

November/December 2016  
Volume 20, Issue 6



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter

# PARALOG

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

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**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Oregon Chapter

**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**

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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

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# PRESIDENT'S GREETING



Bill Blake—President

Welcome to OPVA's new Fiscal Year. We had a good year end banquet at Spirit Mountain. Thank you to all who were able to attend. I think everyone had fun. We appreciate Dave Parker's job at being the MC. Spirit Mountain always does a good job.

Things slow up a bit during the next couple of months. Do hope you all have some quality time with family and friends over the holidays. I have 5 grandkids that all bring joy to my heart.

**We aren't getting older,  
just better**

Want to welcome Louie Grimmer as the new Vice President. He will do a good job. Most of the Board Members return, so the outlook is bright.

The biggest and best Veteran's Day Parade in Albany will be on November 11th. We will have a float and need riders.



2015 Veterans Day Parade

Call the office for more information. It is an awesome parade.

Make sure you take a look at the calendar that is being mailed out to you. A great tool to help you keep track as to what is going on with OPVA.

We will be scheduling 5 members meetings around the state, incorporating the member's meeting, free lunch and a little bowling. Come out for a bunch of fun!!!

I hope we have a great new year. We aren't getting older, just better. Hope to see you soon.



2016 Members Banquet at Spirit Mountain Casino



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

# Year-End Giving

### Ways to Donate

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# VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Louie Grimmer – Vice President



I have been on the Board and I will do my best in fulfilling the duties as Vice President. This is my first report on trying to fill the shoes of Mr. Rosenbalm who was the previous VP. I have a pretty good grasp on OPVA because I have been around for quite awhile.

I feel the weight of this position all ready so here is my background. I was born in a small town (population 9,000) in Southern Oregon, Grants Pass, Josephine County on November 7, 1946 to Louis John Grimmer Sr. and Barbara Leimomie Robinson. We lived way out in the Hugo area when we eventually moved into Grants Pass to a home on Washington Boulevard.

My Dad was a City Policeman as a motorcycle cop. I remember starring at his gun and then pushing a button on his holster and the gun fell out on the floor, the holster was a Clam

Shell design. I probably was destined from that point on to experiment with everything in my life. My mom would tell us kids SHHHHHH (kinda like a leaky balloon) while Dad slept during the day.

One day Mom took Dad to work in a

## I was out of control

1949 Nash Rambler, I was riding in the front seat with them and when Dad got out to go to work, I somehow got my thumb (right) in between the door post and the door. Yup the thumb was flattened.

While living there I remember we had a basement, Dad had painted the floor GRAY and after it dried my sister Barbara and I rode our tricycles and made black marks everywhere.



I used my BB gun shooting from the back porch into the woodshed shooting army men, targets and anything I could find. One fine day when my folks weren't home I placed about 20 wooden matches in the cracks of the chopping block and started shooting them. Once in a while I would break one off and then I wanted to know if I was able to "NICK" the head and start it on fire then I decided to use my .22 and got the same results. DA' in the wood shed? One might say that I was out of control.

The third grade was a turning point in my life because I had Mrs. Pearson she must have been in her 40s she was mean and very strict. She was not pretty and young like Miss Dimmock (20s) and she was on me for everything I did. I remember being a SOUTH PAW (left handed) for everything I did including writing. WELL, that wouldn't do, she said and put my pencil in the "RIGHT" Hand and told me that is the correct way to do it. Eventually I switched back to the LEFT Hand and she found me doing that and she would smack my knuckles with a ruler and make me change to the RIGHT Hand.

This went on for quite a while and she caught me doing it my way and she pulled me up to the front of the class holding my ear and saying "Now Louis", do you see anyone else writing with

the WRONG HAND? I said "NO teacher". Mrs. Pearson proceeded to tell the class that writing with the wrong hand was a bad omen.



I joined the Navy March 1966 and boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois and from there to my first ship USS Leahy a missile frigate out of Charleston, NC. Second ship USS Sierra a Destroyer Tender out of Norfolk, VA. Third ship USS Terrell County out of Yokosuka, Japan. The 4th assignment Naval Special Warfare Group based out of Okinawa.

I married DeOnne DeLand and we have 5 children and 24 grand children. We moved to Salem in 1971 and I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 1974 and joined OPVA 1978.

You see I am a pretty normal guy with Service Connected Multiple Sclerosis.

# *Winter Rod and Speed Show*

**January 20-21, 2017**

Friday 7 PM - 10 PM

Saturday 9 AM - 6 PM

**Linn County Fair  
& Expo Center**

3700 Knox Butte Rd E,  
Albany, OR 97322



# SECRETARY'S REPORT



Dave Parker – Secretary

The 2016 Members Banquet was a magnificent event with lots of food, laughter, recognition and overall, just a lot of fun.

There were 76 members, guests and supporters there, but this leaves a matter which we need to point out. There were 16 not in attendance and we had to pay \$30 each for those meals. If you make reservations next year and find that you can't be there, please let us know as soon as possible so we can cancel your meals. We have a week before the banquet to cancel meals which have been ordered.

With that said, let's talk about the

good stuff. The food was great and a good time was had by all. Once again, we didn't come through with karaoke. We bought a karaoke machine and couldn't figure out how to make it work.

We tried to rent a machine, but the only one available was broken, so we had to promise Gerald that we would come through next year.

The most satisfying thing to do is to present recognition in return for work done for the chapter and for the citizens of Oregon. Additionally, Certificates of Commendation were presented to our program helpers.



A few days prior to the banquet we were informed that I had been selected as the Veteran of the Year by the Veterans' Commemorative Association. As such, I will be honored with a banquet in Albany and will be the Grand Marshal for the Albany Veterans' Day Parade.

Next year we will meet again to celebrate OPVA's successes. This year we celebrated forty years of service to our members and to the disability community. We'll see you on the 17th of September (2017) at Spirit Mountain Casino. More details to follow.

In addition to that, I was presented the Quilt of Valor by the Quilts of Valor Foundation. In part, the recognition reads as follows:

Please plan on being with us, not only then but, throughout the year. We will be happy to have you help us in providing programs to our members.

*"The QOV represents the high honor and esteem in which you are held for your selfless service, devotion, dedication and sacrifice..."*



*"This year we celebrated 40 years of service to our members and to the disability community"*

## 2016 Chapter Awards

**Oregon PVA Speedy Award (Member)**

Sue Holt

Longtime member of the Chapter Board of Directors  
Liaison for the MS Program

**Oregon PVA Speedy Award (Non-member)**

Randy Lederbrand

Hillsboro Gun Club. Randy has been an avid supporter of the chapter trapshooting program

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Louie Grimmer

For 20 years or more in providing OPVA programs for members and non-members

**Disability Awareness Award**

Michael Rosenbalm

For longtime service in providing the general public and government officials in the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Laws (ADA)

**President's Award**

Thomas Hurt

# TREASURER NEWS



Daniel Service – Treasurer

Recently this situation has come up, the phone rings and the person on the other end of the line asks, “Can you help me, my spouse has just passed away and I don’t know what to do”. We want you to be prepared when this happens, either to you or to someone you know.

If you find yourself in this situation there are a couple of things you need to know. If your spouse passes naturally, call the funeral home you want to take care of things. If your spouse passes due to suspicious circumstances, call the police. When they arrive, they will determine who to call, a funeral home, or the medical examiner’s office.

My wife and I sat down with Cindy, from one of the Mortuary’s in Salem, and completed our own funeral arrangements by purchasing Prearranged Funeral Planning Agreement.

It is an insurance plan that I pay about \$65 a month for me, and about \$75 for my wife. If we die any time after 2 years from now and the end of the 20-year period, everything is already taken care of and the bill is paid off.

We were given the option to make a single payment of the entire purchase, or pay for it over a 3, 5, 10, or 20-year period. Cindy mentioned that the cost of funeral doubles every 10 years, so think about it. My wife and I chose to be buried at Willamette National Cemetery, or we could have selected another place.

I could go through and give you all the particulars on the eligibility of being buried in a National Cemetery, but that is something you each need to sit down with your social worker at the VA and discuss your personal benefits for both you and your spouse.





In the PARALOG magazine for November/December 2015 ([www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org) under Resources Tab) I shared information in the article “*Funeral Planning Guide*” that gives a breakdown of who to call, what paperwork you will need to have prepared, a brief history of your life, your education, what you did for a living, your preferences on flowers, music, religion, cemetery, etc., and it would be wise to refresh yourselves with this information if you have not already completed it.

**The cost of funeral doubles every 10 years, so think about it.**

Something I found out lately is that it may be better to do a Trust rather than a Will, but that is something you will need to discuss with an

attorney. The concern we had is now gone. We each were able to make our own choices on all subjects regarding our own funeral.

We gave Cindy all the information that would be required, a copy of my DD214, our personal information about past employment, parent’s names, our education, and so forth. We listed our Life Insurance companies, who would be responsible for final arrangements, each other or someone else if we both pass at the same time.

After you get your plan finished, let the people who will be involved in your arrangements know where the paperwork will be, or give them a copy of it.

We were both very happy to have completed these arrangements, now when one of us passes all we need to do is contact the funeral home, and they take care of everything. The worry about what to do is now gone, especially at such an emotional time.



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## 5th Annual Family Caregiver Conference “Unsung Heroes”

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Conference, refreshments & parking are FREE

# SPORTS NEWS ALERT



Larry Gardner—Sports Director

Here we are going into our new fiscal year.

We've had some very successful events this past couple of months including Deep Sea Fishing trips, Trapshooting events, and our Annual OPVA Banquet at Spirit Mountain Casino.



Carolyn Hamstreet Shores - 2016 Deep Sea Fishing

Now we need to look forward to making our new year even better than the past year. We are getting ready to schedule our Pizza Feed meetings around the state with you, the OPVA members and families again this year, We will have the meetings at local bowling alleys and include bowling for all, if not interested in bowling then simply join us for pizza and drinks, it's all about getting together, visiting and having a good time.

Then if you like shooting trap there are the multiplex shoots every first weekend of the month. OPVA is having another fund raiser Fun Shoot at Hillsboro Trap & Skeet Club on February 11, 2017, so mark your calendars and join us. Even if you haven't shot trap before come on out,

bring the family and friends and enjoy the games. Please call me if you have any questions about any of the events.

Also it's not too late to buy raffle tickets for the gun. The drawing will take place on November 21st, the tickets are \$5 and you don't have to be present to win so hurry and get them before time runs out.

Oregon Adaptive Sports (OAS) out of Bend will be accepting registrations for the "*Heroes in Sisters*" in December. The event takes place January 20th thru the 22nd at Mt Bachelor and Hoodoo. OAS has lots of awesome volunteers to help with the disabled at both sites. So get signed up and bring the family for a weekend of fun in the snow. The lodging and meals are **FREE** for the family.

If you're interested or have questions about this or any event please call the office at 503-362-7998 or my cell 503-930-9589.

Then on February 4th Mary's Peak Hound Club is having its 26th Annual Rabbit Hunt at the Camp Adair, e.e Wilson Wildlife Area. They support OPVA every year and they are a very nice group of people, the hunting area is all wheel chair accessible no fees.

Some of these events are ways off but, I want to bring them to your attention so you have plenty of time for planning and questions. Mark your calendars and join us. We will let everyone know when the pizza/bowling meetings will take place and we look forward to seeing you there! Thank you all and hope you can join us.





Oregon Adaptive Sports (OAS) is hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> annual “Heroes in Sisters” event on January 20-22, 2017. Heroes in Sisters is a weekend adventure sports retreat designed to honor Pacific Northwest Veterans with permanent physical disabilities and their families. It is one of OAS’ largest and most popular events of the season and a great opportunity to meet, have fellowship with Veterans, try a new sport or improve a current skill.

The weekend includes use of specialized ski and snowboard equipment, lessons, adaptive instructors, trained volunteers, meals, and two nights lodging. OAS and Disabled Sports USA along with many local businesses often contribute to make this event cost-free for our veterans. OAS hopes to show you what you can do regardless of your injuries.

Registration for Heroes in Sisters will open in early Winter. For questions or if you’d like to join our email distribution list to receive the latest notifications please email us at [info@oregonadativesports.org](mailto:info@oregonadativesports.org) or give us a call at 541-306-4774.

#### **ABOUT OAS:**

Oregon Adaptive Sports has been breaking barriers in Central Oregon since 1996, providing people with disabilities and their families an opportunity for outdoor recreation. Our goal is to nurture the human spirit and foster self---confidence and independence. We currently offer instructional programs in alpine and Nordic skiing and snowboarding, at both Hoodoo and Mt. Bachelor ski resorts. To prevent cost from being a barrier to participation, we rely on the support of hundreds of volunteers, businesses, donors and sponsors. [www.oregonadativesports.org](http://www.oregonadativesports.org)



# Recreation Fund Reports

Thank you OPVA for the Rec Fund. Had a great week of site seeing, dinning and shopping.

*Lonnie Morgan*

I am still in the process of restoring my 1940 Plymouth Coupe (the picture is only to illustrate). I have enclosed a copy of the receipt for a 2 gun paint sprayer set.

Using some of the previous OPVA Rec Fund reimbursements I was able to use the paint gun to spray the paint around the window casings and then install the rubber gasket



material around the car's front, rear and side windows and then install the window glass. This is the first time in probably 30 years or more that this vehicle has had glass in it.

Thank you for providing these funds.

*Vernon Shelden*

My wife and I went to The Resort At The Mountain for her 60th birthday. After constant company, this was a very welcome break. We even got to ride the golf course in a cart. We don't golf but they let us, it has been a dream of my wife for years. Each time she asked they declined because we do not golf.

This time they said yes, we enjoyed it so much. This fund makes it a little more affordable. Thank you

*Pat Cain*



Dear Oregon PVA,  
Visiting family this year in Portland it's been great being able to go out for meals. Also, I was able to see "The Lion King" with a friend. It was absolutely amazing.  
Thank you

*Karen Abramowitz*



Dear OPVA:

I am writing to request the \$250 Recreation Fund Reimbursement, for moneys I spent on a vacation that we took to Bridgeport Washington in the first portion of September 2016.

Our trip was both fun, exciting, and at times restful even though I had my 13 year old son,



12 year old grandson and my wife all on this trip. I could not have asked for better company both while relaxing at camp and while on the dock attempting to catch a fish. (We were successful however, there was not one keeper in the bunch).

We found this great little park that was a mile or so down river from the Chief Joseph Dam on the Columbia River which was maybe 300 feet from our camping space.

This was a seven hour trip from home one way and the boys did better than I did when it came to complaining about are we there yet but, all in all it was a great time away from home and with the closest members of my family.

Sincerely,

*Toby Newton*

We enjoyed the summer as a family at Silverwood Theme Park. We rode plenty of rides especially with the head of line privilege wheelchair users get. It was all about finding what rides were safe for someone with a spinal cord injury.

Also, took my wheelchair in the wave pool at the water park side. That was quite tricky and probably not the best for the wheelchair! The park was extremely accommodating for a wheelchair user with limited mobility.

Thank You OPVA!

*Travis Nelson*



Dear Oregon PVA,

To celebrate our 44th wedding anniversary, our daughter's 43rd birthday and our granddaughter's 12th birthday with the help of the Recreation Fund, was able to enjoy Lobster Fest.

Thank you for the Recreation Funds.

*Ed McKinney*

# Recreation Fund Reports (continued)



Hi there,  
It is time again to tell you what we have been doing and ask for a refund from our recreation fund.

This year we took our motorhome and went to Tenmile Lake to Osprey Point RV Park in Lakeside, OR. Not far from Coos Bay. Weather was very good. Had a great time just enjoying getting away for a few days. Thank you so much.

Linda Jespersen

I used to fish, hunt, crab or camp, year around in Oregon or wherever my thoughts took me. For the last year and a half I've been in and out of the hospital and Dr's office so many times. I lost count.

Now, I'm starting to put stuff together so I was able to purchase a new down rigger for my boat because of the Recreational Fund. It helps out so much – It's just a great thing for all of us. Thank you so much.

*Richard Dean*



I recently purchased a firearm for both recreation and self-defense. I enjoy getting out and shooting with my friends and family. I go to the gun range but it's also nice to get out in the woods and shoot, respectively and responsibly of course. I am grateful that the recreation fund exists to help with a wide variety of hobbies and look forward to putting more rounds downrange. Thanks OPVA.

Thank you,

*Steven Murphy*







Dear PVA,  
My recreation comes in the form of working in my flower beds (my boys built me flower beds about 3 feet high, so I can reach them and plant them).  
We also put up humming bird feeders. I spend many mornings watching the humming birds.

*Brenda Marsters*

Attached is a copy of my hotel receipt (Inn at Spanish Head) which I want to use for my recreation fund. My wife and I stayed here after the Members Banquet since it was close and it was where we had honeymooned at 38 years ago.  
Thanks for all you do!

*Bill Gray*



Just to say I had a good time on the fishing trip (Deep Sea Fishing 9/2016). I also bought some Ammo for shooting, which I love to do. These receipts are for fishing and shell fish license, gas, bait, cost of trip and ammo for shooting.

Thanks very much for helping me to have been able to enjoy some of my summer.

Thank again: Larry (BEAR) Rilling



Meeting great granddaughters. Spending time with daughter grand



50th wedding Anniversary + family reunion

We are so grateful you offer the recreation fund. We were able to attend my brother and sister-in-laws 50th wedding anniversary and family reunion in California.

We also combined our time while were we there and stayed with my son and daughter-in-law and got to see our granddaughter and all four of our great-granddaughters.

We have 2 two year olds and 2 three year olds.

It was such a wonderful trip.

*Gary Cooper*

# Recreation Fund Reports (continued)

Each year we go to various entertainment and sporting events in our local area and usually also Portland. This year we also traveled to the Oregon Coast Aquarium in Newport for a fun family day. Madonna's 'Rebel Heart' tour performance in Portland was non-stop theatrical action. We have never seen a show so dynamic!



Locally at Matthew Knight Arena we attended a University of Oregon men's basketball game, marveled at the skills of the Harlem Globetrotters, and enjoyed the musical talent of Brad Paisley in concert.



We took in the Broadway musical Jersey Boys and the comedy of Blue Man Group at our performing arts theater.

Summer in July saw us at the Lane County Fair twice for country artists Gary Allan and Joe Nichols. Though these shows were within three days of each other, the weather seemed from two different times of year - the first being a cool, overcast evening show and the other bring a beautiful summer, hot summer afternoon.



August 5th we headed to the ball field for a minor league game of our Eugene Emeralds, Class A affiliate of the Chicago Cubs. We like to catch at least one game during their summer season.



Thank you, OPVA, for contributing to the welfare and well-being of your members thru your generous recreation fund program!  
Sincerely,

*Mike Williamson*



OPVA:

Our plan for a nice 33rd wedding anniversary celebration was delayed several weeks thanks to a minor surgical procedure and prostate biopsy that, a week later, revealed devastating news. We needed a break to recharge, refresh, and renew ourselves and what better way to accomplish that relief than two days R&R on the coast.

And relax we did taking in the sights, dining at various establishments, having time to ourselves mentally preparing for the upcoming cancer surgery. It was time well spent enjoying the opportunity to get away from the familiar surrounding exploring something new and exciting.

The Recreation Fund was deeply appreciated!  
Thank you. Sincerely

Larry & Betty Ricklefs



Remember to Use

# Your Recreation Fund

Oregon PVA 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.

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.

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

All receipts must be dated within this current fiscal year and used within this current fiscal year (10/1/16 - 9/30/17). - Mail to: **Oregon PVA, 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305**

**Must be received in the office 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.



# MEMBERSHIP AND LEGISLATION



Roger C. Robinson – Membership Director

Hope you all had a wonderful summer, and now its fall. Membership has grown very little this past fiscal year.

New members 3, members who have passed last fiscal year 11. Most members we sign up now are new injury's and transfers from other chapters.

We still have our recreation fund for you to take advantage of. Have fun, see a show, go on a trip, cruise, short vacation, but do something with spouse or family. The following was written by a friend of mine and thought you all would enjoy this.

## What is a Veteran?

“A “Veteran” whether actual duty, discharged, retired or reserve is someone who, at one point of his life wrote a blank check payable to “The United States of America” for amount of up to and including his life.”

That is honor, and there are always too many people in this country today, who no longer today understand that fact.

Today we find more U.S. Citizens honoring our military, thank God for that, and God bless our troops.

## Legislation

Ballot Measure 96 Amends Constitution: Dedicates 1.5% of state lottery net proceeds to funding support services for Oregon veterans

### Result of “Yes”

Vote: “Yes” vote dedicates 1.5% of state lottery net proceeds to fund veterans’ services, including assistance with employment, education, housing, and physical/mental health care.

### Result of “No”

Vote: “No” vote retains current list of authorized purposes for spending state lottery net proceeds; 1.5% dedication to fund veterans’ services not required.

### Summary

Amends Constitution, dedicates lottery funding for veterans’ support services. Currently, constitution requires that state lottery proceeds be used to create jobs, further economic development, and finance public education; dedicates

some net lottery proceeds as follows: 18% to finance education stability fund, 15% to finance state parks, restoration and protection of native fish and wildlife, watersheds, water quality and wildlife habitats, 15% to finance school capital matching fund. Measure 96 dedicates 1.5% of lottery net proceeds to fund services for Oregon veterans. Veterans’ services include assistance with employment, education, housing, physical/mental health care, addiction treatment, reintegration, access to government benefits, and other services for veterans, spouses and dependents.

### Other provisions

Be sure and vote positive for this. ***Undedicated lottery proceeds are allocated at the discretion of the Legislature.***





# 65th Albany's Veterans Day Parade

**November 11, 2016. 11:00 am**



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Oregon Chapter

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

**or JOIN us on the OPVA float!**

**Call to sign up**

"Thank you for your service"

**3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 Tel: 503-362-7998 [www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)**



# DONATED ITEMS

OPVA has many items that have been donated to us for the purpose of giving to someone who needs it. Check with us before you purchase. All these items are given out **FREE** of charge.

**If you or someone you know needs one of these items, contact us at: 503.362.7998**

Standing and Raising Aid  
ArjoHuntleigh Sara Plus



Reliant 450 Battery Powered  
Lift with Low Base



**All items are "As Is"  
No Warranty**



Power Wheelchairs



Go-Go Elite Traveller  
Plus 4-Wheel



Lift Chair Recliner



Commode Chairs



Rollators



# Fun Shoot

## February 11, 2017



**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

Oregon Chapter

**Location:** Hillsboro Trap & Skeet Club

33295 NW Wren Road,  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Time:** Registration is at 9:00 a.m.

Games 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Event Type:** Fun Shoot

**Cost:** \$4.00 each game

**All proceeds support OPVA Trap Team**  
Prizes - Raffles items from Cabelas & Sportsman's Warehouse  
All shooters welcome



**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America** - 3700 Silvertown Rd. NE - Salem - OR 97305 - Office: 503-362-7998

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

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

# DEVELOPMENT REPORT



Tom Hurt – Development Coordinator

I want to thank all who have come out to volunteer this year at our events. We finished the summer out at the State Fair in Salem, we had a great turn out of members and volunteers to work our booth at the fair, and because of that we had a fantastic year in fundraising at the fair.



Shortly after the fair the Department of Veterans Affairs held their annual Expo at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland. Each year they will move the Expo to different locations throughout the state. Next year I believe it will be held in Central Oregon. As soon as we have the dates for next year's Expo we will pass the information on.

Sublimity Harvest Festival's Cause Day was on Sept 11th this year. This was a good awareness event for OPVA, as well as selling Hats and Raffle Tickets. It would be nice to get more of the membership to this event.

The chapter did attend the St Helens Stand Down in September also. This event was not very well attended, however, I would consider it a successful event for us to attend since we were able to help a veteran out with donating to him a power chair to give him the freedom to get around his neighborhood, which he was unable to do before. That is our mission to enrich the lives of our veterans.

We finished off the month of September with the Annual Members Banquet, where the yearly awards were presented as well as swearing in the Board of Directors. This year's banquet was moved back to Spirit Mountain Casino, which the members enjoyed.

I would love to meet more of the membership, and this is a great event for that. So the date is set for the 2017 banquet (Sept 17, 2017 at Spirit Mountain) I hope to see you there.



## ATTENTION!

Nov 11th is almost here, the 65th annual Albany Veterans Day Parade will be on a Friday this year. We would love to have as many member as possible participate with us. We have room for at least 6 Power Chairs on the float itself. And if you are able to walk or roll along the parade route it would be AWESOME to have you be part of the OPVA float!



If you just want to come cheer your Chapter on, at the Largest Veterans Day Parade west of the Mississippi. Come on out and have a great time with us. If you want to be part of the float please give me a call at the office. 503-362-7998

We have now began the new fiscal year and the calendar is filling up with events already, we have MANY opportunities to come participate with the chapter at events that we are holding as well as many that we are participating in. As always we are in need of more volunteers to help support the events.

Jan 20th - 21st	Winter Rod and Speed Car Show. <b>Albany</b>
Feb 11th	Hillsboro Fun Shoot
April 8th	Abilities Expo. <b>Portland</b>
Jun 3rd	Free Fishing Day. <b>Detroit Lake</b>
Jun 23rd	OPVA Golf Tournament. <b>Salem</b>
Jul 6th - 9th	Marion County Fair. <b>Salem</b>
Jul 11th	First Tuesday in Sublimity
Jul 22nd	MOPAR Cruise-In
Jul 23rd	MOPAR. Woodburn Drags
Aug 12th	OPVA Show & Shine Car Show. <b>Salem</b>
Aug 25th - Sept 4th	Oregon State Fair. <b>Salem</b>
Sept 16th	Albany Fun Shoot
Sept 17th	Members Banquet. <b>Spirit Mountain Casino</b>

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.



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Oregon Chapter

# No One Left Behind

**We continue fulfilling our mission. Are you participating?**

**Our chapter will succeed if members come forward to participate in the activities.**

**Support your Chapter!**

**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America  
3700 Silverton Rd., Salem, OR 97305  
Office: 503-362-7998  
[www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)**

# WHEELCHAIR ADVENTURES



Louie Grimmer – Vice President

This was my first year hunting with a true blue elk hunting party. As many hunters know these are CLOSED to new comers and I was not only new but in a wheelchair. When Pete came into camp that Friday before the hunt started, he met me while I was there alone. Chuck left for about an hour. Now you need to understand Pete and Chuck have been hunting partners for many years and he said, “WHO THE (HECK)!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ARE YOU?”

At that moment I felt kinda unsure and pretty intimidated because Pete is 6’ 4” tall. To make things worse he is a retired Marine Gunny Sergeant. That evening we sat around the campfire and planned the next morning’s hunt. Pete, who chewed Levi tobacco

and drank beer at the same time, announced that he was going to take Louie with him in the morning.

This was a big surprise to all of us. I figured Pete was either going to get rid of me or check me out to see if I had any understanding of hunting. During the next six hours I felt I needed to show him what I was made of by remembering everything Chuck taught me. I will admit I asked a lot of dumb questions but we seemed to get along pretty well. Pete told me of his experiences while he was in the corps (Marine Corps) working in the motor pool and being on the rifle team. He told me about the shooting matches he was involved in at 1,000 yards with an M-14. I truly was impressed.



Later on that morning we were poking along looking for a deer or an elk to shoot.

Unexpectedly, a nice 4-point buck ran across the road in front of us toward a very steep dirt bank. The deer did not appear on the other side of a large bush and surely could not have gone up the dirt bank without us seeing him. Pete grinned his usual Pete grin when he knows the outcome of something that is about to happen.

The deer must still have been in that big bush so Pete approached slowly when the deer suddenly bolted from the bush and...BANG! Pete shot at the deer at 100 feet and missed. The deer ran down a steep embankment on the other side of the road and Pete unloaded the rest of his shots, missing every time. He sheepishly came back to the truck and said, "I MISSED HIM". It was then my turn to rib him about that 100 FOOT shot. He told me, "Well, pardner, don't say anything to the guys at camp." I told him nothing doing, everyone was going to hear about this.

I realize that those kinds of shots DO happen and if you don't do something like that you are doing something wrong or not telling the full story. By the way, we got three deer but no elk that year. It was enjoyable.

Elk season was in full swing and the snow was coming down fairly hard. My partners deposited me on a lonely stand waiting for the elk to pass by so I could bag one. You need to understand watching for elk in a blinding snow storm is not very exciting. I must have looked at those 680 stumps on that hillside a thousand times. From where my stand was I was able to tell if there was anything different on that hillside instantly. There were times I thought I saw something and I would grow horns on it and then I looked at it harder through the snowfall and realized it was nothing.

Pete and Chuck have been hunting partners for a long time and I felt like extra baggage because I was not too savvy about elk hunting. Nevertheless, I wanted to learn. As I saw it they were trying me out to see if I had what it takes to stick it out.

Many people would have wanted to call it quits because the two of them were riding around in a warm truck having fun looking for elk while I was stuck there on an old dead end logging road with a big bunch of stumps to look at. No matter how still I was or how hard I looked there were NO ELK, no deer, or no birds. There was nothing at all on that hill side, JUST STUMPS.



The snow got real heavy and I couldn't go anywhere. I was covered with snow (full rain gear) and after three hours I started getting cold so I made myself as comfortable as I could and promptly fell asleep. I do not know how long I was asleep but the next thing I realized there was someone yelling my name. I guess I was out in LA-LA Land for at least 30 minutes because Pete and Chuck stopped on top of the ridge and watched me for a little while and figured I had checked out for a nap.

They drove all the way around to the head of the canyon where I was located then drove right next to me. They sat and laughed at me until they wondered if I had DIED. That is when they got out of their warm truck and walked over to me and yelled my name.

I awoke with a start and said, "Hi guys, I haven't seen a thing all the time you were gone".

Their response was, "WE KNOW!" I have to admit getting out of bed (a cot) at 4:00 a.m. was hard for this novice hunter but it was very cold at that time of the morning. We all had a good laugh over that and decided to go back to camp, eat some breakfast and get thawed out.

# November

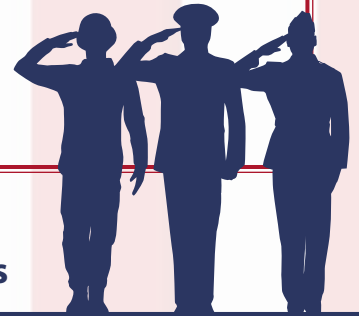
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 President Election Day	9	10	11 Veteran's Day Parade	12
13	14	15	16	17 BOD 10:00 a.m.	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

 **Office closed**

### Save the Date



- 11/11** Veterans Day - Office Closed
- 11/11** 65th Albany Veterans Day Parade
- 11/17** BOD Meeting (10:00 a.m.)
- 11/24** Thanksgiving
- 12/25** Christmas



**We honor our Veterans**



# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10			Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day						New Year's Eve

 **Office closed**



*Merry  
Christmas*



# HOSPITAL LIAISON REPORT



Mike Rosenbalm – Hospital Liaison



Price is what you pay. Value is what you get.

## Seattle SCI Center Issues

The Seattle SCI Center has an ongoing nurse shortage and currently capped admission to 23 of 38 beds. A large number of our SCI/D Members have not had timely annual evaluations and/or experience long waits for other services. Most recently the Seattle SCI Center called veterans scheduled for respite to inform them that they were canceling all respite through the end of the year. Often the veteran receives minimal notice that their

annual evaluation or other admission is being canceled.

If your annual evaluation or other admission has been canceled or postponed and/or you have experienced a long wait for other services, please call the OPVA office at 503-362-7998.

When you call leave a message for me with a contact number and best time to call you so I can contact you in person.



## National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month

September is National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month. Paralyzed Veterans of America, Executive Director Sherman Gillums, Jr. Champions Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month with an Appeal to Add 1,000 More Bedside Nurses to the VA Spinal Cord Injury & Disease System of Care.

## Fund VA Staff Increase or Lose More Nurses in VA Specialized Care Services

On September 12, 2016, Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) Executive Director Sherman Gillums, Jr. published an op-ed, imploring Congress to provide funding for the critical VA nursing shortage.

Nurses—specifically those who work at the bedside—are the backbone of the VA healthcare system today. In fact, with more than 80,000 registered nurses and nursing assistants, VA is the nation's largest employer of nurses.

Of approximately 42,000 SCI/D veterans in this country, only about 12,000 receive specialized care in VA. This means the overwhelming majority are either receiving sub-optimal care elsewhere, going without annual exams and preventative screenings, don't know they are eligible for VA specialized care, or have been discouraged by the lack of access to VA care. This number increases when those with spinal cord diseases, such as Multiple Sclerosis and Lou Gehrig's disease, are added.

While hardly anyone disagrees with the need to increase the number of nursing staff in the VA SCI/D system to keep up with patient demand, dispute continues on necessary additional staff. Some in VA argue the relevance of average daily census in determining future staffing needs, even though those censuses were capped and couldn't possibly account for untracked, unmet demand. This specious argument needs to be exposed for

what it is: solely a matter of cost, not patient need.

For others in VA and among veteran advocates, unmet demand is the precise basis of present and future VA SCI/D nurse staffing needs, in this case an additional 1,000 nurses (average of 32 nurses per facility), for which the cost of not doing whatever it takes to improve the system will increase exponentially.

As Warren Buffet once said, "Price is what you pay. Value is what you get." The same is true of VA health care. When it comes to assessing the price for taxpaying citizens to ensure those paralyzed veterans who served our country have their serious medical needs met, there is tremendous accrued value in achieving better clinical outcomes, creating a more sustainable nurse workforce—and, in some instances, saving a life.

That value far outweighs the cost of paying a heavier price later as aging paralyzed veterans wait longer for care and a detached VA leadership, and politically driven proponents of diminishing investment in VA eventually break the back of one of its most critical frontline functions—and it's our nation's most disabled heroes who will pay.

Congress must fund the 1,000-additional-nurses requirement so that paralyzed veterans who have no private sector alternative get full and timely access to adequate VA specialized services they need to live and stay healthy.

(Source: <http://www.pva.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=ajIRK9NJLcJ2E&b=6350111&ct=14924329#>)

## Request for Action

With both the local and nationwide shortage of SCI nursing staff, I would like to encourage all chapter members to contact their representatives requesting they support funding the 1,000-additional-nurses requirement so that paralyzed veterans get full and timely access to adequate the VA specialized services they need to live and stay healthy. If you don't have time or ability to send an email or fax, please call and give a verbal request that they support funding.

If possible, provide a personal example of how the shortage of SCI nursing staff in Seattle has personally affected you. In addition, explain how you cannot get the same quality of care in the local community as you can get through the VA Specialty care offered at the SCI Center.

The Seattle SCI Center serves one of the largest SCI geographic areas that include Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Hawaii. Below is information on how to contact representative in the state served by the SCI Center.

## Oregon

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden  
<https://www.wyden.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley  
<https://www.merkley.senate.gov/connect>

U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici, First District of Oregon  
<https://bonamici.house.gov/contact-me>

U.S. Representative Greg Walden, Second District of Oregon  
<https://walden.house.gov/contact-greg>

U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer, Third District of Oregon  
<https://blumenauer.house.gov/contact>

U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio, Fourth District of Oregon  
<http://defazio.house.gov/contact/contact-peter>

U.S. Representative Kurt Schrader, Fifth District of Oregon  
<http://schrader.house.gov/contact/>

## Washington

U.S. Senator Patty Murray  
<https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme>

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell  
<https://www.cantwell.senate.gov/contact>

U. S. Representative Jaime Herrera-Beutler, Third District of Washington  
<http://herrerabeutler.house.gov/contact/>

## Idaho

U. S. Senator Mike Crapo  
<http://www.crapo.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm>

U. S. Senator James E. Risch  
<http://www.risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

U. S. Representative Raúl Labrador, First District of Idaho  
<https://labrador.house.gov/contact-me/>

U. S. Representative Mike Simpson, Second District of Idaho  
<http://simpson.house.gov/>

## Montana

U. S. Senator Steve Daines  
<https://www.daines.senate.gov/>

U. S. Senator Jon Tester  
<http://www.testersenate.gov/>

U. S. Representative Ryan Zinke, At-Large all of Montana

<https://zinke.house.gov/contact>

## Alaska

U. S. Senator Lisa Murkowski  
<https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/contact>

U. S. Senator Dan Sullivan  
<http://www.sullivan.senate.gov/contact>

U. S. Representative Don Young, At-Large all of Alaska  
<http://donyoung.house.gov/contact/>

## Hawaii

U. S. Senator Mazie Hirono  
<https://www.hirono.senate.gov/contact>

U. S. Senator Brian Schatz  
<https://www.schatz.senate.gov/contact>

U. S. Representative, First District of Hawaii-Currently Vacant  
[http://clerk.house.gov/member\\_info/vacancies\\_pr.aspx?pr=house&vid=100](http://clerk.house.gov/member_info/vacancies_pr.aspx?pr=house&vid=100)

U. S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard, Second District of Hawaii  
<http://gabbard.house.gov/index.php/contact>





# April 8, 2017

10am - 3pm

Open to the Public (Free)

**Double Tree by Hilton Portland Hotel**

1000 NE Multnomah St. Portland, OR 97232

**Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America**

3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 Phone: 503.362.7998 Toll Free: 1.800.333.0782

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

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

# OPVA Birthday List

Richard Kyser	11/2	Angel Enriquez	12/13
Paula Fox	11/3	Edmon Gillespie	12/14
Ken Allen	11/5	William Hauser	12/14
Martin Halsey	11/5	Donna Schymanski	12/15
Lynette Nobel	11/5	Paul Dahlke	12/16
Louis Grimmer Jr.	11/7	Vernon Shelden	12/19
Irwin Storer	11/10	Paul Donovan	12/21
Linda Jespersen	11/12	Duane Ingersoll Jr.	12/22
Jack Howell	11/13	Brian Barlow	12/24
Edward Lanssens	11/13	James Ledridge	12/25
Dennis Harbour	11/20	Richard Dean	12/30
Steven Ross	11/21	Michael Mayea	12/30
David Peddicord	11/22	Cornelius Depuy	12/31
John Balbin	11/22	Edward Lawrence	12/31
Carl Hay	11/23	Jeffery Cox	12/31
Theodore McBroom	11/24		
Arnold Bondley	11/24		
Daniel Brophy	11/27		
Robert Haberman Jr.	11/27		
Michael Olin	11/30		
Joseph Theriot	12/1		
Ronald Latham	12/4		
Kathryn Shear	12/4		
Patrick Cain	12/5		
Steven Terry	12/9		
Jarlin Medlock	12/10		
Ivan Nance	12/10		
Louis Hatfield	12/11		
Loyal Rookhuyzen	12/12		
Scott Larsen	12/13		
Brian Price	12/13		

**“Thank you for your service”**



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Oregon Chapter

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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.*

**October 18, 2016**

**Volume 22, No 10**

**\*\*\*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](http://www.AirAccess30.org) and share your story.

## **Congress Approves CR, Includes PVA Priorities**

Prior to recessing for the November election at the end of September, Congress approved H.R. 5325, the “Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for FY 2017,” that included full-year funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The bill contains three very important priorities for PVA. These include:

1. Reinstatement of the annual capacity reporting requirement. While a date for implementation has not been established, this is an important accomplishment that will bolster the work done by the PVA Medical Services site visit teams.

2. Authorization of the provision of reproductive services through VA, to include in vitro fertilization (IVF). This has long been a high priority for PVA. For the first time, veterans with service-connected catastrophic disabilities that preclude them from having children will have access to reproductive services through the VA. Unfortunately, we will have to defeat an amendment included in the Labor/HHS Appropriations bill, introduced by Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), that risks undermining the authority to provide IVF services both at VA as well as the Department of Defense.

3. Beneficiary travel for “some” non-service connected catastrophically disabled veterans, including those with SCI, blindness and amputation. The language in the bill states that it can be provided to those who travel to an inpatient rehabilitation facility, such as an SCI center, and are admitted for overnight stay or provided temporary lodging. Assuming appropriate interpretation, this should at least open the opportunity for beneficiary travel for PVA members receiving annual physicals; however, we do not believe it authorizes beneficiary travel for non-service connected veterans for same-day appointments. Additionally, it remains to be seen when this benefit will actually go into effect. We will obviously have to track implementation of this closely.

Sarah Dean, PVA Associate Legislative Director, deserves a great deal of credit for her tireless work on the capacity reporting issue and the IVF provisions specifically. Hard work remains to ensure that proper implementation of these important provisions occurs. This will be particularly true of the capacity report and the beneficiary travel provisions, which I anticipate VA will be resistant to acting on.

## **Legislation Stalled in the Senate**

While key provisions were included in the CR, the lack of compromise generally led to a number



# Washington Update

of important pieces of legislation being left unfinished. Perhaps the biggest issue that has yet to be resolved is the appeals reform included in H.R. 5620, the “Accountability First and Appeals Reform Act,” introduced by House VA Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (R-FL). That legislation also included strong accountability measures for VA staff. The legislation passed the House in September with strong bipartisan support, but it is being held up in the Senate, primarily over disagreements on the accountability provisions.

Our work also continues on H.R. 3471, the “Veterans Mobility Safety Act.” While we were able to get it passed in the Senate, there has been continued resistance in the Senate. However, Gabe Stultz, Associate Legislative Director, has worked closely with Senator Jerry Moran’s (R-KS) office and they are prepared to move an amended version of H.R. 3471 that will satisfy all interested parties when Congress returns after the election.

Finally, the Senate has been unable to advance S. 2921, the “Veterans First Act.” Of highest importance to PVA in that legislation is provisions that will expand access to the Comprehensive Family Caregiver program to veterans of all eras, not just those injured after September 11, 2001. Unfortunately, cost remains a hurdle to advancing that effort. Additionally, provisions that are generally perceived to water down accountability, per the request of the government unions, have led a stalemate over the bill.

We anticipate a lot of focus on appeals reform and accountability when Congress returns for a lame duck session after the election in November.

## **DOT ACCESS Committee Completes Work**

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Advisory Committee on Accessible Air Transportation (ACCESS Committee) completed its business on Friday, October 14, 2016.

The 25 member Committee was charged with negotiating in good faith to reach consensus on a proposed rule addressing inflight entertainment, service animals, and accessible lavatories on single aisle aircraft. The department intends to use the consensus agreement from the ACCESS Committee as the basis for a proposed rule. After six months’ worth of work, there were varying degrees of success. The Committee focused on three key areas—lavatories, service animals, and inflight entertainment. The following is a review of that work.

## **Lavatories**

The Committee reached consensus that all new aircraft of a certain size shall have accessible lavatories by a certain date. Recognizing that a prior committee failed in this process in 1993 and that there is expense to the industry in complying, the Committee adopted a two tiered approach in providing accessible lavatories on new single aisle aircraft.

The first tier includes all new aircraft delivered three years after the effective date of the final rule. The second tier includes aircraft that are ordered 18 years and delivered 20 or more years after the effective date of the final rule; or are a new type design for which application is filed with the FAA or a foreign carrier civil aviation authority more than 1 year after the effective date of the final rule. Both tiers have multiple levels of access for passengers with disabilities. Access that begins in the first tier carries over into the second tier of accessibility.

Specifically, the first tier applies to all carriers operating aircraft that have FAA-certified maximum passenger capacity of 60 or more seats. This will include flight attendant training on an annual basis to proficiency in use of the new DOT onboard wheelchair and assembly or modifications to the accessible features of the lavatory. Carriers must also provide information upon request to passengers with disability concerning the accessible features of the lavatory

# Washington Update

including controls and dispensers and the information must be on the carrier's website, in electronic or printed forms with picture diagrams, on the aircraft. Carrier will also remove the international symbol of accessibility (ISA) from all lavatories new and in service that cannot facilitate an independent seated transfer.

All first and second tier aircraft with FAA-certified maximum passenger capacity of 125 or more seats will have at least one lavatory that meets the following specifications. The aircraft shall have a standard toilet seat height ranging from 17-19 inches high, assist handles that support 250 pounds and an array of controls and dispensers that are tactilely accessible and measured for a performance specification that meets the definition of a person with a disability in a seated position. These interior lavatory components include: attendant call buttons, door lock, flush control, faucet controls, paper towel and soap dispensers, and trash and bio waste units. All components where reasonably available in supplier catalogs shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.

Other features that will apply to a first tier aircraft include a visual barrier that shall be available upon request. It will provide passengers with disabilities using the lavatory (with the door possibly open) a level of privacy substantially equivalent to that provided to ambulatory users. Most importantly is a door sill or threshold that provides minimum obstruction to the passage of the on board wheelchair across the sill while preventing leakage of fluid or causing a tripping hazard during evacuation. The door sill threshold applies to both tiers of access.

New covered single aisle aircraft with FAA-certified maximum passenger capacity of 125 or more seats entering service three years after the effective date of the final rule must have onboard wheelchairs that meet new standards

to be developed by DOT. DOT will consult with advocates, airlines, wheelchair manufacturers, flight attendants and other stake holders in developing these standards. The purpose of the onboard wheelchair standards is to improve the safety of traditional models of onboard wheelchairs and develop, if feasible, specifications for an over-the-toilet onboard wheelchair design. The target date to complete the onboard wheelchair standards is February 2017.

Second tier aircraft with FAA-certified maximum passenger capacity of 125 or more seats in which lavatories are provided will be required to have one lavatory of sufficient size / design to permit a passenger with a disability to perform a seated independent and dependent transfer from the onboard wheelchair to and from the toilet within a closed space that affords to persons using the onboard wheelchair privacy equal to that afforded by ambulatory passengers. To ensure these new lavatories meet the performance specifications they will be designed/modeled with the 95 percent male (6'2, 246lbs) and 5 percent female (4'11, 125lbs) range to meet the required transfers, including the use of a 95 percent male to assist a dependent 95 percent male with a transfer from the onboard wheelchair to and from to toilet within the closed lavatory space.

The committee reached a consensus vote of 17 for the agreement, 1 no vote and 3 abstentions. PVA supported this agreement as first tier accessibility will provide increased access to lavatories in the short-term and ensure full-access at a time-certain in the future.

## Service Animals

Despite good faith negotiations, the ACCESS Committee reached an impasse in its efforts to come to a consensus on revising the definition of a service animal and the requirements for access for those animals under the ACAA.



# Washington Update

The impasse resulted due to an inability to find a suitable alternative to current regulations which allow airlines to request as a condition of access that users of psychiatric and emotional support animals provide current documentation from a mental health professional stating that they have a mental or emotional disability for which they need the animal. Airlines and advocates considered imposition of a requirement for all service animal and emotional support animal users to complete an attestation confirming that they were a person with a disability and that the animal was needed either in flight or at the destination due to the disability. The proposed attestation would also have alerted the individual to the possibility that attempting to pass a pet as a service animal or emotional support animal could result in penalties. Ultimately, we were unable to find a solution that would free psychiatric and emotional support animal users from the burdens of medical documentation without imposing new, unacceptable burdens on all service animal users.

Another issue that remains unresolved is the types of species of service animals that should be allowed under the ACAA. Currently, domestic carriers are never required to permit access for unusual service animals such as snakes, rodents, and spiders, but must otherwise permit access for service animals unless the carrier determines that there are factors that preclude the animal from traveling in the cabin. Foreign carriers do not have to provide access to service animal species other than dogs. Stakeholders generally agreed that dogs, miniature horses, and capuchin monkeys should be classified as service animals. An unresolved question remained whether cats should also be included.

In addition, stakeholders were unable to resolve whether emotional support animals should continue to have access. Under the ACAA, the definition of service animal includes emotional supports animals. Stakeholders considered removing emotional support animals from the definition and reclassifying those and other

similar animals as “support animals.” Species considered for support animals included dogs, cats, and rabbits. Those animals would have had more limited access than service animals as in many cases they would have been required to travel in a pet-carrier but still able to perform disability mitigation, if needed.

In light of the failure of these negotiations to reach consensus, DOT will now be charged with developing a proposed rule on this issue. The efforts of disability advocates, including PVA, have provided DOT with significant insight. We look forward to weighing in with DOT to ensure that any proposed rule preserves the access rights of all service animal users.

## Inflight Entertainment

The ACCESS Committee still has work to do in trying to reach consensus on the issue of accessible inflight entertainment and communication. Currently, airlines are not providing captioning for the deaf or audio description for the blind on movies or television shows packaged by the airlines for inflight entertainment. The problem revolves around technical hardware and software mechanical issues of the seatback display systems that in service airplanes use.

The work group on inflight entertainment and communication will meet November 2, 2016 to finish their negotiation in hopes of reaching a consensus.

The DOT Facilitators’ report is due in early December. The report will reflect the entire work of the ACCESS Committee in the three areas they were charged to reach agreement on and all public documents that were sent to the Committee in support of the issues. The DOT onboard wheelchair standards are due in February 2017 and the Department hopes to publish a Notice of Proposed Rule making in the Federal Register by the end of June 2017.

# Washington Update

## PVA Participates in Suicide Roundtable Discussion

On September 23, 2016, VA gathered a large group of veterans' service organizations (VSOs) to discuss opportunities for collaboration and some of the salient issues with regard to confronting veteran suicide. The primary issues discussed related to both identifying at risk veterans and getting those veterans to engage in VA-provided services. An additional challenge is that even if veterans are identified, not all are eligible for care.

VA discussed briefly the mental health summits that it is holding throughout all VAMCs. The American Legion mentioned that many of their NSOs were not made aware of these summits, and the opportunity for VSOs to reach out to their local members was lost. VA will reevaluate its communications with VSOs for the summits, and they provided the upcoming schedule of all summits so that VSOs can alert their field offices.

VA also explained briefly some of their efforts to assist families of veterans who are contemplating suicide and community providers handling veteran patients contemplating suicide.

Ultimately, the forum was a chance for VA to ask PVA and our fellow VSOs as individual organizations to decide how we can partner with VA to reach veterans who are struggling. Suicide prevention materials being shared publicly by the VA can be viewed at the video links below:

- Newest Suicide Prevention PSA "Be There: Help Save a Life": <https://youtube/MCSZ7FjTq5I>
- Suicide Prevention PSA "I'm good. But are you ready to listen?": <https://youtube/YPFo9EvUUvA>
- Suicide Prevention PSA "The Power of 1": <https://youtube/WSx11Kmmrg>
- Veterans Crisis Line – After the Call: <https://youtube/l8cQHTzZTIs>

## Deadline for Claims in Department of Justice's Historic Settlement with Greyhound for ADA Violations Approaching

On February 8, 2016, the Department of Justice announced a consent decree resolving a complaint against Greyhound for alleged violations under the Americans with Disabilities (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 be required to compensate travelers with disabilities who experienced disability discrimination while traveling or attempting to travel on Greyhound.

The deadline for passengers with disabilities who encountered disability-related discrimination on Greyhound to submit a claim for compensation is November 10, 2016.

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: [www.dojvgreyhoundsettlement.com](http://www.dojvgreyhoundsettlement.com). To contact the Claims Administrator, please call 1-844-502-5953 or by email at [GRYsettlement@classactionadmin.com](mailto:GRYsettlement@classactionadmin.com).



# Washington Update

## ADA Notification Act Legislation Introduced in the Senate

On September 28, 2016, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) introduced S. 3446, the “ADA Education and Reform Act of 2016.” This legislation would require a person with a disability to give notice to a public accommodation of an architectural barrier under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prior to filing a lawsuit. Sen. Flake’s legislation is a companion bill to H.R. 3765, which was introduced by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) and passed by the House Judiciary Committee in July. Despite concerns that H.R. 3765 might be brought to the House floor for a vote in September, no further action on this legislation has occurred.

PVA strongly opposes proposed ADA notification requirements. Notification laws put the onus on the person with a disability to find ADA violations and notify a public accommodation of those violations. No other civil rights group is forced to shoulder the burden of triggering compliance with the law and, once they have done so, to wait to enforce their civil rights. Accessibility standards, such as those the ADA includes, are extremely important. Covered entities should continuously evaluate their businesses for appropriate access under the ADA and not wait to receive a notification before acting to make them fully accessible.

## OFCCP Hosts Business Roundtable for National Disability Employment Awareness Month

On October 6, 2016, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) hosted a forum highlighting successful business strategies for outreach to and recruitment of people with disabilities into the nation’s workforce. OFCCP is the agency within the Department of Labor

(DOL) responsible for enforcing government contractors’ compliance with Section 503 and VEVRAA. Those regulations require federal contractors to take affirmative steps to recruit and hire people with disabilities and certain targeted veterans, including those with disabilities. The roundtable was part of OFCCP’s observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month and brought together representatives of companies that have excelled in making disability inclusion a vital part of their workforce diversity efforts.

In a keynote address, Robert J. O’Hara, Vice President with United Technologies Corp., expressed support for the regulations that require companies to document their progress in bringing more people with disabilities into their operations. He also described challenges they encountered in broadening their disability outreach including appropriate ways to encourage people to identify as someone with a disability and connecting with talent pipelines to find qualified applicants. Among the strategies that worked for UT and for others at the forum were participation in networking conferences sponsored by organizations such as U.S. Business Leadership Network and National Organization on Disability, creating partnerships with universities to reach students with disabilities, and involvement of top corporate leadership in disability inclusion efforts.

For more information about DOL initiatives undertaken for National Disability Employment Awareness Month go to:  
<https://www.dol.gov/odep/>.



**PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
Government Relations Department  
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(800) 424-8200 • (800) 795-4327 • [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)

Sue Holt - M.S. Liaison

## Dysarthria Speech Disorder

The best laid plans of mice and man... Roberts Burns... (often go out the window) is how I would finish this quote. I promised you an article of our tour to the Multiple Sclerosis office in Portland but due to illness we weren't able to make it. Please look for it in a future edition of the Paralog.

Today I will address a problem that I am experiencing: Speech problems. According to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's article, speech disorders are fairly common in MS. They can include, but they are not limited to, scanning speech, slurring of words and speech may sound nasal. The medical term is dysarthria. Some of the different types of dysarthria are related to the type of the speech produced.

- **Clipped Speech:** Speech in which the words are slurred over and uncompleted.
- **Cerebellar Speech:** Speech seen with cerebellar lesion-varying from jerky or scanning to explosive.
- **Explosive Speech:** Speech uttered with more force than necessary.
- **Scanning Speech:** Slurring, monotonous speech.
- **Staccato Speech:** Speech in which each syllable is uttered separately.

If you are experiencing these problems you do have options. Contact your MS provider for a complete exam by a qualified speech pathologist.

Improving your voice can also improve your quality of life. Another website to check out is <http://www.va.gov> and find out "What are my VA Benefits for Multiple Sclerosis."

It covers Service Connected as well as Non-Service Connected Benefits.

On a closing note please save the following dates: March 2017 will be Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month and April 2017 will be Walk MS, date to TBD. From time to time we will be holding fund-raisers on our website and Facebook ([www.oregonpva.org](http://www.oregonpva.org)) with the money being donated to the Oregon Chapter of Multiple Sclerosis Society. Research is the way to find a cure! Your dollar is the one to do it!



### Upcoming Webinars & Telelearning Opportunities

[www.nationalMSSociety.org/telelearning](http://www.nationalMSSociety.org/telelearning)

**Diet and Multiple Sclerosis: A Neurologist's Perspective**  
Tuesday, Nov 8 at 5 p.m.

**Sleep and MS: Strategies for Improving your Zzz's**  
Tuesday, Dec 13 at 5 p.m.





# 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) 202.416.1250. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.

**Chapter Name:** Oregon Chapter

**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 (involving bowel & bladder)
- 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:** \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



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**NATIONAL DISABLED**  
**VETERANS**  
**WINTER SPORTS CLINIC**



**March 25 - April 1, 2017**  
**Snowmass, Colorado**

For more information please contact  
Teresa Parks / VA Event Director: 970-263-5040  
John Kleindiest / DAV Director of Voluntary Service: 859-442-2056  
[www.wintersportclinic.org](http://www.wintersportclinic.org)

**Dead line to apply 11/30/2016**  
**with a late dead line of 12/15/16**

National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic VAMC (WSC)  
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