



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Wisconsin Chapter

# *Roll With Us*

January - February - March, 2022

## **2022 Brings Growth to PVA-WI**

We are excited to announce that our Chapter is growing and moving to a bigger office space within the Milwaukee County War Memorial! Starting in January, we will occupy Suites 419-422 on the north side of the fourth floor. We needed more office space to accommodate our full time support team consisting of our Executive Director, Government Relations/COO, our new interns that support Administration and Digital Media, and our new Associate Sports Director! Additionally, we are partnering with Marquette University's Veteran's Health and Culture program to provide volunteer hours for the Service-Learning Program where students will work on PVA-WI programs and events. Stay tuned for an exciting year!

### **Tom Daily**

#### **Associate Sports Director, PVA-WI**



Tom Daily is the new Associate Sports Director at the PVA-WI, after 14 years at Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association/GLASA in Lake Forest, IL. He has a passion for sports and people. He attended Iowa State University, DePaul University, and National-Louis University in the field of Education. He taught for 16 years in the Elementary level. Tom has been married for 34 years to his wife, Gail and they have two children. Lauren is a Special Education teacher in Chicago and Quinton is a Rocket Scientist in Minneapolis, MN who recently got married to his wife Laura. Tom enjoys golfing, biking, and hiking when not at work. He is looking forward to meeting all and finding a true passion for you to strive for.

Stay in touch,  
Tom

### **Grace Malkusak**

#### **Administrative Assistant, PVA-WI**

I am so excited to be joining the PVA-Wisconsin team! I will be the administrative assistant helping out in the office. I am thrilled to be working alongside such driven and passionate people in this organization. I am currently a full-time graduate student at UW-Milwaukee, earning my Master's degree in Social Work. Helping others has always been, and will always be, my passion. I am grateful to get this opportunity to grow, learn, and understand what it means to help out and advocate for the paralyzed veteran community—getting behind an admirable cause such as this one inspires me each day that I come into work. I moved to Milwaukee a year and a half ago from Iowa City, where I grew up, and I have enjoyed taking the time to get to know the area and the people of Wisconsin. I also look forward to meeting more Wisconsinites involved here at PVA-WI and meeting anyone involved or in support of the organization.

All the best,  
Grace Malkusak



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members, Volunteers & Friends:

Happy New Year!

We have successfully reached 2022 despite the numerous challenges raised by the pandemic and the safety restrictions put in place to combat it. Indeed, looking back over 2021, PVA-WI was able to quickly adapt to these new challenges and was extremely innovative in finding ways to continue to reach out to our members, and Wisconsin's disabled community at large, in order to provide our helpful programs.

Just to recap a few of our efforts over the past year, we were able to:

- continue our advocacy efforts with both Federal and State legislators in order to promote and effectuate new and/or expanded benefits for our veteran members; we made solid inroads into securing more Congressional support for re-vamped and improved air transportation for the disabled; by using and supplying new types of technology, such as Facebook portals, we were able to assist many isolated individuals in staying in touch with the outside world; due to the isolating nature of the pandemic and the associated new needs of the disabled we developed several new
- programs and initiatives that will serve even more of the disabled community in the coming years;
- and, using newly devised safety protocols we were able to actually increase some of our offered adaptive sports and recreation programs. These are just a few of our 2021 success stories.



With 2022 now upon us, we are ready to undertake a number of new initiatives. One of these projects that we are hopeful of completing, testing and rolling out, is the holistic "Battle Buddy" software app that anyone can use to improve their life.

*(Presidents Report continued on page 4)*

## WHO WE ARE

### **Officers**

President: Ken Ness  
Vice President: Todd Drazy  
Secretary: Derrick Trenton  
Treasurer/GRD: Scott Griffith  
President Emeritus: Phil Rosenberg

### **National Director**

Ken Ness

### **Directors**

LeToi Adams  
Richard "Rick" Buth  
Peter Carrao  
Troy Kurczek  
Ken Matthews  
Michael Thomas

### **Staff**

Amera Schaefer: Executive Director  
Tom Daily: Associate Sports Director  
Grace Malkusak: Nonprofit Admin. Asst.  
Darrin Ferguson Jr: PR and Media Design Specialist

### **Recreation Therapy**

Erinn Kulba  
Sam Gracz

### **National SVC Office**

Eric Gonzales: Veterans Health & Benefits Specialist  
Linda Roberts: Accredited Administration  
Call: 414-902-5655  
Toll Free: 800-795-3580

### **Rehab Counselor**

Doug Green MS, CRC

### **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 9:00 to 3:00  
Saturday & Sunday Closed  
750 N Lincoln Memorial Drive, Suite 422  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-328-8910

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Happy New Years, PVA-WI members!

PVA-WI is excited to start the new year and share updates to programming to support the Spinal Cord Injury Unit (SCI) at the Zablocki VA. We have met with various members of SCI staff to determine alternative programming sources for inpatients and other ways to support members while in their care. The new options include subscriptions to Masterclass and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra memberships. The MasterClass is an online education subscription platform where individuals can access a wide variety of pre-recorded lectures and tutorials by experts in various fields. For example, you can learn about the art of film directing, editing, and cinematography from Martin Scorsese or learn how to cook restaurant recipes from Gordon Ramsay. The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra subscription gives access to select live performances on a streaming site.

Additionally, PVA-WI has revised the Virginia "Bea" Root & Kathy Welter Research and Education Endowment scholarship. PVA-WI established this annual SCI professional scholarship program to expand to all staff across the SCI unit. This \$1,000 scholarship will be offered to nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, dieticians, social work, CNA, or individuals seeking their CRRN certification. In return for receipt of this funding, PVA-WI requires that a recipient seek employment or stay employed at the Spinal Cord Injury Unit for at least two years. The application will be posted on the PVA-WI website the first week of January and will close on March 15.

PVA-WI is updating our Smart Card program to continue building on our synergy with the Zablocki VA SCI unit. The smart card is a credit card-sized USB device for storing medical information, PVA-WI membership benefits information, Christopher Reeve and Elizabeth Dole Foundation information, and additional educational information for our members and SCI staff. These smart cards will be given to members during their annual exams in February of 2022. In the meantime, any questions about PVA-WI membership benefits and scholarships can be found on our website.

We look forward to all the great PVA-WI work to come in 2022! Please reach out to me with any questions or feedback at [aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org](mailto:aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org) or 262-366-8896.

Amera Schaefer - Executive Director

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Members: 264

New Members: Joseph M. Stachurski

Associate Members: 128

New Associate Members: Bruce Jensen

James Jacobi

Final Bugle: Robert T. Giesfeldt

Gregory J. Gneiser

**Due to COVID restrictions  
ALL SCI outpatient annual exams  
have been changed to virtual  
via video or telephone.**

**If you have questions,  
contact Jackie at  
(414)384-2000 x41230**

*(Presidents Report Continued from Page 2)*

It is contemplated that this app will assist and encourage individuals to first take stock of multiple areas in their lives (physical, medical, financial, legal, safety, etc.), determine their goals, devise a plan to achieve those goals, and finally record and chart their progress towards their goals. By making a number of accompanying and tied-in resources readily available to the users of this app, we are hopeful that any user, even if just a partial user, can achieve a healthier, happier and more productive life. Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to figure out how to get this app to assist people in becoming younger, reducing wrinkles, regenerating hair growth, or winning the lottery.....however, stay tuned, these things might be incorporated in version 002 of Battle Buddy.

Another one of our newly designed endeavors is the development of a Boot Camp for Adaptive Athletes. The initial Boot Camp is designed to take place several months prior to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and is intended to 1) introduce and expose potential athletes to all of the various adaptive sports offered, and hopefully get more individuals involved; 2) provide initial and advanced training to all athletes, 3) allow coaches to work with athletes in order to develop a training regimen to improve their physical conditioning and sporting event abilities, and 4) provide a “Games like atmosphere of competition” to formally prepare the athletes for the upcoming Games. There are tons of adaptive sports that have been designed to allow athletes that have virtually any physical limitation, to compete, be active, and have fun. You don’t have to be an MVP athlete - just someone who wants to get involved and enjoy themselves. Accordingly, I encourage everyone to be on the lookout as more information regarding this program rolls out.

These are just a couple of our new programs that I have selected to highlight. Please be advised that there are more new chapter programs and events scheduled to be rolled out in 2022. And finally, rest assured that we will be continuing to sponsor our other historically successful programs and events. Please construe this as a continuing invitation to come and participate in PVA-WI’s activities. All you have to do is periodically monitor our Events Calendar on our website and/or our newsletter..... and don’t forget to sign up!

Ken Ness - Chapter President

## Special Raffle Winner Scott Kelley



## Foley Bags

PVA-WI is lucky to find a volunteer to craft foley bags for our members! She has made and continues to make several themed foley bags for our members, which are available at the hospital.



## PVA-WI at Work

### PVA-WI Members Help UWM Students

On October 25th, four members of the PVA-WI chapter assisted Michelle Lanouette, MS, PT, NCS, in providing hands-on instruction for 1st- and 2nd-year physical therapy students at UW-Milwaukee. The members from the chapter were Scott Griffith, Frank James, Derrick Trentin, and James Veltri. The 2nd year students evaluated each veteran to ascertain their ASIA impairment scale rating using techniques learned in class.

The American Spinal Injury Association Impairment Scale is a standardized neurological examination used by the rehabilitation team to assess the sensory and motor levels affected by the spinal cord injury. The scale has five classification levels, ranging from complete loss of neural function in the affected area to completely normal. The results help the team set functional goals based on the neurological level of injury that is determined.



Elements of the scale, according to the National Institutes of Health, include:

**Grade A:** The impairment is complete. There is no motor or sensory function left below the level of injury.

**Grade B:** The impairment is incomplete. Sensory function, but not motor function, is preserved below the neurologic level (the first normal level above the level of injury). Some sensation is preserved in the sacral segments S4 and S5.

**Grade C:** The impairment is incomplete. Motor function is preserved below the neurologic level. Still, more than half of the key muscles below the neurologic level have a muscle grade less than 3 (i.e., they are not strong enough to move against gravity).

**Grade D:** The impairment is incomplete. Motor function is preserved below the neurologic level, and at least half of the key muscles below the neurologic level have a muscle grade of 3 or more (i.e., the joints can be moved against gravity).

**Grade E:** The patient's functions are normal. All motor and sensory functions are unhindered.

Michelle did a lecture on adaptive sports classification and health and wellness across the lifespan regardless of someone's abilities. The first-year students then practiced completing a neurologic exam with you and the others, evaluating patient history, strength, range of motion, sensation, spasticity, and functional mobility.



## Thank You's

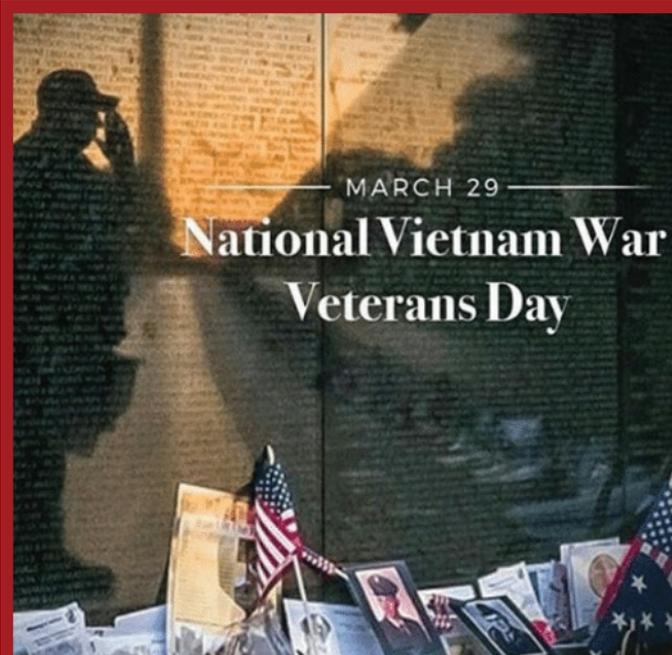
Multiple staff members at the Milwaukee VA Spinal Cord Injury Unit reached out to PVA-WI staff to express their gratitude for providing individually wrapped food lunches for the Holiday Luncheon on December 8, 2021.

**“Thank you so much for the delicious food. It was really good!”**  
– Erinn Kulba, Recreational Therapist

**“Thank you for thinking of us!”**  
– SCI staff member

**“Thank you to the PVA-WI members who helped with the SCI lab for the UWM students. As you can see, it is invaluable for the students to get some “real-life” experience working with individuals with a spinal cord injury!”**

– Michelle Lanoutte, MS, PT, NCS



National Vietnam War Veterans Day in the United States was first observed in 2012 and recognized as an annual holiday in 2017 when it was signed into law by President Trump. March 29th is the day that the last of the troops were withdrawn in 1973. It honors the US military members who served during the Vietnam War. All citizens are encouraged to fly the American flag in honor of those who served in the Vietnam War to thank those veterans.

# Accessibility

## Bringing Accessibility to Wisconsin's Lakes and Waterways

In support of PVA-National's *Honor the Spot* program, PVA-WI is launching an accessible marina initiative to make marinas throughout Wisconsin more accessible. Our first marina will be Reef Point Marina in Racine. In collaboration with Salmon-A-Rama, we will purchase and have installed a Super Power EZ pool lift on the marina dock to facilitate safe transfer from the dock to a boat. Below is a sample picture of the lift. This lift will be available for anyone who needs assistance transferring on to a boat. There will be signage identifying this boat slip as having "Priority to ADA Accessibility". We are in hopes to spread this program throughout our state and make our waterways more accessible. We plan to meet with both Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Department of Tourism to help fund and promote this program.



## NVWG - 2022

**National Veteran Wheelchair Games**  
Registration Day: February 1st, 2022

Contact:

Erinn: 414-384-2000 ext. 41245

or

Sam: 414-384-2000 ext. 41258

Are you a Veteran struggling to keep your air, heat, or power on?

Heat for Heroes may be able to help you.



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Keep WI Warm/Cool Fund



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**WHEELCHAIR  
GAMES**

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- **22 Events**
- **6 Days**

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**VA** | U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



# Sports

## PVA-WI Pays it Forward

PVA-WI donates to UW-Whitewater's Wheel Chair Basketball Program



## Air Rifle Tournament

On December 16th, PVA-WI's Tom Daily put on an Air Rifle tournament at MATC-South Campus. It was a fun filled day with competition, but more importantly it was a social event for our member to connect with each other while having fun. Mission BBQ provided lunch for everyone who attended.



Visit our website for future events.



## Events

### Pabst Mansion Tour

PVA-WI supported another VA recreational therapy event, a tour of the Pabst Mansion incredibly decorated for the holidays!

Members enjoyed the tour as many had never been there before.



### Holiday Luncheon at Zablocki VA SCI



# Christmas Gift Decorating



Erinn Kulba, Milwaukee VA Recreational Therapist, planned a Christmas Gift Decorating event hosted here at the Milwaukee War Memorial.

Erinn brought along four nursing student volunteers who supported crafting ornaments and other Christmas gifts with PVA-WI members.



Visit the PVA-WI website to review events supported by various partner organizations!

<https://wisconsinpva.org/events-calendar>

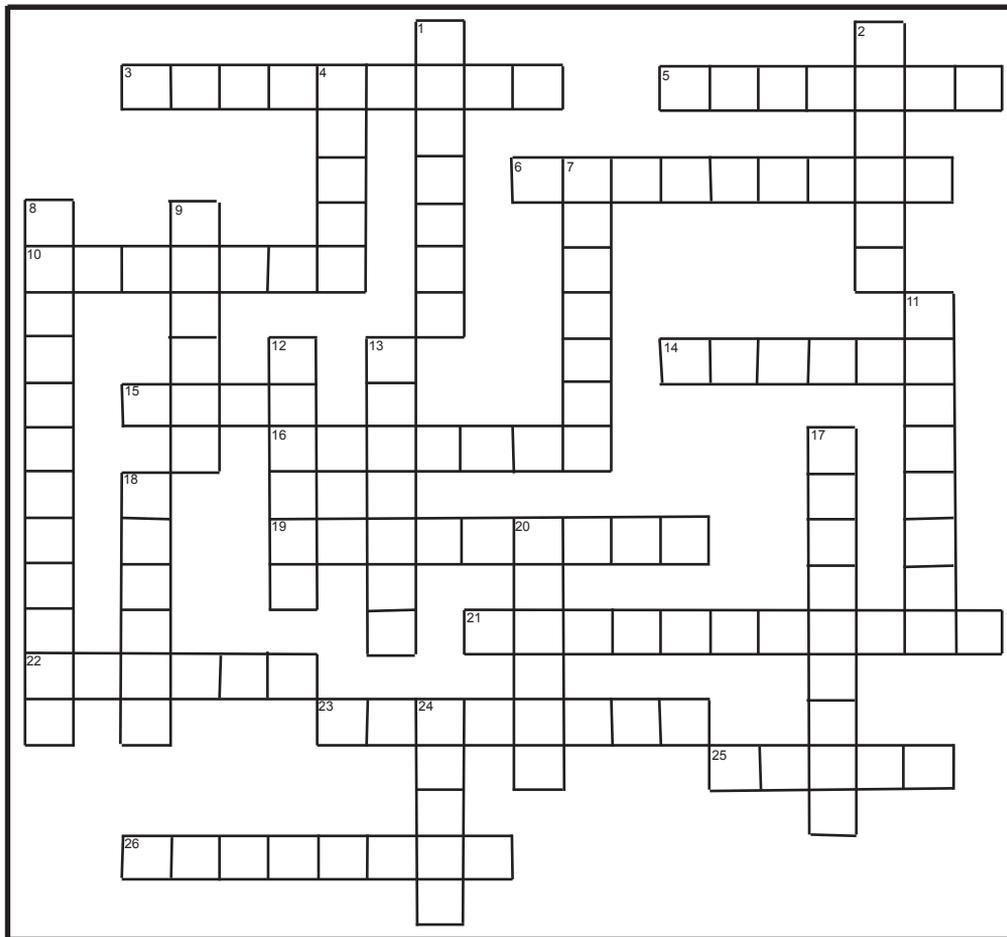
# Cookie Decorating

PVA-WI members gathered at the Milwaukee War Memorial to decorate cookies in December



# Crossword Puzzle

## World War I



### Across

3. This luxury passenger ship was sunk by a German submarine
5. Country that used the Schlieffen Plan to fight a war on two fronts
6. Type of government set up by the Bolsheviks after the Russian Revolution
10. League of \_\_\_\_\_
14. David Lloyd \_\_\_\_\_ was Prime Minister of Great Britain
15. The Big \_\_\_\_\_ included the United States, Britain, France, and Italy
16. Front where the Russians fought the Germans
19. An unofficial truce happened on this holiday on Western Front
21. Germany was forced to pay these as Punishment for starting the war
22. Date, time, and month when the fighting ended
23. Number of points that Wilson tried to make
25. He led the Russian Revolution
26. Tsar of the Russian Empire at the start of the war

### Down

1. The Triple \_\_\_\_\_ was an early alliance between France, Britain, and Russia
2. Title of the German emperor
4. These vehicles were used to transport troops though Paris during the First Battle of the Marne
7. This empire became the country of Turkey after the war
8. This country entered the war on the side of the Allies in 1917
9. United States president during World War I
11. Nickname for a famous German fight pilot
12. Much of the fighting on the Western Front was \_\_\_\_\_ warfare
13. Germany's main ally was \_\_\_\_\_ - Hungary
17. This Archdukes's assassination sparked the start of World War I
18. They fought the Axis Powers
20. This was signed in Versailles, bringing World War I to an end
24. Name for a German submarine

# Valentines Day

**PVA Members make sure you use this benefit!**

**Treat your spouse, a friend or your caregiver to a night out. It could be for Valentine's Day, or any other day of the week. You are entitled to this reimbursement two times per year.**

**All you need to do is GO HAVE SOME FUN and send in your receipt to the chapter.**



Membership entertainment benefits are available to regular members who meet certain criteria. If you are a member in good standing you can request financial assistance to attend an entertainment event. Through this program, we are encouraging members to get out in their communities and be involved. You can request a \$100 stipend bi-annually to attend an event of your choosing [i.e., dinner, movie, concert, sports event, etc.].

To participate in this program, you must submit a written request for the funds, with an explanation of how they will be used [i.e., transportation, attendants, tickets, etc.] 30 days prior to the event. Upon review and approval of the membership committee, a check [not to exceed \$100.00] will be issued. After attending the event you must submit all receipts associated with your outing, return any unused funds, and submit a short report of the event you attended. A picture of you and how you used the funds would be appreciated as well. These items must be submitted within 30 days of the outing. Feel free to use the form below.

Entertainment forms also appear on our website, [www.wisconsinpva.org](http://www.wisconsinpva.org) and they are available by contacting the PVA WI Chapter Office at 414-328-8910.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Event \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
How funds will be used \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby pledge to deliver all receipts to the PVA-WI Chapter office within 30 days of the completion of the event. I understand if I do not complete this requirement, I will not be eligible for future financial assistance from the PVA-WI Chapter until I complete the requirements, submit them, and I am approved.

Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Updates and Results

## Veterans Administration Update on COVID-19

Latest updates on booster shots and additional doses

We encourage everyone who is eligible to come in for a COVID-19 booster or additional dose now. We follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on booster shots and additional doses:

--Everyone who is at least 18 years old should get a booster shot. If you're at least 18 years old, you can choose which vaccine to get for your booster dose. The CDC strongly recommends getting either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

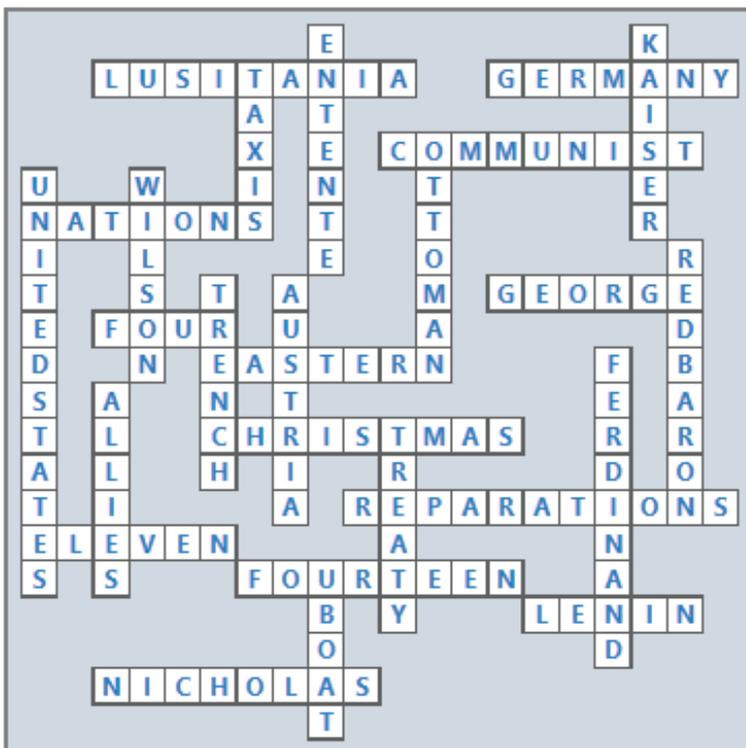
--Teens ages 16 and 17 can also now get a booster shot. These teens can only get the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Not all VA health facilities may offer vaccines to teens under age 18.

--Certain groups of people with weakened immune systems who received either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine should get an additional dose of the vaccine.

You must get the same vaccine for all 3 doses. You should get your third shot first. You should then also get your booster 6 months after your third shot.

Note: Not all VA health facilities have all types of vaccines right now. And facilities may offer different vaccines at different times. Confirm that the facility has the vaccine you want before you come in to get your vaccine.

**414-384-2000 ext. 41230**  
**Call Jackie with any questions**



## 2021 Calendar Raffle Winners

1. Mike Zehren
2. Travis Anderson
3. Theresa Riemer
4. Lynn Marie Pokorny
5. Mickalla Sajdowitz
6. Judith Borkowicz
7. Darrin Ferguson Jr.
8. Theresa Otto
9. Cynthia Roth
10. Debbie Kroll
11. Doug Szymuszkiewicz
12. Scott Muehl
13. Debbie Konkoski
14. Dan & Becky Faustmann
15. Bob Wolfram
16. Parker Griffith
17. Darlene Szymuskiewicz
18. Philip Sherman
19. Joette Barta
20. Julie Gilmour
21. James Jacobie
22. Debbie Pluskota
23. Andreyah Ferguson
24. Amy Michels
25. Savannah Lenz

# History

February 23, 1945

## U.S. flag raised on Iwo Jima

During the bloody Battle for Iwo Jima, U.S. Marines from the 3rd Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Regiment of the 5th Division take the crest of Mount Suribachi, the island's highest peak and most strategic position, and raise the U.S. flag. Marine photographer Louis Lowery was with them and recorded the event. Americans fighting for control of Suribachi's slopes cheered the raising of the flag, and several hours later more Marines headed up to the crest with a larger flag. Joe Rosenthal, a photographer with the Associated Press, met them along the way and recorded the raising of the second flag along with a Marine still photographer and a motion-picture cameraman.

Rosenthal took three photographs atop Suribachi. The first, which showed five Marines and one Navy corpsman struggling to hoist the heavy flag pole, became the most reproduced photograph in history and won him a Pulitzer Prize. The accompanying motion-picture footage attests to the fact that the picture was not posed. Of the other two photos, the second was similar to the first but less affecting, and the third was a group picture of 18 Marines smiling and waving for the camera. Many of these men, including three of the Marines seen raising the flag in the famous Rosenthal photo, were killed before the conclusion of the Battle for Iwo Jima in late March.

In early 1945, U.S. military command sought to gain control of the island of Iwo Jima in advance of the projected aerial campaign against the Japanese home islands. Iwo Jima, a tiny volcanic island located in the Pacific about 700 miles southeast of Japan, was to be a base for fighter aircraft and an emergency-landing site for bombers. On February 19, 1945, after three days of heavy naval and aerial bombardment, the first wave of U.S. Marines stormed onto Iwo Jima's inhospitable shores.

The Japanese garrison on the island numbered 22,000 heavily entrenched men. Their commander, General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, had been expecting an Allied invasion for months and used the time wisely to construct an intricate and deadly system of underground tunnels, fortifications, and artillery that withstood the initial Allied bombardment. By the evening of the first day, despite incessant mortar fire, 30,000 U.S. Marines commanded by General Holland Smith managed to establish a solid beachhead.

During the next few days, the Marines advanced inch by inch under heavy fire from Japanese artillery and suffered suicidal charges from the Japanese infantry. Many of the Japanese defenders were never seen and remained underground manning artillery until they were blown apart by a grenade or rocket, or incinerated by a flamethrower.

While Japanese kamikaze flyers slammed into the Allied naval fleet around Iwo Jima, the Marines on the island continued their bloody advance across the island, responding to Kuribayashi's lethal defenses with remarkable endurance. On February 23, the crest of 550-foot Mount Suribachi was taken, and the next day the slopes of the extinct volcano were secured.

By March 3, U.S. forces controlled all three airfields on the island, and on March 26 the last Japanese defenders on Iwo Jima were wiped out. Only 200 of the original 22,000 Japanese defenders were captured alive. More than 6,000 Americans died taking Iwo Jima, and some 17,000 were wounded.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/u-s-flag-raised-on-iwo-jima>

# Indego® Gets Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again



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## What's the Indego exoskeleton?

It's an FDA-approved robotic device that enables spinal cord injury patients (level T3-L5) to walk again.

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Email: [support.indego@parker.com](mailto:support.indego@parker.com)



## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY TREATMENT

By: Eric Gonzales, National Service Officer

At some point you may find yourself needing medical or mental emergency care and you are always encouraged to seek emergency medical attention immediately when needed – you DO NOT need to call or notify VA before calling an ambulance or going to the emergency department. Many veterans, their spouses, and family members are not aware that the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) must be notified of an emergency medical event within 72 hours.

It is especially important that any emergency department visit or admission to a hospital, because of an emergency event, be reported to the VAMC as soon as possible. You, the provider, or family member can report emergency room visits or admissions in one of two ways:

- <https://EmergencyCareReporting.CommunityCar.va.gov>; or by calling
- 844-724-7842

If necessary, the local VAMC must be contacted to coordinate any follow-up care/treatment and/or transfer to the nearest VAMC. Phone numbers to local VAMCs can be located here:

[https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/docs/providers/CareCoordination\\_Facility-Contacts.pdf#](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/docs/providers/CareCoordination_Facility-Contacts.pdf#)

Failure to follow this procedure can lead to veterans being billed and held responsible for paying expensive medical bills even though they are enrolled in the VA healthcare system.

Notifying VA within the 72-hour period is important because:

- it allows VA to assist the veteran in coordinating necessary care or transfer,
- helps ensure that the administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met, and
- may impact a veteran's eligibility for VA to cover the cost of emergency treatment.

The following information can be found at:

[https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info\\_EmergencyCare](https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info_EmergencyCare)

- The primary purpose of notifying VA of a veteran in need of emergency treatment, presenting to a community provider, is to ensure proper care coordination. Notifying VA also allows covered veterans to have their emergent treatment authorized by VA under Title 38 CFR § 17.4020(c). The local VAMC will engage with community providers who report notification through the centralized notification process. However, if there is an urgent or emergent need to coordinate care and/or transfer a veteran to a VAMC, immediate contact should be made with the nearest VAMC.

VA has three legal authorities under which emergency treatment in a community facility may be paid for by VA:

- Authorized Emergency Treatment – Title 38 CFR § 17.4020(c)
- Unauthorized Emergency Treatment (Service-connected) – Title 38 U.S.C. § 1728
- Unauthorized Emergency Treatment (Nonservice-connected) – Title 38 U.S.C. § 1725

Each authority requires the following general eligibility requirements be met:

- Veteran is enrolled or exempt from enrollment in the VA health care system.
- A VA health care facility or other federal facility with the capability to provide the necessary emergency services must not have been feasibly available to provide the emergent treatment and an attempt to use them beforehand would not be reasonable.
- The medical situation is of such a nature that a prudent layperson would expect that a delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be hazardous to life or health.

*(Continued on page 22)*

# A&J Mobility

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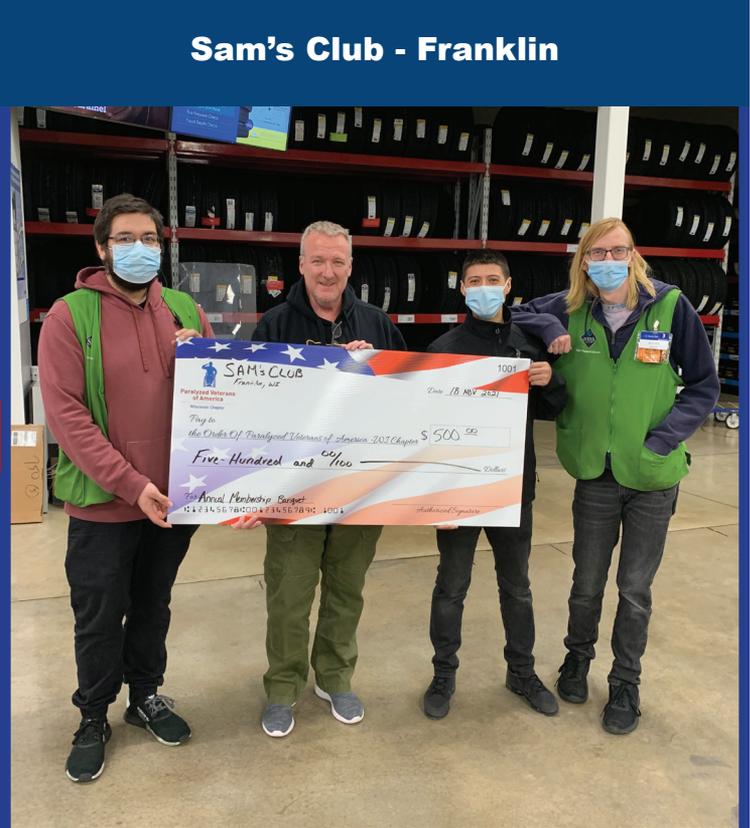
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# Sponsors & Donors

Thank you to all the organizations that supported the mission of Paralyzed Veterans of America – Wisconsin Chapter. We could not do it without all of you!



**AMVETS POST 911**



**Sam's Club - Franklin**



**“The generosity this Thanksgiving was over the top. So all the additional funds we donated to the paralyzed veterans. The funds will be used in their adaptive sports division. These funds are enough to send 2 vets to the special Olympics. Thank you one and all.”**

**~McBob's Pub & Grill**

## Government Relations



### Advocacy ALERT



Wisconsin Representative Penterman (37th Assembly District) is championing our cause and introducing a Bill that will abolish having to pay for handicapped parking on University of Wisconsin campuses. Stay tuned for an email Action Alert for you to notify your representative to support this bill once it drops. The advocacy campaign can be found at: <https://wisconsinpva.org/voter-voice> or by scanning the below QR code.

Thank you for your support of PVA's policy efforts throughout 2021.



Especially now, we need your support.

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

**GIVE TODAY**



 **Paralyzed Veterans of America**  
Vehicle Donation Program

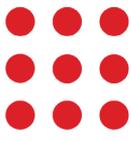


**K9 Veterans Day**  
**March 13**

To our K9 Partners who work day and night on land and at sea, helping us, protecting us, keeping our families safe, we say...

**THANK YOU**



 **Veterans Crisis Line**  
**1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1**

# Winter Safety Check

Whether winter is a yearly adjustment in your town or you are going to visit areas with colder climates, it is important to keep safe. Here are a few tips to keep in mind during the colder seasons.

## Winter Tips:

- Wear sunscreen! Even in the winter, sunburn is possible. When the sun reflects off the snow, severe sunburn can occur, especially under your nose and the bottom of your ears. Sunburns from snow cause dehydration, so drink plenty of fluids.
- Apply petroleum jelly to the areas of your face that are not going to be covered. It acts as a moisture insulator and helps prevent your face from getting dry or chapped in the cold air.
- Wear loose, warm, lightweight clothing in multiple layers, change clothes immediately when wet, and avoid cotton. Consistently check for any exposed skin. Shirts and jackets have a tendency to roll up on the back of wheelchairs.
- Make sure you keep yourself covered with proper equipment (neck warmer, gloves, hat, scarves, leg warmers) when participating in outdoor activities.
- Remote start your car so it is warm when you get in. This will prevent hypothermia.
- If you transfer to a car seat with seat warmers, be careful of the temperature so you don't burn your butt.
- If you are driving or riding for a long time, look at the positioning of vents so your hands don't get burned.
- Shivering can cause hypothermia, know the signs and symptoms. Use a lap blanket to stay warm.
- Heat is lost from the farthest points of your body. Wear a warm hat, gloves, and wool socks.
- Use caution with hand and feet warmers so you don't get burned.
- Keep extra batteries, chargers, and medical supplies in a safe place just in case there are power outages during inclement weather. Also, have a bag packed to keep in your car for emergencies or unexpected detours while traveling/commuting in the winter.

For more winter safety tips, visit our Living With Paralysis section. You can also reach out to one of our Information Specialists by calling 1-800-539-7309.

Regards,  
Reeve Foundation

## PVA Women Empowered!

Victoria Deck shared, "The group, which is led by our female PVA members, was created in response to demand for a space exclusively for female members. It is a lively forum for female PVA members to connect, share tips, obtain resources, and more."

Female members of PVA now have a new place to connect online. PVA Women Empowered! This is a new Facebook page dedicated solely to PVA's female members. The new page was created in response to demand for a space exclusively for female members. The page is a lively forum for female PVA members to connect, share tips, obtain resources and more. The Facebook group is only open to PVA's female members.

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/groups/438185864156860/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/438185864156860/)

(Continued from page 17)

- Generally, emergency treatment is only covered until such time as the veteran can be safely transferred to a VA or other federal facility. If the veteran refuses to be transferred to a VA or other federal facility after their emergency condition is stabilized, they may be liable for the cost of care beyond the point of stabilization. VA Form 10-8001, Refusal of Transfer to VA Health Care Facility, is used when a veteran refuses to transfer to a VA Health Care Facility.

**Additional Requirements for Authorized Emergency Treatment (Title 38 CFR § 17.4020(c)):**

In addition to the general eligibility requirements, authorization for emergent care under Title 38 CFR § 17.4020(c), the following criteria must also be met:

- **In-Network Status:** The treatment was rendered at a community emergency facility that is in VA's community care or PC3 network.
- **72-Hour Notification to VA:** VA must be notified of the treatment within 72 hours. If VA is not timely notified, the treatment cannot be authorized under this section.

**Additional requirements for retroactive payment approval for unauthorized emergency treatment for service-connected Veterans (Title 38 U.S.C. § 1728):**

In addition to the general eligibility requirements, for payment to be retroactively approved for emergent care under Title 38 U.S.C. §1728, one of the following criteria must also be met:

- Emergency treatment of a service-connected\*, or adjunct condition\* in a community emergency department; or
- A veteran who is permanently and totally disabled (P&T) as the result of a service-connected condition is eligible for emergency treatment of ANY condition, or
- A veteran who is participating in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program and requires emergency treatment to expedite their return to the program is eligible for emergency treatment for any condition.

Finally, as always if you need help, please contact the PVA NSO at: 414-902-5655 or [ericg@pva.org](mailto:ericg@pva.org).

The screenshot shows the VA MyHealthVet website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the VA logo, a search bar, and links for 'About' and 'Contact'. Below the navigation bar, there are dropdown menus for 'Home', 'Personal Information', 'Pharmacy', 'Get Care', 'Track Health', 'Research Health', and 'MHV Community'. A 'Sign in to Manage Your Health Care' section includes 'Sign in' and 'Register' buttons. A prominent blue banner with a white 'i' icon contains a 'Coronavirus:' notice, advising users to call before visiting VA, use the VA coronavirus chatbot, or review frequently asked questions. Below the banner are four service tiles: 'Pharmacy' (refill prescriptions, track delivery), 'Appointments' (keep track of upcoming medical appointments), 'Messages' (communicate securely with VA health care team), and 'Health Records' (view, print, or download medical record information). Each tile includes a 'Read More' link. At the bottom, a 'Resources' section features links for 'Benefits', 'Mental Health', 'Veterans Health Library', 'Healthy Living', 'Community', and 'HealthLiving Assessment'.

## Upcoming Events



**9TH ANNUAL WINTER BOWL**

**TO SUPPORT VETERANS RETREATS**  
ROSE BOWL LANES MARSHFIELD, WI  
**JAN 30 2022 NOON-2:30PM**

The Highground  
Veterans Memorial Park

\$50 PER GROUP | UP TO 6 PER GROUP | BALLS, LANE & SHOES INCLUDED  
**RAFFLES | SILENT AUCTION | GAMES**

ONLY 24 LANES AVAILABLE—RESERVE YOURS TODAY!  
TO REGISTER, CALL BONNIE AT 715-743-4224 OR EMAIL [EVENTS@THEHIGHGROUND.US](mailto:EVENTS@THEHIGHGROUND.US)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SPONSOR WINTERBOWL, CALL BONNIE AT 715-743-4224  
715-743-4224 • W7031 RIDGE RD., NEILLSVILLE, WI 54456 • [THEHIGHGROUND.US](http://THEHIGHGROUND.US)

## ADAPTIVE WORKS' FISHING JAMBOREE

Dedicated to the memory of Roger Ducommun

SATURDAY,

FEBRUARY 5, 2022

SIGN UP AT

**THE TAVERN**

8601 E. Wind Lake Road  
Muskego, WI 53150

PURCHASE OF RAFFLE TICKET ENTERS YOU INTO FISHING CONTEST AND MONEY DRAWINGS.

RAFFLE DRAWINGS:

MEAT ALL DAY

50/50 & BASKET

MONEY 5:30 PM

\$30 FOR LARGEST &

\$20 FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE

BASS

PAN FISH

WALLEYE

NORTHERN

WEIGH-IN 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

PROCEEDS BENEFIT

Adaptive Works LLC

ADAPTIVE WORKS MISSION:

ADAPTING WORK ENVIRONMENTS FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS.  
PRESENTING DEVELOPMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE QUALITY OF LIFE

WEB--[ADAPTIVEWORKS.ORG](http://ADAPTIVEWORKS.ORG)

EMAIL--[ASK@ADAPTIVEWORKS.ORG](mailto:ASK@ADAPTIVEWORKS.ORG)

A VETERAN CENTRIC COMPANY



### Adaptive Works for the Community- Fall 2021

A fishing/raffle Jamboree will be sponsored by Adaptive Works in memory of Roger Ducommun on February 5, 2022 at the Tavern located at 8601 E. Wind Lake Road (HWY S). The proceeds benefit the Adaptive Works Mission of:

Adapting work environments for physically disabled individuals;  
Presenting developmental opportunities to increase quality of life.

All of the Jamboree information can be found at [adaptiveworks.org](http://adaptiveworks.org).

Thank you to Scout Troop 539 out of Franklin and all of the donors and volunteers from the community who pitched in to make 2021 a successful year. This year's highlights include the development of the Adaptive Carpentry Program. This program includes the building of custom planters which were put up for sale. Functional highlights include the mounting of hand controls to foot pedals of a tractor, using hay bales to elevate tomatoes, and making a forty foot long elevated planter. All of these interventions were meaningful steps to aid those in a wheelchair to accomplish independent farming.

Sales from planters and produce helps keep Adaptive Works running. For information about purchasing a planter, to sign up for workshops, or to donate, please send an email to [ask@adaptiveworks.org](mailto:ask@adaptiveworks.org).

More information can be found at [adaptiveworks.org](http://adaptiveworks.org).





# WE BRING THE VAN TO YOU!

SAFE. CONVENIENT. TRUSTED.



For nearly 50 years Rollx Vans has been providing Veterans Nationwide the safest most convenient way to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle. We take great pride in serving those who served our country.



**SEARCH INVENTORY**  
**SHOP ONLINE**  
**FROM HOME**



**FINALIZE DETAILS**  
**SKILLED STAFF**  
**TO ASSIST YOU**



**FREE DELIVERY**  
**TOUCHLESS**  
**HOME DELIVERY**



**ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM**  
**100% SATISFACTION**  
**GUARANTEE!**

**Veterans get up to \$3000 off the purchase of your Rollx Van!**  
**Call 800-956-6668 or visit us at [rollxvans.com](http://rollxvans.com)**

# 2021 Audit

## Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors  
Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter Inc.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

### Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter Inc., which comprise the statement of financial position as of September 30, 2021 and 2020, and the related statements of activities and net assets and cash flows for the years then ended, the related statement of functional expenses for the years ended September 30, 2021 and 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audits. I conducted my audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, I express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter Inc. as of September 30, 2021 and 2020, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Bruce Michael Redlin, CPA, LLC*

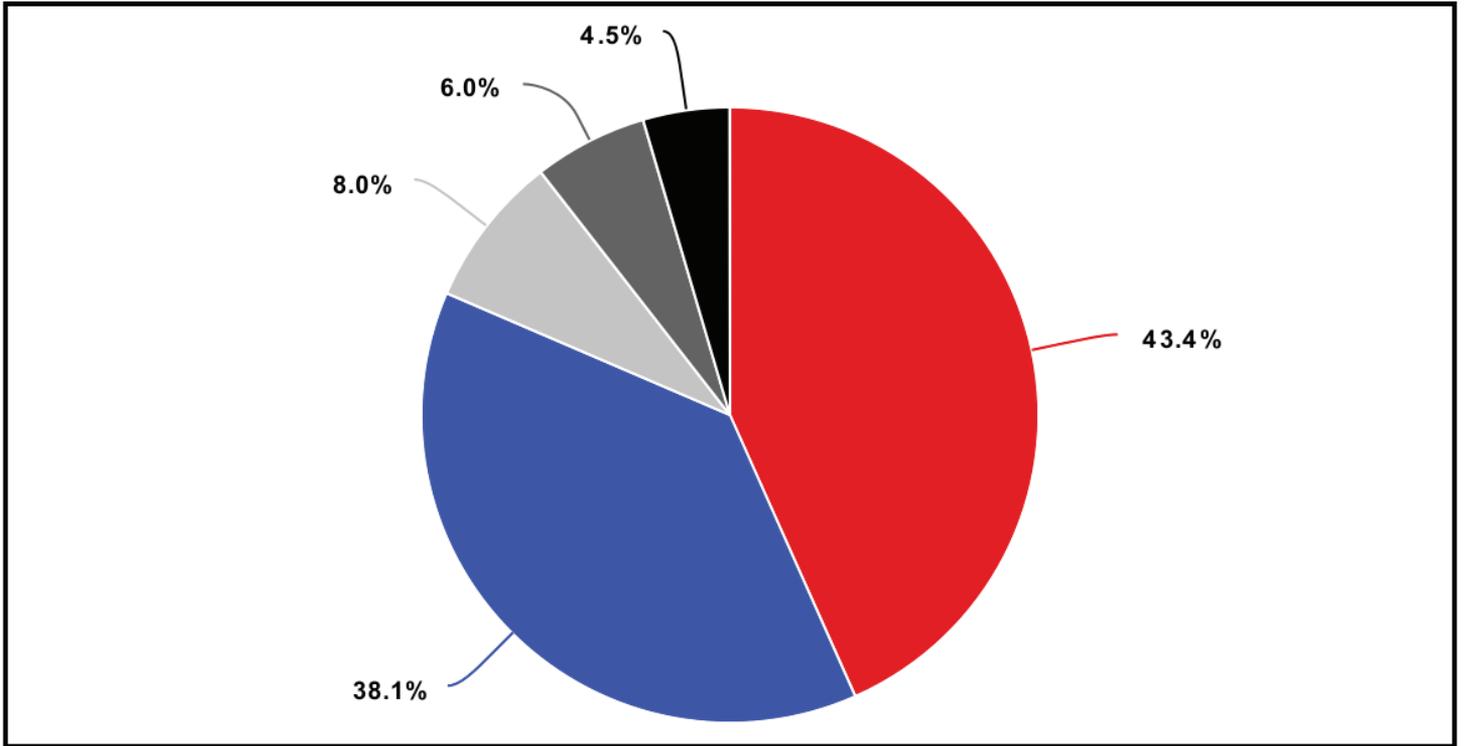
Bruce Michael Redlin, CPA, LLC  
Certified Public Accountant  
West Allis, Wisconsin  
November 2, 2021



## Financial Snapshot

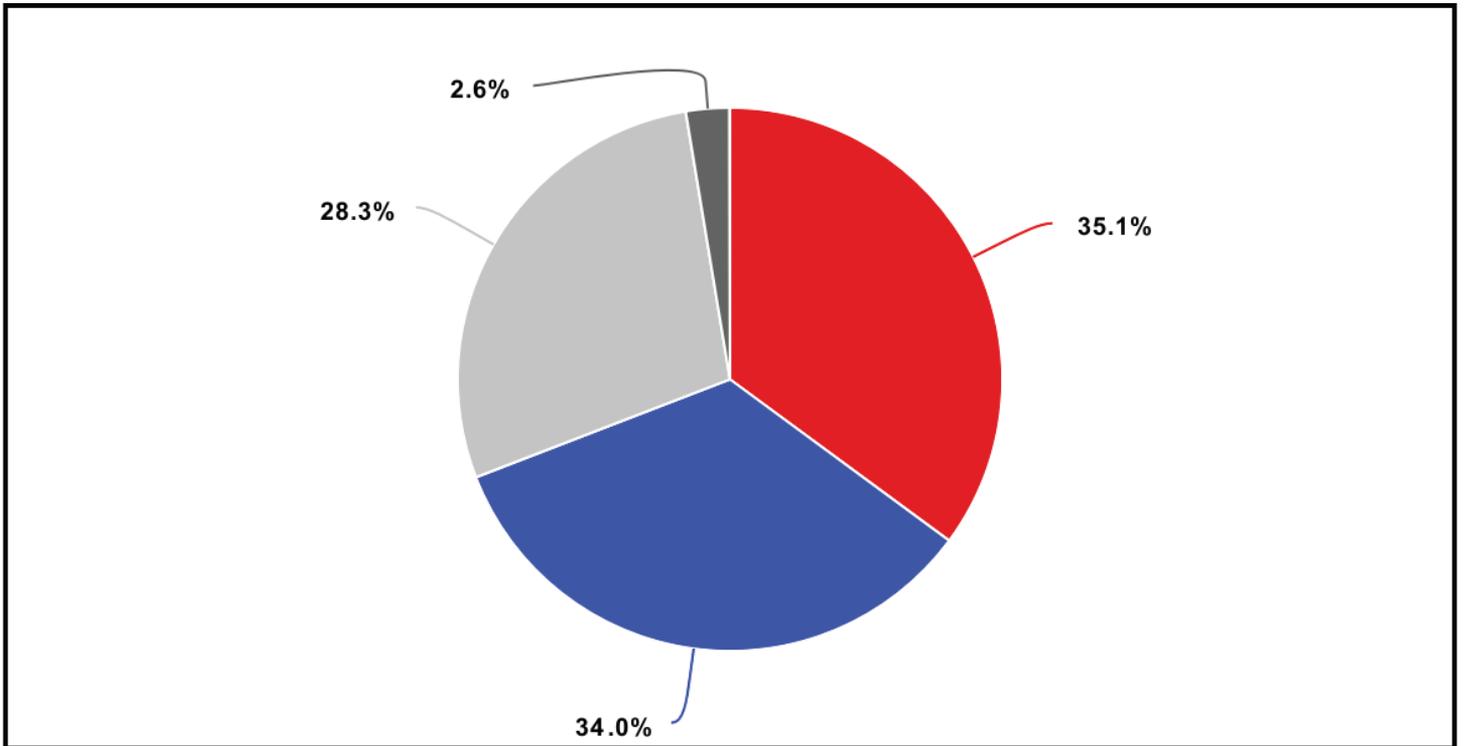
Assets			
	2021	2020	
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 87,863	\$ 83,120	
Other Receivables & Prepaid Expenses	\$ 775	\$ 775	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 88,638</b>	<b>\$ 83,895</b>	
<b>Property and Equipment</b>			
Office Furniture and Equipment	\$ 51,175	\$ 51,175	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-50,379	-48,197	
<b>Net Property and Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 796</b>	<b>\$ 2,978</b>	
<b>Other Assets</b>			
Land Contract Receivable	\$ 160,300	\$ 189,940	
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$ 160,300</b>	<b>\$ 189,940</b>	
<b>Investments</b>	<b>\$ 1,147,984</b>	<b>\$ 899,500</b>	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,379,718</b>	<b>\$ 1,176,313</b>	
Liabilities and Net Assets			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ 11,871	
Accrued Liabilities	\$ 3,067	\$ 1,686	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 3,067</b>	<b>\$ 13,557</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Unrestricted - General	\$ 1,394,651	\$ 1,162,756	
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,394,651</b>	<b>\$ 1,162,756</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,397,718</b>	<b>\$ 1,176,313</b>	

Expenses by Program Area



- Advo/Leg. & Adaptive Sports
- Membership, Benefits, & Communication
- Research & Education
- Management & General
- Fundraising

Revenue Sources



- Fundraising & Contributions
- Grants
- Investment Income
- Other



# Paralyzed Veterans of America

## Wisconsin Chapter

750 N Lincoln Memorial Dr, Ste 422  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
Milwaukee, WI  
Permit No. 1092



## SPINAL CORD INJURY SERVICE INFORMATION

These resources are available statewide, to all qualified Wisconsin residents.  
Please call 414-384-2000 or 888-469-6614 and the extension listed below for services.

Department / Office	Extension	Department / Office	Extension
General Information	41288	Prosthetics	42608
Triage	45845	Recreation Therapy	41256/41245/41258
SCI Clinical Appointments	41230	VA Van Travel	42057
Physical Therapy	41126/41128	Patient Advocate	42604
Occupational Therapy	41142/41143	National Service	414-902-5655
Admissions ER	41885/41886	Officer PVA	800-795-3580
Badger Team (Social Worker)	41841	Packer Team (Social Worker)	42244
Pharmacy	42085	Packer & Badger RN	41236

### Wisconsin VAMC

Iron Mountain	Debra Pate	906-774-3300 ext. 31378
Madison	Kurt Brunner	608-256-1901 ext. 11960
Tomah	Kristin Holloway	608-372-3971 ext. 61548

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