

# ROLL WITH US

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2025

## PVA-WI Travels to Denver, CO for the 5th Annual Reeve Summit



PVA-WI proudly attended the 2025 Reeve Summit, "Let's Move Mountains," held from March 10-12, 2025, in Denver, CO. This annual event, organized by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, brought together individuals living with paralysis, caregivers, healthcare providers, scientists, and advocates to discuss innovative solutions and strategies to improve the lives of those affected by spinal cord injuries (SCI) and paralysis.

Key topics covered at the summit included groundbreaking discussions, such as the introduction of ONWARD ARCEX with CEO Dave Marver, the first system approved for non-invasive spinal cord stimulation for chronic SCI. To learn more about ONWARD's dedication to transforming groundbreaking research into commercially available devices, visit the website provided here: [www.onwd.com/contact/?trk=public\\_post-text](http://www.onwd.com/contact/?trk=public_post-text).

Attendees also explored the crucial role of peer support through sessions like "Caregivers Supporting Caregivers" and learned effective grassroots advocacy strategies to drive change within the disability community. *Article continues on page 1.*



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## Cover Story Continued

One notable session, “Supporting Disabled Veterans: Accessing Services by Connecting the Dots,” featured PVA-WI’s VP, ND, and GRD, Scott Griffith, alongside Eric Allen, Marco Rossi, and Tom Wheaton. This panel emphasized the importance of navigating available services and benefits for veterans living with paralysis. The discussion provided valuable insights into the resources offered by both PVA-WI and the Reeve Foundation’s Military & Veterans Program, highlighting the power of collaboration in supporting the community. Attendees left with a greater understanding of how to access necessary services and advocacy efforts aimed at better supporting disabled service members.

The summit also emphasized the importance of representation in disability advocacy, with a keynote highlighting the impact of storytelling in film and theater. Discussions on “Movement is Life” underscored the need for equitable, accessible, and competent healthcare for all individuals with disabilities. Additionally, sessions focused on advancing SCI research, empowering disability leadership through entrepreneurship, and connecting disabled veterans with essential services.

- The insights and resources gained from the Reeve Summit will help PVA-WI better support our members and their caregivers as we continue to advocate for positive change and strive for a more inclusive future.

- To learn more about the 2025 Reeve Summit, please visit this website:  
<https://www.christopherreeve.org/todays-care/reevesummit/>



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear PVA-WI Community,

As your Board President, I am thrilled to share with you the exciting developments and achievements of our organization this year. We've been working diligently to expand opportunities for our members to engage with PVA-WI, whether virtually or in person. I encourage you to take advantage of our upcoming events where you can connect with fellow members, share experiences, and benefit from our growing resources.

I'm especially proud to announce that PVA-WI has received two prestigious recognitions: the 2025 Best Website Award and the 2025 Membership Development Award—the latter marking our second consecutive year receiving this honor. These achievements reflect our commitment to providing accessible information and growing our community of support.

On another note, I wanted to remind you that our annual board elections are just around the corner. If you are a full member of PVA-WI, passionate about our organization's mission, and would like to contribute your skills and expertise to help guide our future direction, I encourage you to consider running for a position on the board. Please contact our office for more information on the nomination process and the responsibilities of board members.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support and engagement with our organization. It is through the dedication and involvement of members like you that we are able to make a positive impact in our community. Together, we will continue to grow our resources, enhance our services, and create a brighter future for all.

Todd M. Drazy,  
Board of Directors President/Chairman of the Board

### WHO WE ARE

#### **Officers**

President: Todd Drazy  
Vice President/GRD: Scott Griffith  
Secretary: Gary Stott  
Immediate Past President: Ken Ness

#### **National Director**

Scott Griffith

#### **Directors**

Richard "Rick" Buth  
Peter "Pete" Carrao  
Troy Kurczek  
Michael Thomas  
Angela Walker

#### **Recreation Therapy**

Erinn Kulba  
Sam Gracz

#### **Staff**

Amara Schaefer: Executive Director  
Brenna Frey: Advancement & Engagement Coordinator

#### **National SVC Office**

Brenda Stencil  
Call: 414-902-5655

#### **Rehab Counselor**

Doug Green MS, CRC

#### **Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Friday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Saturday & Sunday Closed  
750 N Lincoln Memorial Drive, Suite 422  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-328-8910

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear PVA-WI Community,

I wanted to take a moment to remind you about the many ways to stay connected with PVA-WI and never miss an opportunity to engage with our community. Our award-winning website is regularly updated with all our upcoming events and important information. Make it a habit to check in frequently!

For real-time updates and additional community events, be sure to follow our Facebook page. There you'll find not only our PVA-WI activities but also other valuable events happening in your area that might interest you.

Amera Schaefer, Executive Director

### CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

**Members: 315**

#### New Members:

Milton F. Pachal, Douglas E. Hadfield, Raymond C. Holliday,  
Douglas F. Reed, Eric O. Kennedy, James M. Krusing, Conley J. Brown

#### Associate Members: 183

Maria Richter, Jim Williams

#### Final Bugle:

Peter Mittelstaedt, Larry J. Boushon, John E. Knutson, Gilbert R.  
Fournier

**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](mailto:info@wisconsinpva.org) or call 414-328-8910.**

**Scan the QR code to start your scholarship application today!**



## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

PVA-WI has a scholarship program for our members and their families. 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. Billing statement for the upcoming school year that includes the amount owed
3. Submit an essay between 500-600 words describing how you have been impacted by a veteran living with a spinal cord injury or disease
4. Share any civic engagement activity you have performed
5. 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 the QR code. These applications will be reviewed year-round on the first of every month. If you have any questions, please email [aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org](mailto:aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org).

# How to Make PVA-WI a Safe Sender in Your Email



**DON'T MISS OUT ON ANY EVENTS!**



***Ensure that PVA-WI is marked as a safe sender in your email.***

**PVA-WI's following email addresses should be listed as safe senders:**

- info@wisconsinpva.org
- info@paralyzedveteransofamerica-wisconsinchapter.ccsend.com
- bfrey@wisconsinpva.org
- aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org

**Please follow the directions corresponding to your email provider below:**

## **Outlook**

- Open the email.
- Go to "Home" tab > "Junk" icon.
- Select "Junk E-mail Options".
- Choose the "Safe Senders" tab.
- Click "Add" and enter the email address.



## **Gmail**

- Click the "Not Spam" option.
- Alternatively, add the sender to your Google Contacts.
- You can also create a filter to automatically send emails from that sender to your inbox.



## **Apple Mail**

- Right-click on the sender's email address.
- Select "Add to Contacts".
- You can also manually add the email address to your contacts list.



### **Key points to remember:**

#### **Adding to contacts:**

Often, simply adding an email address to your contacts list will automatically mark them as a safe sender on most platforms.

#### **Check settings:**

Depending on your email provider, you might need to access specific "Junk Mail" or "Spam" settings to find the option to add safe senders.

**Please Note:** At PVA-WI, we value your privacy and trust. We want to assure you that we will never sell your email address to other companies. Additionally, we do not send spam emails. Our communications are limited to sharing only the most important information with you.

## Upcoming Events



Please visit our website [www.wisconsinpva.org](http://www.wisconsinpva.org) for more events and information! New events are continuously added!



**Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter**

**REGISTRATION FEE**

**\$235** All Events      **\$80** Each Event      **Ammo included!**

\*Price includes lunch & dinner on Saturday / Lunch on Sunday  
\*Optional military-style biscuits & gravy Sunday breakfast - \$10

**Phil Rosenberg Memorial Green Bay Trap Shoot Tournament**

**FRI - SAT - SUN AT 10:00AM**  
**JUNE 27-29, 2025**

**Brown County Sportsmen's Club**  
1711 W Deerfield Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313

 Website: [www.wisconsinpva.org](http://www.wisconsinpva.org)  
Phone: (414) 328-8910

**SHOOT & WIN!**

Grand Prize - \$400 Cabella's Gift Card  
1st Place - \$100 Cabella's Gift Card  
2nd Place - \$50 Cabella's Gift Card

**Hotel Reservations:**

Oneida Casino Hotel  
2040 Airport Dr., Green Bay, WI 54313  
Phone: (920) 494-7300  
**Must reserve room by May 17, 2025**

**Register Now!**

**Paralyzed Veterans of America - Wisconsin Chapter**

**4th Annual ADAPTIVE SPORTS Bootcamp**

**TUE & WED**  
June 3-4, 2025

**MKE County Sports Complex**

6000 W Ryan Rd, Franklin, WI 53132

**Register Here!** [www.wisconsinpva.org/upcoming-events](http://www.wisconsinpva.org/upcoming-events)





**Salmon-A-Rama**  
*"One of the World's largest salmon fishing tournaments!"*

Join PVA-WI on **Tuesday, July 15th, 2025**, at 5:30AM at the Reefpoint Marina for charter boat fishing!

**EVENT DETAILS:**

- Please register below by May 30, 2025.
- 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.
- Enjoy special prizes, a delicious breakfast, and lunch upon the return of all 10 charter boats. We'll also provide snacks while you're on board. Don't forget to bring sunblock and wear appropriate clothing for a fun and safe adventure!

**Reefpoint Marina**  
2 Christopher Columbus, Racine, WI 53403

**Registration**  
[Click Here](#) or scan the QR code

 Scan me

**JOIN TEAM PVA-WI**

**NATIONAL MS WALK - MILWAUKEE**  
**MAY 4, 2025**

- Participate virtually or in person!
- Register for Walk MS in Milwaukee at this link or visit our website: <https://events.nationalmssociety.org/participant/657917>
- Complete registration and click Join team, search for PVA-WI
- Share and invite your friends and family!
- Donations are not required for participation but are welcome to support National MS Society efforts

**DETAILS**

SUMMERTIME 200 N. HARBOR DRIVE  
SITE OPENS AT 8:30 AM, WALK STARTS AT 10:00 AM

  
walk MS  
walk to create a world free of MS



## Upcoming Events



# JOIN US



MAY 19



3:00 - 8:00 PM



15425 W Rock Ridge Rd  
New Berlin, WI 53151

Support PVA-WI by eating at the New Berlin Texas Roadhouse!

We receive 10% of your total food purchase when you give this coupon to your server!



To register, scan the QR code or use the link below!

[www.paralyzedveteransofamericanewberlin.org](http://www.paralyzedveteransofamericanewberlin.org)  
[bloom.kindful.com/e/2025-annual-membership-banquet](https://bloom.kindful.com/e/2025-annual-membership-banquet)





# PVA Awareness Month

## APRIL



April is recognized as PVA Awareness Month, which serves as a precursor to Paralyzed Veterans Recognition Day. This day was declared by President Ronald Reagan in 1986 and started as a day-long observance. After requests from PVA members and chapters across the country, the celebration was extended to an entire month to raise awareness of America's veterans living with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D) as well as all veterans with disabilities. The aim is to highlight the people, programs, and services that exist to help make their lives easier.

PVA-WI is proud to celebrate PVA Awareness Month in April, which demonstrates how far we have come in the fight to help paralyzed Veterans and all people with disabilities. It also shines a spotlight on how much further we have left to go in helping these heroes regain what they fought for: their freedom and independence.

- Throughout April, all 33 PVA Chapters will share stories that highlight the resiliency of their members and the national impact of PVA efforts for veterans with SCI/D and all people living with disabilities. Follow us on all social media platforms: @PVA\_WI on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!

## Most Outstanding Chapter Website

We are thrilled to announce that PVA-WI has won the 2025 PVA Most Outstanding Chapter Website Award! Having previously won this award in 2020, we have continued to revamp and improve our website to better support our members. This award is a testament to our exceptional efforts in creating an engaging, accessible, and informative website for our members, their families, caregivers, and donors.

The award will be presented at the PVA 79th Annual Convention Opening Ceremonies on May 13, 2025, in Austin, TX. We look forward to celebrating this achievement and are excited to further enhance our website! Check it out now at [www.wisconsinpva.org](http://www.wisconsinpva.org).

## PVA-WI's Annual Air Gun Tournament



# 2025 RESULTS!

**1st Place SH2A**  
Marvin B.

**2nd Place SH2A**  
John C.

**1st Place SH2B**  
Skylar C.

**1st Place Air Gun SH1**  
Neil O.

**2nd Place Air Gun SH1**  
Doug E.

**1st Place Air Pistol SH1**  
Doug E.

**2nd Place Air Pistol SH1**  
Richard H.



# Advocacy & Legislation

## Amplify Your Advocacy with PVA-WI's Action Center!

PVA-WI is dedicated to improving the quality of life for our American veterans and others with spinal cord injury, dysfunction, or disease (SCI/D). Advocacy is a cornerstone of our mission, and we need your help to amplify our efforts. By joining our Voter Voice initiative, you can make a significant impact on the lives of veterans and the SCI/D community.

### What is the Voter Voice Initiative?

The Voter Voice initiative is a powerful tool that allows you to engage directly with key legislative topics important to PVA-WI. Through this platform, you can send messages to U.S. Representatives and Senators, urging them to support legislation that benefits veterans and individuals with SCI/D. This initiative is open to all U.S. citizens, making it a broad and inclusive effort to drive change.

### How to Get Involved

1. **Visit the PVA-WI Call to Action Center:** Start by visiting the [PVA-WI Call to Action Center](#) on our website.
2. **Explore Key Legislative Topics:** Learn about the critical issues and bills that affect the SCI/D community. For example, Senate Bill 99 focuses on spinal cord injury research funding.
3. **Send Messages to Legislators:** Use the Voter Voice platform to send personalized messages to your representatives. Your voice can help shape policies that provide better support and resources for veterans.
4. **Share Your Story:** Personal stories are powerful. Share your experiences and how specific legislation can impact your life or the lives of those you care about. This personal touch can make a significant difference in advocacy efforts.



### Why Your Voice Matters

Advocacy is more effective when it includes the voices of those directly affected. By participating in the Voter Voice initiative, you help ensure that legislators understand the real-world impact of their decisions. Your involvement can lead to increased funding for SCI/D research, expanded benefits for veterans, and improved healthcare services.

### Take Action Today

Join us in making a difference. Visit the [PVA-WI Call to Action Center](#) and become a part of our advocacy efforts. Together, we can create a better future for veterans and the SCI/D community.

By engaging with the Voter Voice initiative, you are not just supporting PVA-WI; you are advocating for a cause that affects thousands of veterans and their families. Your participation can lead to meaningful change and improved quality of life for those who have served our country.

### Stay Informed

Don't forget to view PVA-WI's new monthly advocacy e-newsletter for updates on our efforts and how you can continue to support our mission!





Proudly hosted by the  
American Legion Post #375  
in Mukwonago!



## Polar Plunge Fundraiser



Thank you, Julie Kronenberg,  
for bridging the gap between  
PVA-WI and the VA for  
15 years!

Happy  
Retirement



## FROST FEST





# KUNES MOBILITY VETERAN PROGRAM

*For Veterans who need a traditional, non-modified vehicle!*

## We make it EASY!

*At our dealerships, we prioritize your satisfaction and convenience! Choose our dealerships for a hassle-free car-buying experience that puts you first!*



**GREAT  
SAVINGS**



**SPECIAL  
DEALS FOR  
VETS**

**SUPPORTS  
OTHER  
VETERANS**

**BECAUSE EVERYONE DESERVES A CHOICE**

**KUNESMOBILITY.COM**

KUNES CDJR OF STERLING  
3200 E LINCOLNWAY, STERLING, IL 61081  
815.380.6298

KUNES FORD OF ANTIOCH  
104 ROUTE 173, ANTIOCH, IL 60002  
847.200.5387



## National Poppy Day Unscramble

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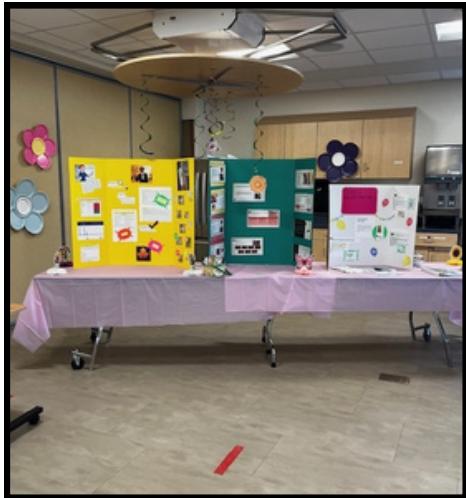
### WORD BANK

View the answer at the bottom of page 25

## Member Activities



## Member Activities



## PVA-WI EDUCATION FAIR

PVA-WI recently organized an educational fair for the Milwaukee VA SCI Unit, showcasing our dedication to providing nurses and healthcare professionals with the most up-to-date knowledge and best practices for caring for individuals with SCI/D, including MS and ALS.



## Angela Walker Performs the National Anthem



PVA-WI Board Member Angela Walker delivered a stunning performance of the National Anthem at the Milwaukee Bucks game! You can read the fantastic article written by Kunes Mobility about her performance by scanning the QR code.



## PVA-WI Annual Election 2025-2026

PVA-WI is accepting nominations for the Board of Directors until July 31, 2025. In early August, the election ballots will be mailed to the voting membership for selection. Current PVA Board Members **Pete Carrao** and Secretary, **Gary Stott** are up for re-election as their term ends September 30, 2025. Nominations are now being accepted. Please contact the office if you are interested in running for the board.

Questions? Please contact the office at (414) 328-8910 or email [info@wisconsinpva.org](mailto:info@wisconsinpva.org).

If you are considering running for an open position, you must successfully complete Paralyzed Veterans of America's 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 through PVA-WI.

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 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 or email [info@wisconsinpva.org](mailto:info@wisconsinpva.org).

## *Memorial Day*

REMEMBER & HONOR





# Ekso Indego® Gets Veterans Walking Again

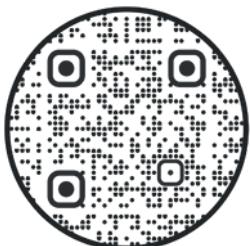
Eligible veterans can receive an Ekso Indego exoskeleton at NO COST!



## Ekso Indego Personal

### What is the Ekso Indego?

Ekso Indego is an FDA-cleared, powered exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries (level T3-L5) to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.



Scan with your phone for more information on how you could receive your own Ekso Indego Personal.

### Getting Veterans with SCI Back on Their Feet

A recently revised VA policy allows Ekso Indego to be issued to qualified veterans at no cost.\*

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



Contact us to find out if you are eligible to receive an Ekso Indego at NO COST!

[www.eksobionics.com/request-information/](http://www.eksobionics.com/request-information/)

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Proudly designed & assembled in the USA

\* A screening process through the VA is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device. For full indications for use, visit: [www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/](http://www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/)

## National Service Officer (NSO) Report

### Managing Your VA Health Care Online (My HealtheVet)

By Brenda Stencil, Senior National Service Officer

The My HealtheVet portal started as a pilot program at nine Veterans Affairs medical centers (VAMCs) in 1999. The portal was successfully launched to the public on November 11, 2003, and today, My HealtheVet is widely accessible to millions of veterans.

My HealtheVet is VA's online health care portal offering secure access to veteran's health information anytime. It makes managing health care more convenient, especially for veterans who prefer managing tasks online. The My HealtheVet portal contains four feature tools and options available:

- **Pharmacy:** Refill VA prescriptions, track VA prescription delivery and review all past and current medications
- **Appointments:** Request or self-schedule some appointments, review upcoming community care appointments, and review an After-Visit Summary from a previous appointment
- **Messages:** Communicate privately and securely with the VA health care team online. Organize messages in folders and download and print messages
- **Health Records:** View VA health information (lab and test results, allergy information, vaccine information, provider notes and care summaries, vitals, and health conditions)

For years, veterans would access their health information via My HealtheVet user ID and password sign-in option. Access to other VA sites would also require a separate log-in. In October 2023, the VA announced the My HealtheVet portal would transition from its current website to VA.gov. The VA stated veterans wouldn't lose any stored information and VA benefits could be managed by phone, by mail, or in person. The transition to VA.gov provides veterans with one-stop shopping to manage their VA health care on the same website where they already access benefits and services.

In July 2024, the VA reported My HealtheVet and DS Logon sign-in options would be phased out in 2025, and veterans would need to start using a Login.gov or ID.me account. The VA recently extended the date for veterans to transition to the new online login system from January 31, 2025, to March 4, 2025.

## NSO Report Continued

Most veterans are already using Login.gov and ID.me to access My HealtheVet and other VA digital services, but the VA will use this additional time to ensure as many veterans as possible make the switch before the legacy My HealtheVet username and password system is retired on March 4, 2025.

### **Creating an Account: Should I use Login.gov or ID.me?**

#### **A few differences between Login.gov and ID.me:**

- Login.gov account is maintained by the U.S. Government. An ID.me account is maintained by a non-government provider for the VA.
- Both Login.gov and ID.me accounts meet modern security standards and protect your data so only you can access and change your stored information. Both accounts let you use a single, secure account to access your VA and some other government benefits and services.

#### **You will need to choose ID.me if any are true for you:**

- You live outside the U.S
- You don't have a Social Security number
- You don't have a current, unexpired driver's license or other state-issued ID
- Your phone is on a plan that's not in your name and you want to verify your identity online

#### **If you don't have a mobile phone:**

- For Login.gov:
  - You can verify your identity at a participating U.S. post office
  - You may be able to verify your address by mail

After March 4, 2025, you won't be able to sign in to VA.gov, VA mobile apps, or other VA online services with a My HealtheVet user ID and password. After September 30, 2025, you won't be able to sign in with a DS Logon username and password.

When you sign into VA.gov and select My HealtheVet in the main navigation, you'll now start on the new My HealtheVet on VA.gov landing page. This page has links to all of the same health tools you use today. The VA continues to add new tools and features that veterans have asked for—like the ability to file a travel claim, reorder a medication, or quickly find a specific lab result without having to download your entire medical record.

## NSO Report Continued

The VA is also making improvements so that My HealtheVet on VA.gov is easier for all veterans to use—including those who are blind or have low vision and use a screen reader or other assistive device.

If you haven't made the switch, you may create an account using the website below:

- Create a Login.gov or ID.me account - <https://www.va.gov/sign-in/?oauth=false>

Many websites can be difficult to access or create accounts due to factors like confusing navigation, strict verification processes, or technical issues with the site itself, making it frustrating for veterans to navigate and register. Veterans may contact the sites below and/or call My HealtheVet.

### ● Need Help?

- Login.gov
  - Go to the Login.gov help center at <https://login.gov/help/>
- ID.me
  - Go to the ID.me help center at <https://help.id.me/hc/en-us>
- My HealtheVet
  - Contact the My HealtheVet Help Desk at **877-327-0022** or **800-877-8339** (TTY), Monday to Friday, 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. (Central Time)

*A national service officer in Milwaukee, WI, Brenda Stencil has been working for PVA since July 2022.*

*May is ALS Awareness Month*

# WALK TO FIGHT ALS-MILWAUKEE

 <b>SUN, OCT 5, 2025</b>	 <b>Greenfield Park</b>	 <b>Walk Contact</b>
Walk Check-In: 8:30 AM	2028 S 124th St	Amera Schaefer <a href="mailto:aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org">aschaefer@wisconsinpva.org</a>
Walk Start: 10:00 AM	West Allis, WI 53227	
	<a href="#">Map &amp; Directions</a>	
	<b>Walk Distance: 1.3 Miles</b>	
		<a href="#">More Walk Details</a>

## Thank You's

WISCONSIN PVA.

Thank you so much for your support the last two years of my college career. I am so thankful! You have helped me pursue my dream of becoming a nurse.

Kindest regards,

Haley David

Dear Elizabeth & Lynette & PVA-SCI Outpatient Clinic,

On behalf of the Milwaukee VA Fisher House we thank you for coming to the Fisher House on January 29th, 2025 to provide a delicious meal to the families staying with us.

We appreciate your support and contribution in making this house a "home away from home" for all the families who come to stay. Your donation demonstrates your concern for America's heroes and their families.

Thank you again,

The Milwaukee VA Fisher House



Thank you to Inteplast Group Corporation for presenting PVA-WI with a \$1,000 check for our Membership Banquet!



## 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](http://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.



### ACTRIMS Forum 2025: Making Connections - Researchers, Clinicians, and Those Living with MS

Discover key insights from the ACTRIMS Forum 2025 as experts discuss groundbreaking research on aging in MS, MRI assessments, and therapy discontinuation in older adults.

To watch the video, scan the QR or visit  
<https://www.actrims.org/patient-centered-webinars>

ACTRIMS Forum  
MAKING CONNECTIONS  
WEST PALM BEACH | FEB 27 - MAR 1, 2025

POST-FORUM 2025 WEBINAR  
Thursday, March 20  
3pm PT / 4pm MT / 5pm CT / 6pm ET

**MODERATOR**  
Jon Strum  
Realtalk MS

**Erin Beck**  
Mount Sinai

**John Corboy**  
University of Colorado

**Making Connections: Researchers, Clinicians, and Those Living with MS**

Featuring:  
MRI Assessment of Biological Age in MS, Erin Beck  
Therapy Discontinuation in Older Adults with MS, John Corboy



EVERYTHING ALS CARE TO CURE

**ALS 'Natural History': How to turn real-world experience into real progress in ALS research!**

APRIL 16, 2025  
4PM PT / 7PM ET

Dr. David Walk  
Professor  
Head, Neuromuscular Division,  
Department of Neurology  
University of Minnesota

[everythingals.org/events](https://www.everythingals.org/events)

### Everything ALS Expert Talk Series

**Topic:** ALS 'Natural History': How to turn real-world experience into real progress in ALS research!

**Date & Time:**  
April 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM CT

**Location:** Zoom

**Registration:** Scan the QR code or visit  
[https://www.everythingals.org/eve\\_nt-details/als-natural-history-how-to-turn-real-world-experience-into-real-progress-in-als-research/form](https://www.everythingals.org/eve_nt-details/als-natural-history-how-to-turn-real-world-experience-into-real-progress-in-als-research/form)





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## Upcoming PVA-WI Webinars



**PVA**  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Wisconsin Chapter

### MS Insight Sessions

Webinar Series

PVA-WI is thrilled to introduce "MS Insight Sessions," a new and improved version of our former "Chill & Chat" meetings! Each MS Insight Session will feature a structured agenda, covering specific MS topics for discussion and related videos or literature for us to explore and review together.

Register now to receive the Session 2 Zoom meeting link, agenda, and reading materials!

**REGISTER**

Use link or scan QR code:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/1ycT8uctAB?origin=qrLink>

Session 2 Details:  
Topic: MS Fatigue  
Date: Tue, April 15  
Time: 7:00 PM  
Location: Zoom

Questions? Email Brenna Brey: [brey@wisconsinpva.org](mailto:brey@wisconsinpva.org)

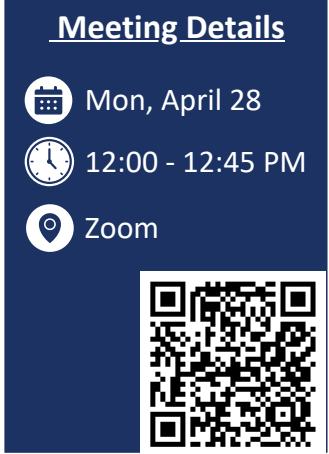
QR code

## MS Insights

Welcome to MS Insight Sessions! A new and improved version of the former "Chill & Chat" meetings. Each MS Insight Session will feature a structured agenda covering specific MS topics for discussion and related videos or literature for us to explore and review together. [Register to receive the Zoom meeting link, agenda, and reading materials.](#)

### Meeting Details

 Tue, April 15  
 Tue, May 20  
 Tue, June 17  
 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
 Zoom



### Meeting Details

 Mon, April 28  
 12:00 - 12:45 PM  
 Zoom

QR code

## ALS Education Presentation

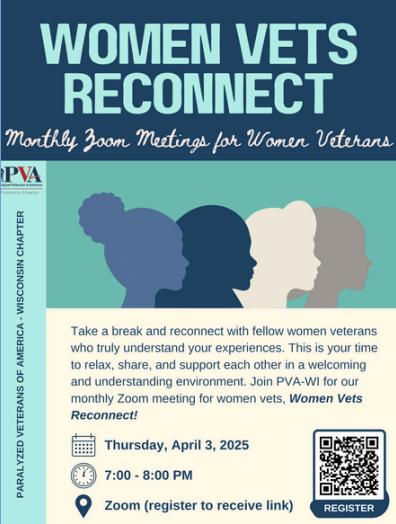
Join PVA-WI and Quest Healthcare for a discussion about Dysregulation of GUT Microbiota and Bowel Problems in ALS.

### Wisconsin PVA Chapter Virtual Education Presentation

You are invited to a 45-minute Virtual presentation. The meeting link will be shared closer to the date of the event.

ALS - Dysregulation of GUT Microbiota and Bowel Problems  
• GI Signs and Symptoms  
• Environmental Factors and Risk Factors for ALS  
• Microbiome and Gut Health  
• Microbiome and Bowel Problems  
• Microbiome and Bowel Health  
• GI Symptoms in ALS  
• GI Health in ALS  
• Management of Constipation in ALS

When: April 28, 2025 - 12:00pm CST



## WOMEN VETS RECONNECT

Monthly Zoom Meetings for Women Veterans

Take a break and reconnect with fellow women veterans who truly understand your experiences. This is your time to relax, share, and support each other in a welcoming and understanding environment. Join PVA-WI for our monthly Zoom meeting for women vets, *Women Vets Reconnect!*

Thursday, April 3, 2025  
7:00 - 8:00 PM  
Zoom (register to receive link)

REGISTER

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA - WISCONSIN CHAPTER

## Women Vets Reconnect

Take a break and reconnect with fellow women Veterans who truly understand your experiences. This is your time to relax, share, and support each other in a welcoming and understanding environment. Join PVA-WI for our monthly Zoom meeting for women Veterans, Women Vets Reconnect!

### Meeting Details

 Thur, April 3  
 Thur, May 1  
 Thur, June 5  
 7:00 - 8:00 PM  
 Zoom



## We Want Your Feedback!



### 1. PVA-WI Member Satisfaction Survey

Please complete the 2025 PVA-WI Member Satisfaction Survey. Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://forms.office.com/r/EFxRFv0qfB?origin=lprLink>

### 2. Caregiver Registration Form

If you have a caregiver, please complete PVA-WI's Caregiver Registration Form for your caregiver, or have your caregiver complete this form themselves.

- Scan the QR code or visit:
- <https://forms.office.com/r/XLhLnMpc41?origin=lprLink>



*Thank you to the Milwaukee Domes Alliance for offering PVA-WI a partial scholarship for a community partner pass!*



## ACTIVITY ANSWER

On the Friday before Memorial Day, wear a red poppy to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn our nation's uniform.

## Supporting PVA-WI

PVA-WI has a variety of ways that individuals, groups or companies can show their support. Please review the multiple opportunities to continue to support the PVA-WI mission and our work.

If you have any questions please email [info@wisconsinpva.org](mailto:info@wisconsinpva.org) or call the office at (414) 328-8910.



### Employee Matching

Does your employer have a matching gift program? Please check with your employer's human resources department for details. PVA-WI is happy to provide any other information your company may have to satisfy the requirements.



### Donor-Advised Funds

Using a charitable giving account is another powerful way to put your charitable dollars to work. This method eliminates capital gains on donated stocks. Use the DAF donation tool at [wisconsinpva.org/be-our-hero-and-make-difference-today](http://wisconsinpva.org/be-our-hero-and-make-difference-today).



### Legacy Society

Join our Legacy Society by making a bequest or other estate gift to assure the sustainability of our organization. Visit [www.wisconsinpva.org/planned-giving](http://www.wisconsinpva.org/planned-giving)



### Stock Donations

You can donate appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, which upon transfer, would be tax deductible. Please consult your financial advisor and submit questions to [info@wisconsinpva.org](mailto:info@wisconsinpva.org)



### Shop for Good

AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation, donates 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1393216> to get started. You can also go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and type Paralyzed Veterans of America Wisconsin Chapter in the search bar.



### Join VoterVoice

Advocate for our members with their unique needs to ensure that Wisconsin is accessible for all! Join our advocacy team by visiting [votervoice.net/PVA/Campaigns](http://votervoice.net/PVA/Campaigns)

### Wisconsin's Gun Shop Project & Safe Storage Program

"Scan code for details"



- Suicide Prevention Education
- Responsible Firearm Ownership
- Voluntary, Temporary Safe Storage of a Firearm

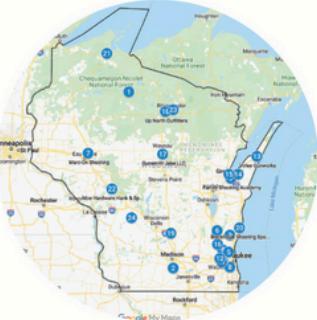
### Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255  
**PRESS 1**

1155 N MAYFAIR RD  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53226  
414.955.8910 ph  
414.955.8965 fax

[WWW.BETHEREWIS.COM](http://WWW.BETHEREWIS.COM)

[CaptainJohnDMasonProgram@mcw.edu](mailto:CaptainJohnDMasonProgram@mcw.edu)



### LIVE TODAY – PUT IT AWAY!



**SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS –**  
What to do with guns when a person may be in crisis.

**FACT:** Safe storage of a firearm for a loved one is a critical way to get them safely through a crisis period and is proven to save lives.

**CAPTAIN JOHN D. MASON**  
VETERAN PEER OUTREACH PROGRAM



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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	Patient Advocate	42604
Occupational Therapy	41126	NSO/Benefits - Brenda Stencil	414-902-5655
Badger Team (Social Worker)	41841	Packer Team (Social Worker)	42244
Pharmacy	42083	Packer & Badger RN	41236
Admissions ER	41885/41886		

## Wisconsin VAMC

Iron Mountain	Debra Pate	(906) 774-3300 ext. 31378
Madison	Heather Rehm	((608) 256-1901 ext. 18095
Tomah	Kristin Holloway	(608) 372-3971 ext. 61548

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