



1st Quarter 2022
Volume 1 Issue 1

Nevada Chapter

Thank you to the Tropicana Hotel and Casino for being the major sponsor of our upcoming Walk, Run and Roll.



Paralyzed Veterans of America, 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/Executive Director Report

by Dan Kaminski and Julie Johnson

This year has gotten off to a great start. We have delivered hundreds of bags of food and hygiene kits to veterans signed up in our Adopt-A-Vet program. If you need food, hygiene kit, household cleaning supplies, please contact our office and we will take care of you.

The Raiders Foundation gave us tickets to the East West Shriners Bowl at the Allegiant Stadium. We had a group of 32 people. It was a fun outing. A huge thanks to Alan and his team for coordinating everything including free ADA parking.

NV PVA conducted their first face to face board meeting last month. It was great to see almost everyone in person.

We are planning a tour of Raiders - Allegiant Stadium tentatively for March 24th. Once the date is secured we will reach out to all our members to see if they want to attend.



Upcoming Events

April 1	Pistol Shoot, Clark County Shooting Park
April 2-3	Trapshoot, Clark County Shooting Park
April 23	Annual 5K Walk, Run and Roll, Bunker Park

For more information on any of these events, call the office at 702/646-0040



Thank you to Elks Lodge 1468, the Tropicana Hotel and, of course, the Palio Crew for helping to put together our Adopt-A- Vet Bags in February.

Washington Update



PVA's 2022 Policy Priorities

Our priorities for 2022 reflect the need for paralyzed veterans to have access to high quality. Comprehensive health care and timely, accurate delivery of all earned benefits. They must also have equity of access to the opportunities and freedoms available to all Americans. The list is as follows:

- ◆ Protect Access to VA's Specialized Health Care Services
- ◆ Expand Access to VA Long-Term Services and Supports (Facility based long-term care and home and community based services and caregiver supports)
- ◆ Improve VA Health Care Services and Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans and their Survivors (Assisted reproductive technologies, survivor benefits, adapted automobile benefits and home modification grants).
- ◆ Increase Access to VA Health Care and Benefits for Women Veterans with SCI/D
- ◆ Protect the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities (Access to air travel and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance).
- ◆ Strengthen and Enhance Social Security Benefits
- ◆ Increase Employment Prospects for Veterans with Disabilities

JUSTICE FOR ALS VETERANS ACT INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE

Legislation to increase VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for the survivors of veterans who die from ALS was introduced in the Senate in January. The Justice for ALS Veterans Act, S. 3483, is identical to legislation introduced in the House last fall (H.R. 5607). Both measures would allow future survivors of veterans who die from ALS to qualify for the DIC kicker which is an additional \$305.28 per month of DIC. We thank Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) for introducing this important legislation and urge Congress to pass it quickly. PVA members are encouraged to contact their elected officials to urge them to support these bills

Grants

The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program offers grants to veterans with certain severe service-connected disabilities. The grants help with building, remodeling or purchasing an adapted home. This can be as basic as making a home wheelchair accessible or adding a roll-in shower.

To qualify you must be entitled to disability compensation due to:

- ◆ Loss or loss of use of both legs
- ◆ Unable to move around without the aid of braces, crutches, canes or a wheelchair.
- ◆ Blindness in both eyes with 20/20 visual acuity or less in the better eye with use of corrective lenses.
- ◆ Loss or loss of use of one leg, or
- ◆ Loss or loss of use of one arm, affecting balance and ability to move without aid.
- ◆ Loss or loss of use of both arms at or above the elbows.
- ◆ Severe burn injury
- ◆ ALS

If you qualify for an SAH grant, you can get up to \$101,754 for FY 222 which exceeds last year's rate. For more information on this and other grants go to:
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp>

Service Officer's Report

by Jason McDonald, NSO

VA Patient Advocacy Program: by Jason McDonald

Any veteran and their family who receive care at a Veterans Health Administration facility can utilize the Patient Advocacy Program. The Patient Advocacy program was established on June 12, 2017 as directed by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA).

The program is supposed to ensure an inclusive care environment and positive patient experience for Veterans and their family members regardless of racial or ethnic group, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, geographic location, religion, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, cognitive, sensory or physical disability, military era, mental health diagnosis and disability status.

Every VA Hospital has at least one Patient Advocates office. This person is supposed to plead the cause of Veteran's and be the voice for Veteran's rights consistent with the laws, policies and professional standards. They are to protect the Veteran's health and health care rights and provide assistance in asserting those rights if the need arises.

If you are having issues with your health care or health care services being provided to you by the Veterans Health Administration you can always not only contact Paralyzed Veterans of America and your local National Service Officer to assist you but in addition you also have the Patient Advocacy Program to reach out too.

The following are the most current information for your VA Hospital's Patient Advocates.

VA Sierra Nevada Health Care (Reno)
775-785-7280
Walk-in Services available weekdays 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Building 1D, Room G1590 (near Outpatient Pharmacy)

VA Southern Nevada Health Care (Las Vegas)

Lakeisha Covington Whitehouse Hotline Patient Advocate	Herbert L. Parsons Jr. Lead Patient Advocate
Sherina M. Perkins Patient Advocate 702-791-9000, ext 15436	Patricia K. McFarlin Patient Advocate 702-791-9000, ext 15436
Robert Thomas Patient Advocate	

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your VA benefits, please do not hesitate to contact me at 775-321-4789 or email jasonm@pva.org



January	Joseph Cypher	Julie Johnson	David Gray
	Francisco Novero	Derek Curtis	Russell Marsh
	Robert Nolan	Norman Woods	Paul Winter
	Tx. P. Vogler	Samuel Whitt	Ali Jahanfard
	Mervyn Kaya	Lauretta Graham	Samuel Hagaman

February	Michael Schultz	Samuel Owens	David Schneider
	Jerry Myles	William Frankell	Jaime Perelman
	Michael McDonald	Armando Guajardo	Randall Schwartz
	Darwin Holmes	Lowell Higley	Billy Andre
	James Troy	Kamron Lopez	Randall McKee
	Anita Lawson-McGlynn	Eric Cagle	Zack Miller
	Cheryl Yorkey	Melinda Brooks	Linda Mitchell
			James Washington

March	William Burns	RC Christensen	Douglas Nagoshi
	Marc Fenn	Wes Jensen	Mike Romanowski
	Jose Gonzalez	Laverne Wood	Alan Marsh
	Darrin Newland	Josephine Owens	Ben Keechler
			Jerry Bench

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Resources related to Afghanistan

Veterans who served in Afghanistan may be experiencing a range of challenging emotions related to the U.S. withdrawal from the country and the events unfolding now. Veterans who served during other conflicts may also be feeling strong emotions as they may be reminded of their own deployment experiences.

Here is a list of available resources, call center information, peer support, and other community services:

NVDS - [Local Vet Center groups](#)

Vet Centers – *Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. 70% of Vet Center staff are Veterans. Call [1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387)*

Veterans Crisis Line – *If you are having thoughts of suicide, call [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255), then PRESS 1 or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>*

For emergency mental health care, you can also go directly to [your local VA medical center](#) 24/7 regardless of your discharge status or enrollment in other VA health care.

VA Women Veterans Call Center – *Call or text [1-855-829-6636](tel:1-855-829-6636) (M-F 8AM – 10PM & SAT 8AM – 6:30PM ET)*

VA Caregiver Support Line – *Call [1-855-260-3274](tel:1-855-260-3274) (M-F 8AM – 10PM & SAT 8AM – 5PM ET)*

Download VA's self-help apps – Tools to help deal with common reactions like, stress, sadness, and anxiety. You can also track your symptoms over time.

VA Mental Health Services Guide – *This guide will help you sign up and access mental health services.*

MakeTheConnection.net – *information, resources, and Veteran to Veteran videos for challenging life events and experiences with mental health issues.*

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) – [Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors \(TAPS\) Is Here For You!](#) or call [800-959-TAPS \(8277\)](tel:800-959-TAPS)

If you are struggling, the worst thing you can do is nothing. Don't be afraid to lean on your Veteran community and please consider reaching out to VA if you would like to learn more about what is available.



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

Veterans Transportation Service (VTS)

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

NATIONAL CRISIS HOTLINE
1/800-273-8255



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