

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA – WISCONSIN CHAPTER
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 13th, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Wisconsin Chapter BOD meeting was called to order by President Todd Drazy at 1:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted, followed by a moment of silence for all veterans who have passed away.

2. ATTENDEES:

Todd Drazy	President	Present, Zoom
Scott Griffith	Vice President, Ntl. Dir., GRD	Present, In Office
Peter Carrao	Board Member	Medical Leave of Absence
Michael Thomas	Board Member	Present, Phone
Troy Kurzcek	Board Member	Present, Phone
Richard Buth	Board Member	Present, Phone
Angela Walker	Board Member	Excused Absence
Gary Stott	Secretary, Board Member	Present, Zoom

3. RECOGNIZE VISITORS:

- Amera Schaefer, Executive Director
- Brenna Frey, Advancement and Engagement Coordinator
- Brenda Stencil, National Service Officer
- Louie Mullins, National Vice President

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

- Michael Thomas made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Scott Griffith seconded the motion. All votes were accepted, no nays, no abstentions, and the motion was carried.

5. AGENDA:

- August agenda presented.

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- July minutes presented.

7. FINANCE REPORT:

- Written report presented.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Written report presented.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Written report presented.

10. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Written report presented.

11. NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT:

- No report presented.

12. GRD'S REPORT:

- Written report presented.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Sports & Recreation:**
 - i. No report presented.
- **Communications & Advocacy:**
 - i. Written report presented.
- **Finance:**
 - i. Written report presented.
- **Membership/Peer Mentorship:**
 - i. No report presented.
- **Membership:**
 - i. Members: 314
 - New: N/A
 - ii. Associate: 189
 - New: N/A
 - iii. Transferred:
 - DeLong Blunt
 - iv. Deceased:
 - Michael R. Freund

14. OLD BUSINESS:

- N/A

15. NEW BUSINESS:

- Associate Membership Applications
 - Joseph J. Stout, Megan H. Stout, David Wittlinger
 - Michael Thomas made a motion to approve the new associate membership applications as submitted. Troy Kurczek seconded the motion. All votes were accepted, no nays, no abstentions, and the motion was carried.
- Veterans Afield Request - \$6,000
 - Todd Drazy shared that the grant request of \$6,000 for Veterans Afield is consistent with the amount requested in previous years.

- Scott Griffith made a motion to approve the grant request of \$6,000 to support Veterans Afield for the 2025-2026 season. Michael Thomas seconded the motion. All votes were accepted, no nays, no abstentions, and the motion was carried.
- Awards:
 - Scott Griffith presented the nominations for the PVA-WI Membership Banquet awards and welcomed discussion for additional nominations.
 - Ron Falkner Award: for dedication and contribution to PVA-WI
 - Gary Welter
 - Donald G. “Don” Schmidt Sportsman Award: for superior service and dedication in PVA-WI Sports and Recreation
 - Victoria Buncheck
 - Patricia “Patty” Wiseman Volunteer Award: for your time and efforts to assist PVA-WI and its members
 - Holly Lauer
 - President’s Award
 - TBD
 - Michael Thomas made a motion to approve the Membership Banquet award nominees. Troy Kurczek seconded the motion. All votes were accepted, no nays, no abstentions, and the motion was carried.
- Grant Consultant Proposal
 - Todd Drazy requested an introduction to this item. Scott Griffith shared that he held a preliminary meeting with Chase Consulting, a Milwaukee-based organization that offers grant-writing services. Their focus would be on securing grants of \$50,000 and above from foundations and corporations within Wisconsin. These efforts would not interfere with existing Chapter-level grant writing.
 - Scott will present a detailed overview of Chase Consulting’s services and pricing at the September BOD meeting, where the board will vote on whether to engage their services.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Salmon-A-Rama – Summary
 - Todd Drazy requested an introduction to the Salmon-A-Rama item. Scott Griffith reported that 12–13 charter boats participated in the event,

hosting members from both the Illinois and Wisconsin Chapters. Nearly all participants reached their fishing limits.

- The Salmon-A-Rama organizers provided attendees with smoked salmon and fillets from the day's catch, along with a BBQ lunch and awards ceremony.
- The Racine County Fire Department supported the event by deploying two squads to assist with member transfers to the boats. The event was conducted safely and without incident.
- Plans are underway to expand the program to include the Minnesota Chapter in 2026.

- NVWG – Summary

- The Games were held at the Minneapolis Convention Center, with a Veterans Cantina area hosted by Target, whose headquarters are in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Target provided food, beverages, and support during the event. PVA National is working to build a stronger partnership with Target to support future initiatives.
- PVA-WI had a record number of participants this year. The increased attendance led to unique logistical challenges, including the need for additional operational support to assist members with transportation and scheduling.
- Concerns were raised regarding member accountability. When members register for events, they are expected to attend. Absences without valid reasons (e.g., citing a migraine) impact the integrity of the Games and the significant investment made by PVA National.
- Four to five members experienced last-minute financial crises, requiring the Chapter to cover lodging expenses using the Chapter debit card. To prevent similar issues in the future, the Chapter is developing a formal Advance Pay Policy. This policy will allow members to request their payout 30 days prior to an event, ensuring better financial planning and accountability.
- PVA-WI had a strong showing, finishing as the fourth highest chapter in medal count, bringing home over 50 medals. New participants had a positive experience, contributing to the Chapter's overall success.

- Membership Banquet – September 14

- Members are encouraged to register for the banquet, actively share and promote the event and silent auction site, and continue efforts to secure raffle and silent auction items.

- Walk to Defeat ALS – October 5
 - Todd Drazy requested an introduction to this item. Amera Schaefer shared that PVA-WI will be hosting a resource table at this free community event. All members are encouraged to participate by joining Team PVA-WI. Registration details can be found on our website.
- Greater Nonprofit Review
 - The Chapter needs 10 participants to complete the Greater Nonprofit Review in order to receive the 2025 Seal of Transparency. A registration link will be emailed to members next week.

17. ADJOURNMENT: Gary Stott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Troy Kurczek seconded the motion. All votes were accepted, no nays, no abstentions, and the motion was carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:33 PM Todd Drazy.

Next BOD meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 1:00 PM on Zoom and in the office.