

February/March 2017
Volume 1 Issue 1



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Nevada Chapter

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



Paralyzed Veterans of Nevada, Nevada Chapter

www.nevadapva.org

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Mission Statement

The mission of Nevada PVA is to improve the quality of life of U.S. military veterans and others who have spinal cord dysfunction through the use of adaptive sports, recreation, wellness programs, outreach, education, research and support.

Disclaimer

The Nevada Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America is a non-profit organization. We do not ask for or receive any money from any federal or state agencies. All of our funds are received mainly from donations. All members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America have sustained a spinal cord injury or disease. This newsletter is a publication of the Nevada chapter and is meant to inform its readers of Chapter activities, legislation, and other matters of concern to veterans and/or members of the disabled community. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Nevada PVA, its officers, board members, the editor or production staff.



President/ED Report *by Dan Kaminski and Julie Johnson*



Welcome back Yvonne Enriquez!!!

February began with a site visit at the Southern Nevada VA hospital. The site visit hit on points with the SCI Clinic. The running of it, appointment times, parking spots, etc. We are thankful for Nevada PVA and the Southern Nevada VA administration and staff coming together for the betterment of our spinal cord clinic and our members.

SCI Parking at the Southern Nevada VA Hospital—If anyone see's a vehicle in an SCI parking spot that does not display the required SCI sticker, please call the VA police at 702/791-9000 ext. 13333 and report it.

As most of your know, April is Public Awareness Month for Paralyzed Veterans of America. Below we have outlined a few items we've already scheduled for the month, We hope you can come out and join us and help get the word out about Paralyzed Veterans of America. If anyone has any ideas on how to raise awareness, please let us know.

- April 1 General Membership and Awards Banquet
- April 7 Open House at our office
- April 19 Paralympic Kids BBQ
- April 22 5th Annual Walk, Run & Roll 5K and 1 Mile fun walk at Bunker Park
- April 29 Mobility Expo at Mobility Works

We will be sending out notices and invitations to these events as they approach.

All of us here at Nevada PVA hope that you are off to a great start in 2017 and look forward to working with all of our members, volunteers and supporters this year to help make this the best year ever.

Follow us on

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Instagram:

[Instagram.com/pvanevada](https://www.instagram.com/pvanevada)

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/PVANevada



National Director's Report

By Lester Wood

Hello Everyone:

We are now into the new year of 2017. I hope that you enjoyed the Christmas and New Year holidays. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and get back to work make the PVA even better.

I was saddened by a recent article regarding a whistleblower that was asked to falsify records of appointments at our Nevada VA Medical Center. Our military men and women have done their part and expect to be treated at the VA Hospital in a timely manner.

Our local chapter president is working hard with the hospital staff to see that appointments, building repairs, parking issues, etc., are being worked on. We also realize the staffing problems that the VA Hospital faces, this will be our major priority in 2017, to see that appointments are kept and push harder to see that they hire more doctors and nurses.

We would also like to get more of our members involved in our sports programs bowling, basketball, trapshooting, bocce ball and the fitness programs being offered at the VA hospital. There is also a cycling group that meets on Saturday morning's at a local park.

In closing, rest assured that we at the Nevada PVA will be working hard to try to improve the lives of our military families.

PARALYMPIC KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY





Sports Report

by Marc Fenn, Sports Director

It's again time for our Yucca's basketball team to participate in the annual tournament. First game of the year went 2-2 and we started to come together like a crew. Each year we get better and better.

Our 2017 Las Vegas Yucca's



Step Outside Program

Went to the buffet at Eastside Cannery. I have lived in Las Vegas since 1994 and have eaten at many buffets over the years and without question, this was the worst I have ever been to.

The next day we went to Denny's and it was really good. I even brought some of my dinner home and had it the next day and even gave some to my service dog. (Maybe the food seemed so good was because we had spent most of the day dealing with plumbing issues and we were really hungry). Thank you for this program. *William Frankell*

Took a good friend to Famous Dave's for dinner and the food was awesome. Then took my friend and his wife to Freddy's Steakburgers to try authentic milk shakes and burgers. They were just like old school Steak & Shake. *Marc Fenn*

A brand new year, my wife and I decided to hit our favorite Indian restaurant to start it out right. We both did the lunch buffet and as always everything was done to perfection right down to the garlic naan.

A few days later we found ourselves waiting for a local business to finish up doing their thing. It was noon and a newer Thai restaurant was nearby so we visited the Chin Chin Chinese Thai Hibachi Restaurant. We both had the Chin Chin Chicken which was great. There were crunchy tofu strips with sweet & sour sauce along with hot mustard dip to keep us busy until the soup course arrived. I had the egg flower and my wife had the hot and sour soup. A hot pitcher of tea helped things along and then the entrees arrived. We both had the Chin Chin Chicken, think of Mongolian Chicken that has a pedigree— yeah that good. Needless to say there were no leftovers to bring back. *Tom Hudson*

RAFFLE

*****NASCAR XFINITY SERIES*****

**Saturday, March 11th
Gate B * Section 1-1-WH
Row 25, Seats 11-19**

Raffle Ticket Prices:

1 for \$1
6 for \$5
13 for \$10
30 for \$20

Purchase tickets via check to our office or through our website (nevadapva.org) using PayPal. Drawing will be held on Wednesday, March 1st. Tickets will be mailed to the winner or they can stop by the office to pick up, if local.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 21-22	Wheelchair Basketball
January 27-28	Boccia Ball Clinic & Tournament
February 14	Valentine's Day Fundraiser @ Pot Liquor
March 11	Wheelchair Basketball
March 17-18	Pistol and Trapshoot
March 25	Fishing on Lake Mead

Reconsideration vs. Appeals: What Should I Do?

By Ian Kenner, National Service Officer

When a claim is denied, the first words out of a Veteran's mouth is "Let's appeal!!" Little do most Veterans know that the average appeal time due to this unfortunate mentality (including many service officers!) is currently four to six years! This limits the average Veteran in many ways, as you can imagine.

Do you know you cannot file a new claim for benefits during this time? If paperwork is submitted, it will most likely sit until the appeal is finalized. This could hold up granting a new benefit, such as an automobile grant or a specially adapted housing (SAH) grant, or even other claims that could get the Veteran a higher percentage, or a percentage in general!

My first option is to always look for a possibility of a reconsideration, or just seeing if the claim that is being appealed is even worth pursuing. Most of the time there are just small pieces of the puzzle missing, and can easily be resolved with a reconsideration versus an appeal.

What is a Reconsideration?

A reconsideration is technically asking the VA regional offices to review your claim again due to having new and material information, a clear and unmistakable error (CUE) that was missed by the VA, or a benefit that was supposed to be added and wasn't. This could be an ancillary benefit, such as the automobile grant for the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant, not being added on the award.

How Do I File for a Reconsideration?

Now, this is much easier than you might anticipate: all that is technically needed is a VA Form 21-4138, Statement in Support of Claim.

If there is not an appeal in process: Simply write a statement on the VA Form 21-4138 stating you would like a reconsideration on your claim, and supply us with the new and material evidence needed or missing from your claim. This can also be done if an appointment is missed for a compensation and pension exam due to not receiving a phone call/letter. (This actually happens more than you would think).

If there is an appeal in process: This is a two-fold process: First, a VA Form 21-4138 has to be submitted asking to withdraw the current appeal. Second, you will then proceed with the steps listed above.

What is the Benefit of a Reconsideration?

This is the best part: You are looking at a three to six month turnaround, versus years of waiting. The appeals process to me is most beneficial to a Veteran who has filed all he can, and it doesn't appear there is any other option. I like to think of it as a last option due to the time constraints. This is a great benefit for almost any situation. Definitely look at this with your service officer, and make sure you have had all aspects of your claim reviewed. Most of the time, there are potential claims in the service records that the Veteran a) forgot about that happened in service (i.e. injury, such as a vehicular accident, hand injury, cold weather injury, etc.); or b) the Veteran thought was caused by something else!

Let us review your situation, and see what we can do!

Veterans Transportation Service
(VTS)

NATIONAL CRISIS HOTLINE
1/800-273-8255
VETERANS PRESS 1

Veterans can schedule transportation through their VA primary Care Provider or by calling the VTS office at 1/844-859-5074. Please schedule transportation ahead of your appointment time.

Membership—174

Advocacy/Legislative News

Prior to the Christmas holiday, the Government Relations Department finalized our primary policy priorities for 2017. A brief outline of those issues that will comprise our point papers for the Advocacy and Legislative Seminar in March is below:

Protection of Specialized Services: The highest priority is to strengthen and sustain VA's specialized services, such as spinal cord injury/disease care, blinded care, poly-trauma care, and mental health care, which are not duplicated in the private sector. This will include advocating for sufficient funding to hire additional physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers and rehab therapists. We will also focus on the need to retain title 38 U.S.C. protections for veterans getting care in the community.

Expand Eligibility for VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program: Congress must expand eligibility for caregiver services provided through the VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program veterans with service-connected injuries or illnesses incurred prior to September 11, 2001.

Comprehensive Reform of the Claims Appeals Process Needed: Support comprehensive reform of the benefit claims and appeals process to modernize and streamline the process, in accordance with the legislation developed and agreed to in 2016 by senior leaders of VA, VBA, the Board of Veterans Appeals, VSOs and other stakeholders.

Improve Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans: Improve benefits for veterans with the most severe disabilities, to include increasing the rates of Special Monthly Compensation as well as Aid and Attendance benefits.

Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) Problems for People with Disabilities: Improve access to air travel for people with disabilities by strengthening protections in the ACAA to ensure safe and efficient assistance and accommodations in air travel and increasing enforcement of these protections.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Notification: Protect the rights of people with disabilities to seek redress of discriminatory barriers in public accommodations under the ADA by refusing to enact notification requirements under the ADA.

Protect and Strengthen Social Security and Medicare (Entitlement Reform): Social Security and Medicare should be strengthened and efforts to undermine these programs through benefit cuts or privatization must be rejected.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs recently announced the members who will sit on the Committee for the 115th Congress. As previously discussed, Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN), will serve as the Committee Chairman. The following Republicans were also chosen to serve on the Committee:

Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
Gus M. Bilirakis (R-FL)
Mike Coffman (R-CO)
Brad Wenstrup (R-OH)
Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa)
Mike Bost (R-IL)
Jodey Arrington (R-TX)

Jim Banks (R-IN)
Jack Bergman (R-MI)
Neal Dunn (R-FL)
Clay Higgins (R-LA)
John Rutherford (R-FL)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY





February

Melinda Brooks	01	Arnold Aldana	11	Armando Guajardo, Sr.	22
Randall McKee	03	Anita Lawson-McGlynn	11	David Mountcastle	22
Byron Bonaparte	04	Michael McDonald	11	Samuel Owens, Jr.	23
Christopher Wood	04	Jeff Griffs	14	Lowell Higley	24
Eric Cagle	06	William Frankell	15	Jamie Anderson-Perelman	24
Jennie Vogler	07	Cheryl Yorkey	16	Linda Crocetti	26
Randall Schwartz	07	Darwin Holmes	17	Michael Schulz	26
Billie Andre	08	David Schneider	19	Jerry Myles, Jr.	28
James Troy	08	Stanley Hunt	20		

March

Ben Keechler	04	Jose Gomez	19	Alan Marsh	24
Robert Jensen	08	Josephine Owens	19	Patricia Matysiak	25
William Burns	13	Darrin Newland	20	Thayer Hurd, Jr.	26
Jerry Bench	13	Gary McMillan	21	Laverne Wood	27
Ramon Collins	17	Stanley Smith	21	Marc Fenn	28
Art Lyles	17	Douglas Nagoshi	22	R. Chris Christensen	31



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Smith's

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Donations can be made in any amount. They will accumulate from January 1—December 31. Donors will be printed in our monthly newsletter unless otherwise requested. To make a donation go online to www.nevadapva.org or call 702-646-0040.

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United Way of Southern Nevada

USAA

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Las Vegas VA Medical Center Locations

Mailing Address: VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System, 6900 North Pecos Road, North Las Vegas, NV 89086

Main Number: 702-791-9000 **Toll-Free Phone:** 1-888-633-7554 **VA Pharmacy:** 702-791-9076

Toll-Free Nurse Advice Line: 1-877-252-4866

	Northeast Primary Care Clinic 4461 East Charleston Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89104	702-791-9050
	Northwest Primary Care Clinic 3968 North Rancho Drive North Las Vegas, NV 89130	702-791-9020
	Pahrump Community Based Outpatient Clinic 2100 East Calvada Boulevard Pahrump, NV 89048	775-727-7535
	Southeast Primary Care Clinic 1020 South Boulder Highway Henderson, NV 89015	702-791-9030
	Southwest Primary Care Clinic 7235 South Buffalo Drive Las Vegas, NV 89113	702-791-9040
	Community Resource and Referral Center 926 West Owens Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89106	702-791-9077
	Mike O'Callaghan Federal Medical Center 4700 North Las Vegas Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89115	702-653-2227
		EMERGENCY CARE ONLY
	Psychosocial Rehab Recovery Center 3525 W. Cheyenne Avenue North Las Vegas, NV 89032	702-791-9060
	Vet Center - Las Vegas 1919 South Jones Boulevard, Suite A Las Vegas, NV 89146	702-251-7873
	Vet Center - Henderson 400 North Stephanie Street, Suite 180 Henderson, NV 89014	702-791-9100
	Women's Health Center Temporarily at Northeast PCC 4461 East Charleston Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89104	702-791-9050



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Being there makes a difference

Recently the Better Life Mobility team joined forces with MobilityWorks so that we could provide our veterans with the largest selection of mobility solutions that best fit their physical capabilities and lifestyle. Veterans have unique needs, so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together to find the best solution. Collectively, Better Life Mobility and MobilityWorks will continue to build on our mission to help veterans connect with who and what matters most.

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