

**PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA – WISCONSIN CHAPTER**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Wisconsin Chapter BOD meeting was called to order by President Todd Drazy at 1:03 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, Zoom
Peter Carrao	Board Member	Present, Zoom
Michael Thomas	Board Member	Present, Phone
Troy Kurzcek	Board Member	Present, Phone Late arrival
Richard Buth	Board Member	Present, Phone
Angela Walker	Board Member	Present, Zoom Late arrival
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
- Nichelle Gray, Area Manager
- Anthony Steele, Central Region Director

**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:**

- February agenda presented.

**6. PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

- January 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: Milton F. Pachal, Douglas E. Hadfield
  - ii. Associate: 185
    - New: N/A
  - iii. Transferred:
    - N/A
  - iv. Deceased:
    - Peter Mittelstaedt, Larry J. Boushon

**14. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Swear in board member – Rick Buth
  - Rick Buth recited the board member oath and was sworn in for his term.

**15. NEW BUSINESS:**

- SCI Budget
  - President Todd Drazy asked for an introduction to this new business item. Amera Schaefer presented Jackie Piekarski’s detailed \$1,900 budget request for SCI, as submitted in the board packet.
  - Scott Griffith made a motion to pass the budget as recommended for \$1,900. Next, Scott Griffith stated a point of order to increase the

- SCI budget to \$2,000. Mike Thomas made a motion to pass the SCI budget at \$2,000. Gary Stott seconded the motion. All votes were accepted, 5 votes in favor, no nays, one abstention, and the motion was carried.
- **NVWG Reimbursement Amount**
  - President Todd Drazy asked for an introduction to this new business item. Scott Griffith clarified that the maximum reimbursement amount for the NVWG is determined based on location and basic cost of living increases. Given the close proximity of the 2025 NVWG in Minnesota, he recommended maintaining last year's reimbursement cap of \$2,500, which includes a \$500 caregiver stipend.
  - Scott Griffith made a motion to approve the \$2,500 NVWG reimbursement amount. Michael Thomas seconded the motion. All votes were accepted, no nays, no abstentions, and the motion was carried.
- **Chapter's commitment amount to PVA Research and Education Foundation**
  - President Todd Drazy asked for an introduction to this new business item. Scott Griffith explained that PVA National annually requests donations for the Research and Education Fund. Over the past three years, the donations were divided into three categories: \$1,000 for the Research Foundation, \$1,000 for the Education Foundation, and \$500 for Clinical Practice Guideline Publications, for a total of \$2,500. This year, the fund is split into just two categories: the Research Foundation and the Education Foundation. Scott Griffith recommends maintaining our previous donation amounts, allocating \$1,250 to each foundation item for a total of \$2,500.
  - Scott Griffith made a motion to approve the \$2,500 Chapter commitment amount to the PVA Research and Education Foundation. Gary Stott seconded the motion. All votes were accepted, no nays, no abstentions, and the motion was carried.
- **National Director Appointment**
  - Todd Drazy informed the board that the National Director's term will be ending in a few months (June), necessitating a vote to either reappoint or appoint someone to the position.
  - Pete Carrao made a motion to appoint or reappoint a PVA-WI's National Director, which was seconded by Gary Stott. With no discussion, Todd Drazy opened the floor for nominations. Michael Thomas made a motion to nominate Scott Griffith for reappointment as PVA-WI's National Director. Gary Stott seconded the motion. Todd Drazy asked if there were any further nominations, none presented. Michael Thomas moved to close the nominations for the position, seconded by Gary Stott. The motion to close nominations was approved unanimously; all votes were accepted, no nays, no abstentions.
  - Todd Drazy restated the motion: **The motion before the board is to reappoint Scott Griffith as PVA-WI's National Director.** Todd Drazy

called for a vote. All votes were accepted, seven votes in favor, no nays, one abstention, and the motion was carried.

- **BOD Training**
  - President Todd Drazy asked for an introduction to this new business item. Scott Griffith announced that, in collaboration with the Minnesota Chapter, PVA-WI will be hosting a two-day board member training session at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells on April 21-22. We are seeking a headcount by the end of the month to decide if this will be an in-person event. Day one will focus on peer mentor training, board development training, and strategic planning. If the training extends to two days, day two will cover parliamentary training and board of directors ethics training.

## **16. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Julie Kronenberg's Retirement Party Summary**
  - Scott Griffith and Amera Schaefer attended Julie's retirement party at the VA. Scott Griffith presented her with a recognition award on behalf of PVA-WI, along with a gift card for her retirement trip. Fortunately, Julie plans to continue volunteering with PVA-WI, and her position at SCI has been filled by Jackie Piekarski.
- **Frost Fest Summary**
  - Frost Fest saw a significantly larger turnout than in previous years, with many children in attendance! Hosted by the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center, this event provided an excellent opportunity to connect and collaborate with our community and other veteran service organizations.
- **Air Rifle Tournament – March 21 & 22, 2025**
  - PVA-WI's Air Rifle Tournament will be held at a new location, Shooter's Sports Center in Racine, WI. This two-day event is part of the national circuit. Practice is scheduled for March 21, followed by the competition on March 22.
- **Announcements from Brenda Stencil, NSO**
  - PACT Act Changes: Brenda Stencil announced several updates to the PACT Act, including the addition of service-connected benefits for Gulf War and post-9/11 veterans, as well as various types of cancer. Some cancers have also been removed from the Agent Orange list. Brenda will create a detailed report discussing these changes, which will be emailed to you from PVA-WI.
  - My Health Vet Login Update: Starting March 4, My Health Vet login and password will no longer be available. You must log in via login.gov or ID.me.
  - Automobile Allowance Eligibility: If you are eligible for the automobile allowance and used your first allowance before 1995, you may now be

eligible for a second allowance. For any questions, please contact Brenda Stencil at (414) 902-5655 or email [brendas@pva.org](mailto:brendas@pva.org).

**17. ADJOURNMENT:** Michael Thomas 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 was adjourned at 1:40 PM by Todd Drazy.

**Next BOD meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 1:00 PM on Zoom and in the office.**