



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Wisconsin Chapter

Roll With Us

WHO'S COOKING? LE'TOI IS COOKING!



Le'Toi Adams now has her very own PVA-WI Podcast/Web show, "Cooking With Le'Toi." Join Le'Toi each month, on the third Thursday at 4:00 pm, as she features new recipes and demonstrates accessible kitchen tools. Each episode features an exclusive "code word" which viewers can submit via email to be entered in a drawing

for a special prize. To date, there have been two winners and their respective prizes were a \$25 Amazon gift card and an easy to use, adaptive electric can opener. Each show is broadcast on FaceBook Live. We encourage you to follow our FaceBook page for details at www.facebook.com/pvawisconsin. Previous episodes can be viewed on our YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCha5v0lj4CEMP-TqW2gaydg>. The YouTube link and FaceBook link are located at the bottom of our website (www.wisconsinpva.org) page. Look for these icons:



"Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life."

(Janine di Giovanni)

Happy Easter
to
you and yours!

Highlights In This Issue:

President's Report	2
2020 PVA-WI Audit	8
Member Spotlight	17
Board Nominations	22
Sponsor an Athlete	26

Who We Are

Officers

President: Ken Ness

Vice President: Todd Drazy

Secretary: Derrick Trentin

Treasurer/GRD: Scott
Griffith

President Emeritus: Phil
Rosenberg

National Director

Derrick Trentin

Directors

Le'Toi Adams

Peter Carrao

Ken Matthews

Michael Thomas

Staff

Kevin Klandrud: Executive
Director

Jan Zehren: Office
Manager & Newsletter Ed.

Recreational Therapy

Erinn Kulba

Francheska Wallace

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 1:00

Saturday & Sunday Closed

750 N Lincoln Memorial Dr
Suite 306

Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-328-8910

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From Uncertainty and Fear to Optimism...in Just 3 Months

When I wrote my last column for this newsletter three months ago, the world was shrouded in a great deal of uncertainty and fear, and the general mood of the country was dismal. At that time, we were heading into our cold, gloomy months of winter, there was no vaccine, and we were

experiencing our "third wave" of COVID outbreaks. Our lives were greatly restricted, we were forcibly isolated due to the pandemic, and we were at the tail end of a number of very bitter and divisive national election campaigns. Fast forward a few months and there are a number of reasons for renewed optimism that better times are coming again. The same is true for PVA National as well as our own PVA-Wisconsin.

At the national level, PVA will begin celebrating its 75th anniversary in May. A number of celebratory events are being planned to remember and acknowledge all of PVA's accomplishments in the areas of advocacy and legislative changes, research, education, employment, and adaptive sports and recreation, to name just a few. One would be hard pressed to go through a day without receiving the benefits of some of PVA's advancements. Throughout the pandemic, PVA National continued to offer its programs and benefits, albeit delivering many of these services in a different manner than in the past. PVA National was nimble enough to "Adapt, Improvise and Overcome" most of the hurdles that were presented by COVID-19. Our National organization found that many of these new methods were improvements and will be utilizing many of these new insights and discoveries going forward into the next 75 years.

We, at PVA-WI, also believe that great times are upon us. We have just concluded our annual audit and find ourselves in a very vibrant and strong financial situation; one that should enable us to support all of our existing programs and expand into some new areas to provide greater benefits for our membership.



President continued on page 4

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As the winter of our discontent draws to a close, I am reminded that our State Motto is "Forward". I am looking forward to warmer weather. I am looking forward to working on the yard and in the garden. I am looking forward to resuming life as it was prior to the pandemic.

We here at PVA-Wisconsin would love for you to join us in an activity. We are resuming our monthly air rifle and air pistol practices at MATC-South. We are hoping our Madison site will open back up in the near future. Our trap shoot is scheduled for June 18th - 20th in Green Bay. We are providing a virtual shoot as well. Would you like to fish? If so, contact the office as we are booking boats for a day of fishing during the Racine Salmon-a-Rama, which runs from July 12 - 20, 2021. Our scheduled date to fish is June 13th. We are taking 20 members in chairs and 30 who can self transfer on boats. Registration is first come, first serve.

Our current outreach initiative is a Caregiver Respite Retreat. We are sending a small number our members and their caregivers to a two day all expenses paid event which includes a day at the spa for the caregivers and fun activities for our members. We are excited for our first retreat on March 25th - 26th. If you are interested in participating, please contact the office and we will get you registered for our next retreat, scheduled for July 29th - 30th.

The Entertainment policy pays \$50 to a member to go out to a movie, out to eat, or some other outing with a loved one or friend. This benefit is available twice a year for members. Simply download the form from our website or you can call the office for assistance. This is a great opportunity to celebrate Easter, a birthday or anniversary.



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Members: 258

New Member: David Showen, Kaleb Wilson, and James Windsor

Associate Members: 126

New Associate Member: Jan Zehren

Final Bugle: Christopher Hintzman, Chancy Williamson, Allan Henseler, Daniel Dugan, Dennis Benedict, Gary Stroud and Michael Hansen



We are looking forward to serving. Check out the calendar on our website for outing opportunities and virtual events. opportunities and virtual events sponsored by the chapter.

Kevin Klandrud

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

Heat for Heroes

may be able to help!

800-891-9276

(President continued from page 2)

You are highly encouraged to periodically check the chapter's website for all of the activities and events that are constantly updated. The chapter continues to offer a broad array of activities and benefits that all members are encouraged to participate in and take advantage of.

With spring coming to Wisconsin, we are in the process of ramping up many of our adaptive sports and recreational activities. Our year-round Air Rifle and Pistol Program continues to hold practices and tournaments, the Annual Trap Shoot is in the planning phase, the VA's Golden Age Games are scheduled to be held virtually in June, and the National Veteran's Wheelchair Games are set to be conducted in a hybrid version (in person in New York City and virtually) in August. In addition to these events, the chapter sponsors a number of other organizations that put on activities for our members. Because of a great deal of interest brought to our attention, we are also looking into sponsoring other activities such as boating, fishing activities/tournaments, cycling clinics, computer gaming, and more. If there is something that you have an interest in, or would like to try, please reach out.

Please note that we are also trying to expand the benefits offered to our membership in a number of novel ways. By the time you read this, we will have sponsored our first Caregiver Respite Program. This two day program is designed to provide further education and assistance to veterans and their caregivers. The main objective of this seminar is to help educate all of the parties as to how to achieve the best caregiver treatment, while minimizing and/or avoiding fatigue and burnout. Guest speakers will be discussing with the attendees many pertinent social and medical topics, attendees will be provided with information regarding a number of entities that can further assist them. Events are scheduled to achieve much needed rest and relaxation and there will be time set aside for socializing to further allow the attendees to discuss their own problems and solutions. This Caregiver Respite Program is offered free of charge to the attendees. The Chapter hopes to offer many more of these events in the future; if you have an interest in attending one, please contact our office.

We are also excited to announce that we have recently met with individuals in multiple departments at both Marquette University as well as the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, in order to collaborate with them on several new programs that we think will assist our membership. We have also reached out to the Rehab Institute of Chicago to see if any of their endeavors can be utilized or expanded into programs that we can offer here in Wisconsin. So far all of these initial efforts have primarily been based around our goals of providing programs that will assist our membership in staying as healthy as can be and to ensure that all such programs are available and affordable to our members. We will keep you advised as we move forward.

In closing, I want to remind everyone that this is YOUR chapter. The chapter is designed to be fluid and a constantly evolving organization so that it is able to respond to the needs of our membership. However, we need your help to be successful. We need to hear from you as to what your needs are, how we can help meet those needs, etc. Of course, if you want to help even further, we are always looking for individuals that would be willing to serve the chapter in a number of other capacities, such as on the Board of Directors, being part of the Administration, and/or as a volunteer. *Roll With Us!*

Ken Ness

YOUR PVA-WI CHAPTER AT WORK



Upper left: Patients in the Spinal Cord Injury Unit, at the VA, enjoy a pizza and wings party as they cheer on the Green Bay Packers in their playoff game.

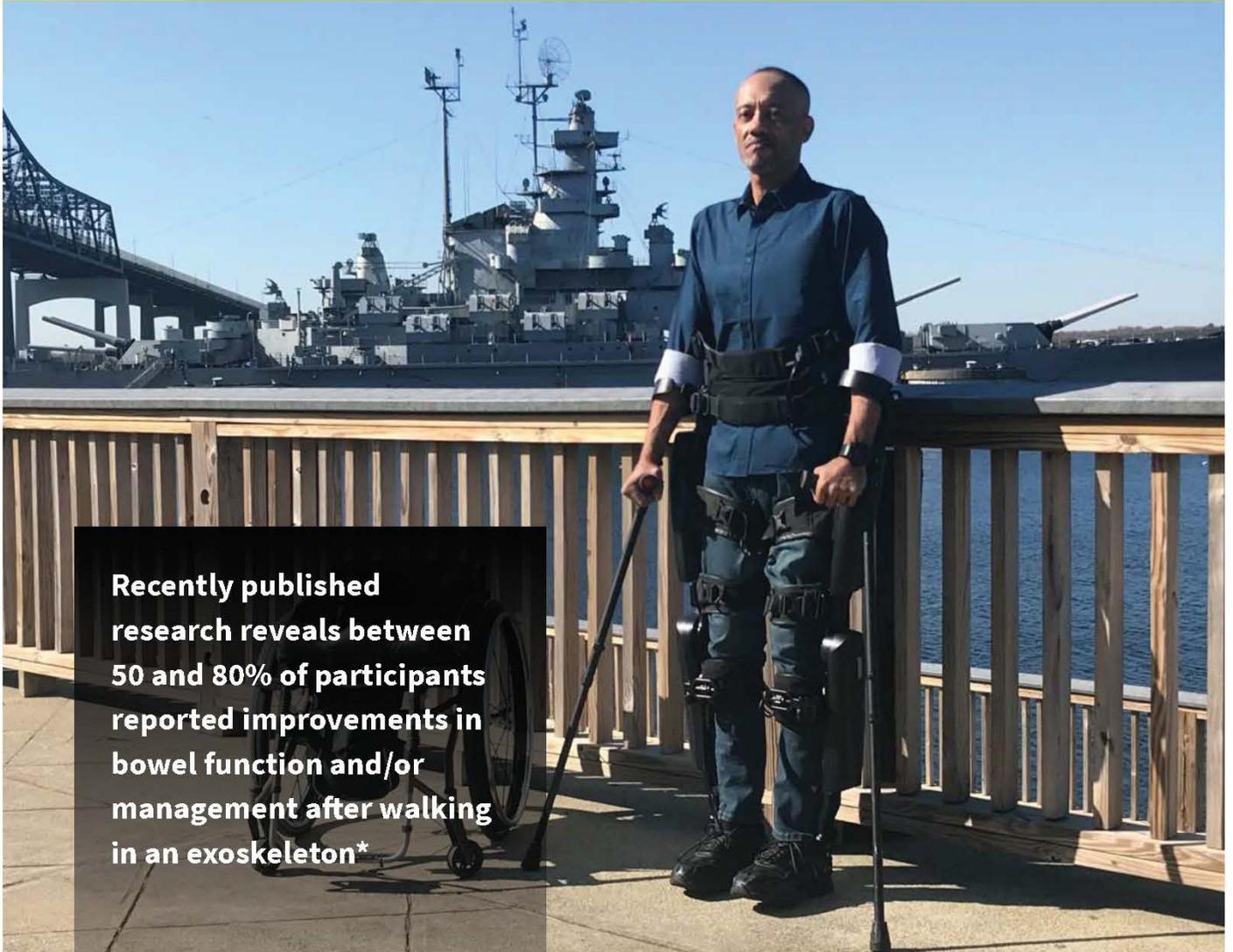
Upper right: Members receive a PVA-WI Chapter blanket and a digital thermometer when they are vaccinated for Covid at the VA.

Lower left: PVA member, Robert Repinski, used his \$50 entertainment benefit and had family over for a Covid safe firepit pizza party. Robert said, "It was wonderful getting together with family." Remember members get this benefit twice per year. Be sure to use yours!

Lower right: PVA member Pete Carrao takes aim during a recent Air Rifle practice held at MATC South campus.



Want To Improve Your Bowel Function?



Recently published research reveals between 50 and 80% of participants reported improvements in bowel function and/or management after walking in an exoskeleton*

Did you know Paralyzed US Veterans May be Eligible for a ReWalk Personal Exoskeleton?

Contact ReWalk for more Information:
rewalk.com/contact or
508.251.1154 option 2

*Chun A, et al. Changes in bowel function following exoskeletal-assisted walking in persons with spinal cord injury: an observational pilot study. Spinal Cord. 2020;58(4):459-466.



VETERANS AFIELD 2021 SCHEDULE



Trap Shoots held at Waukesha Gun Club at 12:00 pm on Wednesdays at:

N22W23170 Watertown Rd.
Waukesha, WI 53188

Dates: May 12th, May 26th, June 9th, June 23rd, July 14th, July 28th, August 11th, August 25th, September 8th and September 15th.

Pheasant Hunts held at Wildwings Sportsmans Club at 11:00 am on Tuesdays at:

N865 Hwy. W
Campbellsport, WI 53010

Dates: September 22nd, September 25th, October 5th, October 19th, November 2nd, November 16th, November 30th and December 7th



Goose Hunts held at Goose Haven Gun Club at TBD on Thursdays at:

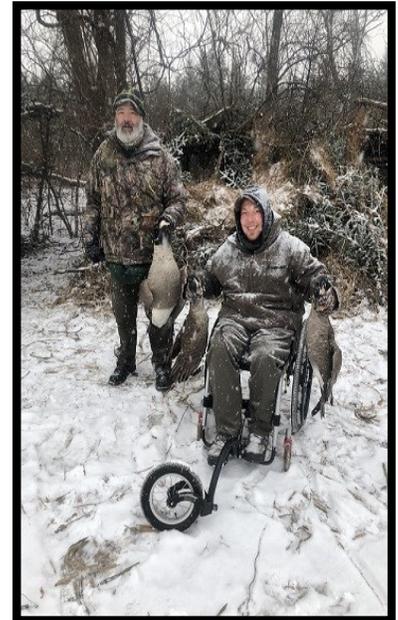


W3873 Kantin Rd.
Mayville, WI 53050

Dates: September 2nd, September 9th, September 16th, September 23rd, October 7th, October 21st, November 4th, November 11th, November 18th and December 2nd.

Goose Hunting Requirements:

- *Small Game Hunting License
- *State and Federal Duck Stamp and Signed
- *Early Goose and Regular Goose Season Permits
- *Plug-in Shotgun (No more than three shells)
- *No full chokes (Modified or improved only)
- *Steel Shot, 12 gauge or 20 gauge only (Shells will be provided)



As you are documenting your final wishes for your family, remember to have them contact PVA-WI so that we can provide the marker for your grave stone. Usually it is attached by the grave stone provider. It is shipped out free of charge upon request. Please call the office to receive your gift. 414-328-8910



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, 2020 and 2019, 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, 2020 and 2019, 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, 2020 and 2019, 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

Certified Public Accountant

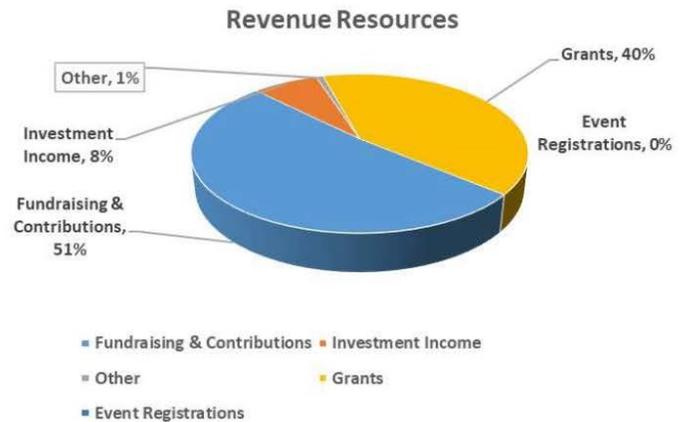
West Allis, Wisconsin

December 17, 2020

2020 Financial Snapshot

	2020	2019
Total Unrestricted Support and Revenue		
Before Net Assets Released for Restrictions	\$ 532,462	\$ 302,472
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	0	0
Total Unrestricted Support and Revenue	\$ 532,462	\$ 302,472
Total Expenses	\$ 219,741	\$ 261,204
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 312,721	\$ 41,268
Gain (Loss) on Asset Sale	0	0
Temporarily Restricted Assets		
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	0	0
Change in Net Assets	\$ 312,721	41,268
Net Assets		
Beginning of Year	\$ 850,035	\$ 808,767
End of Year	\$ 1,162,756	\$ 850,035

Assets		
	2020	2019
Current Assets		
Cash & Equivalents	\$ 83,120	\$ 66,600
Other Receivables & Prepaid Expenses	\$ 775	\$ 775
Total Current Assets	\$ 83,895	\$ 67,375
Property and Equipment		
Office Furniture and Equipment	\$ 51,175	\$ 51,175
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-48,197	-45,589
Net Property and Equipment	\$ 2,978	\$ 5,586
Other Assets		
Land Contract Receivable	\$ 189,940	\$ 222,276
Total Other Assets	\$ 189,940	\$ 222,276
Investments	\$ 899,500	\$ 572,558
Total Assets	\$1,176,313	\$ 867,795
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 11,871	\$ 12,021
Accrued Liabilities	\$ 1,686	\$ 5,739
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 13,557	\$ 17,760
Net Assets		
Unrestricted - General	\$1,162,756	\$ 850,035
Total Net Assets	\$1,162,756	\$ 850,035
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,176,313	\$ 867,795



To view the entire 2020 Audit & Annual Report visit <https://www.wisconsinpva.org/financials>

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Has your clothing been damaged by your prosthetic or orthopedic device (such as a wheelchair) or by the medicine you're taking for a skin condition? If it has, you may be able to get money each year to help you buy new clothes. This is a disability compensation benefit known as an Annual Clothing Allowance. Find out if you can get this benefit.

Am I eligible for disability benefits from VA?

You may be eligible for disability benefits if you meet both of the requirements listed below.

Both of these must be true:

Your prosthetic or orthopedic device or your skin medicine causes damage to your clothes.

You need this device or skin medicine because of an injury or illness related to your military service (called a service-connected condition)

Who's covered? Veterans

What disability benefits can I get? A one-time payment or a yearly payment.



Note: The current clothing allowance rate is \$830.56.

How do I get these benefits?

You'll need to file a claim for disability compensation. **The NSO office can no longer sign this form on your behalf.** You must sign the form certifying that you still use the prosthetic device(s). The application form, Annual Clothing Allowance (VA Form 10-8678) can be downloaded from our website at: www.wisconsinpva.org/forms. Once completed, bring it to the prosthetic representative at your local VA medical center.



To get your yearly payment, you'll need to qualify by August 1 of that year. You may be able to get more than one payment if you meet at least one of the requirements listed below.

At least one of these must be true:

You have more than one prosthetic or orthopedic device.

You have more than one skin medicine.

Your device or skin medicine affects more than one type of clothing.

Note: If you qualify, you'll receive payments between September 1 and October 31.

Send completed form via Fax – [414-382-5331](tel:414-382-5331) Or Mail to: Zablocki VAMC, [5000 W National Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53295](http://www.wisconsinpva.org) ATTN: Prosthetics – Clothing Allowance

APRIL IS PVA AWARENESS MONTH



Paralyzed Veterans of America is an unstoppable force for all Veterans. They provide our heroes with an unparalleled range of programs and services and all for FREE of charge.

What they do:

- ◆ **Advocate for the civil rights** of all people with disabilities.
- ◆ Fight for and **secure the VA benefits** our veterans have earned through their service.
- ◆ **Ensure the highest-quality care** for veterans with spinal cord injury and related diseases (SCI/D) at VA hospitals and facilities.
- ◆ **Fund research** to find new treatments for people living with SCI/D.
- ◆ **Educate health care professionals** on best practices in clinical service for those with SCI/D, ALS, MS, and TBI.
- ◆ Help all veterans and their spouses and caregivers **find meaningful employment.**
- ◆ Attorneys **represent veterans and their families** before the VA and in federal courts.
- ◆ Architects ensure that public and private buildings are **ADA compliant.**

COVID - 19 UPDATE

By now most of you have received your COVID-19 vaccinations. Veterans over the age of 65 were in category 1A and all SCI Veterans are in category 1B. As of today, over 165 SCI Veterans have been vaccinated in the Milwaukee SCI clinic. We used this venue to hand out our PVA-WI blankets and digital thermometers. Hopefully, you received one of each of these during your visit. If not, please contact the office.

If you haven't received your vaccine, please contact the Milwaukee SCI Center as soon as possible at (414)384-2000 ext. 41230. Even if you initially declined the vaccine, you can still get scheduled to receive it. Unless your primary care doctor has told you not to get the vaccine, it is highly recommended that you get it. We recorded a meeting with Dr. Lee regarding the vaccine and it can be viewed on our YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/channel/UCha5v0lj4CEMP-TqW2gaydg> or click



on the YouTube link at the bottom right corner of our chapter website: www.wisconsinpva.org

“JOKING AROUND WITH JAN”



Jan Zehren
Office Manager

April is National Humor Month. It is a great time to find ways to infuse more humor into your daily life. Here are six suggestions:

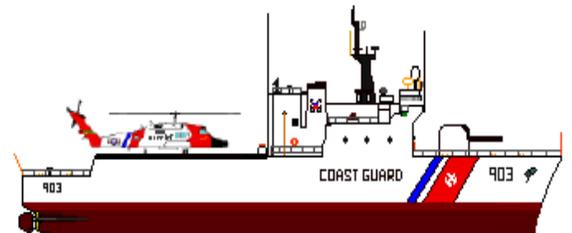
1. Smile. Smiling is the beginning of laughter and laughter is contagious.
2. Watch YouTube videos by browsing for a silly and fun topic.
3. Reminisce over funny stories from your past. Remember that one time in high school... or When I was at Boot Camp...
4. Watch a funny movie or television show.
5. Listen to upbeat music or a fun song from your childhood.
6. Develop a humor library and add funny books to it.

Found in Reader's Digest, Humor in Uniform: Funny True Stories about Life in the Military:



One of my fellow recruits at Marine boot camp looked extremely young. During inspection our drill instructor asked him, “Does your mother know you’re in the Marine Corps?” “Yes, sir,” replied the recruit. “Does she know you’re staying overnight?” (Jamie Walker)

I overheard my father telling a family friend about my newly assigned mission in the U.S. Coast Guard. I work on a cutter that escorts all cruise ships and international vessels under the bridges in the California Bay Area. But what my father told his friend was, “She’s involved in some sort of an escort service.” (Adrienne Blodgett)



YES SIR

At the canteen on base, we sold snacks, coffee and soda for 25 cents. One night, we decided to charge officers 50 cents. It was explained as “Sir charge.” (Robert P. Thorne)



WE BRING THE VAN TO YOU!

SAFE. CONVENIENT. TRUSTED.

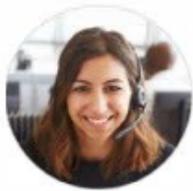


For nearly 50 years Rollx Vans has been providing Veterans Nationwide the safest most convenient way to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

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

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR

During the week of March 1st - March 5th, PVA National held their annual Legislation/Advocacy Seminar. This year the seminar was virtual, using Zoom. I was joined by our Chapter President, Mr. Ken Ness and Vice President, Mr. Todd Drazy this year. We had ten meetings on March 3rd and 4th with our Wisconsin Legislative Delegation. We met via zoom or teleconference with the following or their Veteran's liaison:



Scott Griffith

Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)

Rep. Mark Pocan(D- WI 2nd District)

Rep. Bryan Steil (R-WI 1st District)

Rep. Glan Grothman(R-WI 6th District)

Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI 8th District)

Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI 3rd District)

Rep. Thom Tiffany (R-WI 7th District)

Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI 4th District)

Rep. Scott Fitzgerald (R-WI 5th District)

- Join our advocacy efforts by visiting our Call To Action Centers. We provide links to National and State advocacy campaigns at www.wisconsinpva.org Look for the Call To Action-Wisconsin and the Call To Action-National. You will be sent to our Call To Action Center where you can take action on current legislation that we support. We've crafted a message for you to send. You simply put in your name and address and hit "send." You'll have the option to add a personal message if you choose.

Current State Bills that we need your support on are:

SB44 & AB38 - Waiver of fees for Veterans attending UW School System

SB12 & AB16 - Broadening the applicability of an individual income tax subtraction for certain reserve components of the Armed Forces and National Guard.

See our 2021 National Policy Priorities on page 15.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE



1-800-273-8255

Press 1

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net
or text to 838255



2021 POLICY PRIORITIES

Improve the VA Health Care System & Available Services

A Protect Access to VA's Specialized Services

Congress must preserve access to VA's specialized services, including the spinal cord injury/disorder (SCI/D) system of care, and provide appropriate funding to ensure continued success. Congress must also ensure proper staffing of VA's specialized services by providing competitive compensation and retention incentives to keep up with the private sector.

B Expand Access to VA's Long-Term Services & Supports

Congress must conduct oversight of VA's implementation of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to ensure consistent eligibility determinations and a fair appeals process. Also, expedite Phase II of the caregiver program expansion to October 1. Furthermore, Congress must maintain a safe margin of community living center capacity by increasing funding for SCI/D-related construction projects.

C Increase Access to IVF

Congress must repeal VA's ban on IVF and make these services a regular part of the medical benefits package available to veterans and authorize VA to provide assisted reproductive technology, including IVF, surrogacy, and gamete donation at VA for any veterans enrolled in VA health care.

D Enhance Care for Women Veterans with SCI/D

Congress must ensure VA properly serves women veterans with catastrophic disabilities by considering their unique needs in developing programs and services.

Improve VA Benefits

A Strengthen Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans

Congress must improve their benefits by:

- Increasing the number of times veterans can access the Automobile Allowance Grant & ensure veterans receive Automotive Adaptive Equipment (AAE) reimbursement;
- Allowing veterans with nonservice-connected catastrophic disabilities to receive the same type of AAE as veterans with service-connected disabilities; and
- Raising the amount of VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alterations grants.

B Enhance Benefits for Surviving Spouses of Catastrophically Disabled Veterans

Congress must ensure survivors of veterans who die from ALS receive the full benefits they are due.

Improve & Protect Systems & Civil Rights that Support People with Disabilities

A Strengthen Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA)

Congress must improve access for people with disabilities to air travel by requiring airlines to use airplanes that meet broad accessibility standards, strengthening the Department of Transportation's enforcement of the ACAA, and establishing a private right of action under the law.

B Promote Increased Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Congress must support increased compliance with the ADA by increasing tax incentives that help businesses remove access barriers. We also support increased funding for the Department of Justice's (DOJ) ADA mediation program, as well as increased DOJ enforcement of complaints.

C Preserve & Strengthen Social Security

Congress must strengthen and enhance the Social Security system without harming beneficiaries by implementing a more realistic cost-of-living-adjustment reflective of typical expenses; reducing the tax burden on beneficiaries; making long overdue adjustments in the financing mechanisms for the system; eliminating the five-month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI); and removing barriers to work for SSDI beneficiaries.

D Prioritize Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

Congress must protect and strengthen disability employment rights; increase tax incentives for employers to hire and retain persons with disabilities; enhance entrepreneurship opportunities for people with disabilities; and improve federal hiring and promotions under Schedule A, veterans preference, and other authorities targeting those with significant disabilities.



Donating your car to Paralyzed Veterans of America could not be any easier! My son's 2003 Buick had been sitting in our driveway for over three years. It was in rough shape! I made a phone call on the Monday before New Year's Eve to donate the car. I was asked a few questions and the next day I received a text message from the tow truck company, making arrangements for pick up. Two days after my initial phone call to PVA, the car was gone! Shortly after that, I received an email verification for tax purposes.

Jan Zehren
Associate Member

Call 877-900-VETS to donate your car, boat, RV, etc. or donate online at pva.careasy.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Vehicle Donation Program



We'll Take That, Too!

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

Always Remember...



MEMORIAL DAY - May 31, 2021

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JEFF HAAGENSEN, US ARMY VET

I knew at a young age that I wanted to be in the military, wasn't sure of which branch till I was older. There are a few reasons why I joined the military, but the main reason is family. My Dad (Robert Haagensen, Vietnam Veteran, USS Anchorage) told my younger brother Tim and I stories about some of the stuff he did when he served. Lots of stories about what it was like. Also, I have a couple of uncles who served; my uncle Charles Krull served in the Army, and my uncle Tom Zigenhagen served in the Navy, also during Viet Nam.

My MOS was 11 Charlie, Indirect Fire Infantryman, also known as a mortar man. The part of the job that I enjoyed the most, I would say was the variety. By that I mean that depending on what type of unit you are in you could either become an expert in just one type of mortar or all 3 types of mortars. For instance, my first unit 1/26 Infantry is a mechanized unit based out of Schwienfurt, Germany where we had the 120mm track mounted mortar system. Then when I was stationed out of Ft. Lewis, Washington, 2/1 Infantry, we had the 120mm Stryker mounted mortar along with the ground mounted 81mm and 60mm mortar system. Even though you have to be an expert at that job, you also have to be a ground pounding 11 Bravo. It's fun!

I was deployed five times. I deployed twice to Kosovo, 1999(9 months) and again in 2002 (6 months) with my first unit, 1st Infantry Division, 26th Infantry Regiment the "Blue Spaders" out of Schweinfurt, Germany. I have also deployed twice to Iraq. 2003-2004 as a Squad Leader in the Battalion Mortar Platoon with HHC 2-3 Infantry Patriots part of the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division. Spent the first two months in Balad, Iraq and the rest was in Mosul, Iraq.

Second Iraq tour was from 2005-2007 as a Squad Leader with the Battalion Mortars HHC 2nd battalion 37th armored regiment. Started the deployment in Tal-afar, Iraq. I didn't do a lot of mortar stuff while in Tal Afar and I finished the deployment just outside of Ramadi, Iraq. Our Platoon established, fortified and operated what we named Firebase Dragon. I fired more mortars during this portion of the deployment then I had in the three previous deployments. Last deployment was to Afghanistan in 2009-2010 with Attack Company 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, Infantry Regiment, and 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. We started the deployment working out of Kandahar, was part of a major offensive in the Arghandab River Valley in August of 2009. In late September our unit moved FOB Ramrod in the Maiwand District, Helmand Province. We operated out of there until mid December when my company, Attack Company, was tasked with building a Company sized FOB just out side of Howz-e Madad, Maiwand District, Helmand Province.



Jeff Haagensen continued on page 18

(Jeff Haagensen continued from page 17)

We conducted our first patrol out of that FOB on Christmas Day 2009 and it did not turn out good at all. From that day forward it was basically eight months of daily firefights and action. This was by far the most difficult deployment for me mentally and emotionally.

How long have you been assembling Legos and why do you enjoy this hobby?

I have been doing this now for about 3 years now. I can honestly say that I am surprised that I even have this hobby because growing up I 100% hated LEGOs. I was more into the G.I. Joe stuff and then sports. LEGOs were my brother Tim's thing.

Why do you like this hobby?

Where do I even start? To put it bluntly, Legos saved me from complete personal destruction. When I got out of the Army it was not on good terms. When I returned from Afghanistan in 2010, I was emotionally and mentally destroyed. Combine that with a culture at Ft. Lewis back then, where if you said anything about having PTSD you were treated like a leper and your career was over. So I handled it myself, I figured that since I was able to handle it after the other 4 deployments then this one should be the same. Oh, was I wrong! I turned to hard drugs, meth, in late September 2010 and was basically high almost every day until June 2011 when it finally caught up to me. I had been either abusing alcohol or drugs up until, I want to say, late summer, early fall 2018. I was in the hospital after a suicide attempt followed up with a flap surgery on my right thigh and ankle; I couldn't do anything but lay there in bed at the SCI watching TV and after talking to Dr. Lee and learning that this helped him, I figured I would give it a shot but didn't think it was going to turn into this. And by the time I was able to leave SCI I had built so many of them that we didn't know how we were going to get them back to my place. Thankfully one of the Recreational Therapists was able to hook me up with one of the display cases that was literally right outside of my hospital room. Now it was supposed to be a temporary solution until I was able to get back and pick them up...well, they are still there, laugh out loud. But I had no idea it was going to get so out of control once I got back to my place. I have stayed clean and sober since putting that fist set together.



Side note: LEGOs are my most expensive vice to date!



Come meet Jeff and see his Lego display

May 3rd - 7th

in the lobby of the

Milwaukee County War Memorial

750 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive



NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

Thank you for your interest in the National Veterans Golden Age Games. Due to concerns for public health related to COVID-19, the Department of Veterans Affairs has canceled the in-person National Veterans Golden Age Games, scheduled to occur June 21-26 in Madison, Wisconsin. We are pleased to present an exciting virtual alternative, the 2021 National Veterans Golden Age Games at home. This series of challenges and competitions will allow Veterans to continue in the spirit of the Games and participate from home.

Please continue to check back at the website located below for real-time updates on how you can continue to engage in “Fitness for Life” in 2021!

The National Veterans Golden Age Games is the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States, and the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors’ competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. The VA Challenges and encourages senior Veterans to be proactive in embracing a healthier lifestyle, thus achieving the NVGAG “Fitness for Life” motto.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/national-veterans-golden-age-games/>

amazon

smile

Please support the

Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter

When you shop at smile. Amazon.com

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1393216>

*Remember to use Smile for
Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9th*





Paralyzed Veterans of America

Wisconsin Chapter

NEXT EVENT SCHEDULED: JULY 29 & 30
LOCATION: SHERATON HOTEL BROOKFIELD

TO REGISTER FOR AN UPCOMING DATE CALL:
PVA - WISCONSIN CHAPTER AT 414-328-8910

*DME WILL BE ONSITE MANUAL HOVER, HOSPITAL GRADE BED (IF REQUESTED)

In partnership with:



COVID Process & Procedures will be required of all participants

2021 PVA CAREGIVER RETREAT

FREE SPA DAY & HOTEL STAY

You (veteran) and your primary caregiver will enjoy an all expense paid retreat at the Sheraton Brookfield. Includes 1 night stay for you and your caregiver, activities, all meals, snacks, and spa visit for caregiver. Respite coverage will be provided by Respite Re-Imagined (see ad below) by certified CBRF respite workers during your retreat.

Qualifications:

- U.S. Veteran in Wisconsin (para or quad)
- United Healthcare Insurance or other (some restrictions may apply)
- Ability to travel to Sheraton Hotel Brookfield



R E S P I T E
ReIMAGINED

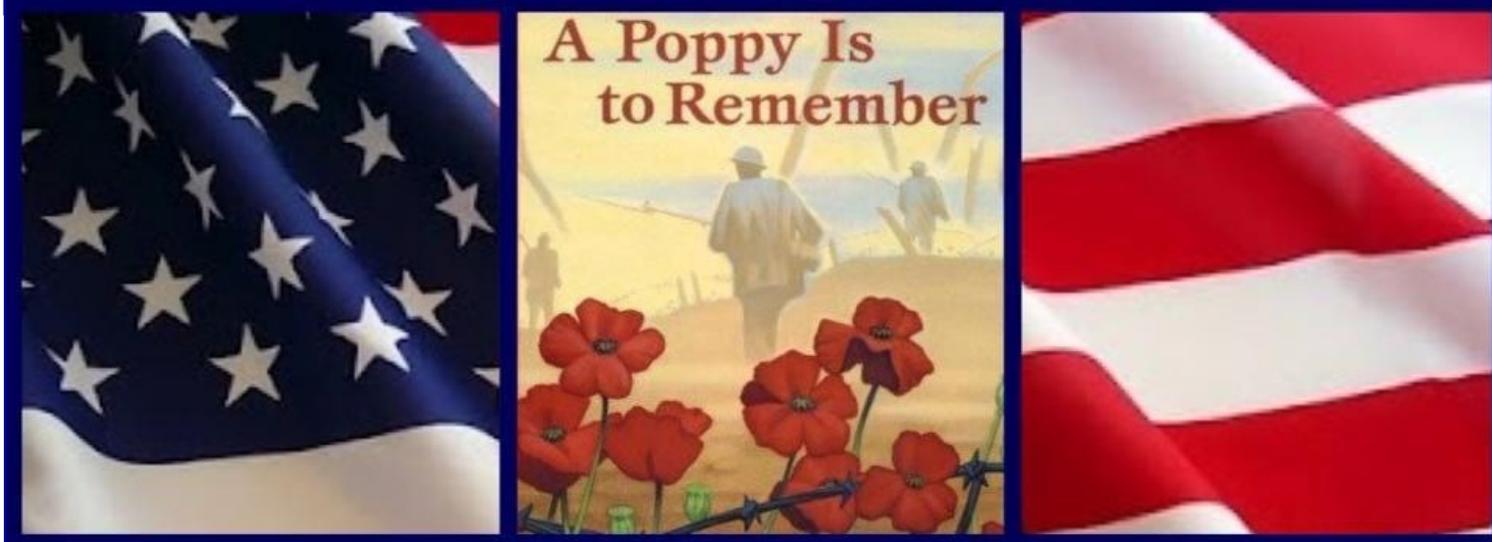
C A R I N G F O R T H E C A R E G I V E R
P T O · S I C K L E A V E · V A C A T I O N · F U N E R A L · F M L A · C O V I D

We provide daily, weekly or longer temporary coverage for your caregiver because sometimes our essential healthcare hero's need a break.



262-207-4000

MILITARY TRIVIA...DID YOU KNOW?



The red poppy officially became the national emblem of remembrance in 1920, but this resilient little flower has roots that run deep, all the way back to the battlefields of World War I, such as the war torn battlefields in Europe. The poppies would spring up from the wreckage every spring, even though the landscapes were left devastated. On one spring day, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was so moved by the red flowers popping up in Flanders Field in Belgium, after a devastating battle killed 87,000 allied soldiers, that he wrote "In Flanders Field" to channel his grief. The poem is told from the perspective of the fallen soldiers buried beneath the hearty poppies. McCrae's poem honored the troops who died in service.

In Flanders Field

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of the American Legion. Led by the American Legion Auxiliary, poppies are distributed with the hope that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with needs. The American Legion brought National Poppy Day to the United States by asking Congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day.



PVA-WI ANNUAL ELECTION 2021-2022



PVA-WI is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors until July 31, 2021. In early August, the election ballots will be mailed out to the voting membership for selections. Current PVA Board Members **Todd Drazy** and **Ken Matthews** are up for re-election as their term ends September 30, 2021. There are **four seats available**. Nominations are now being accepted, please contact the office with your nomination.

If you are considering running for one of these open positions, you must successfully complete the Paralyzed Veterans of America Certification Process. If the National Secretary has not certified you, your name can be placed on the ballot, but you cannot assume an elected position until you are certified. The certification process is very simple, and the forms are available at the Chapter Office. As members, many of you are already certified.

Certification requires three items of proof:

- ◆ Citizenship (birth certificate, passport, immigration or naturalization form number)
 - ◆ Active Duty service in the armed forces and character of discharge other than dishonorable (DD-214)
 - ◆ Medical proof of spinal cord injury or disease (physician's statement or medical records)
- Please note...This process does take a bit of time, so please get the ball rolling soon. Questions? Please call the office at 414-328-8910.



WOMEN VETERANS DAY

June 12, 2021

The first Women Veterans Day on June 12, 2018, marked the 70th anniversary of the groundbreaking WAC legislation signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on June 12, 1948.



Chrysler, Toyota, Honda & Dodge

Side-Entry, Rear-Entry & Infloor Ramps

Call us at (888) 775-7750 to find out how to have minimal out of pocket expenses. A&J Mobility has five convenient locations in Wisconsin for sales and service.

ajmobility.com
(888) 775-7750



Honda Odyssey Infloor (Below) • Chrysler Pacifica Foldout XT (Above)



Dodge Grand Caravan Foldout (Above)



Toyota Manual Rear-Entry (Above)

Valders

920-775-9333

Toll-Free: 888-775-7750

Rentals: (920) 775-4388

Fax: 920-775-4104

333 West Washington St
Valders, WI 54245

Richfield

262-623-6236

Toll-Free: 800-517-1024

Rentals: (920) 775-4388

Fax: 262-623-6237

3058 Helsan Drive
Richfield, WI 53076

Eau Claire

715-874-6630

Toll-Free: 877-833-9830

Rentals: (920) 775-4388

Fax: 715-874-6650

2650 Prospect Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Madison

608-579-1500

Toll-Free: 888-223-9731

Rentals: (920) 775-4388

Fax: 608-579-1502

4125 Terminal Drive #110
McFarland, WI 53558

Green Bay

920-632-4882

Toll-Free: 877-830-1330

Rentals: (920) 775-4388

Fax: 920-632-7167

1330 Mid Valley Drive
De Pere, WI 54115



On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a Presidential Proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14th. Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying Old Glory in front of their homes and businesses. The day commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States. Flag day honors the American Flag and all of its traditions. Did you know our flag has changed 26 times over the years?

Disabled Veterans Fishing Outing

Date: June 16, 2021 (Tentative - Check website)

Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Venue: Port Washington Marina

Address: 106 N. Lake St. Port Washington, WI

Specifics: An event put on by the Port Washington Disabled Veterans Fishing Outing Committee, the Great Lakes Sport Fishermen-Ozaukee participates with boats and captains for the Vets. A morning of fishing followed by a fish boil type lunch and awards presentation.



Wisconsin Chapter

ANNUAL TRAP SHOOT
JUNE 19-20 2021

BROWN COUNTY
SPORTSMAN'S CLUB
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

Top Prize: \$400 in gift cards (Prizes for all classes.)

Register in advance on EventBrite

Hotel reservation: Radisson Hotel (\$99 per night)

2040 Airport Dr. Green Bay, WI

920-471-4997 (Book using PVA-WI)

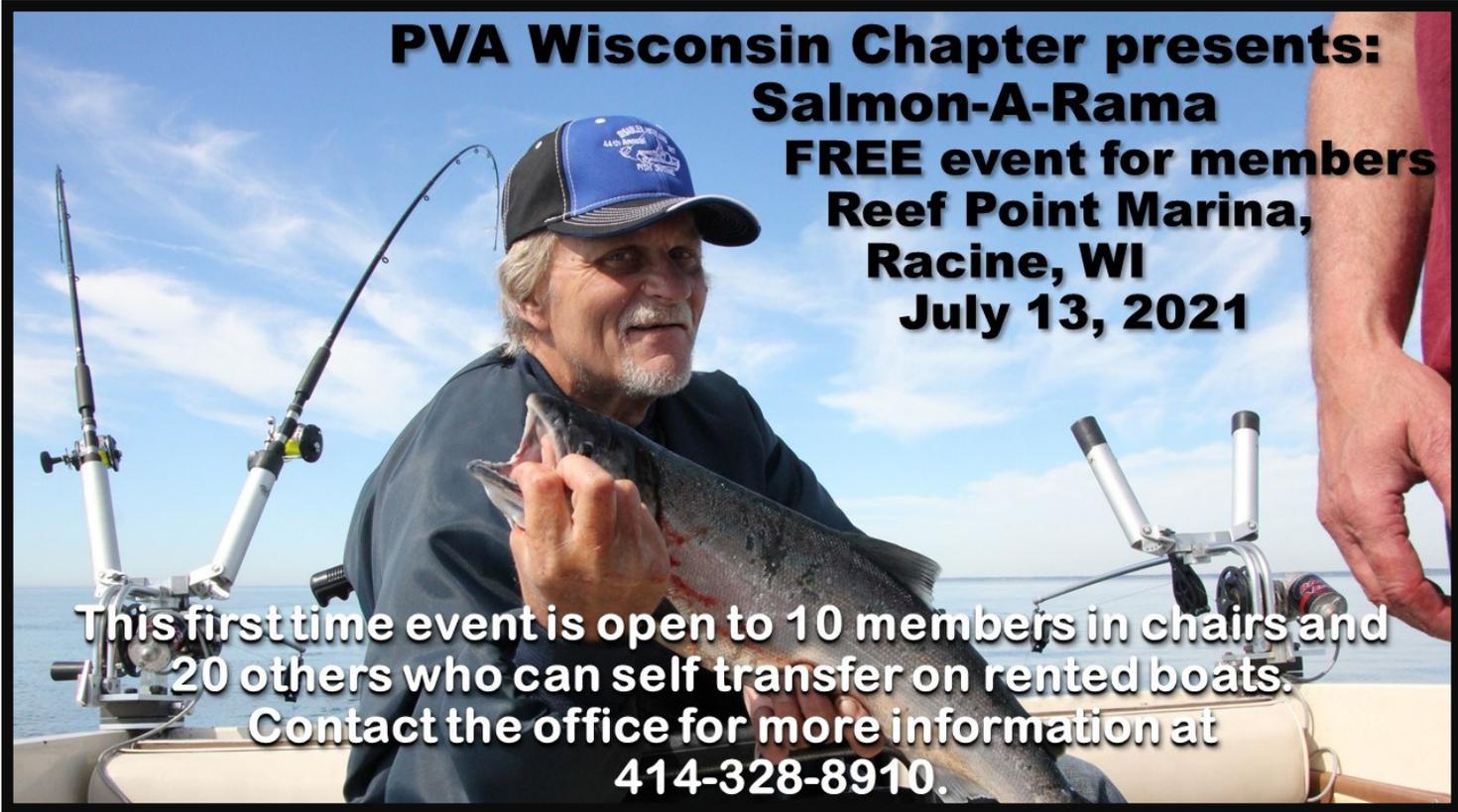
Must reserve room on or before May 18, 2021

Register on EventBrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wisconsin-shooting-sports-tournament-tickets-143093992985>



**PVA Wisconsin Chapter presents:
 Salmon-A-Rama
 FREE event for members
 Reef Point Marina,
 Racine, WI
 July 13, 2021**



This first time event is open to 10 members in chairs and 20 others who can self transfer on rented boats. Contact the office for more information at 414-328-8910.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- April 15th** Cooking with Le'Toi at 4:00 pm
 Menu: Stuffed Bell Peppers
 Tune into FaceBook Live
- May 3rd - 7th** "May the Fourth Be with You"
 Lego Event: Featuring Jeff Haagensen
 Milwaukee County War Memorial
- May 13th** Cooking with Le'Toi at 4:00 pm
 Tune into FaceBook Live
- June 16th** Disabled Vets Fishing Outing
 Port Washington Marina
- June 17th** Cooking with Le'Toi at 4:00 pm
 Tune into FaceBook Live
- June 18th - 20th** PVA-WI Shooting Sports Tournament
 Brown County Sportsman Club
 Register by May 18th on EventBrite
- June 22nd - 28th** PVA National Cycling Team in Wisconsin
 Tour of America's Dairyland Cycling Series
- July 13th** *Salmon-a-Rama
 Reef Point Marina - Racine
- July 29th - 30th** *Respite Care Retreat
 Sheraton - Brookfield



***Call 414-328-8910 to register**



NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

40th Anniversary

August 8-13, 2021
New York City



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Wisconsin Chapter



SPONSOR A LOCAL VETERAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GAMES!

“ I enjoy the competition. The games are the only place where you can participate in many sporting events in one setting. As someone who has been in a chair for several decades, the games also offer me the opportunity to coach and mentor newly injured vets, perhaps showing them how much life still has to offer. It's a time to make new friends and reconnect with those you've met over the years.”

- Phil Rosenberg



“ Through the support and financial assistance of Paralyzed Veterans of America-Wisconsin Chapter, Inc. (PVA-WI) and our local VA, I have had the good fortune of being able to compete in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) for the past 12 summers. Each year I have found the games to be challenging, invigorating, renewing, educational, and inspirational.”

- Ken Matthews



“ Competing with and against other veterans with disabilities has truly been an awesome experience. The NVWG games have inspired me to train in order to perform at my personal best. Over the years I've won several medals, but more importantly I have made lifelong friends. The friendships and camaraderie that is a constant presence is incredible, only other veterans can truly understand the connection we all have.”

- Derrick Trentin



“ The National Wheelchair Games is like a family reunion with activities and events that involve disabled veterans. My first games were in 2016, and when I witnessed the other veterans of all ages competing, laughing, and enjoying each other's conversations, I immediately felt at home. I have been able to collect medals in the events that I participated in, which builds my self esteem.”

- Le Toi Adams





**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**
Wisconsin Chapter

**August 8-13, 2021
New York City**



**NATIONAL VETERANS
WHEELCHAIR
GAMES**
40th Anniversary

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$2000

Endowment gift of \$2,000 or more builds a legacy to ensure that we can continue to sponsor veterans for the future. Donors will receive a 12" x 12" brick with their logo to be mounted at the Spinal Cord Injury Center at the Zablocki VA Medical Center.

\$1500

Sponsor a veteran and their caregiver to participate in the games. Donors will receive a 1/2 page ad in 4 of our newsletters (1,500-person circulation).

\$1200

Sponsor a veteran to participate in the games. Donors will receive a 1/4 page ad in 4 of our newsletters (1,500-person circulation).

Donor Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Contact Person: _____

Return This Section With Your Sponsorship To:

Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter
750 N Lincoln Memorial Drive, Ste. 306
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Phone: (414) 328-8910 • info@wisconsinpva.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Wisconsin Chapter

750 N Lincoln Memorial Dr, Ste 306
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	Recreational 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