

ROLL WITH US

APRIL - MAY - JUNE, 2022



We are excited to announce our first National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) Bootcamp training event. All Wisconsin NVWG athletes are encouraged to register and participate in this 3-day event. All PVA-WI members who register and attend will receive a FREE wearable device, FitBit or Apple Watch depending on your phone device! These devices will be set up and used during the bootcamp to enhance the athlete's performance and goal monitoring through our Virtual Battle Buddy app. The 3-day event will feature Adaptive Fitness,

Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Football, Boccia, Pickle Ball, Field events, Slalom course, Air Rifle with a laser marksmanship training aid, Softball, Cycling, and many more activities. On Monday, 16 May there will be an evening team building event at Root River Bowling in Franklin, WI. On 17 May we will be enjoying a Milwaukee Milkmen baseball game with reserved seating for our group in the Hop Yard! Lodging and meals will be provided for PVA-WI members. We will hold an Abilities Expo on Tuesday, 17 May 2022 from 1:00-4:00 at ROC Ventures in Franklin, WI.



Registration for athletes can be found on page 8 or check our website under the events tab.

We also need several veterans volunteers each day. Please see page 9 for further details or check our website under the ways to give tab.



**AWARDED THE 2022
MOST OUTSTANDING
WEBSITE AWARD FROM
PVA-NATIONAL**



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends:

I have just finished turning my clocks ahead for Daylights Saving Time. The calendar shows that Spring is almost here. The days are getting longer, and the temperatures are rising. And, I say this with crossed fingers, it appears COVID is lessening its grip on us. We are marching forward!!!

And, so is PVA-WI. Our chapter already has a very packed calendar for the rest of 2022 with a number of events to hopefully have something to offer for everyone. Although I will highlight some of our key activities and events, I encourage everyone to periodically check PVA-WI's website in order to get up-to-the-minute info as to what is available.

I would also like to highlight our website itself. We were just notified that our chapter's website won the 2022 award for Best Chapter Website. Indeed, following the bestowing of this award, individuals from PVA National's own communications team contacted us to obtain information as to how they can improve PVA's own website in several respects. We are also still in the running for one more chapter award, the President's Award, which is given to the chapter with the most outstanding single program. This award will be announced in May. So, stay tuned.

This past week several of our leadership team virtually attended PVA National's annual Advocacy Seminar. Several days were devoted to discussing the various issues and proposed legislative measures that we are trying to get addressed and enacted on behalf of our members during this coming legislative session. We will have members touching bases with all of our Wisconsin Congressional leaders in order to speak with them personally about supporting our proposed legislative measures.

...Continued on page 4

WHO WE ARE

Officers

President: Ken Ness
Vice President: Todd Drazy
Secretary: Derrick Trentin
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

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

2022 is proving to be a very exciting year for PVA-WI. With an increased number of staff, we have the opportunity to develop deeper collaborations with our current partners and create new partnerships to continue to fulfill our mission to achieve accessibility for all. PVA-WI has met with the MS Society and departments across the VA's SCI unit to provide resources and support to our members.

Our sports and recreational programming is seeking information from our members to inform the development of future activities. With the addition of our Associate Sports Director, there are many opportunities for members to get involved in a slew of events; please visit our website to see an up-to-date calendar of events.

Additionally, many updates to our website have facilitated informing members of events, benefits, and opportunities to purchase PVA-WI clothing. Please peruse the website to stay informed on opportunities to participate in an advocacy campaign and review and share opportunities to volunteer or donate to PVA-WI.

We hope you can join us at any of the events we are hosting as a member or a volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering at upcoming events, please go to our website, navigate to the tab Ways to Give, and click volunteer.

If you have any questions, please contact me at aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org or call 414-328-8910.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Members: 268

New Members:

Ellen A. Manteau & Norman R. Jorgenson

Associate Members: 129

New Associate Members:

Karl Jackson & Melvin Dominguez

Final Bugle:

Richard F. Goodlet & Frank Kloss

Hello PVA-WI Members,

A donor has donated a crypt to us located at West Lawn Memorial Park in Racine, WI.

If you are interested or have any questions please email info@wisconsinpva.org or call the office at 414-328-8910.

Are you or your family members seeking financial support to attain a degree?

PVA-WI has a scholarship program for our members and their family. Eligibility is open to all PVA-WI members, their spouse, their children, and their grandchildren. This scholarship opportunity is not open to associate members or their dependents.

Application submission guidelines:

1. Proof of enrollment in an accredited college, university, or technical school
2. Submit an essay between 500-600 words describing how you have been impacted by a veteran living with a spinal cord injury or disease
3. Share any civic engagement activity you have performed
4. Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above, please submit your most recent transcript showing grades and GPA

The application is available on our website under policies; click on the policy titled PVA-WI Scholarship for Members/Dependents or scan QR below. These applications will be reviewed year-round on the first of every month. If you have any questions, please email.



Presidents Report Continued...

This past weekend we successfully held our annual two-day PVA National Air Rifle Tournament. With COVID fears somewhat relaxed, our turnout rebounded nicely back to the numbers we are accustomed to. Over the past five years, we have always had the highest attendance of all of the National Air Rifle Tournaments and currently hold the PVA record for the most entrants at a single tournament. This year we had people that were coming in from a number of states, with some coming from as far as Colorado and Washington, D.C. Just as a reminder, we hold year-round practices and events; anyone is welcome to come and participate. Believe it or not, we even have access to equipment that is designed so that the blind can shoot at targets. Thus, there is no excuse not to join in the fun and try it.

In just a few weeks our annual SCI Site Visit will take place. This annual site visit is done in conjunction with PVA National's team of medical experts to review and observe the running of our Milwaukee SCI Unit in order to ensure that it is capable of providing the excellent health care we have become accustomed to. This is just one of the ways that your chapter attempts to ensure that excellent health care is available to all of our members.

Just around the corner on the calendar is our annual National Trap Shoot, our annual Salmon-a-Rama fishing experience (if you are not into it for the fish, please keep in mind that one of our members won an outboard motor last year), our initial three-day Boot Camp for the Wheelchair Games, and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, that will be held in Tempe, AZ this year. Again, these are just a few of the events and activities we will be offering - check our calendar on our website for a complete list of offerings. In addition to these scheduled events, we also have "in the works" some other programs and events such as a new and improved caregivers program, a program to outfit marinas around the state with lifts that will provide access into and out of watercraft for the disabled, a regional billiard tournament, NFL wheelchair football, etc.

Finally, if you are an inpatient in the SCI unit, don't forget our chapter is offering "Master Classes" (online tutorial classes on just about any subject you can imagine) and various cultural events such as the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Again, check out our website or give us a call to see the full menu of things that we offer to you - our members, volunteers, and friends.

Be well,
Ken Ness

Interns

PVA-WI is lucky to have established a partnership with Marquette University's Service-Learning Program. Due to this partnership, three students who are taking a Veterans Health and Culture course are volunteering their time on three different, critical projects. The students will be supporting PVA until May 2022.

Catherine McMahon is a nursing student graduating this May. She is working to enhance PVA-WI's Caregiver Respite Program. The social workers within the SCI unit at the Zablocki VA have been a great asset to building this program.

Payton Hanselman is a biomedical sciences major minoring in health studies and public health, graduating next spring. She is building process charts to enable PVA-WI to share the steps more easily to enrolling in applicable VA benefits. She works with Fred Downs from PVA national to ensure these charts incorporate all the necessary information and actions.

Kelly Callahan Grubaugh is a nursing student minoring in business administration. She is graduating this May. Kelly is building our digital media strategy and editorial calendar to build awareness of PVA-WI.

PVA-Wisconsin at Work



Patients at *Clement J. Zablocki's SCI* were able to enjoy a Super Bowl party sponsored by PVA-WI. Patients got to enjoy some Jimmy John's sandwiches during the game. It is the small things that count for our fellow veterans who are currently inpatient dealing with their medical challenges.

~Thank you to the staff who helped facilitate this events on our behalf.



Patriot Award

PVA-Wisconsin President Ken Ness presented the Chapter Patriot Award to New Glarus for their support of the 2021 National Veteran Wheelchair Games in New York City.

Thank You *New Glarus* for your continued support of PVA-Wisconsin!

Boccia Ball



PVA-WI members joined us for some Boccia Ball in March. Events like this allow members to get out of the house during the winter months for some friendly commraderie. The Zablocki VA Rec Therapist helped make this event happen with bringing some of the guys down to the War Memorial.

Ice Fishing



The Adaptive Works, in memory of Roger Ducommun Fishing Jamboree, was held on February 5th, 2022. A highlight of the jamboree was supplying an opportunity for 4 disabled Veterans and 1 disabled civilian access to ice fishing on Wind Lake while utilizing Action Track Chairs.

Mark your Calendar for these upcoming events...

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Wisconsin Chapter

Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter Presents:

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU

Lego Exhibit

MAY 8 - 14, 2022 | 9AM - 3PM
EXTENDED HOURS TUESDAY MAY 10 & THURSDAY MAY 12
TILL 7:30PM

AT THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL
750 N LINCOLN MEMORIAL DR
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

Scout groups are invited to come join an "Out of the World" LEGO Exhibit on Tuesday, May 10th and Thursday, May 12th from 4:30 PM-7:30PM. Scouts will get to see Star Wars LEGO pieces, and other pieces built by our member, Jeff Haagensen.

Scouts will learn how veterans cope with spinal cord injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder through Recreational Therapy. They will get to see how paralyzed veterans use adaptive equipment and then try it for themselves.



Paralyzed Veterans of America
Wisconsin Chapter

2022 ANNUAL TRAP SHOOT

JUNE 10-12, 2022
BROWN COUNTY SPORTSMEN CLUB
1711 W DEERFIELD AVE, GREENBAY, WI 54313

PRIZES:
Top Prize: \$400 Cabelas Gift Card
1st Place: \$200 Cabelas Gift Card
2nd Place: \$100 Cabelas Gift Card

Hotel reservation:
Radisson Hotel
2040 Airport Dr. Green Bay, WI
Phone: (920) 471-4997
\$109/night (Reserve room under PVA-Wisconsin)
Must reserve room before May 20, 2022

Registration fees for full event are \$190. Includes lunch and dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday.

REGISTRATION: [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/WISCONSIN-SHOOTING-SPORTS-TOURNAMENT-TICKETS-250307114317](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wisconsin-shooting-sports-tournament-tickets-250307114317)



PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA - WISCONSIN CHAPTER

SALMON-A-RAMA

July 14, 2022

Join us on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 6:30AM at the Reefpoint Marina for Charter Boat fishing!

There will be a Hoyer lift at the marina.

PVA-WI members and 1 guest are priority for spots. Associate members on a standby list. Hotel is provided for PVA-WI members traveling > 50 miles.

Special prizes and lunch upon return of all 10 charter boats. Snacks will be provided while on the boats. Bring sun block and wear appropriate clothing!

RSVP: (414) 328-8910 // RSVP BY MAY 10, 2022

EVENT BRITE LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/269154407077](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/269154407077)

3D Archery Shoot ★ Novelty Shoot ★ 2022 ★ Two Man Scramble ★ Silent Auction

HHAUSA VETERANS ARCHERY SHOOT TOUR

Mission Statement: To show appreciation and create a sense of community for Veterans, Active Military and First Responders through archery and the outdoors.

OPERATION HHAUSA
UNITING SERVICE MEMBERS IN ARCHERY

MISSION 17 May 14th & 15th - Tomah Warrens Sportsman's Alliance, Warrens
MISSION 18 June 4th & 5th - Waushara Archers, Wautoma
MISSION 19 June 25th & 26th - Rib Mountain Bowmen, Wausau
MISSION 20 July 9th & 10th - Twin City Rod & Gun Club, Neenah
MISSION 21 August 6th & 7th - Antler Archers, Wisconsin Rapids
MISSION 23 August 27th & 28th - Blackhawk Archers, Custer

SPONSORED BY

FRAGOUT
MORTON'S NORTH LLC
MORTON'S NORTH LLC
HAPPY & FRAGOUT

For more information visit: HHAUSA.ORG



AIR RIFLE TOURNAMENT



The Spring Air Rifle Tournament held at MATC-South Campus March 12-13, was a great success. Our member and their families joined us for a day of practice and familiarization followed by a day of friendly competition. The day of the tournament we had lunch catered by Mission BBQ that was enjoyed by all who came out. We also had several volunteers, including the herd, helping make this possible. Without the volunteers, events like these could not happen with such ease. Thank you to all who volunteered and participated. If you would like to take part in events, please take a look at our website's events page for upcoming events, <https://wisconsinpva.org/events-calendar>.





**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Wisconsin Chapter

#ROLL WITH US

ADAPTIVE SPORTS BOOTCAMP

MAY 16-18

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/258204605927>

FOR MORE INFO CALL (847) 406-9701

Volunteer With Us

PVA-WI's First Adaptive Sports Bootcamp May 16-18, 2022

PVA-WI is hosting the first Adaptive Sports Bootcamp to support our members in preparing for competition at the National Veteran Wheelchair Games. We will need the support of volunteers to seamlessly execute the event.



If you are interested in volunteering, please register at
<https://forms.office.com/r/VnLwLBgRgs>
or scan the QR code below.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Wisconsin Chapter



To purchase tickets for the Milkmen Baseball Game, you must visit our website and navigate to the events tab. Tickets purchased from our website will allow the proceeds to go to PVA-WI.

Revolutionary War

E A M B U S H O S N O O G A R D N R E V A T Q
 A H G R A P E S H O T H L K L E D A T I C Q J
 D K G R Q H E N T R E N C H M E N T D F K C E
 T C I E G I S D H W L I B E R T Y T R E E G D
 S A O Z T G K I T A O C D E R D O R M A R W A
 I B I T R H C C M I N U T E M A N D S H U G K
 L R R I A L O A Z A A P A T R I O T S C P R C
 A E A W P A L S P N O I T C E R R U S N I E O
 R T I O M N T C I U R C A R R O N A D E P T T
 E S T H A D N A C B E S I E G E D O A V D S S
 D B I T R E I B K A B F Y P N R E T L A B U S
 E O L W M R L E E M E U B L O Y A L I S T M O
 F L I Y J S F L T T L S P D I S B A N D E D S
 S G M B Q R C H E S S I A N S N M U S K E T Z
 L E P A U L E T T E S L A T N E N I T N O C P
 G R A S S H O P P E R Q T E T T E N U L K G B

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden     and .

INSURRECTION	DISBANDED	STOCKADE	MILITIA	MUSTER
ENTRENCHMENT	EPAULETTE	LOYALIST	RAMPART	MUSKET
LOBSTERBACK	FLINTLOCK	HOWITZER	PATRIOT	REBEL
LIBERTY TREE	SUBALTERN	BESIEGED	REDCOAT	FUSIL
HIGHLANDERS	GRAPESHOT	DRAGOONS	TAVERN	
GRASSHOPPER	MINUTEMAN	HESSIANS	AMBUSH	
CONTINENTAL	CARRONADE	CITADEL	RAMROD	
FEDERALIST	CASCABEL	LUNETTE	PICKET	

Father's Day is June 20th

Generate donations from AmazonSmile
when you shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com

at smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1393216



THANK YOU'S

Supporting Community Partners

Thank you for your generous donation in support of the Milwaukee Eagles Lacrosse program and equipment needs. We appreciate our partnership, and we look forward to providing adaptive sport opportunities for our veterans!

*Thank you again!
Melissa Oberst*

Dear Scott:

On behalf of the Tomah VA Medical Center patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to your organization for the donation of the Javelin Bag, 2 Slowpitch Softball Bats, Easton Equip Bag, Indoor Shot Put Ball, 4-16" Softball, Girls T&F Javelin. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Jennifer C., Officer
Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) Formally Voluntary Services

Entertainment Reimbursement

I took my girlfriend, Tiff, out for dinner to a local steakhouse for her birthday. The place felt straight out of the 80's, we loved it! It is always nice to be the one to be picking up the check for a change, so thank you! While we would go back, some friends told us next time we need to try Lombardi steak house next time, so it is on our list!

-John Wild

We went to the PBS Garden and Landscape Expo in Madison Feb 11-13 and stayed at the adjoining Clarion Hotel. It was so convenient...a walkway connected the hotel to the Alliant Energy Center. There were numerous beautiful displays of flowers, gardening supplies, and yard art. We also attended half a dozen seminars and look forward to spring to test out some of our newfound knowledge in our gardens! We had a wonderful time and appreciated the funds to offset the cost.

-Robert and Michele Repinski

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**

The real history of Memorial Day

By Rebecca Miller of the Army Times - May 27, 2019

Memorial Day falls on the last Monday of May. Americans all over the country honor fallen service members with parades, barbecues and commemorative services.

Though Memorial Day was made an official federal holiday in 1971, its roots trace all the way back to the Civil War, when Northerners and Southerners alike were looking for a way to publicly mourn their fallen. Most observances were concentrated in the South, where the most Civil War graves were located.

Over 25 cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. For example, Macon, Georgia, claims it began there in 1866, while Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, maintains it began there in 1864.

One story maintains that, in late April of 1866, a group of Mississippi women went to decorate the graves of soldiers who had died in the Battle of Shiloh. When they arrived, they found the Confederate graves well cared for, in stark contrast to the nearby graves of Union soldiers, which were bare and unkempt. Saddened, the women placed their flowers on the Union graves, too.

On May 5, 1868, just three years after the Civil War, a group of Union veterans known as the Grand Army of the Republic declared May 30th to be Decoration Day. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan gave the order for his posts to decorate graves “with the choicest flowers of springtime.”

“Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic,” he wrote.

The first major organized Decoration Day observation occurred that year on May 30th at Arlington National Cemetery. Ulysses S. Grant presided over the ceremony. After the speeches, children from local orphanages walked through the cemetery with members of the Grand Army of the Republic, placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers.

Today, several states continue to observe Confederate Memorial Day, in which they honor only Southern soldiers who died during the Civil War. These states are North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Alabama, Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia.

Confederate Memorial Day, also known as Confederate Heroes Day (in Texas) and Confederate Decoration Day (Tennessee), is celebrated in conjunction with the national holiday.

Today, most Southern states, including Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia, no longer include it as an official holiday where government offices close, but there are a few that still do. In South Carolina, for example, eight of its 46 counties gave their government workers paid leave on May 10.

Though it occurs on different days in different states, Confederate Memorial Day is generally celebrated with church services and civil war re-enactments. Flags and flowers are placed on confederate graves, and civil war relics are displayed.

On a national level, Decoration Day was expanded to honor all fallen U.S. service members after the end of WWI. In 1971, it became a federal holiday, with an official National Moment of Remembrance. At 3 p.m. local time, every American is encouraged to pause in silence for a minute to reflect on the sacrifice of the service members who gave their lives for this country.

We encourage you to reflect on those who gave their lives in defense of our country.

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 the Annual Clothing Allowance. Find out if you can get this benefit?

Am I eligible for disability benefits from the VA?

You may be eligible for disability benefits if you meet both of the requirements listed below, both of these must be true:

1. Your prosthetic or orthopedic device or your skin medicine causes damage to your clothes.
2. You need this device or skin medicine because of an injury or illness related to your military service (called a service-connected condition).

Who is covered?

Veterans

What disability benefits can I get?

A one-time payment or yearly payment. Note: The current clothing allowance rate is \$890.

How do I get these benefits?

You'll need to file a claim for disability compensation. The NSO office no longer signs this form on your behalf; you must sign the form to certify 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 will need to qualify by August 1 of the same 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 statements below 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 will receive payments between September 1 and October 31.

Send the completed form via Fax: 414-382-5331 or send mail to: Zablocki VAMC, Attn. Prosthetics – Clothing Allowance, 5000 W. National Avenue, Milwaukee, WI, 53295

We Are #StrongWheeled Together!



Submit your nominations for individuals with spinal cord injuries or disorders excelling in the arts, sports, entrepreneurship, or youth leadership to participate in United Spinal's #StrongWheeled Together Awards and be recognized as leaders in the disability community! Winners will receive a grant to help them pursue their goals.

[SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION](#)





WE NEED YOUR HELP!



PVA National held their annual Legislation/Advocacy Seminar via Zoom the week of March 7-9. We watched our PVA National President, Mr. Charlie Brown testify before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs to ensure the prioritization of Veterans' health care, benefits, and civil rights.

National Legislative Priorities: PVA National has 11 Campaigns targeted to strengthen, preserve, and create Veterans Benefits. Join your cohorts today and let Congress know how important these benefits are to you and your family! Below is a list of their campaigns:

- H.R. 1361/S. 444 – Additional Auto Grants for Paralyzed Veterans
- H.R. 5819 – Increase VA Housing Adaptation Grants
- H.R. 5723/S. 3071 – Strengthen and Improve Social Security
- H.R. 5607/S. 3483 – Improve Benefits for Survivors of ALS Veterans
- H.R. 3304 – Support Improved Access to Adapted Automobiles
- H.R. 4772/S. 2513 – Ask Congress to Improve VA Clothing Allowance
- H.R. 4714/S. 2481 – Ask Your Members of Congress to Strengthen the ADA and Help More Small Businesses Become Accessible
- H.R. 2734/S. 1280 – Improve Access to Fertility Assistance Through VA
- H.R. 1696/S. 642 – Ask Your Members of Congress to Improve Access to Air Travel for People with Disabilities
- H.R. 3765/S. 630 – Ask Your Members of Congress to Increase Access and Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities
- No Bill but an Important Ask: Preserve and Improve Access to Specialized VA Care



Simply scan this QR code or visit: <https://www.votervoice.net/PVA/Campaigns>





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

PVA-WI ANNUAL ELECTION 2022-2023

PVA-WI is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors until July 31st, 2022. In early August, the election ballots will be mailed out to the voting membership for selections. Current PVA Board Members **Peter Carrao** and **Derrick Trentin** are up for re-election as their term ends September 30, 2022. 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 still 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 some time, so make sure to allow enough time to complete the certification process. If you have questions, please contact the office at (414) 328-8910.

RESEARCH STUDY

SCI Cohort

If you are a Veterans living with a spinal cord injury or disorder (SCI/D) and identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, then you may be eligible to participate in a novel research study conducted by the SCI/D Center at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. We are recruiting participants from across the country and open to all genders and any sexual orientation.

Our research study involves a one-on-one phone interview and an online survey and should take approximately 1 hour of your time. Your identity and other personal information will be kept confidential and maintained securely. We want to hear about your positive and negative experiences related to your health needs and seeking healthcare within the VA System. This is the first study on the health and healthcare of LGBTQ+ people living with SCI, and your input can help to uncover strengths and weaknesses within the healthcare system and contribute to making access to healthcare more welcoming and suited to your needs. There will be a stipend as an appreciation of your participation.

If you would like more information or may be interested in participating, please contact our study coordinator at 650-493-5000, ext. 64479.

[If you have any questions or concerns about participant's rights, contact 1-866-680-2906.](#)



247TH
U.S. ARMY
BIRTHDAY
JUNE 14



Indego® Gets Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again



NEW VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® exoskeleton at NO COST!

What's the Indego exoskeleton?

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

- ✓ Regain your independence
- ✓ Improve your cardio & bone density
- ✓ Enjoy eye-level conversations again



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NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Student Loan Total and Permanent Disability Discharge

By: Anthony Steele, Central Region Director

Did you know you could be free of your student loan because you're a disabled veteran? A total and permanent disability (TPD) discharge relieves you from having to repay a William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loan, a Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loan, and/or a Federal Perkins Loan or to complete a TEACH Grant service obligation.

If you're a veteran, you can qualify for a TPD discharge if you have received a VA disability determination because you (1) have a service-connected disability that is 100% disabling, or (2) are totally disabled based on an individual unemployability rating.

A new regulation allows the Department of Education to provide automatic TPD discharges for borrowers who are identified through administrative data matching by removing the requirement for these borrowers to fill out an application before receiving relief. The Department of Education removed this application barrier in 2019 for borrowers identified as eligible for a TPD discharge through the match with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). However, it had not yet done so for those identified through the data match with the Social Security Administration (SSA). This started in September 2021.

The Department of Education will work with VA and SSA to identify those eligible for discharge. If you qualify for a TPD discharge based on this data match, the Department of Education will send you a letter. You then have to opt out of the discharge (if you do not want the loan discharged), or your loan will automatically be discharged.

If you do not receive a letter from the Department of Education but believe you qualify for a TPD discharge, you can always submit an application and attach your documentation, such as your VA Award Letter or Rating Decision. If you are going this route or want more information, visit <https://disabilitydischarge.com/>

As always, if you have additional inquiries, please contact your PVA National Service Officer. PVA-WI has a new temporary National Service Officer, Armando De La Rosa.

Peer Conversation Hour

This has been a long stretch of isolation and uncertainty for many of our Veterans dealing with SCI/D. Along with the isolation these have been some very unnerving times. Peer Support Specialists have received training in helping Veterans deal with a variety of difficult circumstances and may be able to assist you.

The Peer Support Specialists hold a group Conversation on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. The group meets at 1 pm (CDT) and is open to all Veterans with SCI/D. You are welcome to call in or join us through computer video. Your concerns and comments will be welcome or you may just listen to find out what the group is all about.

Not sure about the group scenario and might prefer a one-on-one? A conversation with a Peer Support Specialist is not a medical appointment. It is a verbal exchange with another Veteran who has a spinal cord injury and has been experiencing many of the same things you are dealing with or are going through. It is a totally confidential exchange except in the case of a Veteran who is talking about doing harm to himself or others.

If you or a Veteran you know might benefit from the Conversation or a one-on-one with a Peer Support Specialist, arrangements can be made by contacting your Psychologist or Social Worker for details. The VA Social Worker to contact is Maria Richer Ext: 41841, and the Psychologists are Dr. Brundage Ext: 41840 and Dr. Williams Ext: 42629.

Just give it a try; who knows, you might even enjoy it.

- Ken Matthews, PVA-WI Board Member & Peer Mentor

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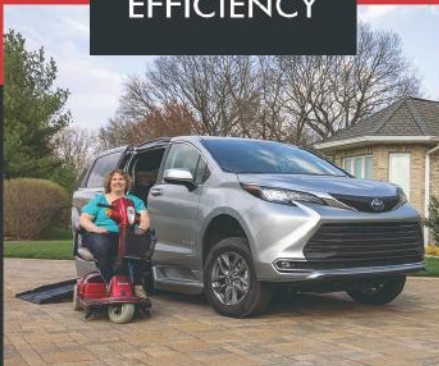
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THANK YOU DAN ROSIN

PVA-WI and SCI staff want to wish Dan Rosin well on future retirement in April of 2022. Dan has been an advocate and supporter of SCI patients and their families during his 27 years at the VA. Dan started his career with the VA as a fee basis nurse in 1995 and became the RN Unit Coordinator or Deputy Manager.



I fondly recall one patient (name escapes me, and for privacy that's probably good). He was a vent-dependent quadriplegic that our team rehabbed and discharged home with his wife. To say it was a lot of planning and work would be an understatement. I remember the evening before discharge, the Veteran's wife backed her pickup truck into the loading dock of Building 111, and Dan and I proceeded to load up that sucker with all the prosthetic items we could, cinching it down for the ride, and just kinda laughing. Here we were, an RN and a social worker loading a truck... but at the same time, we wouldn't have it any other way... to make sure all possible care and protection was taking place to give this Veteran and his wife the best chance for success that we (and our Center) could possibly offer. It was pretty cool.

~ Kevin Thomsen

I enjoyed our lunch time walks along the Hank Aaron Trail as we hashed out whatever issues we were facing on the inpatient unit, got some fresh air, and spied an occasional green heron, hawk, or some other bird. I wish Dan to have a wonderful and well-deserved retirement. He was a terrific colleague.

~ Margie Amato



**Save the Date:
September 18, 2022**

PVA-WI Annual Banquet

Roma Lodge - Racine, WI

More Info to Come

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PVA AWARENESS MONTH

April is PVA Awareness Month!

Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), founded in 1946, has a long history of supporting veterans and has been a leading advocate for all people with disabilities. For over 75 years PVA has provided our heroes with an unparalleled range of programs and services with their unique expertise.

PVA's work is focused on supporting veterans in the following ways:

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

Please keep an eye on our social media and website for upcoming news about celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the state-of-the-art facility, Milwaukee VA Spinal Cord Injury/Disease Center at the Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Read the original Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article [here](#).

Milwaukee SCI Unit - 10 year Anniversary



Credit: Benny Sieu

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MS & ALS RESOURCES



Society Information and Resources for People Affected by MS

The National MS Society provides services, support and resources for navigating your best life with MS. To learn more, contact us at 1-800-344-4867 or visit nationalMSSociety.org/resources.

SUPPORT

MS NAVIGATOR®

Our nationwide team of MS Navigators is made up of compassionate, highly skilled professionals who work with you one-on-one to ensure that you are informed, connected and supported throughout your MS journey. MS Navigators work to find solutions for the unique and often complex challenges of MS. Connect with an MS Navigator by phone at 1-800-344-4867, email at ContactUsNMSS@nmss.org or via chat Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT. For more information, visit nationalMSSociety.org/MSNavigator.

SELF-HELP GROUPS

Self-help groups bring people together who share common life experiences for support, education and mutual aid. Members lift each other up through personal struggles and encourage each other to try new things and live each day to its full potential. Visit nationalMSSociety.org/SupportGroup to find a support group.

MSFRIENDS®

The MSFriends program connects you one-on-one with peers who understand MS. MSFriends are volunteers who are trained, focus on your needs and provide emotional support. Learn more about MSFriends Helpline and MSFriends Paired by visiting nationalMSSociety.org/MSFriends.

FACEBOOK COMMUNITY GROUP

An opportunity to learn about health and wellness, symptom management and other MS-specific topics, while also sharing, commenting, and connecting to other group members for advice and support.

facebook.com/groups/nationalMSSocietycommunity



THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Local Care Services

A NOTE FROM THE CHAPTER CARE SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Care Services department of the ALS Association Wisconsin Chapter offers supportive programs and services free of charge to individuals and families living with ALS throughout the state. The Care Services team is here to provide support during the difficult time of change and uncertainty. We work directly with individuals diagnosed with ALS, as well as their families and friends, to provide guidance, information and resources through our Care Services programs. Our strong partnerships with service providers and other organizations statewide ensure support for all Wisconsin individuals and their families living with ALS.

Care Services Coordinators are available to answer questions, help navigate healthcare options and programs, provide resources and information regarding insurance and disability, and to simply be there for support. The Care Services Coordinators can connect with you in any way you feel most comfortable — in person, by phone or by email. They'll also work to identify other community resources, ALS-specific or otherwise, that can provide additional support.

This website provides information on all the services we offer, but it's no substitute for a personal connection. We urge you to call or email us to set up an introductory appointment with a member of the Care Services team — whether we meet in the Chapter office, your home, or any other location you choose. Whatever you need, at any stage along the way, we're here for you.

Angie Pereira, BSN, RN, Care Services Director, 414.305.1337, angie@alsawi.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Wisconsin Chapter

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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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