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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 advocacy, research, sports and recreation, education and communication.

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*



This summer has been amazing so far, even if it gets to 120 degrees here in Vegas. I have been with Nevada PVA for 14 years and this was my first time attending the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and it was so much more than I could ever have imagined. I have heard the stories and seen the pictures over the years but to actually be there and experience the 650 wheelchair athletes triumph in their skills, such hard work and dedication is very motivating and inspiring.

Our team was small but mighty: 9 Golds, 2 Silvers and 2 Bronze Medals. Great job Mariza, Lester and Larry. I was honored to be their coach. It was a long and very busy week for me but I am grateful for the opportunity to help out and support such amazing people.

If you have never been to the games and would like more information, please give me a call.

Our chapter has been very busy with several radio and podcast shows throughout the valley. A big thanks for all that have given us the opportunity to inform the public about our mission and services.

As always, we are dedicated to improving the quality of life for veterans with spinal cord injury and disease and we are leaders in the disabled community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6	Veterans Service Fair
December 1-4	Annual Nevada PVA Bowling Tournament
December 17	Annual Christmas Party & Toys for Tots Drive



National Director's Report

By Lester Wood

It's that time of year here in Las Vegas when you step outside and you're hit with a blast of hot, dry heat. Once you get past June, July and August the rest of the year is great.

I attended the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial here in Vegas, honoring 200 years of American military service. There was a great turnout with every branch of the service attending.

I also attended a ceremony honoring our ex-Congresswoman Shelley Berkeley with the first annual Abbinett Award. She has and continues to work on behalf of our military veterans and their families. Her dad, is a WWII veteran and was there to see her receive this award. Thank you Shelley for your hard work and dedication to us.

Last but not least, I attended my first National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in the great state of Utah. It was a lot of fun being with teammates; meeting new people and participating in the events; but mostly watching everyone enjoy themselves. I now look forward to attending the next NVWG to be held in my home state of Ohio.

"It's not whether you get knocked down. It's whether you get up again." *Vince Lombardi, American football coach*





Sports Report

by Marc Fenn, Sports Director

The recently completed National Veterans Wheelchair Games was a success for our Nevada Team! We had initially planned to send a contingent of five but at the last minute two of our members had to drop out because of various medical issues. However, the three members who did go did us proud. Here is their medal count.

Larry Porter

Gold Track 100m
Gold Track 200m
Gold Track 400m
Gold Field shot
Gold Field discus
Gold Field javelin
Gold Weightlifting
Silver Archery
Silver Rugby

Lester Wood

Bronze Table tennis

Mariza Shaffa

Gold Slalom
Gold Swimming 50 yd.
backstroke
Bronze Bowling



Congratulations to all our athletes on a job “well done”.

On another front, our BOD member Ron Cantegallo recently went on his second scuba diving trip to the Cayman Islands, below is his article.

Scuba Diving for disabled Vets and other people with disabilities—June 17-25, 2016. Three veterans in wheelchairs left Las Vegas with two spouses and two instructors to scuba dive in the Cayman Islands (Cayman Brac). Two of us, John Kennedy, and I, were there for the second time at Cayman Brac. Ben Keechler, a quad, went for the first time and won the Spirit Award and best costume (Prince) on costume night. We all had an incredible time diving 2-3 times per day. Many others in chairs from around the country were also there as well as two blind people, one of whom lost his sight in combat. Those of us from LV trained under the auspices of Dive Pirates, a foundation based in Houston, and under the direct training of Mario Alfonsi in LV, who is certified to scuba train the disabled.

Every dime of training, travel, lodging, diving, and equipment is free as a result of donations to Dive Pirates. Also, if you have a spouse, partner, friend, or family member who is willing to be trained in scuba, he/she also receives everything for free. .

Training is initially done in a community pool in LV; you then graduate to Lake Mohave or Lake Mead. You then finally make the leap to the Cayman Islands, Cozumel, Florida, Hawaii, etc. The whole process is easier than you think. But you don’t know how to swim you say; doesn’t matter. You won’t be swimming; you will be scuba diving. Now doesn’t that sound more exciting than swimming.

It was an experience like no other and the fish and coral are beyond belief and beauty. This is an adventure that every person with a disability should experience. Para’s, Quads, amputees, blind, deaf and any other disability has already done scuba, so there is no reason why you can’t; and if you don’t have a potential dive buddy to bring with you, then the foundation will supply a very qualified person for you.

National Veterans Wheelchair Games 2016



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Legislative News

Paralyzed Veterans of America is strongly opposing the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee's passage of the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2016 (H.R. 3765), as amended. This legislation would require a person with a disability to give notice to a public accommodation of an architectural barrier under the Americans with Disabilities Act **prior** to filing a lawsuit.

"The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a crucial civil rights law that ensures equality of opportunity and access for veterans and all people with disabilities in daily life, including employment, transportation, and public accommodations," explained Paralyzed Veterans of America National President Al Kovach, Jr. "Paralyzed Veterans is concerned this legislation, as amended, will result in decreased access for people with disabilities to gas stations, grocery stores, hotels, sports stadiums, and other places of public accommodation. Today's actions are not a step forward for access under the ADA. Instead, they are a step backwards."

The ADA Education and Reform Act of 2016, as amended, would require individuals with disabilities to notify a place of public accommodation about an architectural barrier before any enforcement action could be pursued, which is simply exercising their right to enforce Title III of the ADA in the courts. Currently, remedies under Title III are limited to injunctive relief and attorney's fees. Monetary damages are not available. This legislation would impose yet another barrier to full access for people with disabilities to public accommodations, and public accommodations will have little incentive to proactively address accessibility barriers.

"It's a shame that this legislation was advanced in the name of improving disability access for veterans and all people with disabilities. Veterans with catastrophic disabilities shouldn't be forced to wait in line for accessibility to the accommodations available to other Americans. Businesses must be as aggressive in complying with the ADA's accessibility mandates as they are in meeting all other business-related requirements," concluded Kovach.

Air Carrier Access Act

The Air Carrier Access Act turns 30 this year. Unfortunately, many problems still exist for people with disabilities when traveling. If you have such a story please visit: www.AirAccess30.org and share your story. We are still looking for stories about problems encountered by our members when traveling.

Care for Our Heroes for the 21st Century Act.

This bill essentially puts into legislative form the proposal released by Concerned Veterans for America, a political front group, that would essentially undermine the existing VA and ultimately push veterans to seek care in the private sector.

PVA expressed serious concerns about the draft bill in a press release. Specifically, the premium support model offered in this bill would clearly disadvantage catastrophically disabled and low-income veterans who currently have little to no cost share to receive care in the VA. Additionally, the bill provides no mechanism to ensure veterans care is properly coordinated and that they receive the most appropriate care they need. The proposal forces veterans to fend for themselves in the private sector health care system and leaves them with the responsibility of being the stewards of taxpayers' money. Perhaps worst of all, the bill does not contemplate the fact that the private sector is not better positioned to provide the care veterans need, and in many cases is substantially worse, particularly for veterans with catastrophic disabilities like spinal cord injury and disease.

We urge you to contact your representative and ask them to oppose this bill. You can find your representative's office phone number at www.house.gov/representatives.

Helping Your Service Officer Help You: How to Assist When Developing for a Service and Non-Service Connected Claim

By Ian Kenner, National Service Officer

When it comes to filing claims, most veterans do come prepared with some information. However, most veterans do leave a lot of information behind, which can not only delay the claims process but delay your entitlement to benefits.

Here are some tips for you when coming to see your local service officer and/or accredited secretary:

Service Connected Claim: If this is your first time filing a claim, make sure to provide a DD-214 and come with any evidence for the claim you wish to file. Remember, when we develop a claim here at PVA, we preach the triangle theory—to link your time in service to your current condition, there has to be what the VA calls a “nexus”. This means there must be a definite link to your current condition from your time in service. If you have proof to substantiate this claim, then it can be considered a possibility.

We do not and will not file claims we cannot substantiate. For instance, if you had a vehicular accident after the military, and you are trying to file a claim for the housing and or automobile grant? Unless there is a way to prove a nexus of loss of use of the arms or legs, we most likely will not file a claim for either condition. If there are any questions whether or not you think you can be service connected let us know! We've gotten veterans service connected for a myriad of conditions, so you might not know unless you ask!

To file this claim, we will help you complete a VA Form 21-56EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Benefits as a base claim, then add whatever forms necessary to this claim form to get all the benefits we can ascertain for the veteran.

Non-Service Connect Pension: These claims seem easy in nature, but they are much more complex sometimes vs a service connected claim. To complete a VA Form 21P-527EX, Application for Pension, not only do you have to serve during a period of wartime, you have to serve a certain amount of time in service. For instance, you served from 1983-84 and had an honorable discharge, you most likely will not get a no-service connected pension due to not serving the required twenty-four month obligatory period.

Also, we will need the following financial statements showing annual income, and medical expenses which can offset your allowable income. The non-service connected pension is based off of need vs the service connected pension, which is based off entitlement due to injuries occurred in service.

Remember,; If you are receiving social security, and it is a higher benefit vs the non-service connect pension and you still pursue, you will be charged for an overpayment. This has happened on a few occasions. This causes headache and heartache for the veteran due to monetary loss and the service officer scrambling to try and get the situation resolved.

If you are not sure which route to pursue, please contact either your service officer or accredited secretary, and we will do our best to point you in the right direction. At the end of the day, we are all trying to end with the same result: the veteran receiving benefits.

Step Outside Program

My wife and I decided to pay the Red Lobster a visit to celebrate some good news. I had the Coastal Lobster & Shrimp while she had their Lobster & Red Shrimp; both were current promotions and came with quite an assortment of grilled veggies as part of the meal. The amount of food served was more than we could handle. Needless to say, all the crustaceans were consumed there and along with a serious dent in the veggies—gotta have priorities, right? There were enough veggies that we took some home and formed the basis of a great soup. *Tom Hudson*

Took a PVA member and his wife to dinner at Nora's Restaurant. We had a great time and great food. *Ron Cantagallo*



August

Sandra Qualls	03	Susumu S. Arishita	11	Marci L. Piccirilli	22
Joe R. Ybanez	04	Brandon M. Jones	11	Lester E. Wood	23
Larry D. Everett	06	Michael C. Stern	12	Timothy Manchego	23
Lyndon R. Ruddle	06	Donald W. Pollard	13	Robert Butterfield	25
Maria Rietje Skaar	07	John D. Lowther	16	Daniel A. Kaminski	28
David Fivecoats	08	Robert J. Priante	18	Joseph W. Boyd	30
Ted Perelman	08	Beverly C. Jolley	19	Yusuf Ali	30
James A. Hoban	09	Fletcher (Rick) Hantke	22		

September

Ron J. Cangeallo	05	Thomas H. McNaughton	15	James M. Wakefield	24
Tad R. Stuart	05	Annette McNaughton	15	Harold M. Hubbard	25
Cedrick J. Arinwine	09	Larry W. Porter	15	Edrick D. James	25
Robert W. Artz	10	Michael Schacherbauer	17	Shane Derby	25
Dominic C. Cirino	12	Lee Toliver	20	Christopher McMahon	26



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Vet Centers:

Las Vegas Vet Center (702) 251-7873, 1919 S. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89146

Reno Sites

Reno Vet Center (775) 323-1294, 1155 W. 4th Street, Suite 101, Reno, NV 89503
Ely Outpatient Clinic/William B. Ririe Hospital (775) 289-3612, 6 Steptoe Circle, Ely, NV 89301
VA Carson Valley Outpatient Clinic (888) 838-6256 ext. 4000, 925 Ironwood Drive, Suite 2102, Minden, NV 89423
VA Lahontan Valley Outpatient Clinic (775) 428-6161, 365 West A Street, Fallon, NV 89406
VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System (775) 786-7200 or (888) 838-6256, 1000 Locust St., Reno, NV 89502
Direct Lines to Reno SCI Staff: Jennifer Stathes, SCI Nurse (775) 785-7078
Medical Service Back Up (775) 784-3971
Tiffany Johnson, SCI Social Worker (775) 785-7075

Utah Sites

Central Valley Medical Center/South Central Clinic (435) 623-3129, 48 W. 1500 N, Nephi, UT 84648
Fountain Green Outpatient (435) 623-3129 ext.. 2975, 300 W 300 S., Fountain Green, UT 84632
Ogden Outpatient Clinic (801) 479-4105, Ogden Regional Medical Center, 982 Chambers St., Ogden, UT 84403
Orem Outpatient Clinic (801) 235-0953, Timpanogos Regional Hospital, 740 W 800 N., Suite 440, Orem, UT 84057
Provo Vet Center (801) 377-1117, 1807 N 1120 W, Provo, UT 84604
Roosevelt OPC (435) 722-3971, 210 W 300 N (75-3), Roosevelt, UT 84066
Salt Lake City Vet Center (801) 584-1294, 1351 E 3300 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84106
St. George Outpatient Clinic (435) 634-7608 ext. 6000, 1067 E. Tabernacle, Suite 7, St. George, UT 84770
VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System (801) 582-1565 or (800) 613-4012, 500 Foothill Dr., Salt Lake City, UT 84148

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VETERANS PRESS 1**

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.



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

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	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
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