

March/April 2019
Volume 23, Issue 2



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



April 13, 2019
10am - 3pm

Open to the Public (Free)

Double Tree
by
Hilton Portland Hotel
1000 NE Multnomah St.
Portland, OR 97232



"Serving Those Who Served"

www.oregonpva.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

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

www.oregonpva.org

Email - oregonpva@oregonpva.org

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

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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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Cover photo: Albert and Jan Wagoner

Thank you to all our Sponsors!

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

Ambassadors Need Volunteers



Larry Gardner – President



First of all I want to take a minute and say thank you once again to all of our members, office staff, Board of Directors and also all of our volunteers for everything you do for the Chapter, without all of you we would not be a successful Chapter.

In my last article I wrote about the Ambassador Program we are working on to better serve our members. We now have three Ambassadors, Ken Townsend is our first Ambassador in central Oregon. Don Wyatt in Idaho started February 20th and Dennis Hooper started February 23rd in southern Oregon.

They have volunteered to set up awareness tables at different events, sell raffle tickets (if in Oregon), military hats, and hand out flyers and sign up new members.

To successfully do all of this, our Ambassadors are going to need volunteers in their area to

step up and help. One way to help if you are physically able is to attend the events. Even better if you can help man the table. Being present helps Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America draw attention to who we are.



(Left) Ken Townsend, OPVA Ambassador

If there are any members reading this that may have some interest in becoming an Ambassador for our Chapter in the Portland area please call the office at 503-362-7998 and ask for either Tom Hurt or Larry Gardner and

we will be more than happy to discuss the Ambassador Program with you.

One of our biggest challenges here at the Chapter is getting information from you, our members, about what you're interested in as far as sports, such as bowling, trap shooting, fishing or movies, etc.

If you have any ideas that you would like to share with us please call us

If you have any ideas that you would like to share with us please call. We can talk, because we are here to work with you. Also, don't forget as a member you have your recreation fund available to help with whatever it takes to get out and enjoy life.

After talking to several of our members in the last couple weeks I have learned that some of our members have friends, neighbors, or just know of veterans that may qualify to be a member of the OPVA if you do know a

veteran with spinal cord injury or disease please have them call us or come in so we can get them signed up as members.

Any veterans out there that are in need of a wheel chair, or electric wheel chair, crutches, walkers or ramps, we may be able to help, just call the office and let us know what you need so we may help. Again we are heading into our busy season and are always needing volunteers for our events, look at the events in the Paralog and if interested in volunteering call the office and we will get you signed up for the time you want.

Well that's about all I have for now but remember to give us a call with any questions or ideas you have so we can work together. Thank you very much and enjoy the spring and summer.



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Oregon Chapter

SHOW & SHINE Car Show

JULY 27 2019



**Location: Home Depot
3795 Hagers Grove Rd.
SE Salem, OR 97317
Show begins at 10 AM
Vehicle Raffle at 2 PM**

Information: 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 Tel: 503.362.7998 • www.oregonpva.org



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

OPVA would really appreciate your time and skills to assist us in carrying out our mission!

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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.

.....
The following groups/committees need volunteers:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Membership | Fundraising |
| Sports & Recreation | Special Events |
| Volunteers | Outreach |

Please contact us:

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ACCESSIBLE
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Welcome to the New Ambassadors



Tom Hurt – Executive Director

Greetings from your Chapter office, things are moving and shaking within the Chapter. I would like to start by saying thank you to Dave Parker for stepping into the position of Vice President and to Roger Robinson for taking over the role and duties of Treasure for the Chapter leadership. Leadership roles are not unusual for these two gentlemen.

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of two new Ambassadors for the Chapter. I would like to introduce you to Dennis Hooper, Dennis is based out of Roseburg and will coordinate our efforts in the Southern Oregon region. Dennis has been active helping with awareness events up in the valley and is ready to make things happen in southern Oregon.



Dennis Hooper, Souther OR ambassador and his girlfriend Jennifer

As many of you may be aware OPVA Charter covers SW WA, all of OR and all of ID, We are very excited to have Donald Wyatt move into the position of Ambassador for the Idaho area.

Don lives in Emmett ID and is very excited for these new opportunities to help his fellow OPVA members.



Don Wyatt, Idaho ambassador

We have just finished up our Member Pizza meetings, I would like to thank all that made it out. If you couldn't make it to one of the 5 meetings and have questions please feel free to call the office, we are here for you.

The Chapter events calendar is really starting to fill up. We have the annual Abilities Expo on April 13th at the Portland Double Tree, this is our big Awareness event we do every year, bringing products and services under one roof for the disabled community.

This event is open to all not just OPVA members, we will have a variety of nonprofit organizations as well as government agencies. Mark your calendars for April 13th and come on down you never know what you may find that you didn't know was available to you.

March is MS Awareness month as well, your chapter will be participating in several of the MS Walks throughout OR.

- Sue Holt will be heading up the Salem Walk on April 13th
- Ken Townsend (Central OR Ambassador) Bend Walk April 27th
- Dennis Hooper (So OR Ambassador) Central Point Walk April 27th
- Sue Holt (MS Liaison) Portland Walk May 11th

Come on out sign up join the Walk Roll & Thunder Team. We could use your help out walking, working the awareness table or just hanging out with other members.

For those of you who like to get out on the Ocean the Chapter is hosting 3 trips again this year to go out for bottom fish and crabbing. The first trip is coming right up on May 28th there is a flyer in this issue of the Paralog with the rest of the dates and details.

I would like to leave you with this thought. If there is something that you have a desire to get out and do..... there is no time like the present.. If you have time available your Chapter could always use you, our members to come out to some of the events we are doing.



NVWG 2018 Bowling. Photo courtesy PVA

Don't forget the 2019 NVWG is in Louisville KY this year and OPVA is building a Team of Members who would like to go and represent the Oregon Chapter... Please Contact Dan Service your Sports Director, he can help get signed up and assist you with the events you can participate in...

"Live Your Life With No Limits."






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SPORTS REPORT



NVWG 2018 Indoor Rowing. Photo courtesy PVA



Dan Service—Sports Director

Can you believe it? It's time for us to look at what activities are coming up. Like usual we will keep you informed as to what is coming up. If you have a desire to do something that is not listed, let us know and we will help you get going on it.

How's your bowling? We have 6 people registered for our league this year. For those who like to bowl we would like you to be part of our OPVA team. Family members and friends can also join the OPVA team. (Just no reimbursement for family members and friends.) If you would like to join us, please call for a registration form.



Once registered, go to any bowling alley you would like, bowl up to 3 games a week. Send us your scores and receipts for your bowling once a month. It's that simple. You can live anywhere in Oregon, SW Washington, or Idaho and be a part of our team. If interested and would like to join our team bowling at the National Veterans Wheelchair Game in Louisville, KY this summer you can do that too. If you used to bowl and haven't done it for a while, we encourage you to grab a friend or family member, then go enjoy yourself.

Our Trap team is starting up in March. Again, you can be anywhere in Oregon, SW Washington, or Idaho and be a part of our OPVA team. Just let us know what you want to, we'll let you know what shoots are going on in your area, then go have some fun.

You might even want to join us in Louisville, KY July 11-16, 2019.

For central and southern coast – Fishing Veterans of America has some activities available for you.

They are looking at providing - Bass Fishing with The Women Veterans of the Oregon Coast coming up this spring. Contact me if you are interested. Tournament style fishing with All Star Bass Fishing May-June 2019.

Disabled Sports USA also has some activities available (I will list a few events)

- Mono Ski Madness, Mammoth Lakes, CA Mar 1-3
- Veterans and Caregivers Snow Sports Camp, Higher Ground Sun Valley, Ketchum, ID, Mar 10-16
- Biathlon Camp, Mammoth Lakes CA, Mar 13-17
- Uinta Snowshoe Overnight, Park City, UT Mar 23-24

Each of these events is put on by a different organization.

You can see each event by going to www.disabledsportsusa.org, plus there are more events listed all over the United States. I even saw an event listed in Toronto. Just open the web site and under the Adaptive Sports Calendar Available Online there is a RED highlighted Learn More About the 2019 Calendar. You will be able to open up the activity and see all the information on it.

We will be contacting those who have indicated in the surveys they are interested in different activities, to see if they might be interested in **JOINING** our team at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games happening in Louisville, Kentucky July 11-16, 2019. If you need more information check out the January/February Paralog, Volume 23, Issue 1, or contact me and I will be happy to answer all your questions.

**New participants NVWG
100% of your travel and
lodging is paid for**

Again, we encourage you to check out our March and April calendar in the Paralog to see what current activities OPVA is planning.



The 39th Annual NVWG games registration will open on January 7th.

The Oregon Chapter is looking for members to sign-up to participate in the games as a TEAM representing the Oregon Chapter.

If you have never participated in the games 100% of your Travel and Lodging is paid for. Returning athletes up to 50% of Travel and Lodging is paid for.

This year's games are being held in Louisville, Kentucky. There will be more information coming, we would love to have you sign-up for some of the events and show your chapter PRIDE.

Novice or experienced wanted!
Any questions call the office 503-362-7998.

IDAHO AMBASSADOR



By Donald Wyatt – Idaho Ambassador

I received my copy of the Jan/Feb Paralog. I always read it cover to cover but I stopped after the President's News article and called OPVA office to volunteer to be an Ambassador for SW ID.

I spoke with Tom Hurt. He seemed excited to hear from me. I think he signed me up. Several years ago I tried to do this but got no where so I gave up. Idaho is under represented and personally I haven't found any NSO officers here in Boise regional office that know much about SCI or any benefits we are entitled to. It was so frustrating that I finally gave up and just went about doing my own thing the best I could.

I've been a PVA member since the early 90s and have lived in ND, AZ, OH, CA and here in Idaho since my injury in 1987. I've been here 12 years. I have been an advocate for the disabled since the Rehab Act of 1973. In the late 80s I was a member of Options Independent Living Center of East Grand Forks, MN. As a group we participated in crafting the language and requirements that we hoped would go into the newly proposed ADA.

I don't know how much our efforts helped but the Director of Options at the time, Jay Johnson, went to DC and participated in the signing ceremony and had his photo taken with lots of notable people.



Options Resource Center for Independent Living activity at Sherlock Park, East Grand Forks, Minnesota

Since my injury in 1987 I have driven over 700,000 miles, been to 47 of the lower 48 states. Delaware is the only one I may have missed.

These days I just pursue my hobby of restoring old John Deere Lawn and Garden Tractors and building related equipment for them. Emmett, ID has an annual Cherry Festival Parade and in the past I had a float in the parade. I built a scaled down version of a covered wagon and used my 4X4 wheelchair to pull it.



This is the second one. I brought this one home from Connecticut. It was dead and almost ready for the junk pile.

I restored this STX38 last winter and built the Sulky in the spring. The yard cart I built a couple of winters ago. This should give you some idea of how I keep busy.

I always read the Paralog cover to cover

My current winter project is fabricating a paddy wagon using a lawn tractor chassis. I hope to have it completed by June. I am not into sports of any kind and I don't hunt or fish anymore. I used to travel a lot but not so much these days. I help some of my neighbors with things, two are Vietnam Veterans and I spend time with family. I have a son here in ID, who is also a veteran, two tours in Afghanistan. He will retire from the Washington National Guard in June. My daughter will also retire in June as a Lt. Col. In the Oregon Air National Guard. She also lives here in the Boise area.



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Paralyzed Veterans
of America

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Parking Thru Time



Roger C. Robinson – Government Relations

In the Barbara Roberts era we at Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America sponsored a bill recalling all disabled license plates including Veterans' plates. This was done after many years of mis-use of Veterans' plates, by family members and others. You were allowed to keep your "D" license however, you needed to show a disabled permit with it.

The picture of Dave Parker and Roger Robinson, after the signing into law by Barbara Roberts 20 years ago.

Lots of changes to parking in those



20 years, more disabled persons have been added and lack parking places at some facilities.

New posted signs, if you have a light blue card and use a wheelchair, you may park in a wheelchair user only spot, the dark blue doesn't count. Another type is the Van Accessible. It's becoming harder and harder to park in a disabled space with so many new disabilities taking advantage of this. After all, when the original law passed here and in California, these were provided exactly what the

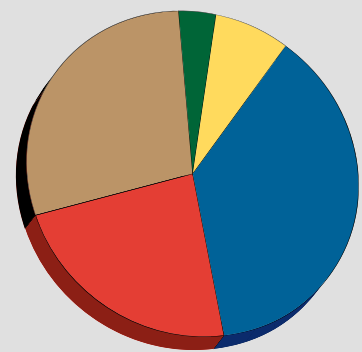
international disabled sign signified, not anymore.

This will continue to hamper our goals. Anybody have suggestions to correct this mess? Please let me know.

New law "Oregon Wounded Warrior Parking Card" all service connected vets 50% or more may apply. This exempts the driver from paying fees in public areas with metered parking. It also enables veterans time-limited spaces for longer than the posted limit (except zones that are 30 minutes or less. Go to any branch of motor vehicles and fill out forms.

Veteran Population

- World War II: 3.7%
- Korean War: 7.2%
- Vietnam War: 37.5%
- Peace Time: 22.8%
- Gulf War 9-11: 28.8%



As you can see from the pie chart we are losing a few more each year. Total veteran's population in Oregon is 303,689.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament 2019



June 22nd

Tee Off 1 pm
McNary Golf Club



Prizes

- \$10,000 Hole in 1
- Closest to the Pin
- Longest Putt
- Longests Drive

More Prizes & Awards

- Teams
Mens, Womens & Mixed
- Prizes on holes
4, 7, 8, 10, 15, 17, & 18

Cost

- Individual \$125
- Foursome \$400

Information

- 155 McNary Estates Dr N
Keizer, OR 97303
Ph: 503-362-7998
oregonpva@oregonpva.org

Register Online

www.oregonpva.org



MARCH MADNESS

MARCH 1 - APRIL 8

ONE ENTRY PER QUALIFIED REFERRAL

Go to www.UnitedAccess.com and click **REFERRAL** to register for our Vehicle Mobility Information & Referral Site (if you have not already).

For every referral submitted Until April 8
(End of March Madness Tournament)
you will be entered to win prizes!

For every referral submitted during this time & a customer makes a purchase, receive a double referral fee!
Up to \$400 check for a mobility vehicle purchase.

Gerald Lamb	3/1
Ronald Clement	3/2
Steven Tweton	3/2
Joseph Welsh	3/3
Bridgette Selby	3/3
Jeffrey Nunn	3/5
C. Greg Danielson	3/5
Brian Beninger	3/6
John McClaran	3/7
Frank Leithauser	3/8
Mark Turpin	3/8
Leslie Woods	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
Jeff Chambers	3/21
Daniel Service	3/23
Michael Carnahan	3/23
Larry Gardner	3/24
Richard Johnston	3/25
Maynard Epling	3/27
Steven Grogan	3/28
Bruce Freeberg	3/29
Brenda Marsters	4/1
Edward Suhr	4/1
Mike Neher	4/2
Darrel Ackerman	4/3
Michael Geoghegan	4/3
George Nordling	4/4
Jeffery Johnson	4/45
Daniel Watts	4/5
Steven Willard	4/7
Clinton Black	4/10
Michael Clark	4/10
Kelly Tadlock	4/10
Baughy Traweek	4/11
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
John Olson	4/22
Bruce Henion	4/23
Peter Hundahl	4/24
William Tucker	4/26
Robert Phillips	4/26
Harriet Schmidt	4/26
Rick Williams	4/27
Michael Mullett	4/29
Markus White	4/29

Happy Birthday





RECREATION FUND REPORTS



Dear OPVA,

I would like to thank OPVA organization for the tickets I was able to secure to the University of Portland Pilots basketball games of which one game was against nationally ranked Gonzaga Bulldogs. I usually can only watch Gonzaga play on the TV but due to your fund I was able to see Gonzaga play in person.

I was also able to use the fund to enjoy my favorite activity going out to restaurants with family and friends. I really appreciate the fund. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tom Weare

OPVA,

Thanks for helping Kaye and I have a great trip for a few days off. We went to Seattle to see a couple that was like a second set of parents to me when I was first out of service and was in college. They are both quite old now and I have not been able to see them for years. We were so glad to get to see them and check out my old college campus. It has changed in 50 Years.

Thanks again,
Bear & Kaye Rilling



Northwest
UNIVERSITY

To whom it concerns:

Over a year and a half ago, I had Carpal Tunnel surgery on both hands -right hand 1st and then left. To make a long history short- My left leg isn't working well enough to work the brake pedal on my truck (in my wheelchair all the time) and one of my hands is still in sleep mode which makes it difficult to get in my tuck, so with the help of the Recreation Fund I ordered hand controls for my truck which holds my camper and tows my boat when I go fishing or camping. I usually fish and crab year around and plan on getting back to that level again.

Thanks to the Recreation Fund, I will be getting back to my fishing and camping sooner which is also how I get my exercise so I am not just sitting around the house.

Thank you,
Richard Dean

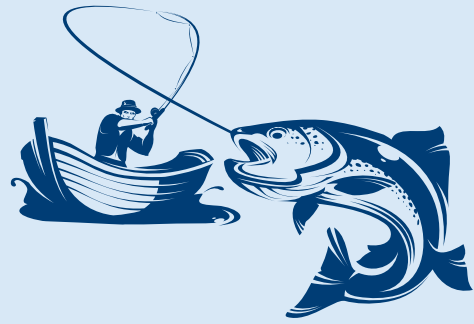


Dear OPVA,
Happy Valentine's Day. I love lobster, so when Red Lobster is having "Lobster Fest" and it's Valentines I'm taking my sweetie there. Oh my! We had so much food but it was so good plus dinner and lunch tomorrow.

Thanks for all you do.
Steve Grogan

I request my recreation fund for this year to cover our car rental which took us to the beach. (Where else?) First we visited our son in McMinnville then we headed towards Newport for fishing, fishing, fishing!

Susan Holt



Remember to Use **Your Recreation Fund**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Earlier is better in case of any problems.



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



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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						

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Mar 2 | Bend Members Pizza Meeting |
| Mar 15-17 | Portland Roadster Show |
| Mar 23 | MS Fundraiser Rummage Sale - Salem Elks |
| Mar 30 | Old Guard Riders Poker Run - Dallas |
| Mar 31 | Motorcycle Swap-meet - Portland |
| Apr 13 | OPVA Abilities Expo |
| May 4 | Jefferson Festival of Flowers Car Show |
| May 17 | Iris Festival - Keizer |



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	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 28
June 1
June 22

Deep Sea Fishing
Free Fish Day
10th Annual OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament





AS I CLOSE ONE DOOR AND OPEN ANOTHER

Sue Holt – MS Liaison

It has been 10 years last November since I received my diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis from the VA.

I do suspect I've had it much longer... I was always the last to finish dinner and always the last to finish scanning documents when I was a first year supply clerk. (Yes Virginia there was a time you had to check documents all by eyesight!)

I have decided to ask your assistance in finding a replacement to write this column. It is something that can be done at home and forwarded through email. (Just make sure you meet the dead line Marcie sets for you... please!) I've always been able to choose my own topic but I think it's time to back off and get a new perspective. Maybe someone just starting out that wants to volunteer but can't get to the office or events to do it. I would assist on any questions. Just give the office a call so we can give you any details you might want. (Keep in mind it took me a full year to come into the office and I haven't looked back since!)

One thing I've learned about M.S. is that it is a disease that is chronic, varies widely, and has a lot to learn...any takers?

Busy spring and summer coming up-March is MS Awareness Month and we will be having a Rummage Sale at the Elks Lodge in Salem, at

2336 Turner Rd. Salem, OR 97302. Time is 10 am – 4 pm on March 23rd.

Donations will be accepted until March 15 in order to make final preparations. Thanks for your support! ALL proceeds will be given to the M.S. Society for research.

**MS Rummage Sale - Elk Lodge
2336 Turner Rd. Salem, OR 97302**

We will also be participating in the following M.S. Walks-More info to follow or check www.walkMS.org

April 13-Salem

April 27-Bend

Rogue Valley

May 11-Portland

If you want to make any cash donation for MS Research, please make sure the donations are sent to the OPVA office, NOT The MS Society.

Mark your donation MS Walk-Research. We will then present a check from OPVA the day of the MS Walk in Salem!

Oh you'll still hear from me in one form or another...just call the office or send me an e-mail... I'm here for the duration!

All Proceeds Support



MS Rummage

Date: March 23rd

Time: 10am to 4pm

Location: **Elk Lodge**, 2336 Turner Rd. SE
Salem, OR 97302

Fundraiser Sponsored by



Paralyzed Veterans
of America



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

January 18, 2019

Volume 25, Number 1

PVA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2019

This January marks the start of the 116th Congress. With the House of Representatives now under the leadership of Democrats, new members of Congress sworn in, and a partial government shutdown in effect there is much work to be done.

In 2019, PVA will prioritize legislation that ensures veterans continue to have access to high quality, comprehensive, and veteran-centric health care as well as timely and accurate delivery of all earned benefits. One of our top areas of focus will be ensuring proper congressional oversight of the VA MISSION Act (Public Law 115-182). Congress must conduct vigorous oversight to ensure that the new VA community care program and the expansion of VA's comprehensive caregiver program are completed not only within the timelines laid out by the VA MISSION Act but also within the spirit and letter of the law. Access to specialized services within VA, including the spinal cord injury/disorder (SCI/D) system of care, must also remain strong. In addition, we will work to expand eligibility for VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program to veterans with service-connected illnesses, improve access to VA's long-term services and supports, and ensure access to in-vitro fertilization (IVF).

Other priorities involve benefits improvements and implementation of appeals reform. We will advocate for Congress to provide appropriate oversight of VA's implementation of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act (Public Law 115-55) to ensure that veterans' claims are properly adjudicated. We will also

advocate for improved ancillary benefits for veterans with catastrophic disabilities, including those that would strengthen the Specially Adapted Housing and Automobile Allowance Grants.

PVA also will advocate for legislation that ensures veterans with disabilities have equity in access to the opportunities and freedoms available to all Americans to allow them to live, work, travel, and fully participate in society. A top area of focus for PVA will continue to be improving access to air travel for people with disabilities by strengthening Air Carrier Access Act enforcement through referral of certain complaints to the U.S. Attorney General and a private right of action, and requiring airlines to ensure that airplanes meet broad accessibility standards. Other areas of focus will include protecting the Americans with Disabilities Act from efforts to undermine its protections; preserving and strengthening financial and health security for people with disabilities; and ensuring that disaster response and recovery efforts are able to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

INDEPENDENT BUDGET VS OS RELEASE THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET VETERANS AGENDA FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

On January 17th, DAV, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States released The Independent Budget Veterans Agenda for the 116th Congress, which contains policy recommendations to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs remains fully-funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families

both now and in the future. The Independent Budget is a roadmap for the 116th Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Administration to navigate critical veteran issues. It includes detailed recommendations in the areas of benefits, health care, infrastructure, education, employment, training, and memorial concerns facing veterans and their families.

The Independent Budget sets full and faithful implementation of the VA MISSION Act as the critical issue for the 116th Congress. This historic legislation reforms the way in which veterans access care in their community, invests in VA's capacity to provide care at its health care facilities, calls for assessment and modernization of VA infrastructure, and corrects the inequity of the VA Caregiver Support Program. The groups see proper implementation of this Act as central to ensuring all enrolled veterans have timely access to quality care and that the VA health care system remains strong.

The Independent Budget veterans agenda is being delivered to VA and congressional leaders and is now available at independentbudget.org.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN **IMPACT ON PROGRAMS AFFECTING** **PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

As the federal government shutdown becomes the longest in U.S. history, the effects of the closure of nine departments have begun to ripple beyond the immediate impact on roughly 800,000 workers that are currently furloughed or working without pay. While the dispute has centered on funding for a southern border wall or border security within the Department of Homeland Security, several other federal agencies' appropriations were not completed by the end of the fiscal year and are thus unable to operate until such time as legislation passes to reopen them. Among those other agencies are

Agriculture (USDA), Commerce, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Interior, Justice, State, Transportation, Treasury as well as several smaller agencies, including the U.S. Access Board.

Because they were funded under separate appropriations bills, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare, and programs under the Department of Veterans Affairs are not affected by the shutdown; however, some 10,000 veterans who use the Indian Health Service (IHS) as their VA Choice provider cannot access IHS facilities. In addition, members of the Coast Guard are also not receiving pay.

While Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers are expected to remain on the job without pay, many TSA workers have been calling in sick leading to increasing lines at numerous airport security checkpoints around the country. Air travel is already a challenge for many travelers with disabilities so the delays caused by personnel shortages are likely to exacerbate those circumstances. And because thirty percent of the Transportation Department's workforce is furloughed, complaint processing and resolution is likely to be impeded.

With 95 percent of its employees furloughed, HUD has been unable to renew more than 1000 contracts that provide federal subsidies to landlords who own and operate Section 8 housing. This affects roughly 70,000 to 85,000 low-income households. If the shutdown continues into February, hundreds more contracts affecting another 30,000 to 40,000 households could expire. Failure to renew these contracts could force delays in critical repairs and place families at risk of eviction. Roughly two-thirds of these households are elderly or people who have disabilities with incomes, on average, of less than \$13,000 per year. In addition, contracts under HUD's Section 202 program are also at risk for renewal, threatening the housing of

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400,000 low-income older adults in almost 6,700 communities nationwide.

While USDA has not issued any information about its housing benefits programs, over a quarter million families in rural communities rely on this department's rental assistance. If the shutdown continues, those families, many of whom are seniors and people with disabilities, could also face eviction. Food assistance programs for women, children and infants and for people on Native American reservations continue to operate at the state and local level, depending on what funding remains, but federal funding for those programs is suspended until the shutdown ends.

Finally, it should be noted that the shutdown affects considerable numbers of workers with disabilities who represent over 14 percent of the overall federal workforce. For veterans with service-connected disabilities, the federal government is a significant source of employment. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 19 percent of these veterans are employed by it. In the agencies affected by the shutdown, over 50,000 employees are individuals and veterans with disabilities.

PVA will continue to monitor the impact of the shutdown on veterans and people with disabilities and update members and their families as needed.

In mid-December, PVA advocacy staff took part in the first of a series of forums sponsored by SourceAmerica and The Lab at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to gain a better understanding of the current state of disability employment in the U.S. and the changes needed to create a more inclusive future workforce. SourceAmerica is a nonprofit agency associated with the AbilityOne program and The Lab at OPM was created to promote improvements in public services.

Participants in the forums include representatives from Ability One, the federal government, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, and a number of disability advocacy groups such as the Association of University Centers on Disability, RespectAbility, American Council of the Blind, and other organizations interested in disability inclusive employment. The discussions are based on the premise that the employment landscape is evolving quickly and the nature of how, when, and where people work continues to change. Despite extensive research and focus on the "future of work," little attention has been paid to the potential impact on populations underrepresented in the workforce such as people with disabilities.

Objectives of the forums that will take place between December 2018 and May 2019 include the mapping of the complex systems of disability employment in the US; outlining models showing the role that educational, workforce development, and policy systems currently play, as well as potential changes needed; and a detailed report that includes specific recommendations for change. The most immediate goal of this initiative is to ensure that people with disabilities are included in the national dialogue about the future of work. The sponsors hope, ultimately, to create a framework for policies and programs that continue to increase access to meaningful, sustainable careers for people with disabilities through collaboration among stakeholders.

VA ANNOUNCES MORATORIUM ON DISCHARGES FROM CAREGIVER PROGRAM

Following a joint hearing with the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, the VA announced on December 21st, a suspension of discharges from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. The release

said VA was doing so because of “continued concerns expressed by veterans, caregivers and advocates about inconsistent application of eligibility requirements by VA medical centers.” The suspension comes amidst congressional accusations that VA is intentionally discharging those veterans not yet able to function without a caregiver. This suspicion is made more concerning as VA is preparing to expand the program to those veterans injured before 9/11. The suspension does not affect those currently seeking admittance to the program. It is unclear how long the suspension will last.

JOINT HOUSE AND SENATE HEARING ON VA MISSION ACT IMPLEMENTATION

On December 18th, the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs held a joint hearing, “Tracking Transformation: VA MISSION Act Implementation.” VA Secretary Robert Wilkie testified on the status of the monumental legislation, which was signed into law on June 6th. Of particular concern to the members of Congress, is the progress of the planning for the overhaul of VA’s private sector health care network. VA is expected to provide its blueprint to Congress in March. The plan is to be in place in time for the conclusion of the VA Choice Program in May.

At the hearing, committee members questioned Secretary Wilkie on why they, the authors of the legislation, had not been kept better apprised of implementation plans in the six months since enactment. Of particular worry to Congress and veterans service organizations, is the secrecy around the development of access standards for private care. Currently, those veterans waiting more than 30 days or living 40 miles from a VA are eligible to use a community provider paid by the VA. The VA MISSION Act allows for the changing of these standards. PVA will continue

to seek opportunities to work with VA to ensure developed access standards meet the needs of veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders.

VA AND THE ADJUDICATION OF ALS CLAIMS

On November 20th, the VA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) released a report on the Accuracy of Claims Involving Service-Connected Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Among other details in the report, the OIG discovered that VA made 71 errors in 45 of the examined 100 veterans’ ALS claims completed from April through September 2017. Based on this review, the OIG projected that 430 of the 960 total ALS veterans’ cases (45 percent) completed during that six-month period had erroneous decisions.

This is extremely important to PVA since as an organization we represent roughly 75 percent of the veterans who have filed for benefits for ALS. Furthermore, PVA is known to be a subject matter expert in properly developing and filing ALS claims. Often, veterans will have other veterans service organizations file their initial claims, but later have PVA take representation and make the necessary changes so the claim can be granted.

On November 29th, shortly after the OIG report was released, the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee held a hearing to discuss it. Shortly after the hearing, PVA conducted a nationwide survey of its field employees to determine the experience of each National Service Officer with filing claims for benefits for veterans with ALS.

On December 17th, Peter Gaytan, Associate Executive Director of the Veterans Benefits Department, Joseph Badzmierowski, Director of Field Services, and Steven Henry, Associate

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Legislative Director meet with Willie Clark, VA's Deputy Under Secretary of Field Operations, to discuss how to improve the claims process for veterans with ALS. During the meeting, PVA discussed the importance of maintaining continuity between National Service Officers and VA. At the conclusion of the meeting, all agreed to maintain communication and to schedule a meeting in the future to address ongoing concerns.

Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut
Mazie Hirono, Hawaii
Joe Manchin, West Virginia
Kyrsten Sinema, Arizona

Also, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mark Takano (D-CA) has announced the Democratic members of the House committee for the 116th Congress.

HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS ROSTERS FOR 116TH CONGRESS

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Johnny Isakson (R-GA) announced the full committee roster for the 116th Congress

Republican Members

Johnny Isakson, Georgia (Chairman)
Thom Tillis, North Carolina
Jerry Moran, Kansas
Dan Sullivan, Alaska
John Boozman, Arkansas
Marsha Blackburn, Tennessee
Bill Cassidy, Louisiana
Kevin Cramer, North Dakota
Mike Rounds, South Dakota

Democratic Members

Jon Tester, Montana (Ranking Member)
Bernie Sanders, Vermont (Independent)
Patty Murray, Washington
Sherrod Brown, Ohio

- Congressman Mark Takano (CA)
- Congresswoman Julia Brownley (CA)
- Congresswoman Kathleen Rice (NY)
- Congressman Conor Lamb (PA)
- Congressman Mike Levin (CA)
- Congressman Max Rose (NY)
- Congressman Anthony Brindisi (NY)
- Congresswoman Susie Lee (NV)
- Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL)
- Congressman Joe Cunningham (SC)
- Congresswoman Elaine Luria (VA)
- Congressman Chris Pappas (NH)
- Congressman Colin Allred (TX)
- Congressman Collin Peterson (MN)
- Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Northern Mariana Islands)

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Phil Roe (R-TN) has not yet announced the Republican members of the committee.



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
Government Relations Department
801 Eighteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006
(800) 424-8200 • (800) 795-4327 • www.pva.org



Paralyzed Veterans
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Oregon Chapter

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Oregon Chapter

Deep Sea



Dates & Times

Tue May 28th - 5:30 am

Tue Aug 13th - 6:00 am

Wed Sep 11th - 6:30 am

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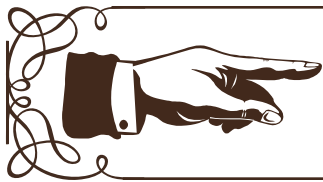
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(541) 765-2545

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

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MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

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

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

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

Date of Birth: ___ / ___ / _____ **Social Security Number:** _____ Male Female

Race/Ethnicity:

- Asian/Pacific Islander
- African American/Descent
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American/Alaskan Native
- Caucasian

Address: _____ **City:** _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Email:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Other Phone:** _____

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

Please submit the following with application:

- Proof of U.S. or U.S. Territorial Citizenship (Birth Certificate, Passport, INS Form, or Voter’s Registration Form).
- DD214 showing character of discharge.
- Medical evidence of spinal cord injury or involvement (medical records or physician’s statement).

Proof of active duty status must be verified prior to membership approval.

Have you been discharged under conditions that are less than honorable? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

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

DISABILITY CLASSIFICATION

Injury or diseases involving the brain but not the spinal cord do not qualify.

SPINAL CORD INJURY

Complete only if you have a traumatic spinal cord injury.

Date of Injury: ___ / ___ / _____

Cause of Spinal Cord Injury:

- Vehicular (car, motorcycle, aircraft, etc.)
- Violence (gunshot, explosion, etc.)
- Flying/Falling object
- Sport/Recreation (swimming, diving, etc.)
- Pedestrian (car accident, etc.)
- Unknown
- Other traumatic injury: _____

SPINAL CORD DISEASE

Complete only if there is no spinal cord injury.

Date of Diagnosis/Onset of Condition: ___ / ___ / _____

Specific Disease Involving Spinal Cord:

- Multiple Sclerosis
- Poliomyelitis
- Syringomyelia
- Amyotrophic diseases
(lateral sclerosis, transverse myelitis)
- Other: _____



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

The Veterans Benefits Department advocates for quality health care for our members and can assist you to obtain the appropriate benefits available as a result of your military service.

Is Paralyzed Veterans of America presently your accredited representative? Yes No

If yes, I hereby request that my eligibility for membership in the Paralyzed Veterans of America be certified. I consent to process my submitted medical documentation to a confidential review by a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Medical Staff, to validate that my condition presents as having spinal cord involvement and to allow official Certification by the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Secretary. I have no objection and hereby permit Paralyzed Veterans of America Service Officers to provide information to the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Membership Department that pertains to my qualifications for membership/certification.

I declare that I have read and meet the qualifications. I understand that my membership/certification could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** ___ / ___ / _____

I do not wish to become a certified member

OFFICE USE ONLY

CAUTION TO ANYONE HAVING ACCESS TO THESE DOCUMENTS

The documents provided by the requester are personal in nature and are for membership eligibility and certification only. Information contained within these documents shall be treated with extreme confidentiality and released only to those employees of Paralyzed Veterans of America authorized to access.

I certify that I have personally examined the documents provided by the requester and find him/her to be eligible for membership/certification.

National Secretary's Signature: _____

Date Received: ___ / ___ / _____ **Date Acted Upon:** ___ / ___ / _____

Member ID Number: _____

Date Received: ___ / ___ / _____ **Date Processed:** ___ / ___ / _____



Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

January 28-29, 2019
San Diego, CA

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 6-7, 2019
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 30-31, 2019
Milwaukee, WI

New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament*

April 26-28, 2019
Brockton, MA

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

April 26-27, 2019
Geneva, OH

*indicates combined events

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

North Central Trapshoot

September 8-9, 2018
Sioux Falls, SD

Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament and Handgun Shoot

November 9-11, 2018
Charles City, VA

Arizona Shooting Sports Tournament

February 8-10, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

March 29-31, 2019
Redlands, CA
Pistol Shoot - March 29, 2019
Lytle Creek, CA

Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

May 17-19, 2019
Rifle/Pistol Shoot - May 17, 2019
Green Bay, WI

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament

May 31-June 2, 2019
Elburn, IL

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament

June 14-16, 2019
Pistol Event - June 14, 2019
Cedar Rapids, IA

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament

June 21-23, 2019
Waxahachie, TX

PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament

September 21-23, 2018
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament

October 5-7, 2018
Whittington, IL

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament

March 29-31, 2019
Tavares, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament

May 3-5, 2019
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament

June 7-9, 2019
Henrico, VA

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-South Billiards Tournament

October 12-13, 2018
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Battle at the Beach

November 16-18, 2018
Virginia Beach, VA

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem

March 22-24, 2019
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament

April 5-7, 2019
Oklahoma City, OK

Buckeye Billiards Tournament

June 14-15, 2019
Wickliffe, OH
Mountain States Billiards Tournament
June 21-22, 2019
Fountain, CO

BOCCIA

Gateway Boccia Tournament

October 18-20, 2018
St. Louis, MO

Bayou Boccia Tournament

November 30-December 1, 2018
Gulfport, MS

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament

January 2019
Richmond, VA

Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament

February 19-20, 2019
San Diego, CA

Arizona Boccia Tournament

April 6-7, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

New England Combined Air Rifle and Boccia Tournament

April 26-28, 2019
Brockton, MA

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament

July 12-15, 2018
Council Bluffs, IA

Mountain States Bowling Tournament

August 15-18, 2018
Colorado Springs, CO

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament

September 28-30, 2018
Glen Allen, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament

November 29-Dec 2, 2018
Las Vegas, NV

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament

February 21-24, 2019
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament

April 12-14, 2019
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament

June 27-30, 2019
Romeoville, IL

HANDCYCLING RACING

Museum of Aviation Marathon

January 12, 2019
Warner Robins, GA

PVA Racing High Performance Camp

January 26-February 1, 2019
Brooksville, FL

Top End Euro-American HC Championships

February 2-3, 2019
Gainesville, FL

Valley of the Sun

February 16-18, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

One City Marathon

March 2, 2019
Newport News, VA

Off-Road Spring Expo

April 19-21, 2019
Chesterfield, VA

PVA Learn to Race Camp

April 23-26, 2019
Gettysburg, PA

Blue and Gray Half Marathon and Criterium

April 27-28, 2019
Gettysburg, PA

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



For more information, visit:
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