



PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Nevada Chapter

Second Quarter 2024
Volume 1 Issue 2

Hello Spring!!!



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 and Executive Director's Report

by Dominic Cieino & Julie Johnson

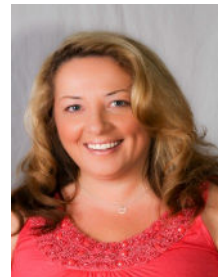
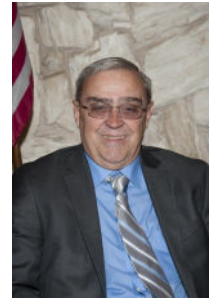
Happy Spring Everyone! I love this time of year before it gets too hot outside. We are trying a few new outings this year. One was the Desert Dogs Lacrosse game at Mandalay Bay and I'm sure we will do this again. I have never watched a Lacrosse game before, but we had such a great time! The other event coming up is at the Las Vegas Ball Park on May 30th. The Aviators vs Sugar Land. If you're interested give us a call or email pvanevada@gmail.com.

For those of you in Northern Nevada we will be doing our annual 3-day event September 14-16th with various outings which you and your loved ones can join us for all or just one event. **In the meantime, if there is any sporting event, entertainment, or restaurant you have been wanting to go to don't forget about our step outside program. You and one guest can get out of the house and Nevada PVA will reimburse you up to \$100 each quarter. All you must do is send in the receipt and a little write-up of what you did and if you recommend it to others.**

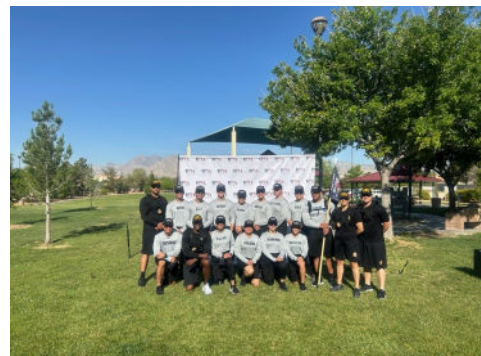
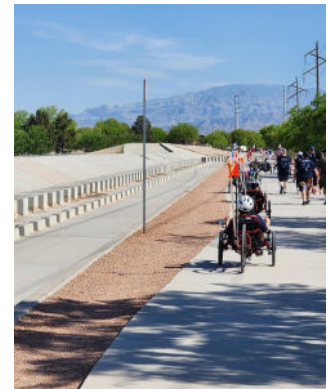
May 4th was our Annual Walk, Run & Roll at Wayne Bunker Park. We had a great turn out. The Clark High School Jr. ROTC presented colors and Louda & AJ sang the National Anthem. They all did such a beautiful job. **A huge thank you to our sponsors Burk Injury Lawyers, SIOR, Navy Federal Credit Union, Westpac Wealth.**

Are you in need of a monthly food bag and hygiene kit? Please let us know and we will add you to our list.

As always if there is anything we can help you with please reach out.



Our 12th Annual Walk, Run And Roll



Sports Report

by Jason Kelley



Welcome to spring and the beautiful weather!

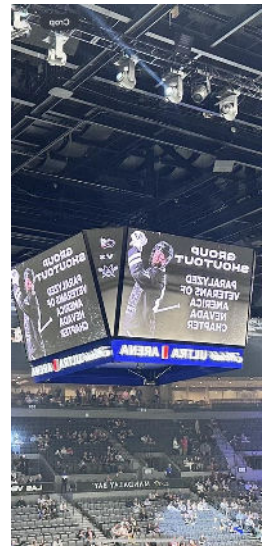
Wheelchair football is getting up and going again. Practices are Monday's from 6-8 pm at the Dula gym. Starting May 1st we started training on Monday's and Wednesday's from 6-8 pm at the Dula gym.

We recently attended a Las Vegas Desert Dogs game. They are our local Lacrosse team and we had a great time. Next up is our evening at a Las Vegas Aviator's game on May 30. There are still tickets available, call the office if you want to attend.

I get to represent the Las Vegas Raiders Wheelchair Football Team for all the Veterans Pro Bowl game during the NFL Draft week in Detroit. I am so honored to represent our team. Look for my next report for pictures and information.

Unfortunately, by the time this is printed the registration for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games has closed. However, we are excited to have a bigger team this year of six (6) veterans five of which are PVA members. We are so excited to start training as the Las Vegas Road Runners.

Another thing I am excited to talk about is a great company called Driven NeuroRecovery Center. The Nevada Chapter will pay for you to go. They have a wonderful gym that is completely adaptive and they have an amazing staff to help. If you have not checked them out, please do so. It's always a good time to start taking care of yourself. Because of Driven, I have been introduced to new companies and programs. We were able to tour the Lasher Factory and talk about an amazing place to make all sorts custom chairs and off road handcycling equipment. They are partnered with the VA so make sure to check them out as an option.



DRIVEN
NeuroRecovery Center



Service Officer's Report

by Jason McDonald, NSO



Pension Debt

VA is committed to supporting wartime Veterans and their survivors, particularly those of low income, by providing pension payments based on self-reported income levels. To ensure the accuracy of these payments, VA employs data matching techniques to verify self-reported incomes.

However, between 2011 and 2022, challenges in data matching resulted in an inability to reliably verify the self-reported Social Security income for Veterans and survivors receiving a VA pension. Upon resuming income verification in June 2022, VA discovered that over 9,900 beneficiaries had higher incomes than reported, leading to overpayments in some instances over many years. As required by law, VA established debts for these Veterans and survivors and contacted them to recoup overpayments. Upon further review, it was also discovered that an additional 30,000 Veterans and survivors might also have pension debts that have yet to be established.

In November 2023, recognizing the hardship such debts may impose on this vulnerable group, VA halted the collection of all established pension debts and the formation of new debts while exploring all possible relief options.

However, as VA continues to process other claim types, such as dependency claims or medical expense reports, VA conducts an income match and may identify additional debts. During the period between November 2023 and now, VA has determined that more than 12,000 pension beneficiaries (up from the initial estimate of 9,900) had higher incomes than reported. Some of those were initially part of the 30,000 that had not yet been processed. VA anticipates this number will continue to increase as additional claims are processed. Currently, VA has more than 27,000 individual claims related to the SSA match to review.

Based on the VA Secretary's December 2023 guidance, VA has decided to not collect pension debts associated with the June 2022 SSA income verification match and will contact the 12,000-plus affected individuals directly to inform them of the resolution process. Additionally, they are refunding beneficiaries for any payments already made as a result of this income verification match. VA is also reviewing the causes of the data quality issue to prevent future occurrences.

The VA sincerely apologizes to the beneficiaries impacted by these pension debt notifications and assure them that relief efforts are underway.

Following is a summary of the recent developments and the current status of this issue:

Recent Developments:

- Effective November 2, 2023, VA suspended the creation of new debts and the collection of existing debts related to this issue.
- On December 22, 2023, the VA Secretary issued guidance to not collect any debts arising from the June 2022 SSA income match and to refund any collections already made.
- January through early March 2024, VA worked with the Debt Management Center (DMC) and Veterans Benefits Administration's Office of Financial Management on mechanisms to stop collection of debts for beneficiaries.

Current Status:

- VA continues to run this match quarterly since June 2022 to further identify beneficiaries and identify income discrepancies earlier.
- VA will inform the 12,000-plus affected beneficiaries about adjustments to their pension debt balances.
- Beneficiaries will be notified of their updated debt balances and the reduction in debt amounts.
- Beneficiaries who have made payments based on prior notifications will be informed of the refunds.
- VA is developing updated procedural guidance for claims processors related to the additional 27,000 beneficiaries identified in the June 2022 SSA income match. VA anticipates resuming claims processing by May 2024.

Actions for Beneficiaries:

Affected beneficiaries will receive a letter from the DMC. No further action is required if the current debt balance is \$0.00. For those with existing debt balances, VA is ready to assist in managing these debts. We encourage beneficiaries with additional questions to visit our debt management website, www.va.gov/manage-va-debt, or contact us at 800-827-0648.

Veterans and survivors may also use the following resources for their questions or for additional assistance:

- For details about a debt, contact the DMC at 1-800-827-0648, available from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday.
- Translation services are offered in over 200 languages and dialects.
- Use Ask VA (AVA) at <https://ask.va.gov/> for secure messaging—choose “Veterans Affairs – Debt” for proper routing.
- Visit the Debt Portal at www.va.gov/manage-va-debt for account information.
- For details on why a pension debt was issued, contact the VA benefits hotline at 1-800-827-1000 or the National Pension Call Center at 1-877-294-6380.

Thank you to our 5K Walk, Run and Roll Sponsors



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An advertisement for Burk Injury Lawyers. On the left, a large gold letter "B" is followed by the text "BURK INJURY LAWYERS" and the slogan "HURT BY A JERK? BETTER CALL BURK!". Below this is the phone number "702-620-2020" and the website "BetterCallBurk.com". On the right is a portrait of a smiling man in a blue suit and tie.



S I O R[®]

SOUTHERN NEVADA
CHAPTER



An advertisement for Westpac Wealth Partners. It features a white bar chart icon on a blue background. To the right of the icon is the text "WESTPAC WEALTH PARTNERS" and the tagline "PROTECT • INVEST • ACHIEVE". Below this is the name "Jason A. Frederico, RICP | Financial Advisor".

FUNDING POLICY FOR SPORTING EVENTS

Nevada PVA will pay mileage for events both in and out of town at the IRS allowable for any given year. With regard to members driving to out of town events such as various tournaments and the NVWG, the allowable mileage would be the IRS allowable or Y class airline tickets, whichever would be the least expensive. Mileage for events that members drive to would be calculated from their home straight to the event and then back.

If driving to an event, they must adhere to the same rule as truck drivers, which is listed below. We would then pay for a motel room for their journey on their way to the tournament.

*The driving time limit for truck drivers is 11 hours. **The 14-hour rule.** Drivers have a 14-hour window to drive a maximum of 11 hours. They are required to take a 30-minute break after eight hours of driving. With the 14-hour rule, drivers cannot drive after the 14th consecutive hour they are on duty until they take 10 hours off duty.*

In order to be granted funding for an event volunteer hours are required . The policy is that 12 hours would be required in order to be funded for the NVWG and four (4) hours per event that they wish to receive funding for. Hours are on a yearly basis and cannot be carried over. Novices wishing to attend the NVWG for the first time are exempt from this rule.

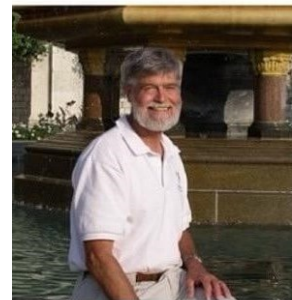
Scholarships

Nevada PVA offers two (2) annual full-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. It is open to any student attending a college or university as long as they are a member or a family member of a Nevada PVA member. Deadline for application submission is **June 30, 2024** and awards will be made in August in time for the fall semester. The money will be sent directly to the college or university. Please contact the office if you would like a scholarship application package sent to you.

In Memoriam

John Hollis Peacock, M.D., Ph.D., of Reno, passed away on March 4th, 2024 at the age of 85. John was a beloved neurologist who served the Reno and VA community and taught at the UNR Medical School for over 40 years. He was a curious, dedicated researcher who published 42 academic papers and still itched to learn more every day. He was an avid runner who ran several 100-mile races, including the Western States and the Leadville 100. It was his goal to be in shape for a marathon at all points in time. Despite his many accomplishments, he was a humble family man who loved sharing his infectious curiosity for the world with his family. He always demonstrated incredible strength and even said in the days leading to his death: "it's just another marathon". He is preceded in death by his parents, Eldred and Roberta, and his two sisters, Frankie and Margie. He is survived by his wife, Susan, 5 daughters (Tanya, Katie, Alyssa, Candace, and Brianna), 5 grandchildren, and the Reno community who will dearly miss his care, teachings, and most of all, his quirkiness.

Nevada PVA sends our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Peacock's family and friends.





April

Lawrence Brown	Robert Jones	Gary Price
Johnnie Crowe	Twilla Loewen	Deborah Radford
Michael Crowe	Jesse Martin	Randal Slutz
Roger Dauffenbach	Kevin Matthews	Toni Weeks
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William Geller	Jason Mullholland	Ron Williams

May

Mark Allison	Charlene Knickelbein	Michael Supulver
Francisco Alvarado	Frederick Knudsen	Michael Taday
Taylor Boclair	LuAnn Leavitt	William Taylor
Marcela Custer	Sheree McLean	Joseph Thorn
Robert Gainer	Delbert Mitchell	Paul Troche
Roy Hogsett	Lee O'Brien	Ron Whitehead

June

William Burlew	Tina Lemus	Pender Rhymes
Russell Childers	Robert Leonard, Jr.	Stacy Romanowski
Reynaldo Diaz	Wayne Litzinger	Michael Roy
Andrew Evans	Roger Long	Christine Taday
Tonya Fabian	Ken Martin	Albert Thurman

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Tax ID #31-1647467. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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.



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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