



April/May 2017
Volume 1 Issue 2

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Nevada Chapter



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



Congratulations to Assistant Director Bill Carron of the Southern Nevada VA. Mr. Carron has been promoted as the Tucson VA Director. We wish you all the best in your new position. Nevada will surely miss you.

Paralyzed Veterans of America Public Awareness Month is April and we have lots of fun awareness programs coming up for everyone to attend.

April 1st - Awards Dinner @ the Las Vegas Country Club

April 7th - Open House BBQ @ our Office

April 22nd – 5th Annual Walk, Run & Roll @ Bunker Park

April 29th – 2nd Annual Disability Expo @ Mobility Works

Please **RSVP** for each event – 702-646-0040

More information on our website.

Day in a Chair – We visit various companies and government agencies and ask for volunteers to spend a couple hours doing their job from a wheelchair. When they are done we ask them to describe to us how their experience was. Did it give them a different perception of those in a chair? How did others look or treat them? Was their area accessible or would it need modifications for them to do their job? All these questions are the reality for those in a chair. This exercise helps us to bring awareness to our community in hopes of bringing to light some things that people take for granted every-day.

If you have any recommendations for people or places we could do Day in Chair please let us know.

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.

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National Director's Report

By Lester Wood

Senate Unanimously Confirms Dr. David Shulkin as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

The following is taken from the February 16, 2017 Washington Update:

On February 3, 2017, the Senate unanimously confirmed Dr. David Shulkin as the next Secretary to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs. Despite a week of all-night debates as part of efforts to delay more controversial Cabinet Appointees, debate on Secretary Shulkin lasted a mere ten minutes. His confirmation is historic in that he will be the first person to lead the Department never having served in uniform. A strong compensating factor, though, is that for the past two years, he has served as the Under Secretary of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), specifically leading the efforts to reform veterans' health care.

His successful private sector career in health care coupled with experience working at the highest level of VA suggests he is uniquely suited to hit the ground running. With this favorable blend of experience, though, comes added scrutiny. While Secretary Shulkin has publically committed to not "privatizing the VA," PVA will continue to stress with Secretary Shulkin, as we have in the past, the importance of protecting specialized services and appropriate staffing levels in providing high quality care to veterans with a spinal cord injury or disease.

One specific challenge he is expected to face is the requirement to broaden his view beyond VHA and lead the Department as a whole. As he already acknowledged during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, there is an intersection between VHA and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) in the world of disability claims adjudication that cannot be ignored. Put simply, in most instances, veterans cannot receive health care from VA until they receive a rating from VBA. It is imperative the claims and appeals are adjudicated swiftly, efficient, and, most of all, accurately.

"Too many people spend money they haven't earned, to buy things they don't want, to impress people they don't like." Will Rogers



Sports Report

by Marc Fenn, Sports Director

We recently held our Annual Trap and Pistol Shoot. We had a good turnout and everyone who attended had a lot of fun. Congratulations to our winners:

Pistol Shoot: 1st Place	Kurt Nelson
2nd Place	Ed Ackerman
Trap Shoot:: High Overall: Jeff White	
High Overall SCI:	Doug Vann
Yardage:	
Long	Gary Trenkle
Mid	Dan Mitchell
Short	Kelly Mitchell
Doubles:	
C Class 1st Place	Ed Hutchison
D Class 1st Place	Michael Kuepper
2nd Place	Jim Russell
Singles:	
A Class 1st Place	Fred Schultz
B Class 1st Place	Keith Rheinhardt
2nd Place	Tony Del Fante
C Class 1st Place	Cathy Brandner
2nd Place	Tom Richey
D Class 1st Place	Robert Morton
2nd Place	Joseph Fox, Sr.



Thank you to The Grand Canyon Tour Company for being our Presenting Sponsor for our 5th Annual, Walk, Run and Roll. We appreciate your support.





Pistol/Trapshoot 2017



Step Outside Program

Took a friend to Golden Corral for her birthday. While the place was very busy, the food was great. While the price is more than buffets at most casinos, there was a wide choice of food and it was really good. *William Frankell*

Flavors of India—After a series of storms my wife and I were suffering from cabin fever. We both did the lunch buffet and as always everything was done to perfection right down to the garlic naan.

Then there was Super Bowl Sunday and what better way to celebrate it than heading to Reno Guns and Range, one of two local indoor ranges? Turns out I wasn't the only person with the idea. The range was packed. Getting a lane that could handle a wheelchair was pretty straightforward. Several enjoyable hours passed way to quickly. Thanks again for making these outings possible. *Tom Hudson*

Scholarships

Nevada PVA offers three (3) annual full-time scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 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, 2017 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.

If a new opportunity appears, take it. And, if your whole life changes because of this, let it happen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1	General Membership Meeting & Awards Banquet
April 7	Open House
April 22	Walk, Run and Roll 5K
April 29	Disability Expo

In Vitro Fertilization Services Provided by the VA

By Ian Kenner, National Service Officer

The following information was disseminated from the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Office in regards to in vitro fertilization. Please take the time to review, and see if this might be a benefit which may assist yourself, or someone you know:

January 24, 2017:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it is amending its regulation regarding fertility counseling and treatment available to eligible Veterans and spouses. VA currently provides certain infertility services other than in vitro fertilization (IVF) services to Veterans as part of the medical benefits package. This interim final rule authorizes IVF for a Veteran with a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the Veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment. It also states that VA may provide fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technologies (ART), including IVF, to a spouse of a Veteran with a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the Veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

“I have always believed that one of the main responsibilities of a grateful nation is to make whole the men and women who have made sacrifices on our behalf,” said VA Secretary Bob McDonald. “It is important that we fully understand the needs of our Veteran population, and incorporate the major scientific advances available today that can allow them to live a full life. Providing fertility counseling and treatment, including in vitro fertilization, is consistent with VA’s goal of restoring reproductive capabilities of Veterans and improving the quality of their lives.”

As part of the medical benefits package, VA provides many different types of fertility treatments and procedures to Veterans. These include infertility counseling, laboratory blood testing, surgical correction of structural pathology, reversal of a vasectomy or tubal ligation, medication, and various other diagnostic studies or treatments. .

The interim final rule was published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2017. Although the interim rule references September 30, 2017 as the date the funding expires, the funds are authorized through September 30, 2018.

Full implementation of this regulation requires that VA utilize and optimize existing capabilities for care in the community and develop internal processes that will provide Veterans with a seamless path to receiving ART services. Veterans can immediately schedule appointments with their local health care system for eligibility determinations, clinical evaluation and consultation, and initial treatment as we work to build this structure.

The interim final rule was published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2017. Although the interim rule references September 30, 2017 as the date the funding expires, the funds are authorized through September 30, 2018.

**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 your appointment time.

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

Membership—174

Advocacy/Legislative News

On March 9, 2016, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced S. 591 and Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI) introduced the house companion bill, H.R. 1472, the "Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act." This bipartisan legislation would expand VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program to veterans of all eras. Currently, a veteran has to have been severely injured on or after September 11, 2001 in order to be eligible. Expansion would make available the resources that caregivers need to provide quality care to veterans. These resources include a monthly stipend based on the hours of care provided, healthcare through CHAMPVA, respite care, and additional training among other services.

Caregivers play the most critical role in the wellbeing of a catastrophically disabled veteran. From activities of daily living, to psycho-social interaction, to maintaining good health that prevents institutional care- these caregivers have been sacrificing their own financial and physical wellbeing to care for veterans, with little to no support from VA. Congress has no justification for denying access to pre-9/11 veterans. This legislation would rectify this inequity.

Among other things, the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act would:

- Make the program more inclusive of mental health injuries.
- Reauthorize the Lifespan Respite Care Act and expand essential respite options for caregivers.
- Give veterans the opportunity to transfer GI Bill benefits to a dependent, to help unemployed or underemployed spouses of injured veterans prepare to become the primary income for the family.
- Make caregivers who work in the federal government eligible for flexible work schedules.

Provide assistance with childcare, financial advice and legal counseling, which are all top, and currently unmet, needs.

We urge all PVA members to contact their senators and ask them to support S. 591 and contact their representatives and ask them to support H.R. 1472. These bills will have a significant impact on our members, many of whom rely upon caregivers on a daily basis.



April

Carma Richens	01	Rita Pumel	09	Robert Jones	17
Gary D. Price	01	Tim Andring	11	Terry Christian	22
Kyla Perelman	04	Jason Mullholland	11	Jeanette Miller	24
Thomas Atkins	05	Barbara Johnson	12	Deanna Ackerman	24
Polly Phelps	06	Eddie Collins	12	Helen Wicker	25
Larry Freezor	06	Brad Whiting	13	Kenneth Armstrong	26
Lawrence Brown	09	Roger Dauffenbach	14	William Geller	27

May

James Duffy	02	Lee O'Brien	07	Rocco Paniccia	17
Richard Blandori	02	Taylor Bocclair	08	Martin Coleman	19
Andrew Callahan	03	Mark Allison	10	Hilda Fox	20
Bob MacElrath	04	Thomas Bracamonte	13	Roxie Lopez	20
Albert Bueche, Jr.	04	Don Phillips	14	Paul Campbell	22
Joseph Thorn	04	Delbert Mitchell	16	William Taylor	27
Brian Johnson	06	Paul Troche	16	Robert Gainer	27



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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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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
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	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



2nd ANNUAL

Saturday, April 29
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

MobilityWorks
2100 S Decatur Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89102

To RSVP please call
702-749-4246

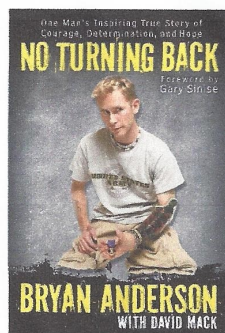
Join us as we bring together a unique blend of personal wellness advocates, mobility experts and transportation solutions under one roof.

Featuring:

Paralyzed Veterans of America – Nevada Chapter
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Guest Speaker:
Bryan Anderson

He is a triple amputee from the Iraq war with a message that will inspire and entertain us all.

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