

PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

May/June 2016
Volume 20, Issue 3



Gold Cup Tournament
McNary Golf Club
June 4, 2016
(Info: Page 23)



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Oregon Chapter

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OPVA Mission

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America is committed to taking those actions necessary to improve the quality of life and to protect the rights of spinal cord injured or neurologically impaired veterans through: veterans benefits protection; advocacy; legislation; sports and recreation; hospital liaison and spinal cord research.

Vancouver VA Primary Care Contact Phone Numbers

(360) 696-4061
(503) 220-8262 ext. 31665 (Portland)
(800) 949-1004 ext. 31665

After Hours Number
(888) 233-8305

**Portland VA Contact
Phone Number**
(503) 273-5308

Patient Advocates
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Kelly Williams

National Service Officer

Ken Fink

(800) 795-3627
Fax: (503) 412-4763

Do you need assistance with your claims or benefits?



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of America**
Oregon Chapter

Board of Directors

Front Row (left to right): Dave Parker, Jack Howell, Bill Blake, Toby Newton and Bill Gray.
Second Row: Dan Service, Mike Rosenbalm and Louie Grimmer. Back Row: Larry Gardner and Roger Robinson



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OPVA Raffle Car



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President's Greeting

Bill Blake—President

Spring is finally here. We had an extremely nice April and we are hoping for an awesome May and June. Many years “summer” doesn’t start until after the 4th of July.

As an old nurseryman, I must say that once the night time temperatures are consistently over 50 degrees it is safe to plant your garden. I think we are at that point. For gardeners in wheelchairs the ideal way to garden it is with containers. Anything from a big pot, or have a friend build you some raised garden and flower beds. The planting soil by Miracle Grow has added water holding properties.

Cherry tomatoes or the yellow variety Royal Gold are fantastic. Roses do well in larger containers. Of course you can create any kind of mixed container. Try to avoid southwest exposure to help with watering and keep the container from overheating. Let us know how it turns out!!!

Hope you take the time to carefully read the Paralog. This is where we let you know what events are scheduled. We would very much like to see you at some of these events. Some of the events are: Free Fish Day up at Detroit Lake on June 4th.

If you have kids or grandkids that would enjoy a special day, join us. I think we have enough fishing poles that all kids will get a free setup.

The Golf Tournament at McNary Golf Course in Keizer is also on June 4th followed by an Auction and Banquet at McNary.

Our summer picnic is on June 11th at Cascade Gateway Park in Salem. We would really like a big turnout. Weather should be perfect. Really would like to see all of you at the picnic.

Hope you take the time to carefully read the Paralog

Met some outstanding younger men and women who have formed a group in Portland and Salem called The Spinal Cord Injury Connection. They are very interested in working with recently disabled men and women who find themselves in wheelchairs and having to make the transition into our world. We are updating our Associate Membership Program and will publish the new and improved program in our next Paralog.



Two locations to serve you:

Ability Center of Portland

9770 SW Wilsonville Rd.

Ste. 440

Wilsonville, OR 97070

(971) 224-5895

Ability Center of Eugene:

3574 Marcola Rd.

Springfield, OR 97477

(541) 726-4001



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Support Your Chapter



Vice President's/ Hospital Liaison Report

Mike Rosenbalm - Vice President /Hospital Liaison

In celebration of 2016 National Volunteer Week (April 10-16) the PVA Oregon chapter thanks the efforts of all our volunteers. In 1961, our 35th president John F. Kennedy stated in his inauguration speech:

“My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

Those were brave words spoken by a brave man. But, I challenge our membership. Have we lost the willingness to contribute, to serve those that serve us? Should we not work as a collective membership to ask what we as members can bring forth together so all can enjoy what we as a group collectively and individually provide one another? Without a mantra of collective service, the few that contribute are left to provide for the rest.

We are better than that. I urge our members to volunteer, attend a chapter event, bring forth an event idea, a program opportunity or something you would like to see the chapter engage in. We will work with you, bring that idea to our Board of Directors and see if we can make it happen.

Have we lost the willingness to contribute, to serve those that serve us?

PVA volunteers do invaluable work that makes a real difference to veterans, their communities and our PVA chapter. Volunteering can change your life, too.

Why is it so rewarding:

- Volunteers make their communities a better place to live.
- You can work for an organization and mission you believe in.
- Having a positive impact on others feels great.
- You can meet new people and develop new leadership skills.
- Family volunteering lets you spend time with loved ones while helping others.

We could use volunteers in the following events:

- Oregon PVA booth-Willamette Speedway May 21
- Oregon PVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament June 4
- Oregon PVA Lebanon Veteran Home Hot Dog Feed June 8
- Oregon PVA booth-Marion County Fair June 7 – 10
- Oregon PVA Members Picnic June 11
- Oregon PVA booth-Spirit Mountain Casino Car Show June 18
- Oregon PVA booth-Grange to Grange Cruise-n-Ride Poker Run July 16
- Oregon PVA Show & Shine Car Show August 13
- Oregon PVA booth-Oregon State Fair August 26-September 5
- Oregon PVA office assist with miscellaneous projects

We could use volunteers in the following programs:

- Sports and Recreation
- Membership
- Government Relations
- Hospital Liaison
- Fundraising

Volunteers get reimbursed for mileage and meals (after 6 hours). If you have no transportation and would like to volunteer, you can volunteer from home for some projects.

Becoming an Oregon PVA volunteer has never been easier. Oregon PVA volunteer program offers a variety of opportunities to contribute, plus you can commit to as many or as few hours as you choose. Call the Chapter at 503-362-7998 or 1-800-333-0782 to request a Volunteer Activation Form or download from our website www.oregonpva.org and get involved.

If for some reason you're unable to volunteer try to attend PVA sponsored events such as the

Oregon PVA Abilities Expo that was held April 16th. The Abilities Expo had several vendors and nonprofits in attendance demonstrating their products and services. I personally learned about some pretty cool new products and services available not only to veterans but the disabled communities. We want and need your support.

2016 PVA Educational Scholarship Program

Applications must be completed in full and postmarked no later than June 17, 2016.

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) is proud to offer assistance to Paralyzed Veterans' members, and members of their immediate families, through Paralyzed Veterans' Educational Scholarship Program. The program will award scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to full-time students and \$500 to part-time students for an academic year up to approximately \$10,000 in total scholarship funding.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

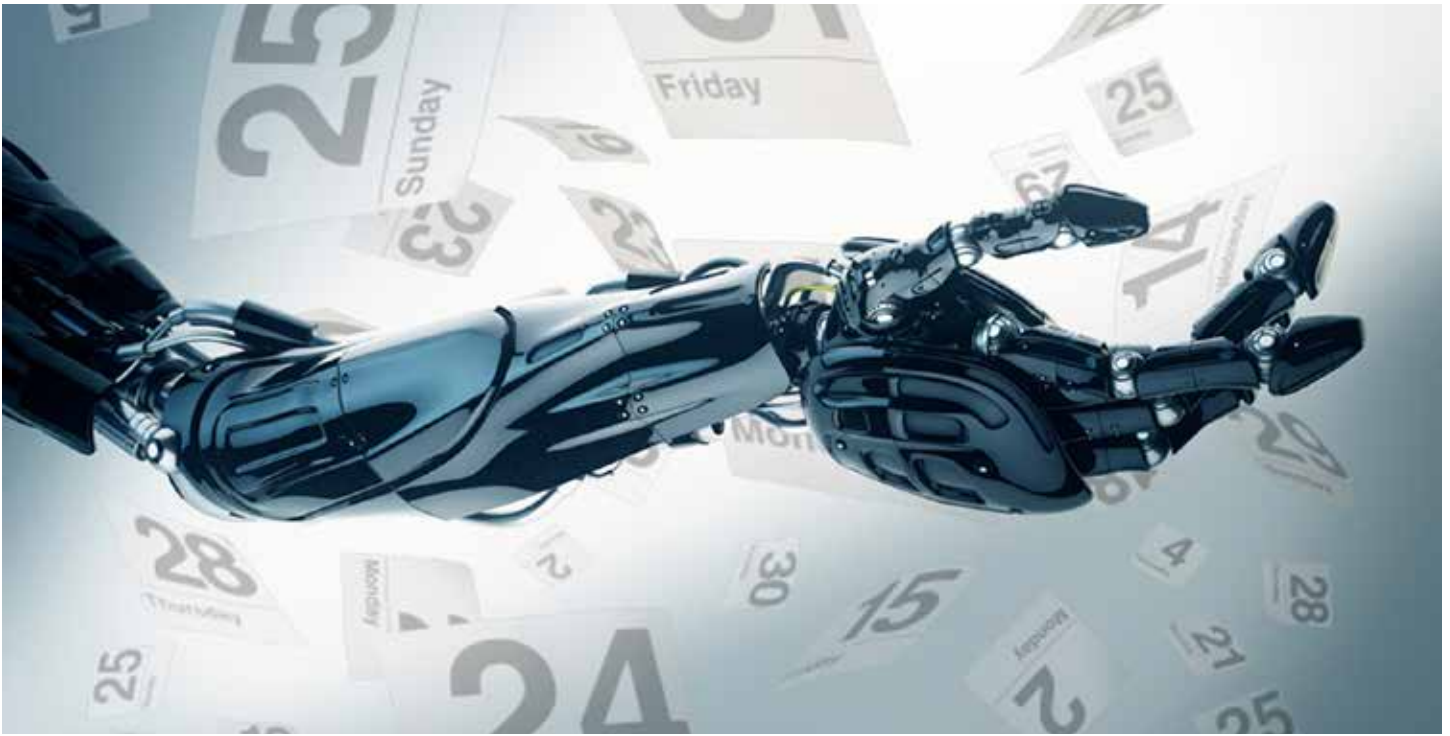
- Must be either a Paralyzed Veterans' Member, the spouse of a member, or an unmarried child (under 24 years of age) who is dependent (as defined by the IRS) on the member for principal support.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must be accepted and enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited U.S. college or university.

Previous award recipients may apply.

All components of the application must be postmarked by June 17, 2016. Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please mail all completed applications to:
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Attn: Christi Hillman, Communications & Membership Department
801 18th St, NW Washington, DC 20006

For more information regarding the PVA Educational Scholarship Program, including where to download the scholarship application contact Christi Hillman at 800-424-8200 ext. 776; christih@pva.org.



Prosthetic Delays

Reprinted from PN December 2014

By Fred Downs

Reports to PVA say the VA Prosthetic Service is adding requirements that increase the paperwork necessary for a disabled veteran to receive certain items.

I'm disturbed by reports Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) receives from the field about the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Prosthetic Service adding requirements that increase the paperwork necessary for a disabled veteran to receive certain items.

An example is the expanded use of VA form 10-2641. That form has been in use for decades as a method for field offices to send requests for special and/or experimental appliances to the VA central office for review and approval.

It was a quick and simple method to alert VA's Special Disability Services that a new technology was available.

The Special Disability Service director, such as the spinal-cord injury chief, would review the form and approve or disapprove it for use by

disabled veterans. The field office would then be advised of the decision.

If it was approved, the order could be filled without further delay.

The Veteran Or The Money?

That simple efficient form is no longer used in that manner.

Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service sent new instructions to the field on Dec. 11, 2012, that require certain items to always be sent to the VA central office for review, no matter how many times they've been approved in the past.

The new instructions include a checklist of required documents. The checklist is a duplication of questions asked in the original 2641 form.

The checklist may fulfill bureaucratic needs but it doesn't add value to the process of prescribing and receiving a prosthetic device or service. In fact, it hinders and intimidates the

clinicians who write prescriptions, discourages the disabled veteran who needs it and wastes valuable time for all concerned to go through a process that has been made more cumbersome and negative in its demeanor.

Perhaps the most disturbing requirement is that all adaptive sports and recreation equipment over \$3,000 must be submitted for review by form 2641 along with an additional two-page supplement. The questions in the supplement inquire about the veteran's use or need for the device.

This is another bureaucratic exercise in needless and cumbersome paperwork that hinders and intimidates the clinical team from writing the consult, frustrates the veteran and wastes valuable time.

Is this about the veteran or is it about money?

Stonewalling

PVA has received reports from members that those in power wheelchairs are being denied clothing allowances at the VA.

The reason being given by Prosthetic Service staff is that power wheelchairs users don't snag or harm their clothes like those who use manual chairs.

Obviously, whoever came up with that reasoning has never been in a chair or used a prosthetic or orthotic device.

PVA has also received reports that adaptive automobile equipment that was approved in the past is now being denied.

These issues and others are adversely affecting the VA's ability to properly meet the needs of disabled veterans. One of the major reasons for that is because the VA central office decided about three years ago to stonewall veteran service organizations (VSO).

The VA was not including VSOs in the deliberation of actions that would affect the veterans they represent and serve.

A Tactical Error

In the past, PVA and other VSOs would have been invited to sit down with VA staff and officials. Together, they would discuss the impact on veterans from any changes that were going to be made to directives, policies and guidelines.

PVA, Disabled American Veterans and Blinded Veterans of America have a particular focus on disabilities and are the experts on disabled veterans.

Frankly, the decision to stonewall the VSOs was a great tactical error on the part of the VA because it had an adverse effect on the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) strategy. By excluding the representatives of the very veterans they serve, the VHA went blindly forward into an abyss.

Now is the time for VSOs to step forward and help the VHA make corrections.

Back To The Veteran

An area that needs input from VSOs is prosthetics and special disabilities.

PVA has notified the VHA Network Directors that it's going to bring problems in the network directly to their attention. PVA National Service Officers (NSO) will bring all prosthetic delays more than 30 days old to the attention of the national office. PVA will take those cases to the VA central office to review and resolve.

Veterans with spinal-cord injuries or disease, members of PVA or not, should bring prosthetic delays or problems to a PVA NSO, who will forward that to the national office to resolve. PVA will hold VHA accountable.

PVA believes it was all about the money and the VA has lost focus on the veteran. It intends to bring it back to the veteran.

Fred Downs is the prosthetics policy consultant for PVA.

Oregon PVA members if you experience a prosthetics delay that is more than 30 days old. Please complete the Prosthetics Delay Report Form on the page.
Fax the completed form to (202) 416-7754 or email to prosthetics@pva.org



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Prosthetics Delay Report Form

Responsible PVA Service Office: _____ Date: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

SSN: _____ *no dashes* Age: _____ PVA Member: Yes No

Description of disabling condition that necessitates reliance on prosthetics,
including the date of injury:

Are you service-connected: Yes No

Item/Device/Equipment ordered:

Date Ordered: _____

Prescribing Clinician/Therapist: _____

VA Medical Center: _____

Veteran Integrated Service Network (1-23): _____

Order delayed more than 30 days: Denied:

Reasons given for decision:

Impact of delay/denial:



MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER#!

Roger C. Robinson

Membership has decreased to 357. There are very few new injuries, mostly old however, the Seattle VA seems to be always full. The new parking facility is now open. New disabled parking is patrolled and enforced. You may unload your gear in front of the center and then park your vehicle. If you are having problems getting prescriptions and prosthetics, call me or Mike Rosenbaum at the office.

Free fishing day is June 4th at Detroit Lake, free for all, including lunch. A limited amount of fishing poles and shirts given at registration. Fun for all from 10am to 3pm

We would like to invite you to our Annual Members Picnic, June 11th at Cascade Gateway Park. It is just behind Wal-Mart on Turner Rd, in the pavilion from 9am to 3pm. There are games and a Bar-B-Q, for the whole family.

Don't forget Deep Sea Fishing trips begin in July call the office for more information.

September, 16th, 17th, & 18th the Reno International Air Races. The Blue Angels are on Sat and Sun. Passes include the Pits. If you love aircrafts this is the one! It includes wild air shows and demos between races. Lots of lodging still available from \$60 to \$100. Bus transportation directly to the air field daily. Fun begins at 9am and the last race is at 4pm. Call Roger at the office for passes. There are a limited number of passes available, first come, first served. You can use your recreation fund for reimbursement and this may be the last year for the Recreation Fund. So, what are you waiting for?

P.S. Buses are lift equipped.



As I see I it

Louie Grimmer

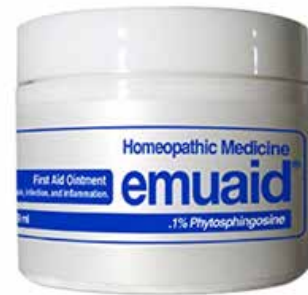
Before I joined OPVA, June 1978, I met a young man named Brosie Lathan who asked me if I was a member of PVA. I told him I never heard of it, and then he gave me a card from Ron Heard, who I didn't call for a month or so. I went to a meeting to check it out, that is where I met President Vic Mazzaco who explained why I should join OPVA, I had no clue what was available to vets who were experiencing difficulties. Having MS was not a big deal at that time I was able to do most things like playing WC basketball, hunting, fishing, and anything I wanted to do. I finely gave Ron a call and I was expecting a runaround but what happened was breathtaking. He explained that I was SERVICE CONNECTED and told me what that meant.

Enough about me, to be continued in next Paralog.

I found that leg bags didn't come with straps and tried various solutions but, most did not work well enough to keep the leg bag from being exposed. There were times that some little kid would say "Mommy what's that?" until then. Well at last I found Elastic Button Hole Tape that works perfectly with my Hollister leg bags.



Available at JOANN Fabric and Craft Stores, you can buy Button Hole Elastic 3/4" wide 30 yards for less than \$20, a real lifesaver.



I have found this product very effective when dealing with dry scaly patches of skin.

About the product

- 97.6% Customer Success Rate
- Breakthrough Results within 48 hrs.

Thanks for the great response on the Anti Monkey Butt from the last Paralog.

Contact me with suggestions or comments at: opva.asiseeit@gmail.com

Consider adding to your Will or Trust Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America



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Donation Form

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Address: _____

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking Enforcement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sport | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy | |

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



Recreation Fund Reports



Oregon PVA:

Coming to the weekend of April 1, 2, 3, 2016, the weather was beautiful, the wind predictions for Odell lake were favorable (low winds, on a commonly windy lake), and the itch to fish was rearing it's (not so ugly) head.

I made a quick call to Shelter Cove Resort at Odell Lake, confirmed a reservation for Friday and Saturday nights, and we were off, with my son's boat in tow.

There was still a goodly amount of snow on the south side of the lake where the resort is located, but the roads were plowed and we drove right in with no problems.

The setting was breathtaking. Since I am ambulatory for short distances using crutches, access was not a major problem. Just using much caution to keep the crutches well grounded on the sometimes slippery surfaces. My family is always so helpful to me in these situations.

They get me into the boat and away we go (while it's not pretty, me getting down on the dock and rolling into the boat while someone lifts my feet over and in, it works). Fishing

was slow. We spent Saturday trolling. Fishing mostly for Kokanee, but switching off to try for Mackinaw for a while. Both proved fruitless, so we returned to the cabin late afternoon and enjoyed a second cozy evening sitting in front of the lake view picture window, cooking dinner and playing games.

Sunday morning my Son & I went out alone to fish for a short while as we had to check out of the cabin by 11:00. We did get into a school of Kokanee and tried jigging for them, a new technique for us (but one commonly used at Odell). After a short learning curve, hooking and loosing several fish, we did finally figure out how to get them in the boat. Alas, our time was running out, so just as we felt we were getting good at it, it was time to go. But we did return to the dock with a few fat Koke's and made the others wish they had gone out with us.

Looking forward to returning a bit later after the camp grounds open up and applying our new knowledge of jigging technique.

Thanks,
Dick Kyser

OPVA Birthday List

Delilah Sieglitz	5/3	Rex Stevens	6/3
George Gratzner	5/5	Kelly Jordan	6/6
Clifford Maxwell	5/6	Michael Cowan	6/7
Alexander Smith	5/6	Russell Goffin	6/9
Thomas Geary	5/7	Larry Whitmire	6/10
Anne Wyatt	5/7	Leslie Fleming	6/12
Donald Linwood	5/9	Miguel Vera	6/12
Corwin Wunn	5/11	Chris Studwell	6/13
Donald Hofford	5/15	Patrick Rivelli	6/13
Edward Curtis	5/18	Daniel Chytka	6/13
William Russo	5/21	Kevin Parker	6/13
Douglas Hostetler	5/22	Frederick Parker	6/14
Lonnie Morgan	5/22	Borden ("Butch") Hessel	6/14
Melinda Cohen-Huntley	5/23	Gerald Sandlin	6/15
Donald Lambert	5/24	Fritz VonAllmen	6/16
Toby Newton	5/24	Kenneth Swiderski	6/16
Thomas Hartzell	5/25	Terry Ogan	6/17
Michael O'Connor	5/25	Neal Chamberlain	6/17
John Solomonson	5/26	William Gray	6/19
Steve Hubley	5/26	Gary Tucker	6/21
Michael Miner	5/26	Michael Lavelle	6/22
Susan Hruza	5/28	Peter Parsons	6/23
Matthew Allmaras	5/28	Michelle Morris	6/25
Michael McAlvage	5/31	Joel Satoris	6/27
Carl Jensen	6/1	Robert Moore	6/27
Nels Hadden	6/1	Gordon Pike	6/29
Justin Larson	6/1		

Remember to Use **Your Recreation Fund**



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

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

Simply send in your receipts along with a one to two paragraph description of what you did to have fun with your friends and family. We like pictures too, they may make it into the Paralog. All receipts must be dated within this current fiscal year and used within this current fiscal year, mail to: the Oregon PVA, **3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305**

No later than September 30th



Please contact the office at 503-362-7998 or 1-800-333-0782 if you have any questions or require additional information



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter



Sports Updates

Larry Gardner—Sports Director

The weather is finally warming up so it's time to get out doors and start camping, fishing, golfing or having a picnic or two and getting involved with all of our events we have coming up this year.

The winter ski events, trap shooting along with the rabbit hunt were very successful this winter, and now we have a lot of summer programs coming up.



We have several trapshooting events coming up that are open to all the members who have interest in shooting, regardless whether you have tried it or not, come on out and join us. We are here to help get you started.

Our trap shoot fund-raiser is July 23rd at the Albany Gun Club, it is open to the public and is a good event for the whole family to get acquainted with the sport.



We have four Deep Sea Fishing trips scheduled this summer out of Depoe Bay, July 11th, Aug 8th, Sept 12th, and Oct 10th. All you have to do is call the office to reserve the trip of your choice, while room is available. These trips are all manual wheel chair accessible so don't wait too long and miss out.

We have a lot of summer programs coming up

The OPVA Golf Tournament this year is Saturday June 4th at McNary Golf Club in Keizer OR. You can register on line for this event or complete the registration form on page 24.

Oregon Adaptive Sports has their summer games coming soon and we also have some lake fishing events coming up.

So mark your calendars and don't forget to call with any questions.

Don't forget you can always help by volunteering. I want to thank all the organizations and sponsors that help us make this happen every year. Also thanks to all you members for helping out and participating because that's what it's all about. Don't forget to call with any questions that I will one way or another get an answer to.

Thank you everyone and hope you all have a real good time this summer.

Larry Gardner - Sports Director
Office: 503-362-7998
My cell: 503-930-9589
Email: sports@oregonpva.org



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**
Oregon Chapter

Trapshoot Fundraiser July 23, 2016

All proceeds support
OPVA Trap Team

Raffle prizes from Cabelas
Spectators welcome
New Shooters encouraged



Location: Albany Gun Club
35305 Hwy 20 SE, Albany, OR 97322

Time: Registration is at 9:00 a.m.
Trap Event 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m.

Event Type: Games
Pepperoni Fun Shoot

Cost: \$4.00 each game

Information: Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305. Office: 503-362-7998
www.oregonpva.org oregonpva@oregonpva.org

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Greetings from the Development Department

Tom Hurt--Development Coordinator

It is my pleasure to report that we celebrated our Abilities Expo on Saturday April 16th, if you missed this year's expo you are going to want to keep your calendar open for next year's event. We had a wide range of exhibitors, some things you may already know about, however there was such a variety of exhibitors I'm sure you would have gotten new information as well. So in your travels and you find yourself in front of one of the vendors you may want to thank them for supporting your chapter.

Mark You Calendars

Summer is right around the corner, and with that are Car Shows, Golfing, Fishing, Picnics, etc. So visit the website often to stay up to date on all of the events that we are either attending or hosting for you to attend.

FYI we do have the chapter's Facebook page up and running, and we will be posting our events there as well,

Next month on May 21st we will be down at the Willamette Speedway Dirt Track in Lebanon, OR for Veterans Appreciation Day. We will have a table set up letting people know who we are as well as how they can help out the organization. This will be a fun night for all. Veterans get in for \$5.00



As always for any of the events to be a success I am asking for your assistance

The Expo was held at the Double Tree next to the Lloyd Center, so we were right on the Max line, we did have guests who were able to use the public transportation to attend. It is our intention to hold our Awareness event next year at the same location.

It is that time of year for the OPVA Gold Cup Golf Tournament, we will be back out to McNary Golf Club on June 4th, teeing off at 1 p.m. so get your teams together. Along with the Golf Tourney we will be holding a Banquet and Auction. So if you are not a golfer (like me) but like good food and to socialize, the banquet is where you want to be. We are lucky enough to have Larry Bents as our auctioneer again this year. If you have not seen him in action it is worth your time to come see him perform. So if you know any golfers or people that love to go to auctions, spread the word lets fill the place up have some laughs and make some money to fund your programs.



Also happening in June:

- June 4th we are hosting the Free Fish Day up at Detroit Lake.
- June 11th will be the Members Picnic.
This is going to be at Cascade Gateway Park again this year, this will be a great time for all to get together.
- June 18th we will be over at Spirit Mt. Casino for the annual Roll the Dice Car Show, if you like a good car show you will want to come on out to the Casino.

As always for any of the events to be a success I am asking for your assistance, the most successful events we have or participate in are the ones where the members are attending and or volunteering at.

So as you read through the Paralog and you see something we are doing or attending, check your schedule, hope to see you there.



Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

Banquet & Auction



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter



www.oregonpva.org



Saturday, June 4, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.

McNary Restaurant Lounge

155 McNary Estates Drives N, Keizer, OR 97303

- * Vacation Getaways
- * Family Adventures
- * Vineyard Tours
- * Gifts Baskets
- * Handmade Items
- * Dinners Out
- * Autograph Memorabilia
- * Gym Equipment
- * Distillery Tasting
- * Henry Rifle
- * Genealogy Research

Information at OPVA Office: 503-362-7998

Register Today



OPVA's GOLF TOURNAMENT



www.oregonpva.org



June 4, 2016 - Tee off 1 p.m.
McNary Golf Club, Keizer, OR



Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Oregon Chapter

Information: 503-362-7998
email: oregonpva@oregonpva.org

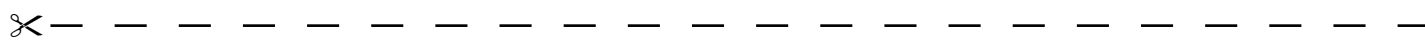


7th Annual Golf Tournament Registration Form



Tournament Information:

Date: Saturday, June 4, 2016
Registration: 11:30 a.m. and team photos
Tee Time: 12:30 p.m. Introduction/1:00 p.m. shotgun
Location: 155 McNary Estates Drive N, Keizer, Oregon 97303
Format: Four-Person Team Scramble
Cost: \$125 per golfer. Includes green fees, golf cart
Banquet: Begins at 5:30 p.m.
Awards: Begins at 5:45 p.m.
Auction: Begins at 6:00 p.m.



Tournament Registration Please Print



Team Captain

Captain's Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Additional Golfers

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Check All that Apply:

- Team Fee \$400.00 18 holes of golf, cart, and Banquet & Auction for 4 golfers
 Individual Golfer \$125.00 18 holes of golf, cart, and Banquet & Auction
 Banquet Only \$45.00 Banquet & Auction

Each attendee mark your choice for dinner # ___ Beef # ___ Chicken # ___ Veggie

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Title Sponsor \$2,500.00 Table at Registration & Business name on all OPVA golf printed material.
2 months of free advertising on digital billboards.
Half page advertising in Parallog for 6 months.
Golf team plays for free.
- Food Sponsor \$1,500.00 Business name on all OPVA golf printed material.
1 month of free advertising on digital billboards.
- Hole Sponsor \$250.00 Business name on all OPVA golf printed material.
Opportunity to setup table on designated hole.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check to receive invoice (by email only supply address above)

Mail registration and payment to: OPVA, 3700 Silvertown Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305
Email to: oregonpva@oregonpva.org - To pay with Debit/Credit card call: 503-362-7998
Please make checks payable to: OPVA - Federal ID # 93-0713859



The Christopher Reeve Foundation estimates that approximately 1.3 million people in the United States live with spinal cord injuries or disorders (SCI/D). Extrapolated for Oregon, approximately 3,500 people in the state live with SCI/D, with approximately 160 new injuries each year.

Surprisingly, there are few organizations in Oregon dedicated to supporting and advocating for this community despite its tremendous physical, emotional, psychological and financial needs. Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection (Oregon SCIC) is a nonprofit formed in December 2015 to fill this void and improve the quality of life for thousands of Oregonians living with SCI/D.

Our vision is to build a vibrant community-based support network in which people living with SCI/D can thrive, and we are! We leverage the social capital inherent within our SCI/D community to promote education, health, advocacy, self-reliance and awareness. We are committed to raising SCI/D awareness and aim to transform the built-environment and attitudes of society to reduce the obstacles that prevent some of us from fully reintegrating into society. We fosters harmonious, collaborative relationships with our partners and synergies our strengths to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of our resources.

A spinal cord injury or disorder (SCI/D) is a traumatic, life-changing event that results in irreversible paralysis. Adapting to this new life can be tremendously overwhelming and isolating. The process is extensive. It takes time and demands expensive, specialized, and intensive resources. The complexity of care required for an individual with SCI/D can range from \$2.3 million to \$4.7 million in their lifetime.

This life-changing event can also significantly impair a person's ability to reintegrate into society. It also affects a person's ability to work – unemployment among those living with a spinal cord injury is 65 percent.

These numbers do not describe the emotional distress of anxiety, depression, grief, sorrow, and anger that accompanies a SCI/D.

After recovering from the physical trauma, a person typically undergoes rehabilitation in a specialized center focused on physical and occupational therapy. Twenty-five years ago, the typical stay at such a center was three to six months. Today it is, at best, just a few weeks. People with spinal cord injuries leave rehabilitation without having established a social support network and without knowledge of or access to community-based services – both of which are central to supporting a person's ability to thrive. There is a critical need for peer mentor-ship, ongoing health education and promotion specific to SCI/D, camaraderie, grief counseling, and support groups and networks that ease the emotional and financial burden that comes with living with a spinal cord injury.

In our short time Oregon SCIC has built the foundations for a strong support network for people living with and affected by spinal cord injuries and disorders. We have established a vibrant community of diverse people living with a wide range of spinal cord injuries and disorders, and it continues to rapidly expand. This social network provides essential informational, emotional, and functional support that can help people better cope with the myriad issues facing them. Oregon SCIC is committed to improving the lives of the SCI/D community and changing the way Oregon perceives SCI/D.

Website: www.OregonSCI.org

Facebook: Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection (www.facebook.com/groups/749711478452820/)



May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	4	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Iris Festival Golf Tournament	21 Willamette Speedway
22	23	24	25	26 BOD 10:00 a.m.	27	28
29	30	31				



Office will be closed

Save the Date

7/4 4th of July

7/7-10 Marion County Fair

7/11 Deep Sea Fishing

7/16 Cruise -n- Ride-Benefit

7/23 Fun Shoot in Albany

7/28 BOD Meeting (10:00 a.m.)



June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 OPVA Golf Tournament Free Fish Day
5	6	7	8 Lebanon Vets' Home Hot Dog Feed	9	10	11 Members Picnic Take a Soldier Fishing
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Spirit Mt Car Show
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 BOD 10:00 a.m.		

Save the Date

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 8/8 Deep Sea Fishing | 9/25 Members Banquet |
| 8/13 OPVA Show & Shine Car Show | 10/10 Deep Sea Fishing |
| 8/19-21 National PVA Trapshoot | 10/27 BOD Meeting (10:00 a.m.) |
| 8/26-9/5 State Fair | 11/11 Albany Vets Day Parade |
| 9/25 Office Closed - Labor Day | 11/17 BOD Meeting (10:00 a.m.) |
| 9/12 Deep Sea Fishing | 11/24 Thanksgiving |
| 9/16 St. Helens Stand Down | 12/25 Christmas |



Preparation for Burial

Daniel Service - Treasurer

In these articles I have shared with you some information that will help you start getting prepared for any emergency, and wouldn't you know it, it mostly dealt with paperwork. So did you organize your papers?

Let's look at a different situation, one that we know will happen, our passing from this life. My wife and I sat down and talked with a Family Service Adviser (FSA) from a local Funeral Home. I set this meeting up because I heard that a funeral today can cost, starting at the lower end, around \$10,000 dollars and up from there. And that concerned me as a Veteran, because I knew I have benefits from

the VA which will lower the cost, so I needed more information.

As we talked, the FSA was made aware of my concerns. We started out with questions from my wife and I, then switched over to answering questions from the FSA. We discovered that a casket, on the very low end may only cost about \$750, and you get what you pay for, to upward of \$7,000.

If you are like me you won't want to pay anymore than you need to, and still have a nice casket. There were questions as to whether we wanted a traditional or non-traditional funeral, open or closed casket, visitation or viewing, where the service would be held (at the funeral home or elsewhere), whether or not transportation to the cemetery was going to be local or distant, and there were other questions that didn't pertain to my wife or I.

The subject then turned to the required things such as cost of Death Certificates; cost of obituary notice to the local paper; flowers; hairdresser; clothing; clergy; music; cremation services and state filing fees.

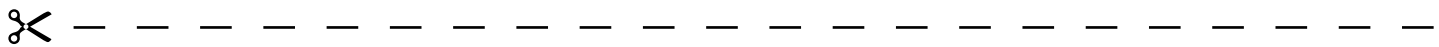
There were other subjects that we didn't talk about such as cost for family travel (airfare/lodging); the cemetery – escorts (number); interment (opening/closing); the cemetery space (Plot, Mausoleum, Columbarium); monument/marker; etc. which is all going to cost, but some of the cost may be paid for/reimbursed by the VA.

Once we were finished talking we had a tentative cost for my wife or I if we passed on today of only around \$5,200. That's a lot nicer figure than the \$10,000 so many are stuck with.

A funeral today can cost, starting at the lower end, around \$10,000 dollars and up from there

Now this isn't everything, because everyone of us have different circumstance in our lives that will change the cost for each of us. I guess what I am trying to get across to you is that this is something that needs to be checked out by all of us, and the sooner we get it taken care of the better.

Please go to:
www.com.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp to see what the VA has for you.



OPVA Members

Please update your information:

(Please Print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please Return to:

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 or email the information to oregonpva@oregonpva.org



Legislation Report 2016

Roger Robinson—Membership Director

Short Session January 2016

Senate Bill 1524 applies to service-connected disable veterans who have an Oregon medical marijuana card. The bill exempts the veterans who have been assigned a total and permanent disability rating or who have a 100% disability rating who from the requirement of obtaining documentation from a physician regarding their continuing debilitating condition to renew the card. Speaker signed 02/29/2016, effective date 01/01/2017.

House Joint Resolution 202 was passed unanimously by the House and Senate. It proposes an amendment to Oregon Constitution to require 1.5% of lottery revenues to be expended for benefit of veterans. Oregonians will vote on this proposed measure November 2016.

House Concurrent Resolution 203, recognizes and honors, Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson (1992-2003).

House Concurrent Resolution 202, recognizes and honors, Sergeant Travis A. Moothart (1980-2004).

House Concurrent Resolution 201, recognizes and honors, Army Private First Class Anthony T. Justesen (1988-2010).

House Concurrent Resolution 207, honors, Sergeant Donald R. Walters (1969-2003)

Senate Concurrent Resolution 205 recognize and honors, Aleksander Reed Skarlatos for heroism and service.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 206, recognize and honors, Private George Nathan Wright (1945-1967) for his service to our country.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter



Members



Picnic



Saturday, June 11, 2016 9am-3pm
Cascade Gateway Park 2100 Turner Rd SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

Bring the whole family
for fun with OPVA!
Free "GREAT" food

Horseshoes,
Lawn Darts, Ladder Golf,
Disc Golf, & Fishing

Free Donated Items

Some Vets may not be aware that OPVA has many items that have been donated to us for the purpose of giving them to our Vets in need. Check with us before you buy.

If you or someone you know, needs one of these items, contact us at 503-362-7998

- Power Wheel Chairs
- Manual Wheel Chairs
- Rollators
- Electric Scooter
- Vital Fitness Exercise Bike
- Shower Chairs
- Electric Hospital Beds and Rails
- Hoyer Lifts



Wheel Chairs



Vital Fitness Exercise Bike

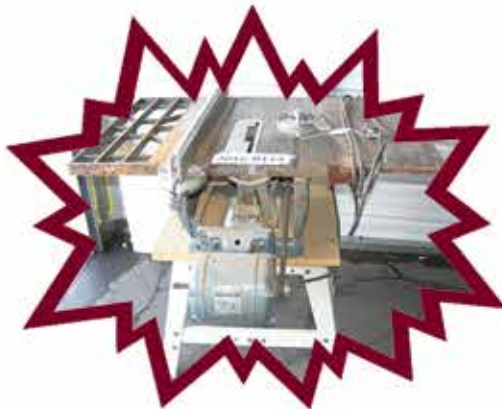


Table Saw



Power Scooter



Power Chair



All these items are given to Vets in need free of charge. They are As Is. No - Warrantee. If it wears out you must dispose of it. Remember this is used equipment.

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America • 3700 Silverton Rd., Salem, OR 97305
503-362-7998 • www.oregonpva.org • oregonpva@oregonpva.org



Fishing Trip 2016



Dockside Charters.
270 Coast Guard Dr., Depoe Bay, OR 97341



Cost: \$50 members
nonmembers \$65



Mon Jul 11	Board 5:30 am - 11:00 am
Mon Aug 8	Board 5:30 am - 11:00 am
Mon Sep 12	Board 6:30 am - 12:00 pm
Mon Oct 10	Board 6:30 am - 12:00 pm

Complementary Coffee is provided. Bring your own lunch, snack or drinks



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Oregon Chapter

3700 Silverton Rd., NE Salem, OR 97305
Tel: 503-362-7998
www.oregonpva.org



ClearCaptions™
Get the whole conversation.



At ClearCaptions, WordsMatter

Why do words matter? Because every single "I love you, Grandma!" and "We're having a boy!" is a celebration – a celebration that many individuals experiencing hearing loss miss – all because they are unable to hear the entire telephone conversation.

The revolutionary new, easy-to-use Ensemble telephone with ClearCaptions understands the importance of words – so much so that ClearCaptions developed telephone technology that transforms voice into text, allowing you to both hear AND read the conversation.

Each call can be captioned by providing near real-time captions of the other caller's conversation. Allowing you to read the conversation and get the entire conversation. It also gives you the power to adjust text size on a large, easy-to-read screen – it's the perfect solution for people with hearing loss and low vision.

The best part? ClearCaptions is free and comes with Ensemble! We'll even help you setup ClearCaptions, as well as help setup your personalized, individual Ensemble preferences – all for free.

At ClearCaptions, we want you to enjoy your precious life moments, as well have the ability to make important appointments, call your bank or insurance company, schedule social activities and much more – bottom line, we want you to stay independent and connected.

Don't let hearing loss stop you from using the phone – keep your independence! Find out how to get your FREE Ensemble with ClearCaptions – a \$229 value – today!

For more information or to schedule an install contact Brian Miller at (503) 858-9153 or email at brian.miller@clearcaptions.com



Are you a community partner providing social, health, and other human services in your county?

The Oregon Women Veterans Coordinator, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs, is coming to your area and is interested in meeting with community partners. This is an informational session to help us understand the gaps and barriers women veterans face in obtaining services where they live. Topics include:

- Women veterans, what do we know and what do we need to know?
- Why and how to shift our thinking & approach to one of serving them with intention?
- How can we help identify women who served in the military, and how will doing so expand your resources and help improve your ability to serve them?
- What do you see as challenges and barriers to providing services to women veterans?
- How can your work collaboratively with your community and the VA systems to expand or improve services to women veterans where they live?

This meeting is for ALL organizations and agencies, not just those with a veteran-focused mission. Partners we hope to meet:

- Hospitals
- Women's health clinics
- County agencies
- Department of Human Services
- Domestic violence/sexual assault organizations
- Substance abuse prevention and treatment providers
- Homeless prevention and intervention agencies
- University/college veteran resource officers
- Food banks
- Church leaders
- Veteran service organizations
- Others

*** * * INFORMATIONAL SESSION * * ***

American Legion Hall, 406 SE Oak Ave, Roseburg

Tuesday, May 10, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

If you are unable to attend but would like to set a time to meet with Liz, please contact her at 971-720-9116 elizabeth.estabrooks@state.or.us



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Produced by the Paralyzed Veterans of America • Government Relations Department

Washington UPDATE

Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

April 15, 2016

Volume 22, No 4

PRIORITY

The Government Relations staff is still looking for stories about problems that our members have experienced during air travel. Please visit www.AirAccess30.org and share your story.

Commission on Care Members Offer Strawman Proposal to Turn VA Health Care into a Payer Only; VSO's Respond

The Commission on Care, established by P.L. 113-146, the “Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014” (Choice Act), held a meeting on March 21-23, 2016. The Commission is charged with examining access to care and strategically examining how best to organize the Veterans Health Administration, locate health care resources, and deliver health care to veterans during the next 20 years. It has spent the last several months evaluating a comprehensive independent assessment and the testimony and recommendations of numerous entities, including VSO's, health care organizations, information technology (IT) professionals, members of Congress and VA officials. The Commission's mandate requires a report to be submitted to the President by June of 2016.

With the report due in just two short months, seven Commissioners produced a strawman document for consideration that was presented at the March meeting. The proposed statement concludes that “the current VA health care system is seriously broken, and because of the breadth and depth of the shortfalls, there is no efficient path to repair it.”

The goal of the proposed plan is to transition all veterans into community care plans over the next 20 years. No new VA facilities will be constructed or upgraded, and as facilities become under-utilized or obsolete, they will be shuttered. “Over time, VA will become primarily a payer” providing care through the community system.

PVA joined other major VSO's in writing a letter to the Commission expressing our grave concerns with entertaining proposals to eliminate the VA health care system. While the Commission responded, indicating that this was merely a strawman and should not be construed as representing the views of the entire Commission, at this time there is no alternative proposed document for consideration. Nor has the Commission indicated how it will formulate and agree upon the final report to be issued. PVA and its VSO partners will present our views again at the next Commission meeting on April 18 and 19.

The Joint-VSO letter sent to the Commission can be viewed here:

http://www.pva.org/atf/cf/%7Bca2a0ffb-6859-4bc1-bc96-6b57f57f0391%7D/LEG_%202016%20JOINT%20VSO%20LETTER%20TO%20THE%20COMMISSION%20ON%20CARE%20-%20MARCH%2031,%202016.PDF

VA Brings VSO's and Major Stakeholders Together in Attempt to Reform the Veterans Benefits Appeals Process

At the beginning of March, VA convened a three-day meeting with the goal of standing up a plan for comprehensive reform of the veterans' benefits appeals process. With the appeals backlog inventory hovering around 460,000, VA is seeking a true overhaul. PVA was represented by our office at the Board of Veterans Appeals. At the end of three days, the VA's starting proposal evolved significantly as stakeholders dug in and used their experience and expertise to help shape it. As it became clear that any reform would necessarily require overhauling the initial claims process as well, the group decided to sequester itself for two additional days and also incorporated intermittent conference calls.

With the Congressional calendar waning as we approach election season, the window of opportunity to pass legislation is closing. While the VSO's are eager to play a substantial part in any reform, there is consistent apprehension among participants who believe such comprehensive change requires more thorough consideration and scrutiny. VA produced legislative language that represents the reform plan constructed by this working group. It is currently being considered by the Senate as part of a pending omnibus bill which includes the VA health care reform package. Similarly, the House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs will be holding a hearing on April 28 specifically to address VA's current legislative proposal. PVA will testify alongside other VSO's who participated in the process. Because negotiations regarding certain aspects of this bill are ongoing, PVA has not taken a firm position at this time on whether we support the plan. Additionally, it is unclear at this time as to whether adequate resources will be available to facilitate such a major change.

House VA Disability Assistance Subcommittee Considers Legislation to Pay Special Compensation to Veterans with Loss or Loss of Use of Creative Organs

On April 13, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on pending legislation. Carl Blake, Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, testified on behalf of PVA. Of particular importance to PVA was H.R. 4892, a bill recently introduced by House VA Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL). This bill would provide two lump-sum payments, totaling \$20,000, to veterans with a loss or loss of use of a creative organ and are currently in receipt of special monthly compensation (k).

For years, PVA has advocated for Congress to lift the prohibition on VA's ability to provide procreative services to veterans with a reproductive injury. H.R. 4892 seemingly attempts to work around the existing ban and provide veterans the option to seek services on their own. Last year, Chairman Miller introduced H.R. 2257, a bill that would actually lift the IVF ban at VA. The ideological opposition to repealing the ban moved Chairman Miller to introduce H.R. 4892.

While PVA supports H.R. 4892, we do not believe that this is the most appropriate solution for veterans who have lost the ability to conceive children. PVA highlighted two issues that are not appropriately addressed in the proposed bill. First, all reproductive services, to include IVF, adoption and surrogacy, should be part of the medical benefits package of the VA. Second, the bill creates a potential inequity between men and women with these catastrophic injuries. The average cost of one round of IVF is \$10,000. But for women veterans, whose injuries eliminate the ability to carry a pregnancy to term, IVF most often is not an option, and so they may rely upon a gestational surrogate or adoption.

Washington Update Produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America

The average costs of surrogacy (\$60,000-\$120,000) and adoption (\$15,000-\$40,000) far exceed the proposed \$20,000. This creates an inequity for women veterans that while unintended, would remain unaddressed. PVA will continue to work to see that VA provide procreative services through the VA medical benefits package. If a veteran has catastrophic reproductive injury due to their service, this nation then has a responsibility to make them whole.

To read PVA's full written statement for the hearing, please visit www.pva.org.

Senate FAA Reauthorization Bill Includes Provisions Aimed at Problems Encountered by Travelers with Disabilities

PVA's efforts to improve air travel for passengers with disabilities have resulted in disability-focused language in the Senate's version of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization currently pending on Capitol Hill.

As passed out of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, on March 16, the FAA reauthorization (S. 2658) includes four provisions, three of which derived from PVA-provided language, specifically addressing the needs of travelers with disabilities. Sections 3106, 3116, and 3117 require studies that will highlight areas for improvement and lead to the dissemination of best practices to improve airport accessibility and air carrier training policies, and a determination about the feasibility of using in cabin wheelchair restraint systems. Section 3118 requires the Secretary of Transportation to establish an advisory committee on the air travel needs of passengers with disabilities to advise the Secretary on implementation of the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA). The advisory

committee will provide a forum to review the Department of Transportation's efforts to implement and enforce the ACAA and provide suggestions for improvements to the air travel experience for people with disabilities.

On April 6, the FAA reauthorization was brought to the Senate floor under legislative vehicle H.R. 636. In response to requests from PVA, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-FL) filed an amendment that would require the Secretary of Transportation to refer ACAA complaints to the U.S. Attorney General in the case of pattern or practice of discrimination or if a traveler encounters disability-based discrimination that raises an issue of general public importance. The Attorney General would be able to pursue civil action in federal court and the court may provide equitable or other relief, including monetary damages to a harmed individual, or civil penalties. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) also filed an amendment that would provide a private right of action under the ACAA.

At this time, it appears that neither of these amendments will receive a vote. However, we remain committed to fighting for improved ACAA enforcement. The Senate plans a final vote on the FAA reauthorization the week of April 18. Meanwhile, the House's version of the FAA reauthorization (H.R. 4441) passed out of committee but has yet to be taken up by the full House. The House and Senate versions of the reauthorization differ significantly and much work remains to be done to ensure the disability provisions are retained in a final bill. The current FAA authorization expires on July 15.

Department of Transportation Announces Decision to Move Forward on ACAA Negotiated Rule-making

On April 7, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced that it would move forward with a negotiated rule-

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making (Reg Neg) on three issues under the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA): (1) whether to require accessible in-flight entertainment and strengthen accessibility requirements for other in-flight communications; (2) whether to require an accessible lavatory on new single-aisle aircraft over a certain size; and (3) whether to amend the definition of service animals that many accompany passengers with a disability.

In December 2015, DOT announced its intent to explore the feasibility of conducting a Reg Neg on several issues, including those announced on April 7. The issues DOT elected not to address through a Reg Neg include access to in-flight medical oxygen, seating accommodations, and new airline reporting requirements. DOT has announced that it will address these issues through other means.

To conduct the Reg Neg, DOT is establishing the Accessible Air Transportation (ACCESS) Advisory Committee. This committee will include representatives from the disability community, airlines, and aircraft manufacturers. DOT is currently seeking nominations for the ACCESS Advisory Committee and the first meeting will be held on May 17-18.

Department of Justice Announces Historic Settlement with Greyhound for ADA Violations

Passengers with disabilities who encountered disability-related discrimination on Greyhound may be eligible for compensation. On February 8, the Department of Justice announced a consent decree resolving a complaint against Greyhound for alleged violations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Allegations against Greyhound included failing to maintain accessibility features on buses, failing to provide assistance to passengers with disabilities, and failing to allow passengers using wheelchairs to complete reservations online. As a result of

the consent decree, Greyhound will pay a civil fine, hire an ADA compliance manager, require employees and contractors who interact with the public to attend annual in-person ADA training, and complete other requirements to address the alleged violations.

Greyhound will also be required to compensate travelers with disabilities who experienced disability discrimination while traveling or attempting to travel on Greyhound. To be eligible for compensation, an individual must have a disability; have traveled or attempted to travel on Greyhound between February 8, 2013, and February 8, 2016; and have experienced a disability-related incident during travel or while attempting to travel. Examples of incidents include lack of accessible transportation and failure to make disability-related accommodations.

Individuals who believe they meet these requirements must submit a claim online, by email, or mail to Greyhound's appointed claims administrator by November 10, 2016. Instructions regarding the claims process are available at: <http://www.dojvgreyhoundsettlement.com>.

PVA Submits Comments on Ticket to Work

On April 8, PVA submitted comments to an Advance Notice of Proposed Rule-making (ANPRM) concerning the Ticket to Work (TTW) Program operated by the Social Security Administration (SSA). Ticket to Work was created as part of the "Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999" and is intended to give beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) greater choice in vocational rehabilitation options. The ANPRM posed a series of questions concerning improvements that could be made to the Ticket program to encourage greater participation by beneficiaries in this return to work program, as well as a more

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diverse set of vocational providers. PVA's Paving Access to Veterans Employment (PAVE) program participates in Ticket to Work as a provider of employment and vocational services to clients in SSDI and SSI. The experiences of the PAVE counselors served to inform a large part of PVA's comments. To read PVA's comments, please visit the Advocacy program page at www.pva.org.

Social Security Caregiver Credit Act Introduced But Excludes Some Veterans' Caregivers

In March, Senator Christopher Murphy (D-CT) introduced S. 2721, the "Social Security Caregiver Credit Act," which is a companion bill to H.R. 3377 that was introduced by Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) in 2015. This legislation would allow people who provide at least 80 hours a month of unpaid assistance for a relative with disabilities to continue earning Social Security credits. They would be able to continue earning these credits for up to five years. For many caregivers of veterans, this legislation is particularly important because these credits are necessary to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits. Social Security retirement benefits are based upon a person's earnings in the workplace. These measures would count months spent as a caregiver as if they had been paid a wage.

Unfortunately, caregivers of post-9/11 veterans who participate in the VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program, established by the "Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, will be ineligible for the credits under the proposed bills. Participants in the VA Family Caregiver Program receive a modest stipend to help support their families as they attend to the needs of catastrophically disabled veterans. Because the Murphy and Lowey bills specifically exclude anyone who receives compensation for caregiver services provided, veterans' caregivers would not benefit

from these proposed bills. However, P.L. 111-363 specifically excluded counting the stipend for purposes of earnings credit under Social Security. Thus, if S. 2721 or H.R. 3377 is enacted, post-9/11 veterans' caregivers will be denied Social Security retirement credits under both programs. PVA believes this inequity should be addressed and will be working with the sponsors and other interested policymakers to find a solution to rectify this problem.

Social Security Disability Insurance Reform Proposals Published

At an event in Washington, DC, in April, former Congressmen and Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Chairmen Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) and Jim McCrery (R-LA) released recommendations to improve the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program and other services for workers with disabilities. The recommendations are the culmination of the McCrery-Pomeroy SSDI Solutions Initiative—a multi-year effort to identify practical policy changes to improve SSDI and other services to better serve people with disabilities as well as those who pay into the program and the economy as a whole.

The recommendations headline a newly-released book, *SSDI Solution: Ideas to Strengthen the Social Security Disability Insurance Program*, which features a diverse collection of 12 policy proposals written by different disability policy experts. Reps. McCrery and Pomeroy's recommendations, which come on the heels of recent legislation that postponed depletion of the SSDI trust fund until 2022, call on policymakers to seize this opportunity and use the additional time to make meaningful changes to the SSDI program. They also propose that policymakers should pursue new ways to support workers and improve the lives of workers with disabilities while also testing various ideas to strengthen the efficiency, effectiveness and integrity of the current program.

Washington Update Produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America

“We share the sense of relief with many Americans that Congress was able to avert the automatic benefit cuts that would have accompanied trust fund depletion,” explained Chairman Pomeroy. “But I think we can all agree that more should be done to improve this program as well as the lives of the many Americans living with a disability. We hope our ideas and recommendations will inspire policymakers to pursue and adopt thoughtful and innovative changes to help this vital federal program and important population.”

Chairman McCrery emphasized, “Let’s not waste this opportunity by deluding ourselves that SSDI’s issues have been solved.”

He went on to say, “The program faces a financial shortfall again in 2022; but more importantly, it is clear the program isn’t serving the disabled population as well or as efficiently as it could be.

We don’t think there is any one right idea, but by putting out a collection of ideas we hope to spark a conversation that would encourage policymakers to begin testing and enacting changes sooner rather than later.”

The 12 proposals in the book include changes to promote early intervention in order to keep more workers with disabilities in the workforce, improve program administration, address interactions with other programs, and pursue structural reforms. More information about the book, including how it can be purchased, can be found at <http://www.SSDISolutions.org/book>.



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
of America**

YOUR FUTURE AWAITS

Paralyzed Veterans’ scholarship program now accepting applications

Paralyzed Veterans of America invests in our members and their families.

Our Educational Scholarship Program assists members and their immediate family members by providing scholarship funds to help with a post-secondary education.

We will award scholarships in the amount of **\$1,000** to full-time students and **\$500** to part-time students for an academic year.

APPLICANT MUST BE:

- A Paralyzed Veterans of America member, spouse of a member, or an unmarried child (under 24 years of age) who is dependent (as defined by the IRS) on the member for principal support
- A United States citizen
- Accepted and enrolled as a full- or part-time student in an accredited U.S. college or university

Previous award recipients may apply.

Download an application at pva.org, or for more information contact Christi Hillman at 800.424.8200, ext. 776; ChristiH@pva.org.

Applications must be completed in full and postmarked no later than June 17, 2016.



M.S. News

Sue Holt - M.S. Liaison

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society Walk was held April 16, 2016 at River Front Park in downtown Salem. Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America was represented by David and Peter Holt, Dan and Beverly Service, and Louie Grimmer. Dan and Beverly had the pleasure of presenting the donation check from OPVA in the amount of \$1,000 to aid in Research and Finding a Cure.

We had fun but, we'd like to try something new next year. Our first planning meeting will be sometime in June. Watch your OPVA Facebook, website, and Paralog for dates and times. If you want to participate call the office and leave a name and number.

Can't make it to Salem?
There is always Skype or Teleconference...



KIDS FREE FISHING DAY

June 4, 2016
10 a.m. - 2p.m.
Detroit Lake

Introduce a friend, child, co-worker or family member to fishing during Oregon's Free Fishing.

ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) sponsor's Kids Free Fishing Day, no license required. All fishing regulations still apply.

For more information call at 503-362-7998

Free T-Shirts and (Some) Fishing Poles Available



TAKE A SOLDIER FISHING
FREEDOM ISN'T FREE
www.takeasoldierfishing.org



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter



"Come out and play"

- When:** Saturday, June 11, 2016
- Time:** 7:00 to 4:00 PM, Lunch between 11:30 and 12:45
- Where:** Henry Hagg Lake, Scoggins Park, Near Forest Grove Oregon. Check-in is at Area C pavilion and boat launch area. Area is ADA compatible.
- Who:** Volunteers with boats and fishing equipment will take Veterans and Active Duty Military from any branch of the armed services and their immediate family members for a day of fishing.
- What:** A fun packed filled day of fishing honoring our veterans and active duty military representatives for their service to our nation. Snacks and beverages provided in the AM and lunch provided between 11:30 and 12:45. Door prize drawing planned at noon. Day fishing license provided for those who need them.
- How:** Go to www.takeasoldierfishing.org to register as a participant or as a volunteer/boater. Participants click on the soldier tab, volunteers and boaters click on the volunteer tab. Everyone must register in advance to participate.
- Contact:** Presented by Take A Soldier Fishing Portland Chapter – For more information, contact Jack Morby 503 704 1842 or morby517@aol.com.
- Contributions:** Can't participate and still want to contribute? Contact Jack Morby morby517@aol.com or Leroy Bentley, bentley16@frontier.com for contribution information.



Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Oregon Chapter

"Serving Those Who Served"
Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

2016 OREGON SENIOR GAMES

SWEAT FOR VETS

5K RUN &
RACE WALK

JUNE 11, 2016

7:30 AM RUN START

8:30 AM RACE WALK

WWW.OREGONSENIORGAMES.COM





PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

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, and was accepted for or on active duty, in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States or an ally of the United States; (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 mail the application to: PVA Membership Department, 801 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 or to the chapter of choice. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with PVA.

800-424-8200 • www.pva.org

Chapter Name: _____

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

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Social Security Number: _____
month date year

Male Female

Are you a United States citizen? Yes No

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

DATE(S) OF MILITARY SERVICE		TYPE OF SEPARATION	BRANCH OF SERVICE
Start Date <small>month/date/year</small>	End Date <small>month/date/year</small>	Discharge (D) or Retirement (R)	Copy of DD214 showing type of discharge or VA Medical Services Card Required (attach a <u>copy</u> to application)
		<input type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Still on Active Duty *Proof of Active Duty status must be verified prior to approval
		<input type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard
		<input type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard

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

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

DISABILITY CLASSIFICATION

SPINAL CORD INJURY

(Complete ONLY if you have a traumatic spinal cord injury)

Date of Injury: _____ / _____ / _____

Injury Level: C1-C08 Cervical T01-T12 Thoracic
 L01-L05 Lumbar S01-S05 Sacral

Cause of SCI:

- Vehicular (auto, motorcycle, aircraft, bicycle, etc.)
- Violence (gunshot, stabbing, explosion, etc.)
- Pedestrian (hit by car, etc.)
- Sport or recreation (swimming, diving, etc.)
- Flying or falling object
- Medical-surgical complications
- Other traumatic injury _____
- Unknown

SPINAL CORD DISORDER

(Complete ONLY if you have non-traumatic spinal cord disorder)

Date of diagnosis/onset of condition:

_____ / _____ / _____

Specific disease:

- Multiple Sclerosis (involving spinal cord)
- Poliomyelitis
- Amyotrophic diseases (lateral sclerosis, transverse myelitis)
- Syringomyelia
- Other (specify) _____

LEVEL OF FUNCTION

Indicate your level of function: ****If no paralysis, medical documentation must be submitted indicating spinal cord involvement**

- Paraplegia Tetraplegia (Quad) Hemiplegia No paralysis at this time

GENERAL INFORMATION (Optional, not required)

Please check the appropriate box or fill in the blank of each of the categories that best describes your present status. This important information enables the PVA to compile data for the effective implementation and support of our programs.

EDUCATION (highest level)

- Less than high school graduate
 High school graduate/GED
 Some college or trade school
 Associate's degree
 Bachelor's degree
 Attended graduate school
 Graduate degree
 Other _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

- Employed full time
 Employed part time
 Self-employed
 Unemployed
 Unemployed due to disability
 Retired
 Other _____

MARITAL STATUS

- Divorced
 Married
 Never Married
 Separated
 Widowed

RACE/ETHNICITY

- Asian or Pacific Islander
 Black, not Hispanic/Latino origin
 Hispanic/Latino
 Native American or Alaskan Native
 White, not Hispanic/Latino origin
 Other _____

TYPE OF RESIDENCE

- Apartment
 Assisted living facility
 Single-family home/condominium
 State/veterans retirement home
 Nursing home
 VA hospital
 VA nursing home
 Other _____

SOURCE(S) OF INCOME

(check all that apply)

- Employment
 Gifts/Other
 Private pension
 Social Security
 VA compensation
 VA pension
 Worker's compensation

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 PVA presently your benefits representative? Yes No

If yes, I have no objection and hereby permit PVA Service Officers to provide information to the PVA National Membership Department that pertains to my qualifications for membership.

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

Applicant's Signature

Date

12/9/14

Office Use Only

Date Received: _____

Member ID#: _____

Processed Date: _____

2016 Gun Raffle

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Oregon Chapter

Raffle will be held on
November 21, 2016
at the OPVA office at 1:00 P.M.

\$5.00 per ticket

Models to choose from:

Springfield XD® Mod.2™ .45ACP Sub-Compact Model #XDG9845HC

Springfield XD® Mod.2™ .40SW Sub-Compact Model #XDG9802HC

Springfield XD® Mod.2™ 9MM Sub-Compact Model #XDG9801HC

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

3700 Silverton Rd, Salem, OR 97305 • 503-362-7998 • www.oregonpva.org



Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America
3700 Silverton Rd. NE
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