishing Trip
- Page 11 Members Banquet RSVP
- Page 27 Members Picnic at Bowman Pond
- Page 40 Albany Veterans Day Parade
- Page 41 Celebration of Women Veterans

**Thank you to all our Sponsors!**

Cover Photo: Multnomah Falls  
Courtesy of Adobe Stock Images

# PRESIDENT NEWS



2022 Show and Shine Car Show



Larry Gardner – President

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through this summer season. I truly hope that everyone that can, has gotten out and enjoyed all the recreation and events the weather has made possible with lots more still ahead of us to enjoy. That being said don't forget about using your Recreation Fund of \$250. That is available to our members once a year for getting out and enjoying life. Just a reminder: Recreation Fund reimbursements are due September 25th for this fiscal year. So if you haven't submitted yours to the office, please make sure you get it in with your receipt, a short paragraph and picture by the upcoming deadline. If you have any questions, please call the office or see page 15 for more information.

Every year at the end of June, we send out the nomination forms for the members to fill out with the names of who you think should be on the Board of Directors, and the Executive Board of Directors. Then the middle of August the ballots get

mailed out for your final vote, and are due back in the office by September 15th, so if you haven't already, please remember the date of return.



This year at the Oregon State Fair on Labor Day, September 5th, we will draw the winning ticket for our raffle car, a 1977 Corvette. The raffle tickets are \$10.00 each or 5 for \$40.00 and will be available until the day of the drawing. You only need one ticket to win so hurry and get in on the drawing!

September 17th, 2022 is our annual Members Banquet and will be held at the Holiday Inn, in Wilsonville, Oregon. The food will be very good this year. We also are going to have a father and daughter

band singing (Next of Kin), a variety of songs. They are very good. We will also have Bingo with lots of prizes, and the awards presentation. There will be some ADA accessible rooms available if needed be sure to call and reserve ahead. Don't forget to RSVP by September 6th.



**Next of Kin performing at 2022 Show and Shine Car Show**

We had the opportunity this year to take a trip to Wallowa Lake out of Joseph Oregon to visit a resort called Creating Memories, they are set up to help disabled children, veterans and their

families with lots of camping sites for tents, two RV hookup sites, 7 teepees, and 3 really nice cabins, this is all in a forest of trees close to the lake where they have a pontoon boat at the dock and is wheel chair accessible for fishing. This is a place to take a vacation and catch some big fish. If anyone is interested to make a reservation call Jack Burgone at 541-398-0169 be sure to tell them you're with the Tri-State Chpater. If you have any questions at all please call me at 503-930-9589. Thank you so much and take care.



**Creating Mememories Joseph, OR**



**Mark Your Calendar for the Next:**

**Tri-State Chapter Air Gun Competition**

**October 7, 2022  
12 pm to 3 pm**

**Location:  
Albany Rifle and Pistol Club  
29999 Saddle Butte Rd  
Shedd, OR**

# PVA Tri-State Chapter Trapshoot

September 23 - 25, 2022



## Hillsboro Trap & Skeet Club

Location: 33295 NW Wren Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Hosted by Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter  
Competition open to all shooters, able-bodied & disabled



503.362.7998

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

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



**oregon  
mobility**  
solutions

**DRIVING YOUR INDEPENDENCE**



**Authorized Dealer**



[www.OregonMobility.com](http://www.OregonMobility.com)

- New and used wheelchair vans
- Veteran discounts and benefits available
- We also install hand controls and lifts
- WE COME TO YOU! We specialize in mobile servicing and sales
- Family-owned and operated
- We also service wheelchairs and scooters

**Call Us Today! 503-991-4100**

**Tigard**

**Salem**

12154 SW Garden Pl  
Tigard, Oregon 97223

4280 25th Ave NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**We have factory trained and certified technicians with over 40 years combined experience ready to serve you.**



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Update



**2022 BBQ Luncheon at Lebanon Veterans Home**



**Tom Hurt – Executive Director**

Greetings from your Chapter Office. What a summer we have had! The year started off with a never-ending amount of rain this last winter and sprung to record high temperatures thru July and August. Your Chapter did not let mother nature slow us down.

A brief re-cap of the last couple of months: In July we started right off with a celebration at Volcanoes Stadium honoring our Veterans. Next, we followed up with the Marion County Fair, where we participated in the Real Heroes area. While at the Fair, we drew the winning ticket for the Artic Cat ATV and we called the winner. She was so excited she was down at the Chapter office the very next day picking up her prize! She purchased the winning ticket at our 2021 Show and Shine Car Show last summer.



We got to catch our breath for a day before we started setting up for a largest one day event, Our Gold Cup Golf Tournament. It was great seeing George Nordling playing in the tourney! George is a member out of Oregon City. A great time was had by all, and we raised a good amount of funds for the Chapter.



On the last weekend in July we had our 6th Annual Show and Shine Car Show. A good time was had by all, even though, it was as hot as the surface of the sun out there. A Big Thank You to Home Depots' Brian Scott for again allowing us to take over his back parking lot for our Show and Shine Car Show.

So needless to say, July was a busy time for the staff at your Chapter office. August was not much



different than July, we started August with one of our Air Gun Competitions. We have been doing a shoot down at the Albany Pistol and Rifle Club every other month now since the first of the year, everyone who shows up has a great time and there are prizes to be won as well. Check out the Sports page in this Paralog for the final scores and mark your calendar for Oct 7th for the next shoot.



The day after the shoot we had a team go and set up a booth at the Woodburn Drag Strip. Followed up with some double bookings, Dennis Hooper your southern Oregon Ambassador set up a booth at the Douglas County Fair, he and his volunteers did a fantastic job representing the Chapter; as well as, selling a ton of raffle tickets.

While Dennis was at the fair, a group of members in the Willamette Valley set up a booth at the Keizer Fest as well as entered the Festival Parade. We actually Won Best Commercial Division Trophy! Everyone had a great time.



We finished August off with a couple more events: One being the Blackberry Festival in Sutherlin and two being the Big One the Oregon State Fair. It kicked off on August 26th

and will be ending on Sept 5th, where we will draw the winning ticket for the 1977 Corvette.

Summer is not over since we still have things you can still come out to enjoy. On Sept 8th, we will at the Veterans Home in Dalles, hosting a BBQ for the Veteran Residence. If you like to fish, we have sign ups for our first ocean Salmon Fishing trip on Sept 10th.

On the 14th of September, the Chapter is going to participate in a Stand Down at the YMCA in Salem. If you would like to come out and help some Veterans in need you can volunteers to help with our booth. Please give our office a call.

Lets not forget about the Annual Members Banquet right around the corner on Sept 17th at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville, the food is going to be GREAT. We will have live music this year, as well as Bingo for all to enjoy and have fun.



Our last event this fiscal year is one we have not done in a couple of years and that is a National Trap Shoot on the PVA Circuit. We will be holding it at the Hillsboro Trap & Skeet Club again. If you are a trap shooter this is the event you will want to participate in, if you are not a shooter you need to come down on encourage these guys and gals. This is going to be an Awesome event!

Please remember, as a voting member of PVA Tri-State Chapter you have available to you a \$250 Recreation Fund for you to be able to get out and enjoy yourself. As you are out and about utilizing your Rec Fund, keep in mind that we need your help in volunteering at some of our events raising awareness about PVA and helping with the Fund raising to support the programs like our Rec Fund Program.

Be Safe Stay Healthy, Hope to see you at some of our Events.

**September 10, 2022**  
**Free for Members!!!**

*Salmon*

# Deep Sea Fishing Trip



**DOCKSIDE  
CHARTERS** 

270 Coast Guard Dr.  
Depoe Bay, OR 97341  
(541) 765-2545

**\* Check in at 6:30am \***

- \* Fishing license can be purchased at Dockside Charters.
- \* Complementary coffee is provided.
- \* Bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks.
- \* Don't forget about the Rec Fund to help with expenses
- \* Bring a guest for \$65!

Paralyzed Veterans of America Tri-State Chapter • [www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)  
Serving Oregon • Idaho • SW Washington



Save the Date

*Member's Banquet*  
*at*  
*Holiday Inn (Wilsonville)*  
*September 17, 2022*

**Please RSVP by**  
**September 6, 2022**

Check In: 1pm  
Social Time: 1- 3 pm  
Dinner Served: 3pm

Holiday Inn  
2545 SW 95th Ave  
Wilsonville, OR 97070

For more information visit:  
[www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)  
call: 503-362-7998  
email:  
[oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org)

Hotel Rervations  
call 877-207-9083  
\*Ask for OPVA  
Special Rate\*



# MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR UPDATE



2022 Marion County Fair



Donnie R. Hedlind - Membership Director

How Ya'll Doing? Hope everyone is having a nice summer. We've had a very busy one hosting events throughout the area and having fun meeting our members and the public. As your Membership Director, I like to make sure I attend as many events as possible. At the Marion County Fair this year, we gave the Artic Cat 700 ATV away. Our President Larry Gardner secured a megaphone from the fair staff to address the audience, while our Executive Director Tom Hurt recruited a little 6-year-old boy to pull the winning ticket. It was all broad casted over Facebook Live. Larry called the winner who was excited to hear she won.

On Saturday July 16th, McNary Golf Club in Keizer, hosted our annual Golf Tournament. We want to Thank the folks over at McNary for their support, without them this would not be possible, they were very accommodating and fun to be around. Our tournament is now one of the best and largest they have at this course. We are proud that our chapter had so many partners and sponsors to make it the "best tournament we've ever had" and we look forward to being at McNary next year to make it an even bigger one.



Congratulations to our winner who purchased their ticket at the car show in September last year!



Before the tournament started, Southwest Pacific Auto unveiled our new CF Moto CForce 800 Raffle ATV. We immediately commenced our next round of ATV raffle ticket selling and will give this ATV away at Marion County Fair in 2023; until then, we have raffle-ticket-selling records to break. We also

held a putting contest hosted by our volunteers, and sold raffle tickets for the Corvette, the new ATV and the various packages put together by our sponsors and contributors, one of which, was a Traeger Smoker. It was Tammy, my wife and my first time there, "we were very impressed!" Why don't you make a point to come out and be impressed with us next year! Thanks to all who contributed, we appreciate it very much, you made the tournament much more fun and exciting.

We also want to thank our Executive Director Tom Hurt who worked very hard on this effort, along with the BOD, staff and the many volunteers, this tournament was highly successful because of you. Thanks to everyone for contributing their time and hard work



2022 Gold Cup Golf Tournament

We will be at the State Fair in Salem until Labor Day, where we will have someone from the audience pull the winning ticket for that beautiful corvette. Speaking of the Corvette, this summer, it has been at the Woodburn Dragstrip; Marion County Fair; Gold Cup Golf Tournament, Home Depot, in Salem, for our Show and Shine Car Show; Keizerfest; and finally the Oregon State Fair. Now, that's a busy schedule!

Thanks to all who worked to make this fundraising raffle a big success!

Finishing out the summer, we are at the State Fair August 25-Sept 5th, same spot as always, right outside the concert amphitheater. Make sure to stop by, say "Hi" and support us.

September 10th there are two events going on: A Membership Meeting at Bowman Ponds outside of Winston, Oregon. Where you can have fun playing frisbee golf, horseshoes, boccia ball, doing some fishing and enjoying Tom's barbequed hamburgers and hot dogs. Or you can get on the boat in Depoe Bay for our first Deep Sea Salmon Fishing trip. Space is limited so give the office a call. If you can't make that one, get on the last boat of the year on September 19th for a bottom fishing and crabbing trip out of Depoe Bay with Dockside Charters.

Our annual Membership Banquet is on September 17th at the Holiday Inn in Wilsonville, Oregon. Send in your RSVP to attend, we will have a band, bingo, and plenty of food. I am sure Tom will have plenty of prizes to win as well as... BINGO! It will be an afternoon of fun and camaraderie with everyone, we look forward to seeing you there.

For our members who like to shoot trap. We will be having a National Trap Shooting competition at the Hillsboro Gun Club on Sept 23-25th. We have not hosted a PVA National Trap Shoot since 2016, so we are honored and excited to be picked to host this one. If you are a trap shooter or would like to volunteer to help at the event, give the office a call and get registered. As members this is your chapter, give us a call if you would like to participate or need us for anything, if we can help, we will, until next time. Have fun and get outside to enjoy what God has blessed us with!

INTRODUCING H.R. 3172 & S. 2981

# The HELPER Act

HOMES FOR EVERY LOCAL PROTECTOR, EDUCATOR, AND RESPONDER



## What Is The HELPER Act?

The HELPER Act stands for "Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder." This bill aims to provide our local law enforcement, fire-fighters, EMS, and K-12 Educators more affordable mortgage financing.



## What Benefits Does The HELPER Act Provide?

- ✔ HUD/FHA Program
- ✔ 100% Financing
- ✔ No Monthly Mortgage Insurance
- ✔ One Time Premium - 3.6%
- ✔ No Geographic Restrictions
- ✔ FHA Price Limits Apply
- ✔ 6% Maximum Seller Assist



## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Mandi Stephens | Ambassador  
(971) 241-9790  
mandi.stephens@churchillmortgage.com  
Jeremy Stephens | Ambassador  
(503) 806-3175  
jeremy.stephens@churchillmortgage.com

[WWW.THEHELPERACT.US](http://WWW.THEHELPERACT.US)



Law Enforcement



Educators



Fire-Fighters



EMS

# Recreation Fund Reimbursement

(Members Only)

PVA Tri-State Chapter voting members are eligible to **RECEIVE \$250** each fiscal year through the Member Recreation Reimbursement Fund. It begins **October 1st** and runs through **September 25th** each year.

Include name, address, phone number, your legible receipts (legible photo copy is ok) 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. Please note: drugs and alcohol will not be reimbursed.

◆ **Eating Out** ◆ **Movies** ◆ **Games** ◆ **Hobby Supplies** ◆ **Motel** ◆ **Sports**  
◆ **Event Tickets** ◆ **Guns** ◆ **Trips** ◆ **Vacation Expenses (lodging food, gas etc)** ◆  
**OPVA Events etc**

All receipts must be dated and used within this current fiscal year (10/1 - 9/30). Rec Funds **NOT** received in a timely matter will be denied.

Mail or email to: PVA Tri-State Chapter, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 - [oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org)  
Please be sure to include your address and phonenumberYour request must be received in the office no later than **September 25th**. 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.



Especially now,  
we need your support.

Donate a car, truck or other vehicle.  
The process is easy, the pick-up is free,  
and your gift is tax-deductible.

[www.pva.careasy.org](http://www.pva.careasy.org)

Get Paid to Have Fun!



## \$250 REC FUND REIMBURSEMENT



Thank you for another year of Recreation Fund support. We were able to get away for a weekend of fishing with an old Army buddy. We had to search for some water in Central Oregon but found some at Haystack Reservoir; Walton Lake and Antelope Flat Reservoir. I am thankful that these bodies of water are regularly stocked. The scenery is always a bonus while trekking the open road through the Oregon Outback. No matter how many times we travel through there, it seems we always find something new to explore. I can't wait to see what the Summer will bring!

Dennis and Jennifer

I purchased a nice used shotgun for bird hunting & skeet shooting with my stepson. Thank you for offering this recreation reimbursement program. I didn't know it existed until my wife read the Paralog and pointed it out to me.

Bradley W.



Well, it has been challenging the first part of 2022 with the COVID shut down. In the meantime, I wanted to use my time wisely so I wanted to read books.



The problem with MS is I have difficulty reading a standard book. Consequently, I bought an 8 inch Kindle tablet that allows me to enhance the print. Of course, I purchased the headphones and ear buds. Yes, I do love my Kindle.

Thank you BOD for keeping the Recreation Fund going!

Louie G.



Thank you PVA Tri-State Chapter for this Recreational Fund! This fund has helped me and my family year after year and we are thankful and grateful to be able to use this fund for so many things. Recently our beloved dog passed away and we were mourning our old friend for a couple of weeks when Paula suggested we go to the Humane Society as they had a dog listed on their website, so we went to see about adopting a dog. The one we looked at on the web already had two people wanting to adopt that one, so I said do you have any others. They said we have two dogs that were foster dogs, so I said show me, bring them out. One of those dogs was out on a walk so they brought the other one out. When the lady brought Ralph out and our eyes met it was love at first sight. He walked up and sat in front of me, I reached down put my hands on his head and started massaging behind his ears. I knew then we belonged together.

After a few minutes the other dog they had came through the door and immediately put his paws on my leg, which I don't care for. I said to that dog sorry I have already been taken. When they said we could take Ralph home with us that day we were all three excited to hear that. While Paula filled out the paperwork, they told us that the person that had him, taught him to not put his paws on him by kicking him, and when he told a neighbor lady that he was going to shoot Ralph she said don't do that, I will take him. She couldn't keep him, so she took him to the Humane Society because she knew they were a no kill shelter. Three days later we arrived and saved Ralph and yes, he came with that name, he knows his name and at 16 months old I said we won't be changing his name. We had to wait until H.S. got

an appointment at the vet for shots and neutering before he became ours, after we paid the \$250.00 fee to H.S. of course. Barbra didn't want to get another dog as she felt it was to soon. After a few days she realized she needed Ralph as much as Paula and I did. Every morning Ralph takes me for a long walk around the neighborhood but, it ends up being more of a run than a walk which is good for him and for me. I am happy I have an electric wheelchair for these little trips we take however when he tries to chase after a cat crossing the road and, since he can run faster than my chair will go, the first time he did that I was caught off guard and he nearly pulled me out of the chair. All four of us are signed up for training at Friends For Life dog training, the first class starts on the 25th of July, and we are all four looking forward it. Thank you PVA Tri-State Chapter you and Ralph you are life savers!

With LOVE,  
Kenneth, Barbra, and Paula T.



I booked a four day rafting trip on the Rogue River, from Oregon River Experience. They were very professional and provided a safe experience on the river. It was lots of fun! I got to feel class 1 and 2 rapids and I saw several bears and other wildlife on the trip.

Dawn R.



# REC FUND CONTINUED

Dear Members,

Just wanted everyone to know that I really enjoyed using the Rec Fund for help paying for gas on my trip to see my grandkids for Father's Day week, Boise Idaho. Then I met my best friend and his wife in Ontario, Oregon for 3 days of fishing and shooting, as we use to live there years ago. I had a real good time, except I found out how out of shape I am. I have been fighting different health issues related to injury. I've got a ways to go before I am in better shape.

I am very grateful for the Recreation Fund. It made the pain at the pump less painful.

Respectfully,  
Steve B.



Please apply these receipts toward my activity fund if I haven't already used it. I attended the Washington State Marine Corps League 75th Convention, in June. I'm stepping down from position as Marine Corps League State Paymaster, after serving 8 years.

Bill H.

PVA Tri-State,

On July 15-21 Jan and I used the Recreation Fund to attend the Cascade Corvette Club's Central Oregon Fun Cruise. We left Eugene with 14 beautiful Corvettes and drove over the mountain to spend 2 fun nights at Eagle Crest Resort sightseeing and relaxing with friends while indulging in some great food and adult beverages. We then moved to Sunriver and enjoyed driving to the Cowboy Dinner Tree in Silver Lake and also taking a cruise to Crater Lake with a dinner at Kla Mo Yah Casino where we got lucky on a slot machine. It was a great getaway.

Thank you PVA Tri-State Chapter for helping us have a wonderful week!

Always grateful,  
Joe H.



Dear Sirs;

Thank you for the Recreation Fund. This year has been a difficult one with medical issues precluding us from going anywhere before June. From June 13th thru June 15th we were finally able to spend two days at the beautiful Oregon Coast, in Lincoln City.



We were able to relax, sit and watch the ocean roll, and enjoy people playing with their children and dogs on the beach. We were also able to enjoy some fine meals and even play the slots a little (much to BJ's delight). It was a wonderful trip and we appreciate the Recreation Fund helping to make it possible.

Sincerely,  
Larry and Betty (BJ) R.

Hello all and hope everyone is well.

The Recreation Fund will be used to renew my Tri-County Gun Club Membership. Although, I haven't been out to the range as much as I would've liked this past year, the price of ammo being what it is and such. I hope to be more active and get more trigger time. Thanks to all at Tri-State Chapter who make it possible.

Regards,  
Steven M.



Dear Tri-State Chapter,  
Thank you so much for the annual Recreation Fund. We used it again to go to Cannon Beach for our annual trip. In Astoria, we found a small boat that has good fish (Tuna) and chips that are really good. We enjoy beach walks to Haystack Rock to see the sealife. Our English Bulldog enjoys meeting the other dogs and people at the beach. It is a nice to have a home away from home every year.

John P.



**Adventure is Calling  
Join Now!**

# **WE'RE DOG GONE TIRED!!!**

Do you like helping others?  
Are you 18 years or older?  
If you said "Yes" then we  
**NEED You!**



**PVA Tri-State Chapter**  
is looking for volunteers for:

- Assisting at upcoming fairs & festivals
  - Sales
  - Promoting Tri-State Chapter
  - Set up & tear down
- Locations in Northern & Southern Oregon



Tri-State Chapter

Please call our office at **503-362-7988**, visit us online  
**[www.TriStatePVA.org](http://www.TriStatePVA.org)** or email **[oregonpva.oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva.oregonpva.org)**

## 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](https://rewalk.com/contact) or  
**508.251.1154** option 2

# NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER CORNER



By Matt Paige - Regional Service Officer

Greetings from the Portland PVA Office,

As you may know, the PACT Act was passed and signed by President Biden. There is a lot in this bill. Not everything will be started right away as they have a “phase in” schedule according to service periods of when the VA will start processing claims (ex: October 2, 2024 veterans will be eligible if they served during August 2, 1990 and ending on September 11, 2001; October 1, 2026 for veterans that served between September 12, 2001 and December 31, 2006, and then continuing every 2 years adding another time period).

The Regions and countries include: Iraq; Afghanistan; Kuwait; Saudi Arabia; Bahrain; Djibouti; Gulf of Aden; Gulf of Oman; Oman; Qatar; United Arab Emirates; waters of the Persian Gulf; Arabian Sea; Red Sea; Syria; Uzbekistan; and Egypt. The bill directs the VA to provide a veteran with a medical examination regarding the nexus between a disability and toxic exposure risk activity if a veteran submits a disability compensation claim for a service connected disability with insufficient evidence. If the veteran’s DD 214 does not show service specifically in these areas then copies of orders or award citations will work.

This bill is not just for presumptive conditions for “burn pit” but also for Agent Orange. Section 403 & 404 will now add more countries for presumptive for Agent Orange exposure. Specifically, the bill expands the presumption

to cover veterans who served during specified time frames in Thailand at any U.S. or Royal Thai bases; Laos; Cambodia; Guam or American Samoa or the waters thereof, or on Johnson Atoll.

Under the bill, such veterans are eligible for VA hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care. Also Hypertension was added to the list. It will be added to the presumptive conditions list for Agent Orange exposure immediately for those who are terminally ill, homeless, under extreme hardship, or are over 85 years old. This will not be implemented for the remaining Vietnam Veterans until October 2026.

Our office will field questions about eligibility as required. We encourage veterans to contact us and consider filing claims for previously denied conditions if the denial was based on the veteran not serving in an area covered by the VA’s old list. The VA will be assessing previously denied claims. However, in decisions with other service officers at the Portland Regional Office we think it is appropriate that veterans file supplemental claims now rather than wait for the VA.

I hope this finds you well and that we are experiencing a break in the August heat. Again, please contact us by either phone or our cooperate email at [PVA.PORT@va.gov](mailto:PVA.PORT@va.gov)



A new universal three-digit dialing code for suicide prevention and mental health crisis — 988 — is now live after taking effect nationwide on Saturday, July 16, 2022. SAMSHA (the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) will administer the new “988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.” The previous toll-free number 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) will remain also active and will connect callers to the new 988 Lifeline.

The 988 Lifeline is designed to become a simple alternative to both 911 and the existing 1-800 number. One of the goals of the new number is to reduce the use of 911 for suicide and mental health crises because it can result in inadequate or inappropriate intervention by police, or unnecessary hospitalization or incarceration. Calling 988 instead will direct the caller to representatives specifically trained in the management of suicide risk and other mental health crises.

This new, simplified tool is critical for the support networks and caregivers of veterans and service members, who experience higher rates of suicide across all ages and demographics than the civilian population. To reach the Veterans Crisis Line, dial 988 and press “1” to be routed to that resource.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing can access TTY by dialing 711 then 1-800-273-8255 or using

their preferred relay service. Lifeline is in the process of expanding to video phone service. Interpretation through Language Line Solutions is also available in over 250 languages. Lifeline also offers services through chat and text (in English only). For more information, please see the following resources:

- SAMSHA, “988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline”
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline general information
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, “988 Planning Grants: A funding opportunity by Vibrant Emotional Health and the Lifeline to plan for the implementation of 988”.



*Shooting*

# SPORTS

*Corner*



## August 5, 2022 OPVA Air Gun Competition Results:

Larry Gardner	77 pts
Carolyn H. Shores	59 pts
Gloribel Casalduc	55 pts

**Congratulations to our winners!  
Thank you to everyone who came out  
and participated!**

**Our next Air Gun Competition will be October 7, 2022 at 12pm.  
Please mark calendars and save the date.  
You don't want to miss out on all the fun!**







Trap Shooting this year for our Chapter has been very limited again due to COVID, availability of shot gun ammo and other expenses. There are multiplex shoots the first Sunday of each month that also have been down with less attendance than normal.

Our Chapter the TRI-STATE CHAPTER is hosting a National PVA Trapshooting event on September 23rd thru the 25th at the Hillsboro Trap & Skeet Club. All members of PVA are invited and it will also be open to the public. Be sure to mark your calendars to shoot or come on out for support.

The Chapters' Air Rifle team has been shooting competition events at the indoor range at the Albany Rifle and Pistol Club every other month now for most of the year and has been very successful and lots of fun. The next air rifle shoot is scheduled for October 7th, mark your calendar and come on out and join us!



This year we have added a Deep-Sea Salmon fishing trip out of Depoe Bay on September 10th, and then the last bottom fishing trip will be September 19th. Call the office and secure your spot on the boat.



November 11th is Veterans' Day and this year we are going to have our float again in the Albany Veterans' Parade, we want you to come and join us! Have a fun ride on the float in the parade, help support the Tri-State Chapter and get the recognition you deserve.

One last reminder about Creating Memories resort, at Wallowa Lake: Its FREE for all members and their families. You can call Jack Burgone at 541-398-0169 for scheduling your stay. If you need more information, please feel free to call us here at the office.

Thank you all so much and take care.

# Southern OR Ambassador Report



Fall at Klamath Lake



By Dennis Hooper – Southern Oregon Ambassador

Hello My Friends!

I hope everyone is enjoying the typical heat we experience in beautiful Southern Oregon. We have had a mild summer so far, so I know it will be back to the usual swelter before long.

Please don't forget that our next Member's Meeting is coming up on Sept. 10. Again, we will be at Bowman Pond, outside of Winston. Do not cheat yourself out of this experience. There is plenty of fish to catch. Tom will have his cooking skills on full display. Our members will have access to one of our Trac Chairs; a Grit Freedom chair; disc golf; archery and some great scenery. I really enjoy this outing. It is peaceful and not at all crowded. I hope there is a huge crowd to rub elbows with!

I want to share my recent wonderful experience at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe, AZ. The heat did not dampen the enthusiasm and many veterans were present to represent their teams. Your Tri-State Chapter team brought home 5 medals in total, 2 gold and 3 silver. It was a week well spent near the campus of Arizona State University. I was not bothered to wear my Ducks hat.



The heat did not stop us from exploring the area. My favorite, was Hole In The Rock. Simple and to the point. I met some great people. I also missed some of the usual folks I see. I hope they are safe because I

know lots of my colleagues look forward to the games each year.

Without our Chapter's support, I don't think I could attend as fervently as I do. This is a classic example of your donations and volunteer hours helping a fellow member to excel. This type of support is available to any member that is interested. I can't wait until Portland next year!



I also want to give a hearty well-done to my teammate David Summers. He and his wife Jennifer were great participants and very supportive of our Chapter efforts. Their level of enthusiasm gives me great motivation. It is very appreciated. I will also thank our Chapter for their support in attending the games.

I hope to see plenty of your faces at our annual Member's Banquet on September 17th. I know it may be a drive, but it is worth getting out of town for a spell, not to mention the 5-8 degree temperature drop. The food will be tasty, as usual. We always enjoy hearing from our members. Tell us what's on your mind!



**Mark your calendars for our Members Picnic in beautiful Southern Oregon!**

**Come and enjoy a fun afternoon of:**

***Food • Fellowship • Archery • Disc Golf • Fishing • Games • Prizes!!!***

**Please RSVP by Phone 503-362-7998 or email: [oregonpva@oregonpva.org](mailto:oregonpva@oregonpva.org)**



***Members Picnic  
September 10, 2022  
Bowman Pond***

***1965 Olalla Rd,  
Winston, OR***



# IDAHO AMBASSADOR REPORT



**Boise, Idaho Train Depot  
in Autumn**



By Donald Wyatt – Idaho Ambassador

I'm back! Finally! It was a long seven and a half months just laying around first on one side then the other. Not fun. Just a piece of advice: take care of your skin.

That said, I'm ready to be Idaho Ambassador again. I got a new Permobil F5 while I was laying around. They even put it in my room and would not let me in it for over a month. Some of you may know, I went to Long Beach CA VA for flap surgery. They took real good care of me but just like in Boise, I could see the chair but not use it for a month. I got back home July 1st but my new chair didn't arrive until, August 2nd.

My phone number and email are the same so if anyone has questions or need help with something, I will be happy to help. My phone number is 208-484-3537 or you can email me at [dwyatt37@aol.com](mailto:dwyatt37@aol.com). Those sunflowers are all volunteers from last year. They would have been taller but didn't get any water until I got home. Thank you and take care.



## *NW Roade RV Detailing & Custom Upgrades*

### Services:

- Wash & Wax
- Pressure Washing
- Detail Packages
- Solar Packages
- Camera Installation
- RV Accessories
- And more

Call 971-382-9272  
Email: [nwroade@gmail.com](mailto:nwroade@gmail.com)  
Address: 9704 Golf Club Rd. Bldg#5  
Aumsville, OR 97325



Join us  
**71st Annual Albany  
Veterans Day Parade**

**Tri-State Chapter Float**  
**Friday, November 11, 2022**

**Parade starts at 11am  
and travels through  
downtown historic Albany**



For more information:

Please call the office at  
503-362-7998

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



**TRI-STATE CHAPTER**  
**OREGON- IDAHO- SW WASHINGTON**

**LONG**

**SUPPORTING**

**OUR**

**HEROS**

**WITH**



**Paralyzed Veterans of America**

**Tri-State Chapter**



## REC FUND CONTINUED

In May I stayed with my family for a week in a rented house in Waldport. We loved being away together, enjoying the coast. Thank you for the Recreation Fund to help pay for our trip!

Karen A.



What a great time it is to be alive! This year, Beverly and I decided to use our Recreational Fund to accomplish several things, a little different. We have a nice front yard, with a pergola above, and pavers below, making our home a welcome place for any to come to. Our problem though, is that the garden we had put in the front yard had produced weeds like we have never seen before. So we were in need of some things that would help us to make things right.

We purchased Hedge Shear Clippers to help cut back the Mughai Pine tree, and Red Leaf Maple bush. There was also the need to purchase a Bypass Soft grip Flower Pruner to cut back the branches of the Butterfly Bush. Beverley bought a Coleus plant, which I am sure would bring out the beauty of the planter that has dead plants in it now.

In looking about the house, we found that some critter had gotten under our office, and tore out the insulation. Hence, the need for some Underlayment, to cover or close up the insulation to prevent further intruders from causing damage.



Another challenge we have is keeping Qwin, our 14 month old Standard Poodle from leaving the back yard, so we bought some fencing, clips, and T-posts to keep in withing the boundary of his domain. We even bought me a 2'x3' Rug, in hopes it will keep the water soaked up off the floor, after Qwin gets done splashing his water all over the place.

We even bought an electric Pressure Washer. I spent many hours washing the back deck and the drive way. Beverly did a lot with it also; she took it down to where I am unable to go, and cleaned off the moss that has been growing on the retaining wall for years. There is a need to maintain the pressure washer's insides. I purchased some Pump Protector, for that purpose.

These things may not sound very recreational, but they are things that are keeping me actively engaged in doing something physical, and it beautifies our home. I sat on my "Rump" and pulled out all the weeds, and turned the bard dust. It took time, but the place looks really great again.

See what you can do with these funds? Thanks for the funds to accomplish this!

Dan S.



# Blue Box

NEVER VISIT A STORAGE UNIT AGAIN  
STORAGE AT YOUR DOORSTEP



MOVING - ONSITE STORAGE - REMODELS

(971) 707-4830

STOREBLUEBOX.COM

# We proudly support Oregon PVA



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. If you are a non-service connected Veteran, you also may be eligible for benefits towards mobility solutions.

## Portland East

12905 NE Airport Way  
Local: 503-564-7155

## Portland West

4347 NW Yeon Ave  
Local: 503-243-2940



**We're here to help!**

**Call today to schedule a test drive, either at your home or at our facility...we can come to you!**



*Proud Supporters of the*



Oregon Chapter



# Happy Birthday!!!

*Charles Abernathy* 9/2  
*George Weathers* 9/2  
*Michael Angerinos* 9/3  
*Gregory Pearce* 9/3  
*Susanne Doppke* 9/3  
*Henry "Evan" Burroughs* 9/4  
*Samuel Learn* 9/5  
*William Smith* 9/5  
*Darrel Von* 9/5  
*Donald Boss* 9/6  
*James Bender* 9/10  
*Michelle Beech* 9/11  
*Colin Dye* 9/13  
*Brad Gardner* 9/14  
*William Kincaid* 9/15  
*Carlton Herron* 9/18  
*Cara Overstreet* 9/20  
*Martin Campos* 9/21  
*Jennifer Binder* 9/22  
*Lisa Hurt* 9/24

*Andrea Harris* 9/25  
*Kenneth Townsend* 9/25  
*Larry Rilling* 9/26  
*Jeffry Watkins* 9/26  
*Michael Bigsby* 9/27  
*Charles Montague* 9/28  
*John Siemssen* 9/28  
*Kristy McNulty* 9/29  
*Todd Walters* 9/29  
*Naomia Gardner* 9/29  
*Charles Demoss* 10/4  
*Julie Pollard* 10/4  
*Travis Nelson* 10/9  
*Tom Weare* 10/9  
*Michael Johnson* 10/10  
*Bradley Barton* 10/11  
*Matthew Denny* 10/18  
*Jerry Ryan* 10/19  
*Gilbert Arendt* 10/20  
*Shawn Kellar* 10/20  
*Albert Bocanegra* 10/21  
*Linda Adams* 10/24  
*Kathy Palominos* 10/25  
*Jerome Brewer* 10/26  
*Keith Wingfield* 10/26  
*Dennis Hooper* 10/27



# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>Labor Day</i>	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 BOD Meeting	30	

 **Office Closed**

## Save the Date

Aug. 26 - Sept. 5 State Fair

Sept. 5 **Corvette Raffle**  
(State Fair @ 2pm)

Sept. 8 **The Dalles Vet Home - Feed**

Sept. 10 **Members Picnic Bowman's Pond,**  
Winston OR

Sept. 10 **Salmon Fishing Trip RSVP**  
(Check in at 6:30 am)

Sept. 14 **Stand Down-Salem YMCA**

Sept. 17 **Members Banquet in Wilsonville**  
RSVP

Sept. 19 **Deep Sea Fishing RSVP**

Sept. 23- 25 **National Trapshoot**

Nov. 11 **Veterans Day Parade**



# October

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 <i>Columbus Day</i>	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 BOD Meeting	28	29
30	31					

*\*Don't forget:  
The Fiscal Calendar Year  
ENDS September 30th  
and BEGINS OCT 1st!\**

 Office Closed

*Welcome  
autumn*






# 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 19, 2022**

**Volume 30, Number 15**

Check out the PVAAction Force page to view our latest alerts and a list of key legislation and its status. Also, read our latest blog post, "Taking Action During the August Congress Recess."

## **PACT ACT NOW LAW**

On August 2, the Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act passed the Senate and the bill was signed into law by the President on August 10 at a White House ceremony. The PACT Act is the most comprehensive toxic exposure bill for veterans in history. Ultimately, the PACT Act will expand VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act impacts both the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration. It adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions related to burn pits and broadens coverage for Vietnam-era veterans exposed to Agent Orange, radiation exposure, and other toxins. Presumptive conditions are medical conditions that VA presumes to be related to military service. Some of the new presumptive conditions under the PACT Act are brain cancer, glioblastoma, gastrointestinal, lymphatic cancer, as well as several respiratory cancers. Illnesses such as chronic bronchitis, chronic rhinitis, constrictive bronchiolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis have also been added to the list. You can go to this website to determine if you have a condition that is now considered to be related to military service. Additionally, the PACT Act requires VA to provide toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care.

For veterans who have not enrolled in VA health care that separated from the military before October 1, 2013, VA is offering a special enrollment period from October 1, 2022, until October 1, 2023

To be eligible for this enrollment period you must have served in a theater of combat operations on active-duty after the Persian Gulf War or during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and were discharged or released between September 11, 2002, and October 1, 2012.

If you have a claim pending with VA that concerns a condition that is now considered to be presumptive, you do not have to do any additional paperwork but you should receive a letter from VA recognizing the presumptive status of your claim. If you need help filing a VA claim or have questions about a presumptive condition, reach out to a PVA national service officer (NSO) to assist you. You can go here to find a PVA NSO in your area.

Other provisions within the PACT Act will help VA bolster its workforce and enable the department to treat newly eligible veterans. These include requiring the VA to establish standard qualifications and performance metrics for HR positions as well as developing a plan to improve hiring for those positions; expedite the hiring of recent college graduates for certain positions; enhance or create a number of special pay, incentive, bonus, award, and student loan repayment authorities department-wide; and raise pay caps on certain medical positions. Others require training for VA and civilian providers to better understand or treat veterans' exposure concerns and authorize 31 new, major medical health clinics and research facilities in 19 states.

In the coming weeks, VA will be hiring health professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who will specialize in conducting patient assessments regarding the health effects of military exposures. Also, by January 2023, the department expects to have a fully operational call center and network of experts to help veterans concerned about environmental exposure and provide consultative services to veterans in primary care clinics.

## **LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE TO IMPROVE HISA**

In early August, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) introduced legislation which aims to make much needed updates to VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant program. The HISA grant provides financial assistance to veterans and servicemembers to allow them to make medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to their primary residences. Updating this important grant program is a top legislative priority for PVA because its outdated rates are failing to provide veterans the level of financial assistance needed to modify their homes.

S. 4721, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, would increase the amount available under the HISA program from the current ceiling of \$6,800 to \$10,000 for veterans with service-connected conditions and \$5,000 for those with conditions unrelated to military service. It also ties these amounts to a formulation so future rates remain current. The new bill is the companion measure to H.R. 5819 which Representative Al Lawson (D-FL) introduced last November. This is one of several issues that may receive attention by Congress in the fall. Please send this updated letter to your members of Congress urging them to increase HISA grant rates.

## **AAPD ISSUES PROGRESS REPORT ON AUTOMOBILE ACCESSIBILITY SCORECARD**

At the end of July, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) issued its third progress report on its Automobile Accessibility Scorecard. The scorecard tracks progress by auto manufacturing companies toward the design and production of an accessible vehicle that can accommodate people with a wide range of disabilities, including power wheelchair users. Currently, no manufacturer offers a fully accessible vehicle that does not require expensive aftermarket modifications for wheelchair users. Although autonomous vehicles' (AV) potential to remove barriers is frequently touted, as automakers pave the way with new concepts for these vehicles, it is crucial that people with disabilities are not left behind.

The report highlights significant progress on new vehicle design and development. It also shows disclosures by automakers that next generation vehicles will include a wide range of accessibility features, including wheelchair

securement. It further notes the development of new partnerships to provide Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant accessible vehicle options in AV company fleets.

## **UBER WINS CASE DESPITE FAILURE TO PROVIDE WAV SERVICES IN NEW ORLEANS AND JACKSON, MS**

On July 25, a California federal judge ruled that Uber is not required to provide wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) in New Orleans, LA, and Jackson, MS. In the consolidated case of Crawford v. Uber and Namisnak v. Uber, three power wheelchair users sued Uber alleging that the company violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by failing to provide WAV services in their home cities and for effectively banning WAVs under their vehicle eligibility criteria. Although Uber offers WAV services in 11 other cities, it does not have WAVs in New Orleans or Jackson.

The judge held that offering WAV services in these cities would be unreasonable and, thus, not required under the ADA. Under the ADA, companies must make reasonable modifications to their policies, practices, or procedures when necessary to provide services to individuals with disabilities, unless it would fundamentally alter the service. The judge determined that although WAVs do not fundamentally alter Uber's rideshare service, the cost and inability to provide the service at all hours would require an unreasonable modification.

In addition, Uber has vehicle eligibility criteria for drivers, including a ban on aftermarket seating modifications. The judge found that although the ban did effectively screen out WAVs, the policy alone did not screen out all power wheelchair users since Uber could not guarantee that a WAV would even be available for the plaintiff's rides. The judge did clarify that just because a reasonable modification may result in more than a minimal cost, it was not necessarily unreasonable, and that complying with the ADA was not a punishment to companies, but rather, the law. Furthermore, the opinion explained that this ruling does not mean that all lawsuits against rideshare companies demanding WAV services would never succeed.

## **CIRCUIT COURT DISMISSES MARRIOTT CASE FINDING HOTEL MET ADA REQUIREMENTS FOR DESCRIBING ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES**

In *Love v. Marriott Hotel Services*, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the dismissal of a case against Marriott. The plaintiff alleged that the hotel failed to provide sufficient accessibility details on its website. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires places of lodging, such as hotels, motels, and inns, to identify and describe accessibility features in enough detail for an individual to decide if the facility will meet their needs.

The plaintiff, Samuel Love, has paraplegia and uses a wheelchair for mobility. He alleged that when he tried to book a room at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, the website lacked sufficient information about the hotel's accessibility features. The website did list accessible features in some guestrooms, including the type of room, size and number of beds, type of accessible bathing facility, accessible communication features, and more. In addition, the website had a phone number for prospective guests to call. Love argued that the information was insufficient for him to determine whether the hotel would meet his accessibility needs. He argued that more detailed descriptions would be appropriate. The Northern District of California District Court dismissed the case finding that the hotel listed details beyond what the ADA required. Love appealed the case to the Ninth Circuit.

The Ninth Circuit looked to the Department of Justice's guidance for interpretation of the ADA's requirements. The guidance states that older hotels can simply say, "features do not comply with the 1991 Standards." Newer hotels only need to specify that the hotel is accessible, and describe the type of room (e.g., deluxe suite), size and number of beds (e.g., two queen beds), type of accessible bathing facility (e.g., roll-in shower), and the accessible communication features. The hotel should also train staff to answer questions about accessibility features and provide more detailed information. Finding that the hotel

met these requirements, the Ninth Circuit affirmed dismissal of the case.

## **BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW IMPROVING ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed late last year allocates funding for a variety of grant programs that will improve transportation access for people with disabilities. For example, between fiscal years (FY) 2022 and 2026, a total of \$5 billion will be available to provide competitive grants for airport terminal development projects that address the aging infrastructure of the nation's airports. In early July, the Federal Aviation Administration announced grant awards of \$1 billion for FY 2022. Of the grants awarded, 73 include projects that will improve airport access for people with disabilities.

The BIL also includes funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the PVA-supported All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP). On July 26, FTA announced the opportunity to apply for approximately \$343 million in ASAP grants that will be available for FY 2022. The main purpose of the program is to provide funding to states, territories, the District of Columbia, and local governmental authorities to help finance capital projects to upgrade the accessibility of legacy rail fixed guideway public transportation systems (e.g., subway, commuter rail, light rail) for persons with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs, by increasing the number of existing stations or facilities, such as outdoor light-rail boarding and alighting areas, that are fully accessible.

## **INFLATION REDUCTION ACT PASSES CONGRESS**

On August 12, Congress finalized passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – a significantly reduced version of the Build Back Better bill that had been promoted as one of the signature domestic initiatives of the Biden Administration. The President signed the legislation on August 16.



**Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
**Tri-State Chapter**  
Serving those who Served!

Although it did not include a number of measures prioritized by the disability community, it nevertheless contains several provisions that will aid people with disabilities and older Americans. Overall, the legislation raises approximately \$472 billion for clean energy and climate investments, improvements to Medicare and Affordable Care Act health coverage, and addresses deficit reduction by closing several tax loopholes targeted at large corporations and very high-income individuals. The non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation determined that taxes on families making less than \$400,000 a year could actually be reduced under the IRA.

**Energy efficiencies for low income communities-** The legislation contains \$60 billion in grants, tax credits, and other subsidies to help lower-income families by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, cars, and communities. The bill would also specifically address air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and other long-standing pollution issues that have disproportionately impacted low-income communities, tribes, and territories, including Puerto Rico.

**Accessible, affordable transportation -** In addition, the IRA's \$3.2 billion investment in a Neighborhood Access and Grant Equity Program provides necessary support for accessible, affordable and safe transportation. Funding can be used towards accessible sidewalk improvements, curb ramps, audible pedestrian signals, safety improvements for vulnerable road users, assessing transportation equity and expanding public participation in transportation planning by individuals and organizations in disadvantaged or underserved communities.

**Health care provisions -** The IRA extends for three years the American Rescue Plan's temporary enhancements to premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Without the extension, an estimated 3.1 million people could have lost their ACA coverage due to a predicted spike in their insurance premiums. The agreement also takes steps to lower the cost of prescription drugs for both the federal government and consumers, including a \$35-per-month cap on the out-of-pocket cost of insulin.

For those on Medicare, the IRA allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to begin negotiating the price of certain prescription drugs beginning in 2023. This is expected to result in savings for many who

depend on Part D for critical pharmaceuticals. Starting in 2025, it will also cap Medicare patients' out of pocket costs at \$2,000 per year, with the option to break that amount into more affordable monthly payments. The proposal holds annual premium growth to existing levels to keep insurers and manufacturers from passing the costs of any new financial responsibilities on to beneficiaries. Finally, it makes all COVID vaccines free in Medicare, whose population was the only one required to pay for such vaccines.

The IRA also expands premium and co-pay assistance on prescription drugs for low-income individuals. Currently, the low-income subsidy program under Medicare Part D is fully available to all seniors earning less than 135 percent of the federal poverty level, and partially available to seniors earning less than 150 percent of the federal policy level. The IRA eliminates the partial subsidy status, giving those seniors the full low-income subsidy under Medicare Part D.

Finally, the IRA includes language addressing a key disability concern about the use of Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs). It would ban the use of evidence or findings from comparative effectiveness research that treats extending the life of a person with a disability as of lower value than extending the life of an individual without a disability.

## **VETERANS EDUCATION PROVISION HEADED TO THE PRESIDENT**

The Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022 (S. 5548) passed the House last week by unanimous consent. The bill will improve access to high-quality educational programs for student veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill. It previously passed the Senate and will be headed to the President's desk for signature. After the creation of the Montgomery GI Bill, the VA discovered several educational facilities that were filling their classes with veterans receiving educational benefits, but not providing a quality education. The 85/15 rule was established to require that for a school to collect VA education benefits, the student body could not be comprised of more than 85 percent of student veterans receiving education benefits. The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans' Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 updated scrutiny of the 85/15 rule and several institutions of higher learning were running into certification

issues, many based on smaller programs offered within larger campus structures. The Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022 will address some reporting barriers, allow college campuses to apply for a waiver for programs with smaller enrollment numbers, and hopefully ensure a smooth enrollment period for student veterans in the upcoming academic year.

## **NEWS OF NOTE**

### **Korean War Memorial Rededication**

The Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington was first dedicated on July 27, 1995. Construction on a long-planned addition to the Memorial began in March of last year and the new extension was officially unveiled recently. Added to the Memorial is a Wall of Remembrance listing the names of 36,000 service members and 7,174 Korean augmentees to the U.S. Army (KATUSA) who lost their lives defending South Korea from the North. The names are arranged in order of rank and branch of service to demonstrate how the toll fell unevenly across the military. Military.com has coverage of the rededication ceremony [here](#).

### **GI Bill Comparison Tool Updated**

As part of the Digital GI Bill modernization, the VA is simplifying and modernizing the GI Bill education benefits experience. With the latest enhancements to the GI Bill Comparison Tool, you can now compare schools side-by-side, search by location using a map feature, and even search on the go with a mobile-friendly design.

### **Should Veterans Sign Up for Medicare Part D?**

Do veterans who have VA health care, TRICARE, and other forms of health care coverage need to sign-up for Medicare Part D? In this episode of the SITREP, learn about Medicare Part D policy and who to reach out to for help.

### **DOJ Announces Intent to Start Rulemaking Process for State and Local Government Website Accessibility**

The Department of Justice has announced its intent to begin the rulemaking process to establish accessibility regulations for state and local government websites. Title II of the Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities by state and local government programs, activities, and services. However, many of these public entities fail to incorporate accessibility features in their online content. Currently, there are no enforceable technical standards on Title II website accessibility. The rulemaking, which is expected to be released in April 2023, will provide technical standards to assist state and local governments in complying with ADA anti-discrimination requirements and making their websites accessible.

## **HEARINGS, WEBINARS, & EVENTS**

Now Available: PVA's Webinar on Vacationing and the ADA: Increasing Access for Wheelchair Users

On July 25, PVA held a webinar in honor of the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on Vacationing and the ADA. To view the webinar recording and presentation, [click here](#).

Upcoming Access Board Webinar: Common Sources of Confusion in the ADA and ABA Standards  
Certain provisions in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards are prone to misinterpretation. The next webinar in the Access Board's free monthly series will take place September 1 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. ET and will review and clarify common sources of confusion in the standards, including application of the standards in new construction and alterations, electric vehicle charging stations, toilet rooms, signs, accessible routes and ground surfaces, and other areas and elements. Visit Great Lakes ADA Center's Common Sources of Confusion webinar webpage for more information or to register.

### **Patient Rights Action Fund Hosts Webinar on Disability Perspectives on Assisted Suicide**

On September 9 at 4:00 p.m. ET, the Patient Rights Action Fund (PRAF) will sponsor a webinar focusing on assisted suicide from the viewpoint of the disability community. Featured presenters include Lydia X. Z. Brown, Esq. with the Autistic Women and Non-Binary Network, John Kelly from Not Dead Yet, Vincenzo Piscopo with United Spinal Association, and Ian McIntosh with PRAF. To register, [click here](#).





OREGON DEPARTMENT  
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Scan here to  
purchase tickets

# CELEBRATING OREGON'S WOMEN VETERANS

Chicago Red Stars at Portland Thorns • Providence Park  
Sun, Sep 25, 2022 • 1:00 PM

Join us in celebrating the military service of Oregon's more than 28,000 women veterans when the two-time NWSL champion Portland Thorns take on the Chicago Fire in their final regular season home match of 2022.

A portion of the proceeds from each ticket purchased will support the Oregon Women Veterans Fund.

[thorns.group/WomenVeteransNight](https://thorns.group/WomenVeteransNight)



## 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: PVA Tri-State Chapter, 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:**

- DD Form 214 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: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



## 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
- Transverse Myelitis
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's Phone/Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed



**Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Tri-State Chapter**  
3700 Silverton Rd. NE  
Salem, OR 97305

**Address Service Requested**

Non Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Salem, OR  
Permit #779

Sept/Oct 2022



**Vehicle Accessibility Specialists**

- New & Pre-Owned Vehicles
- Wheelchair/Scooter Lifts for your vehicle
- Adaptive Driving Equipment
- Wheelchair Accessible Van Rentals
- Power Chairs, Scooters, and Manual Chairs
- Durable Medical Equipment

**24-Hour Emergency Service**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
**RJMOBILITYSERVICE.COM**

**PROUDLY SERVING OREGON SINCE 1979**

THREE LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU  
**SALEM (NORTH): 503-967-5130**  
**SALEM (SOUTH): 503-838-5520**  
**MEDFORD: 541-245-4846**

