

December 2016/January 2017
Volume 1 Issue 6



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Nevada Chapter



*Happy
Holidays*

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



Tis the season to spread good cheer, generosity and kindness to our families, friends, neighbors and to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thanksgiving we made several house calls, dropping off boxes of much needed food and basic needs to our paralyzed veterans.

December is always very busy. The month started with our annual wheelchair bowling tournament which is a four day event. For more results please see the Sports Directors report. A big thanks to all our participants, AWBA, sponsors and up/down participants.

The Paralympic children's sports activity night/Christmas party is always so much fun. Our organization always serves a big spaghetti dinner and this year we had a lot of toys to hand out because of some generous donors.

Adopt-A-Vet was a huge success this year. In the past we have adopted up to 20 disabled veterans but this year we were able to provide food and basic needs to 50 veterans plus bags of new shoes, jackets and clothing.

SCI Parking – If you don't have the brown SCI parking decal please see Jennifer Yanez.

It is very important that our community is proactive in keeping our parking spaces. If you see someone parked illegally please contact the VA Police 702-791-9000 ext 13333. Security has recently started to ticket illegally parked vehicles. Once again and we cannot stress enough how important it is to report to them. These spots are for SCI only! As wheelchair users we all know the importance of wider spaces that these special spots provide.

Happy New Year Everyone!!! 2016 was a busy and fulfilling year and I am sure 2017 will be even better.

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National Director's Report

By Lester Wood

We recently hosted an enjoyable outing BBQ with the Paralympic Kids, as always we really enjoy being with them and their families. We also hosted a Pizza Party at the State Veterans Home in Boulder. What a pleasure it was to see and talk to those men and women upon whose shoulders we stand, and thank them for their service.

I also attended the National Fall Board meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, along with our Executive Director, Julie Johnson. As usual, the board, led by National President, Al Kovach, worked on matters to better the lives of active, retired and especially the injured veterans and their families. We strive to be a voice for those that feel they have no voice, whether it's Washington, DC or our local chapters.

As a side note, let us all remember that we are the people of the government, and should stand together to make this a better country for all of us.

Legislative News

Below is an excerpt from a Press Release from National regarding Air Access and Travel

Department of Transportation's final rule may relieve some air travel challenges
for passengers with disabilities

“Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) applauds the Department of Transportation’s (DOT) final rule requiring large domestic airlines to track and report information about wheelchairs and scooters that will allow passengers with disabilities to make informed decisions about air travel.

Beginning with flights taking place on or after January 1, 2018, these airlines will be required to provide to DOT on a monthly basis, the total number of wheelchairs and scooters that are placed in aircrafts’ cargo compartments. Airlines will also need to report how many of those wheelchairs and scooters were “mishandled.” DOT considers a wheelchair or scooter to have been mishandled if lost, delayed, damaged, or pilfered.

Paralyzed Veterans submitted comments in response to DOT’s proposed rule in 2011. While supporting the proposed rule, Paralyzed Veterans noted that such information would provide the evidence needed to show a pattern or practice of mishandled wheelchairs and scooters, which could lead to enforcement through civil fines under the ACAA. Although not included in the final rule, Paralyzed Veterans also supported extending it to include other types of mobility devices and to cover devices stowed in the cabin.

In January, Paralyzed Veterans launched a website in honor of the 30th anniversary of the ACAA, where individuals with disabilities can share their air travel experiences, both positive and negative. These stories will help Paralyzed Veterans continue to advocate for improved access in air travel. The website can found at airaccess30.org.”



Sports Report

by Marc Fenn, Sports Director

Nevada PVA just finished hosting our annual Las Vegas Invitational Bowling Tournament. We hosted approximately 40 bowlers from around the country, we also had a fantastic turnout for our Up/Down bowl which is our fundraiser. This year for the first time we had a Nevada team consisting of Lawrence Brown, Dominic Cirino, Bryan Hill, Jim Rice, Lester Wood and myself. We actually did pretty well in the tournament for it being our first time.

Our doubles tournament on Friday was won by JK Johnson and Doug Bureta who beat out Kenny Mumford and Phillip Daniel. Friday evening was our Up/Down bowl where we hosted Gary Hulsenberg from Storm Bowling and Leanne Hulsenberg from PWBA. We raffled off prizes, including bowling balls, apparel and autographed memorabilia and well as drawing for our 50/50 raffle.

Saturday and Sunday we finished off the Singles Tournament where Shawn Beam won in the Scratch Division. In the A Division Kenneth Hill beat out Andy Bernt who gave him a good run for the money. Finally in Division B Bryan Hill won out over Kenny Mumford. This was Bryan's first title in wheelchair bowling. Congratulations to all the winners and it was great bowling with everyone and seeing old friends and making new ones.

Thank you to all our sponsors, PVA, Storm Bowling, ABC Medical, The USBC, Logo Infusion, and Mobility Works and to Sunset Station and Strike Zone Bowling for hosting the event. Finally a big thank you to the NVPVA staff and the AWBA for making this a great event. See you next year!



Northern Nevada News

By Tom Hudson

Hello members in Northern Nevada and Northern California. Due to past communication issues between the VA and our Northern Nevada members about the SCI/PVA meeting dates, topics and cancellation notices, I'm asking that members email me at n.nv_pva@hotmail.com or contact the chapter office at 702/646-0040 so a quick contact list can be generated.

We all disdain lists, especially after this past election cycle, but messages are simply being lost or not delivered. Attendance at our meetings is a feast or famine type thing, this hopefully will help boost attendance and allow a more direct method of input of subject matter for presentation.

Thanks for your consideration.

2016 LAS VEGAS INVITATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT



Up/Down Bowl



Step Outside Program

Bought the staff at the Long Beach SCI Unit dinner at On the Rocks in Long Beach. I know we ate in the hospital unit but I was unable to take the complete staff with me. *Dan Kaminski*

El Paisano is becoming a semi regular Sunday brunch spot. This is their second family owned/operated restaurant in the Reno area. Everything is freshly prepared so a wait of 1/2 hour+ can be expected. Their breakfast chorizo burrito will hold a person for a half dozen hours or so, adding some fresh pico de gallo and cabbage along side and you're good for way past supper. The same pretty much goes for their Huevos Rancheros and cabbage and eggs makes an interesting mix. *Tom Hudson*

Went to see the Il Divo show at the Grand Sierra Resort. The four tenors put on a wonderful show of love and passion. Thank you Nevada PVA. *Roger Dauffenbach*

Went to see Deep Water Horizon which was about the huge oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. I followed the news reports about this oil spill and thought I knew what actually happened but, I discovered that the news didn't cover what really happened.

I also went to dinner with a friend at Jokers Wild. The food was really good and the service was great. *William Frankell*

Members, if you would like to know how to enjoy doing the things your fellow veterans are out doing, give us a call and ask about the Step Outside Program, 702/646-0040

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 17	Annual Christmas Party & Toys for Tots Drive at Howard Leiburn Senior Center
December 21	Reno Area Christmas Party
January 21-22	Wheelchair Basketball
January 27-28	Boccia Ball Clinic & Tournament
March TBD	Street Dance Festival
May TBD	Bar Bash
June TBD	European Festival

Boccia Ball Clinic and Tournament

January 27-28, 2017

Friday, January 27 Clinic 12 Noon—4 pm

Saturday, January Tournament 10 am-4 pm

Location : East Las Vegas Community Center

250 N. Eastern

Everyone is welcome.

Lunch will be served both days.

Please RSVP to Nevada PVA @ 702/646--0040

Special Monthly Compensation: What is it, and do I qualify?

By Ian Kenner, National Service Officer

When it comes to filing claims, most Veterans have one half of the information needed, but not the whole scope of the story. Special Monthly Compensation (also known as Aid and Attendance) is a hot topic which is constantly asked at hospitals that I work with. The social workers are not sure in a lot of cases – I've worked constantly with the Reno VA Medical Center social workers to try and provide training which might alleviate some of the quandaries they come into – so these are some of the tidbits I give them to assist:

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

For aid and attendance for service-connected Veterans: First and foremost, you have to be service connected for a condition which warrants extra monetary benefits. Although you can get up to \$8,481.02/monthly with this benefit, I can assure you no one wants to be in the condition required to meet the expectation.

This benefit is available to Veterans with a service connected loss of use of: bowel, bladder, arms, and/or legs (this is a general scope, there are exceptions to every rule). For instance, if you only have post-traumatic stress disorder, you most likely will not get aid and attendance. This needs to be a benefit where you need assistance doing such day to day items: performing hygiene, dressing oneself, being a fall risk, needing assistance with the wants of nature. Keep this in mind when looking to see if you would qualify. If you are unsure reach out to your local service officer or accredited secretary and see if this benefit applies to you. And, as previously mentioned, this condition has to be service connected. No exception to the rule. Contact your service officer and/or accredited secretary if you meet this criteria, and the proper forms needed and the process will be explained either via phone or email. It's too lengthy a topic for this article.

Non-Service Connected Pension Aid and Attendance: These claims are much easier to grant with the aid and attendance piece, as I have had Veterans with memory loss get aid and attendance. But remember: non service connected pensions seem easy in nature, but they are much more complex sometimes versus a service connected claim. To complete a VA Form 21P-527EZ, 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, if you served from 1983 to 1984 and had an honorable discharge, you most likely will not get a non-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 versus the service connected pension, which is based off of entitlement due to injuries occurred in service.

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.

NATIONAL CRISIS HOTLINE
1/800-273-8255
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.

Membership—175



December

Shane Irwin	04	David Perelman	11	Carol (CeCe) Davy	24
Richard Chadwell	04	Steven Simmons	15	Stacy McMahon	25
Bob Calderon	06	Joseph Deucher	18	Jan P. Thomas	25
John Kennedy	09	Kenneth Sandoval	21	Lawrence Cook	26
Tom Hudson	10	Carrie Mecherle	22	Lillian Curtis	27
		John King	22	Ina Edwards	30

January

Jane Kaiser	02	Sharon Lane	17	Samuel Whitt	22
Mervyn Kaya	02	Robert Phelps	18	Lauretta Graham	24
Julie Johnson	04	Paul Winter	18	David Meiklejohn	25
Rhoda Mills	07	Robert Grant, Jr.	18	Jody Rodarmel	27
Louis Rocco	08	Jeffrey Grech	18	Derek Curtis	28
Tx P.D. Vogler	08	Lola Smith	19	David Gray	28
Norman Woods	13	Robert Nolan	19	Francisco Novero	30
Joseph Cypher	14	Jose Delgado	20	Raymond Henry	30
Ali Jahanfard	15				



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Thank You!

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Thank you for your generous grant for our Adopt-A-Vet Program

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Smith's

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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.

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USAA

Walmart Foundation



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



Connect With What Matters



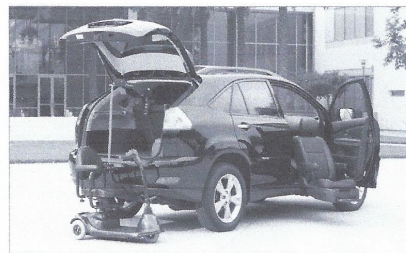
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Recently the Better Life Mobility team joined forces with MobilityWorks so that we could provide our veterans with the largest selection of mobility solutions that best fit their physical capabilities and lifestyle. Veterans have unique needs, so we 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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