

HELLO *Spring*

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President/
Chairman of the Board



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Matt Seidl
Executive Director



Brenna Frey
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Paralyzed Veterans of America
Wisconsin Chapter

(414) 328-8910

info@wisconsinpva.org

<https://wisconsinpva.org/>

750 N Lincoln Memorial Dr, Ste 422
 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Office Hours
 Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Brenda Stencil
 National Service Officer
 (Accredited VA Benefits Specialist)

5400 W. National Ave.
 Milwaukee, WI 53214
 (414) 902-5655
 Please call for hours and to set up an appt.



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	41230	Prosthetics	42608
Triage	45845	Recreation Therapy	41256/41245/41258
SCI Clinical Appointments	41230	VA Van Travel	42056
Physical Therapy	41126	Patient Advocate	42604
Occupational Therapy	41126	Badger Team (Social Worker)	41841
Pharmacy	42083	Packer Team (Social Worker)	42244
Admissions ER	41885/41886	Packer & Badger RN	41236

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear PVA-WI Community,

As we conclude the first quarter of 2026, I'm pleased to report strong momentum across PVA-WI's programs, operations, and outreach efforts. This has been a productive start to the year, with continued focus on delivering meaningful services to our members while strengthening our organizational foundation for the months ahead.

Our Adaptive Sports Program remains a cornerstone of our mission, and I'm excited to share that our full 2026 event calendar is finalized and on our website. Registration is open for all events, including the upcoming Air Rifle Tournament, Pickleball Invitational, and Adaptive Sports Bootcamp. We are also preparing for major annual events such as the Phil Rosenberg Memorial Trap Shoot, National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG) in Detroit, MI, Salmon-A-Rama, and our Membership Banquet in September. Significant planning efforts this quarter have ensured these events are well-organized and accessible, providing valuable opportunities for engagement, competition, and community.

Membership and outreach efforts have also been a key priority. This quarter included increased communication through newsletters and targeted email updates, participation in events such as the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show, and expanded outreach to County /Tribal Veterans Service Officers to raise awareness and grow membership. We have also strengthened partnerships with organizations such as the ALS Association and National MS Society to improve collaboration and cross-referrals in support of our members.

From a financial perspective, PVA-WI remains in a stable position. Early-year donations, grant funding, and continued support from partners have helped sustain our programs. Notably, we were pleased to receive a significant grant from the "Only in Wisconsin Foundation" to support participation in the NVWG. We continue to actively pursue additional grant opportunities and develop fundraising initiatives to ensure long-term sustainability.

As we move into the second quarter, our priorities remain clear: deliver high-quality programming, expand member engagement, and build strong partnerships that enhance our impact. I encourage all members to stay connected and take full advantage of the opportunities ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to PVA-WI.

Warm regards,
Todd M. Drazy
President/Chairman of the Board

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Members & Supporters:

From an operations standpoint, this has been a productive start to the year, with a continued focus on improving efficiency, expanding membership/membership engagement, and strengthening the overall impact of our organization. I'm pleased to report strong progress across PVA-WI's operations, programs, and outreach efforts. Several key administrative priorities have been successfully completed/updated. Our IRS Form 990, annual report, audited financials, and state compliance filings have all been submitted, are up to date, and have been posted on our website. These efforts reinforce our commitment to transparency, accountability, and strong organizational governance.

Programmatically, planning and execution for our 2026 events are well underway. All our major events for the year are scheduled and are open for registration on our website. These programs remain central to our mission and provide critical opportunities for engagement, wellness, and community building.

Membership and outreach efforts have been a major focus this quarter. We have enhanced communication through our redesigned **Roll With US** quarterly newsletter, targeted email campaigns, and ongoing Constant Contact outreach. We also participated in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show in early March, providing an opportunity to connect with veterans and the public to raise awareness of PVA-WI. We are also actively pursuing additional outreach opportunities by having a table at the CVSO/TVSO conference this April and a booth at the EAA Air Venture in Oshkosh this July.

Operationally, we've made meaningful improvements to enhance efficiency and accessibility. Our website has been updated with new content, improved functionality, refreshed content, and expanded online forms, making it easier for members to submit applications and access resources. Significant progress has also been made in policy and organizational development/refinement.

Looking ahead, we are focused on building on this strong start by continuing to enhance our programs, expand our reach, and identify new opportunities for growth. With a full calendar of events, strengthened partnerships, and ongoing organizational improvements, PVA-WI is well-positioned for a successful year. I appreciate the continued support of our Board, staff, volunteers, and members as we work together to advance our mission and serve those who rely on us every day. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our mission.

Respectfully,
Matthew Seidl
Executive Director



ELECTION

PVA-WI 2026-2027

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON OUR ORGANIZATION'S GOVERNANCE?

PVA-WI is currently accepting nominations for its Board of Directors through July 31, 2026. Election ballots will be mailed to life members in early August for their consideration and selection.

Vice President Scott Griffith and Board Members Michael Thomas and Angela Walker are up for re-election as their terms conclude on September 30, 2026.

Nominations now being accepted: July 31, 2026 deadline

If you are considering running for an open position, you must successfully complete PVA National's certification process and be certified by their secretary. Your name can still be placed on the ballot if the secretary has not certified you. However, you cannot assume an elected position until you have been certified.

The certification process is very simple, and several of the documents you may have already provided during the membership application process.

Certification requires:

- **Certification of Membership Eligibility Form** - Available at <https://wisconsinpva.org/forms>
- **Proof of Citizenship** (birth certificate, passport, immigration or naturalization paperwork)
- **Proof of Active Duty Service** in the Armed Forces and character of discharge other than dishonorable (DD-214)
- **Medical Documentation** of SCI/D, MS or ALS (physician's statement or medical records)

Questions? Please call the office at (414) 328-8910 or email info@wisconsinpva.org.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED



MILWAUKEE COUNTY SPORTS
COMPLEX



JUNE 2-3, 2026



VOLUNTEER AT OUR ADAPTIVE SPORTS BOOTCAMP!
SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE THE AVAILABLE SHIFTS

SIGN UP FOR E-DELIVERY & SAVE PVA-WI \$6 ON EVERY ISSUE!



To help us reduce costs and direct more resources toward our programs and services, we encourage anyone who is able to consider choosing email-only delivery of the **ROLL WITH US** quarterly newsletter.

Make the switch quickly and simply by scanning the QR code or visiting the link below to receive future issues electronically.

Make the Switch: <https://forms.office.com/r/95eGRdyNuy?origin=IprLink>



Wisconsin Chapter

PVA-WI ANNUAL

MEMBERSHIP

★ ★ BANQUET ★ ★

**JOIN US FOR LUNCH, CAMARADERIE, RAFFLE
BASKETS, ONLINE & SILENT AUCTIONS!**

SEPTEMBER 13

11:00 AM AT INGLESIDE HOTEL

2810 GOLF RD, PEWAUKEE, WI

TICKET: \$30.00

*****LIFE MEMBERS RECEIVE 30 RAFFLE
TICKETS UPON ARRIVAL*****

DRESS CODE

Business casual attire required

(collared button-down shirts, polos, blouses, sweaters, cardigans, etc)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

To register, scan the QR Code below or visit

<https://paralyzedveteransofamerica.org/wisconsinchapter-bloom.kindful.com/e/2026-annual-membership-banquet>



APRIL

PVA AWARENESS MONTH

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF IMPACT



Each April, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and its chapters honor their members, mission, and nationwide community through **PVA Awareness Month**—a time dedicated to educating the public, uplifting veteran voices, and highlighting essential services for veterans living with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D), MS, and ALS. This year is especially meaningful as **PVA celebrates its 80th anniversary** of advocacy, accessibility, and life-changing programs.

The Origins and Purpose of PVA Awareness Month

PVA Awareness Month began as **Paralyzed Veterans Recognition Day**, first declared by President Ronald Reagan in 1986. Member and chapter interest soon expanded it into a full month, creating more space to spotlight the experiences of veterans with SCI/D and the programs that support their independence.

APRIL

PVA AWARENESS MONTH

80 Years of Service and Advocacy

Founded in 1946 by WWII veterans with spinal cord injuries, PVA has spent eight decades shaping national conversations around accessibility, disability rights, benefits, and inclusion. From pioneering wheelchair basketball to helping secure the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), PVA has been a driving force for progress.

To mark this milestone, PVA launched the “Power of PVA” campaign, featuring real veterans whose stories show the mission in action. Veterans like Jesse Lind—featured in PVA’s newest PSA—demonstrate how PVA supports every part of a veteran’s life, from adaptive sports and accessible housing to benefits advocacy and vehicle grants. You can download the PSA videos directly from <https://www.psadirect.com/client/pva/>, but they’re also available on PVA’s Facebook, which is the easiest place to view and share them with your community.

Why Awareness Matters in Wisconsin

As one of PVA’s 33 chapters, PVA-WI continues this mission locally through year-round programs, advocacy, outreach, and adaptive sports opportunities, etc. During April, we join chapters nationwide in amplifying member stories, raising awareness of SCI/D, MS, ALS and encouraging our community to learn more about the challenges our veterans face.

Whether by attending events, volunteering, sharing information online, or educating others about accessibility, every action helps build a more inclusive Wisconsin.

How You Can Take Part

Here are a few ways to support PVA Awareness Month:

- Sign PVA’s petition supporting specialized care for veterans: <https://pva.org/get-involved/power-of-pva/>
- Follow PVA and PVA-WI on social media to stay connected and engaged
- Attend a PVA-WI event or volunteer your time
- Help spread awareness about accessibility and disability rights in your community
- Share information from PVA and PVA-WI’s websites and social media pages to broaden their reach and strengthen community understanding

Together, we celebrate the Power of PVA—past, present, and future.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSE TYPES

To make participation easier, the program covers a variety of related costs, including:

- Tickets or entry fees
- Transportation
- Equipment or activity fees
- Other documented expenses directly tied to participation.



SUPPORTING VETERANS THROUGH RECREATION

The expansion of the **Entertainment/Recreation Program** reflects PVA-WI's ongoing mission to enhance independence, wellness, and community involvement for our members. Recreation—whether adaptive or social—plays a vital role in living a full and connected life.

HOW TO APPLY & FURTHER DETAILS



Life members are encouraged to take advantage of the updated program and explore new opportunities throughout the year. To learn more about eligible activities, reimbursement guidelines, and how to apply, please refer to the PVA-WI Program/Benefit Policies and Procedures Manual. You can access it by scanning the QR code or by visiting the forms section of our website at:

WWW.WISCONSINPVA.ORG/FORMS

FROM A MEMBER'S EXPERIENCE

“ Thank you to PVA-WI for providing entertainment benefits to your members. We love attending shows at the Fireside and Brewer's games with the entertainment reimbursement benefits PVA-WI provides. This year, we also went to Salmon-A-Rama. We had to get up very early in the morning to get to the boat on time. Our captain was great and it was a lovely day. We did pull over on the way home for ice cream and a quick nap! We loved it- it is just the type of activity that is getting too difficult for us to manage on our own. Thank you for providing these extra opportunities to try new things, meet new people and enjoy new experiences. We appreciate your concern for the whole individual and not just, medical needs, though you are active in that as well. Sometimes it is just nice to have a little fun! Keep up the great work! ”

Deb & Dennis Groeler



TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH



For SCI Patients & Caregivers

Autonomic Dysreflexia: This webinar provides a comprehensive overview of Autonomic Dysreflexia (AD) in the context of spinal cord injuries, focusing on its clinical characteristics, pathophysiology, and the specific populations most at risk. Participants will learn to recognize critical symptoms and implement effective preventative measures, including a specialized discussion on bowel care management. The session will guide attendees through essential treatment protocols and resources to ensure rapid, life-saving responses to AD episodes.

JOIN US FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION

Autonomic Dysreflexia: Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together

QUEST
HEALTHCARE
A Division of Quest Diagnostics, LLC

FEATURING

Linda M. Schultz
PhD, CRRN

Scott Chesney
International Speaker

Ryan Gebauer
National Community
Relations Advocate

WATCH THE WEBINAR:

Scan the QR code or visit
<https://shorturl.at/ZXEWe>



Vet Connect Resource Group

Starting in April, a new peer support group will be held at the Milwaukee VA with a virtual option if needed – inpatients and outpatients with SCI/D are welcome to attend. This group is designed to help you cope with SCI/D by connecting you with peers who share similar experiences. If you're interested, please contact the SCI Clinic to schedule:

414-384-2000 EXT 41230

Support Group Status Update

In the Winter 2026 issue and email survey, we did not receive enough interest to restart our previous Zoom support groups. With that said, we remain committed to providing helpful resources through our newsletter and on our website.

ALS

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Each May, communities across the country recognize **ALS Awareness Month**—a time to increase understanding, support those affected, and advance efforts to find a cure for **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**, also known as **Lou Gehrig’s disease**.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that targets motor neurons, the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord responsible for controlling voluntary muscle movement. As these neurons degenerate, individuals experience muscle weakness, loss of mobility, and eventual paralysis. Early symptoms often include weakness in the arms or legs (limb-onset ALS) or difficulty with speech and swallowing (bulbar-onset ALS). Over time, the disease progresses to affect nearly all voluntary muscles, including those responsible for breathing.

Most cases of ALS are considered “sporadic,” meaning they occur without a known family history, while a smaller percentage are inherited through genetic mutations. Although the exact cause remains unknown, researchers believe a combination of factors contributes to motor neuron degeneration, including oxidative stress, inflammation, and abnormal protein buildup within cells. ALS is relatively rare, affecting approximately 2 to 3 individuals per 100,000 each year. Most people are diagnosed between the ages of 55 and 75. While the average life expectancy following diagnosis is 2 to 5 years, progression varies, and some individuals live significantly longer. In addition to physical challenges, some individuals may also experience fatigue, pain, or changes in cognition and behavior, highlighting the complexity of the disease.

ALS Awareness Month is about more than education—it’s about action. It’s an opportunity to honor those living with ALS, support their families, and advocate for improved care, accessibility, and research funding.

At PVA-WI, we are proud to stand alongside veterans and individuals facing ALS. Research indicates that veterans may be at increased risk of developing ALS, making our mission of support and advocacy especially important. We are committed to enhancing quality of life through access to adaptive equipment, assistive technology, and comprehensive, multidisciplinary care. There are many ways to get involved in May. You can participate in local events, share information, support fundraising efforts, or simply connect with someone affected by ALS. Every action—big or small—helps make a difference.

As we recognize ALS Awareness Month, let us continue to raise awareness, strengthen support systems, and work toward a future without ALS.

Please Join Team PVA-WI at the 2026 Walk to Defeat ALS Milwaukee Event

To join, scan the QR code or visit <https://shorturl.at/ZXEWe>.

Sun, Oct 4, 2026, at 8:30 AM
Greenfield Park
2028 S 124th St
West Allis, WI 53151



PVA-WI MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



Wisconsin Chapter

➔ Adaptive Sports Program



Through our Adaptive Sports Program, PVA-WI offers our life and associate members financial support to encourage

participation in competitive, and community-based activities. For specific reimbursement amounts and guidelines, please see the 'PVA-WI Program/Benefit Policies and Procedures Manual' at <https://wisconsinpva.org/forms>.

➔ Adaptive Technology & Assistance Grant



Improve independence at home or on the road! Funding assistance is available to life members for accessibility

modifications or adaptive technology needs not covered by other sources like VA, SAH, HISA, or other grants.

➔ Entertainment/Recreation Program



Enjoy life's moments! Through our Entertainment/Recreation Program, life members can receive up to **\$250**, twice a year,

to spend on entertainment or recreation. Get out of the house, enjoy something fun and having hobbies are important for overall well-being. This program may be used to go out to dinner, the movies, a concert, etc. It can also be used to purchase recreational items such as a new bowling ball, wood working tools, photography equipment, etc.

➔ Family Scholarship



PVA-WI offers up to a \$1,000 scholarship for our life members and their families. Eligibility is open to PVA-WI members, as well as their spouse, children, and grandchildren. This scholarship opportunity is not available to associate members or their dependents.

➔ InvestFit Program



Invest in your health! PVA-WI will reimburse life members up to 50% of the cost (maximum \$500 per year) for one piece of exercise equipment valued at \$200 or more, with prior VA PT/OT approval.

➔ Virginia "Bea" Root & Kathy Welter Research and Education Scholarship



PVA-WI is proud to offer an annual SCI Professional Scholarship to support SCI care in WI. This scholarship is up to \$1,000, helps

SCI staff advance their education and skills while strengthening care for veterans.

➔ Hardship Grant

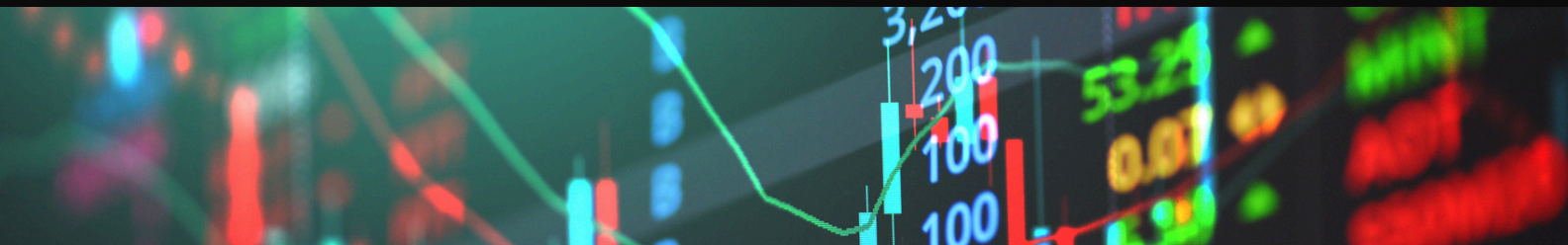


When unexpected financial challenges arise, PVA-WI offers life members a \$1,000 Hardship Assistance Grant for members who have exhausted all other forms of assistance. This grant helps cover the cost of essential needs and provides meaningful support when it's needed most.

For further information, eligibility, and application details, please see the 'PVA-WI Program/Benefit Policies and Procedures Manual' by scanning the QR code or visiting www.wisconsinpva.org/forms.



Ways to Support PVA-WI



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 need to satisfy the requirements.



Donor-Advised Funds (DAF)

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 www.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. You can also leave a legacy through QCD donations using the QCD donation tool: <https://app.lifelegacy.io/qcd?partner=pva-wi>



Shop for Good

You can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our hospitalized veterans by purchasing items from our [Amazon](#) or [Walmart](#) Registries.



Join VoterVoice

Advocate for our members with their unique needs to assure that Wisconsin is accessible for all! Join our advocacy team by visiting our Call to Action Center at www.votervoicenet/PVAWI/Home.



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 any questions to info@wisconsinpva.org.



MILITARY & REMEMBRANCE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN

1. TASK THAT MUST BE DONE
2. MEMBER OF SOCIETY
5. A BIRD WITH A HOOKED BEAK AND SHARP TALONS
6. A LINE OF PEOPLE, VEHICLES, OR ANIMALS MARCHING OR MOVING TOGETHER
7. A RING OF FLOWERS, LEAVES, OR OTHER MATERIALS
9. A PERIOD OF FIGHTING BETWEEN ENEMIES
10. THE STATE OF BEING FREE FROM OPPRESSION

ACROSS

3. TREATING PEOPLE EQUALLY AND WITHOUT BIAS
4. A PERSON ADMIRED FOR THEIR COURAGE AND NOBLE QUALITIES
8. A BUGLE CALL SIGNALING LIGHTS OUT
11. A PLACE OF BURIAL FOR A DECEASED PERSON
12. A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN IN THE ARMED FORCES
13. ARMED FORCES OF A COUNTRY

The crossword puzzle grid consists of 13 numbered squares. The grid is surrounded by patriotic illustrations: 'I ♥ USA' with a heart-shaped American flag, 'GOD BLESS America' in a stylized font, 'USA' in large block letters, an Uncle Sam hat, an eagle with wings spread, and a bald eagle.

Find answers on page 22



WAUWATOSA CURLING CLUB - WRAP UP

2026 ADAPTIVE OPEN BONSPIEL

Members of PVA-WI showcased their talent and determination this January at the Wauwatosa Curling Club's 2026 Adaptive Open Bonspiel, delivering an exciting start to the new year of adaptive sports!

1st Event Winners:



PVA-WI members Randy Riek and Shawn Sadowski

2nd Event Winners:



PVA-WI member John Powell and his partner Matt Haas

3rd Event Winners:



PVA-WI member Bruce Jensen and his partner Rob Haagensen

4th Event Winners:



PVA-WI member Jeff Haagensen and his partner Todd Landried

LET'S GO!

Walk MS

2026

A Look Ahead

UPCOMING EVENTS

WALK MS - MILWAUKEE JOIN TEAM PVA-WI — IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY!



Walk With Purpose. Support the MS Community.

Be part of a powerful movement at this year's Walk MS event in Milwaukee. Whether you walk, roll, cheer from the sidelines, or participate virtually, your involvement helps raise awareness and supports everyone affected by MS.



How to Join Team PVA-WI

Register today at

<https://events.nationalmssociety.org/teams/97075> or scan the QR code.

9:45 AM SUNDAY
MAY 3, 2026

ACCESSIBLE 1 MILE
OR 3 MILE ROUTE

Donations are not required to participate, but every contribution helps advance the National MS Society's mission and support vital programs.

Summerfest

200 N Harbor Dr, Milwaukee, WI 53202

More Information

<https://wisconsinpva.org/upcoming-events>



5th Annual
**ADAPTIVE
SPORTS
Bootcamp**

TUE & WED
June 2-3, 2026



MKE County
Sports Complex

6000 W Ryan Rd, Franklin, WI 53132

REGISTER



<https://forms.office.com/r/J9sQWU4cnh?origin=lprLink>





2nd annual

Phil Rosenberg Memorial

Trap Shoot Tournament

JUNE 12 - JUNE 14, 2026

FRI - SAT - SUN AT 10:00 AM

New Franken Sportsmens Club

281 N New Franken Rd,
New Franken, WI 54229

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

Shoot & Win!

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

Hotel Details

Oneida Casino Hotel

2040 Airport Dr., Green Bay, WI 54313

*****Must reserve room by May 17*****

Use the booking link below or call (920)
494-7300 and ask for the "Paralyzed
Veterans room block."

<https://book.rguest.com/wbe/group/2187/oneidacasino/auth>

Group ID: 1893

Password: 54879297

REGISTER





SALMON-A-RAMA

"One of the World's largest salmon fishing tournaments!"

Join PVA-WI on **Thursday, July 16th, 2026**, at 5:30AM at the Reefpoint Marina for charter boat fishing!

EVENT DETAILS:

- Please register below no later than June 30, 2026
- PVA-WI members and one guest receive priority for openings. Associate members will be placed on a standby list, but there are typically plenty of spots available, so we encourage everyone to apply. Hotel rooms (for travel greater than 50 miles) and other reimbursements are available to PVA-WI members/associate members through our Adaptive Sports Reimbursement Policy.
- Enjoy a delicious breakfast beforehand, followed by lunch and special prizes once all the boats return. Snacks will be provided for you to enjoy while you're on the water.
- Don't forget to bring sunblock, any necessary medicine/medical supplies, and wear appropriate clothing for a fun and safe adventure!



Scan me



Reefpoint Marina (parking)
55th St, Racine, WI 53403



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



FREEDOM TO DRIVE, FREEDOM TO LIVE.

Proudly delivering Independence Through Transportation to veterans since 1978.



Why Rollx Vans

**Custom-built vans,
specially designed for
veterans.**

**Expert guidance to
navigate VA benefits
and funding.**

**Free home delivery
with professional
service nationwide.**

Call us today at **800-956-6668** or visit **www.RollxVans.com** to learn how we can help you reclaim your independence and **save up to \$3,000** on your Rollx Van.

FREE DELIVERY NATIONWIDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERS ATTENDING NVWG PLEASE NOTE:

NVWG FUNDING REQUEST DEADLINE: **JUNE 8**

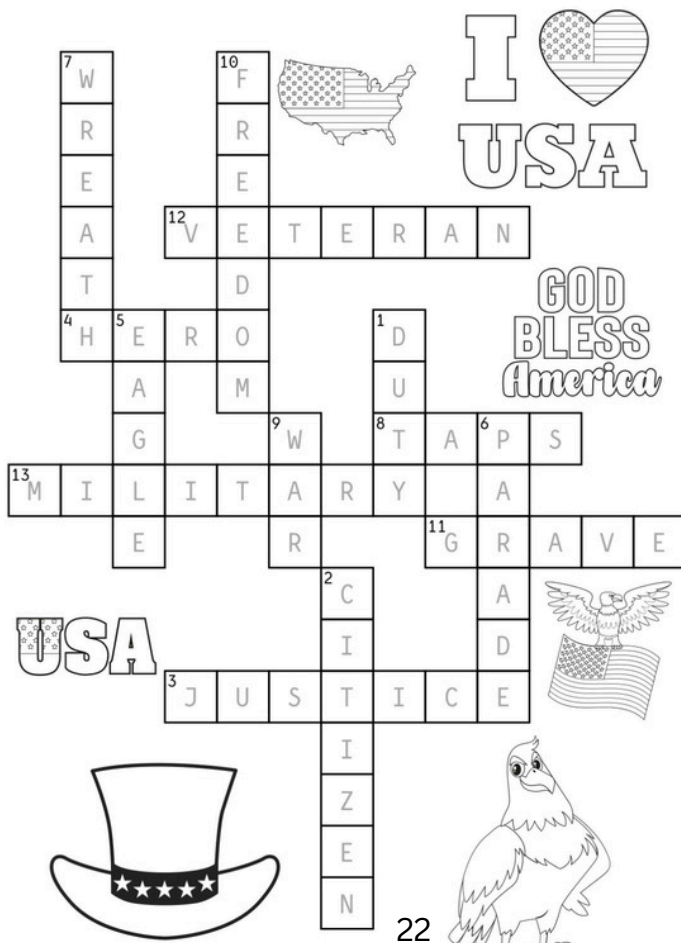
If you plan to attend the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG), please remember to submit your funding request by **June 8**. To apply, complete the financial request form at www.wisconsinpva.org/financial-request-form.

The form is also available in the Forms section of our website or by scanning the QR code.



Through our Adaptive Sports Program, PVA-WI provides reimbursement for members participating in the NVWG. For the **2026 NVWG in Detroit, MI**, associate members may be eligible for up to **\$500** in reimbursement, while life members may qualify for up to **\$2,000**. If additional chapter funds become available, associate members may be eligible for an increased reimbursement amount. Should this occur, PVA-WI will notify associate members toward the end of April.

ACTIVITY ANSWERS



CRYPT AVAILABLE

A crypt was donated 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 (414) 328-8910.

WISCONSIN

STATE SPECIFIC BENEFITS

IN ADDITION TO MILITARY AND FEDERAL VA BENEFITS, WISCONSIN PROVIDES EXCLUSIVE STATE PROGRAMS THAT VETERANS AND OR THEIR DEPENDENTS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR

For full details and eligibility, please see the resource list at the bottom of this article.

- The WI GI Bill provides a waiver of tuition and fees, administered by participating University of Wisconsin (UW) System institutions and Wisconsin Technical Colleges. Eligible students may receive up to 128 credits or eight semesters of tuition remission at a participating institution Wisconsin Veterans Private Nonprofit Schools Gran.
- The Wisconsin Veterans Grant for Private Nonprofit Schools provides financial assistance to qualified veterans, spouses, and dependent children for education at private nonprofit institutions that are members of the Wisconsin association of Independent Colleges and universities.

These education benefits may also be extended to your spouse or children if you/they meet certain criteria

- The Veterans Education (VetEd) Grant helps eligible veterans pursue higher education by reimbursing tuition and fees after successful course completion. This credit-bank system is based on length of active-duty service and applies to courses taken at University of Wisconsin (UW) institutions, Wisconsin technical colleges, or approved private institutions.
- The Professional/Occupational Licensure Fee Waiver provides resources to help veterans transition their military experience into civilian careers by assisting with licensing fee waivers, military training equivalency, reciprocity, and renewals.
- The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs proudly operates three Wisconsin Veterans Homes located in Chippewa Falls, King, and Union Grove where we provide 24-hour skilled nursing care to our nation's veterans, their spouses, and Gold Star Parents.

WISCONSIN CONT.

- Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialists provide individualized career services to a targeted population of veterans and eligible persons who have been identified as having significant barriers to employment, and who are economically or educationally disadvantaged to compete in today's labor market. DVOPs can assist veterans/eligible persons overcome barriers to employment, coordinate community resources, and gain access to education and job training opportunities that will give you a competitive advantage.
- The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs operates and maintains three veterans cemeteries throughout the state. These cemeteries serve as a final resting place for veterans and their eligible family members, preserving their legacy and honoring their sacrifices.
- The Military Funeral Honors Program provides and coordinates final tributes to honorably discharged U.S. Armed Forces veterans.
- Wisconsin veterans can add a Veteran Identifier to their driver's license or state ID, making it easier to access veteran-specific benefits and discounts.
- The Wisconsin Veterans & Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit provides a refundable property tax credit for eligible veterans and unremarried surviving spouses. This credit applies to property taxes paid on a primary Wisconsin residence and up to one acre of land.

WI also provides programs that assist with Homelessness, Substance/Health Care Aide grants, Veteran Farmer Assistance, Disabled Veteran Free Park/Forest/Trail Pass, Discounted Hunting/Fishing Licenses, etc.

- The Wisconsin Department of Transportation offers Disabled Veteran parking license plates to military veterans with an eligible permanent disability incurred while in active U.S. military service that limits or impairs the ability to walk. They also offer customizable military license plates highlighting things such as being in a certain branch/component, retirement status, war(s) one served in, service medals, being a woman veteran, etc.

For more information on these benefits please contact the appropriate agency.

WI Dept of Veterans Affairs: <https://dva.wi.gov> - 800-947-8387 - or speak with your local CVSO

WI Dept of Natural Resources: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/veterans.html>

WI Dept of Transportation: <https://wisconsindot.gov>

OUT IN TOWN & IN THE NEWS



Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show

PVA-WI successfully conducted outreach at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show, connecting with a wide audience of veterans, families, and outdoor enthusiasts from across the state. Throughout the event representatives engaged attendees by sharing information about the organization's programs, services, and advocacy efforts. The booth served as a welcoming space to educate the public on the mission of PVA-WI, highlighted its adaptive sports and recreation opportunities, and provide resources for veterans living with spinal cord injuries, diseases/ disorders as well as MS and ALS.

A key focus of the outreach was building new relationships—both with potential members and with community partners. Staff and volunteers answered questions, distributed materials, and demonstrated how adaptive equipment and inclusive programming make outdoor activities more accessible. The event also provided an opportunity to reconnect with existing members and strengthen community ties.

Steve Emt at the Paralympics

We extend both our heart felt congratulations and condolences to Steve Emt following his recent competition at the Paralympics in Milano Cortina. Representing with determination and pride, Steve and his teammate Laura delivered an impressive performance on the international stage.

In an incredibly competitive field, the duo narrowly missed the bronze medal by just one point—a testament to both the high level of skill, competition and how hard they fought throughout the event. Ultimately finishing in 9th place, their effort, skill, and perseverance are something to be truly proud of.



While the outcome may not have been what they had hoped for, their journey and performance remain an inspiration to our entire community. Competing at the Paralympic level is an extraordinary achievement, and Steve's dedication reflects the very best of what adaptive sports represent.

We congratulate Steve and Laura on their outstanding effort and extend our encouragement as they continue their athletic journey. We are proud to have you represent us on the world stage.

From Opportunity to Impact: The Journey of a Virginia “Bea” Root and Kathy Welter Research and Education Endowment Scholar

Through its commitment to improving the lives of veterans, PVA-WI continues to invest in the education and development of healthcare professionals. One powerful example is the Virginia “Bea” Root & Kathy Welter Research and Education Endowment Scholarship, a program designed to elevate the quality of care for veterans living with spinal cord injuries (SCI).

For one recipient, the scholarship was more than financial assistance—it was a gateway to professional growth and improved patient care.

Driven by a desire to become a better resource for patients and colleagues, the recipient applied for the scholarship to expand their expertise in rehabilitation nursing. With the scholarship’s support, they were able to pursue and successfully sit for the Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse (CRRN) exam—an opportunity that may not have been financially feasible otherwise.

“The education strengthened my clinical knowledge across all areas of rehabilitation nursing, while also deepening my understanding of spinal cord injuries...It reinforced what I already knew and pushed me to learn more in-depth concepts that directly impact patient care.”

Preparing for the certification required dedication, including studying during nights and weekends using shared resources. But the investment paid off.

That enhanced knowledge has translated into meaningful, real-world outcomes for veterans. One example is teaching patients with certain levels of spinal cord injury how to use tenodesis—a technique that allows individuals with limited hand function to grasp objects through wrist movement. For many, this can be life-changing, restoring a degree of independence in daily activities.

Beyond individual patient interactions, the scholarship’s impact extends across the entire care team. As more healthcare professionals pursue advanced training, the overall standard of care rises.

“When nurses continue their education, that knowledge spreads throughout the unit,” the recipient explained. “It elevates everyone and ultimately leads to better outcomes for veterans.”

The importance of specialized education in SCI care cannot be overstated. Without proper training, patients often find themselves in the position of educating their own caregivers—particularly in facilities without dedicated SCI units. From managing bowel and bladder care to preventing skin breakdown, the complexities of SCI require a highly informed and skilled approach.

The Virginia “Bea” Root & Kathy Welter Research and Education Endowment Scholarship helps bridge that gap.

“I would absolutely recommend this scholarship,” they said. “It not only helps improve your knowledge, but it also relieves financial stress so you can focus on learning.”

For donors and supporters, the impact of their contributions is clear: “This scholarship promotes better care for veterans living with spinal cord injuries,” the recipient emphasized. “Our veterans deserve that higher level of care, and this program helps make it possible.”

As PVA-WI continues to champion education, advocacy, and quality healthcare, the Virginia “Bea” Root & Kathy Welter Research and Education Endowment Scholarship stands as a testament to the organization’s mission—ensuring that those who have served receive the expert, compassionate care they have earned.

Interested in applying for this scholarship? Complete your application today: <https://forms.office.com/r/tfdNFgj0VF?origin=lpLink>.





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1. *ROLL WITH US* Quarterly Newsletter Satisfaction Survey

Your input matters! Please complete the *ROLL WITH US* Quarterly Newsletter Satisfaction Survey to help us improve future issues by sharing your feedback and ideas. Scan the QR code or visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/EFxRFv0qfB?origin=lprLink>

2. Medical Emergency Red Dog Tag Program

Traditional medical bracelets can be bulky and uncomfortable. That's why PVA-WI is offering members a FREE medical emergency red dog tag—an easy, lightweight alternative for peace of mind. Scan the QR code or visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/NS5SmPOzVf?origin=lprLink> to request yours today!



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If you have read this far...were you able to spot all 11 hidden toy soldiers?