



# Paralyzed Veterans of America

## Nevada Chapter

### Goodbye Old Friend

It is with regret that we say goodbye to our friend and long time supporter, Russell “Rusty” Mosthaf. Rusty passed away in March of this year. He was born in Western Pennsylvania, met his wife Val in Ogden, Utah, migrated to California, finally settling in Las Vegas.

Rusty worked for Nevada PVA almost from its inception and stayed with the organization for 3 1/2 years. He would do anything that was asked of him from custodial duties, building maintenance and eventually becoming our primary fundraiser and continued to do anything else may need.

He was always upbeat and had a positive attitude which was infectious to all. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone.

Rusty will be missed by his wife, children, numerous grandchildren and all of us who knew and worked with him. Rest in Peace dear friend.

1951-2017.



**Paralyzed Veterans of Nevada, Nevada Chapter**

**[www.nevadapva.org](http://www.nevadapva.org)**

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702/646-0040 fax: 702/646-3712 866/638-3837

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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*



Summer is here, keep hydrated and stay out of the heat

All of our events for Public Awareness Month were successful. Our Annual 5K Walk, Run and Roll was a success. A huge thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers and participants. We had the Corrections Academy supporting our run once again.

We would like to thank Mobility Works for having us at their Disability Expo, they had a great turnout.

We are looking forward to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and we are hoping to bring home some gold again this year.

A huge thanks to Boulder City High School's We R Community Grant committee for helping us enhance the lives of our veterans at the Nevada State Veterans Home.

**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.

### **Follow us on**

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#### **YouTube:**

[www.youtube.com/PVANevada](http://www.youtube.com/PVANevada)







## Sports Report

by Marc Fenn, Sports Director

Our annual 5K Walk, Run and Roll was a big success. Once again the Corrections Academy joined us and we want to thank them for our support. The overall male winner was Colin Hawkes from Washington and overall female winner was Kristin Wise from Michigan; congratulations to them and to all of our winners.

We will be participating in a wheelchair basketball fundraiser, if you would like to play or just come out to support our chapter we would really appreciate it. Details on the next page:





**Paralyzed Veterans  
of America**

**Nevada Chapter**

**Charity Wheelchair Basketball Game  
VS  
the Nationally Ranked Las Vegas Yuccas Basketball Team**



**Saturday, June 17th - Practice starts at 9am, Game from 10am-12pm, BBQ from 12pm-1pm**

**Location - Chaparral High School 3850 Annie Oakley, Las Vegas, NV 89121**

**In the Basketball Gym**

**With Colorguard, Referees, Announcer**

**To play - \$50 donation (Includes All-you-can-eat BBQ)**

**All-you-can-eat BBQ - \$25 donation (kids under 12-years old are \$10)**

*Hosted by the Gentleman's League*



Even when you make the biggest mistake of your life, something good will come out of it.

## Step Outside Program

Siu Korean BBQ is a new place in Sparks and somewhat well hidden but well worth the effort to find. The restaurant houses a Chinese and Korean side, so the Korean side won out easily. The Reno News & Review had a write up the month prior and it didn't really do it justice. Everything on the Korean side is all you can eat within a two hour timeframe. My wife did the Brisket Bulgogi and Tri-tip Bulgogi. I did the Lemon Grass Pork accompanied by Soy Shrimp & Octopus. Everything was great!

Having been the better part of a decade since I had been out to Fernley, we thought we would check out the Denny's. The Bacon Onion Burger and Bourbon Bacon Burgers were devoured within minutes of their arrival. Thanks to Nevada PVA for making these outings possible. *Tom Hudson*

Dined out with friends and family twice. Had enjoyable food and conversation at the Outback Steakhouse and Amlee Chinese Restaurant. Thank you for such a wonderful program. *Dan Kaminski*

## 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.

We sleep safely at night because rough men stand ready to visit violence on those who would harm us.  
*Winston S. Churchill*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8	Corrections Academy Graduation
June 17	Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
July 17-22	National Veterans Wheelchair Games

## Veterans Transportation Service (VTS)

Membership—173

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.

## The National Work Queue: What is it, and how does it affect you and your claims?

*By Ian Kenner, National Service Officer*

When it comes to filing claims, most Veterans think that claims go right to their state's regional office, and it stays there until completed. In the past, this was indeed the case.

However, as of spring of 2016, this is no longer the case due to the National Work Queue, or NWQ for short being implemented. Unless a Veteran works directly for the VA benefits side of the house, the claim can be worked anywhere in the United States, as well as regional offices outside of the United States to include Manila, Philippines, for example.

Think of it like this: Your claim is worked by a service officer or accredited secretary, which is then submitted to Janesville, WI to be input into the NWQ system. Your claim is then cested into what is known as the "portal". From that point, the claim can be worked anywhere as previously mentioned. This includes military sexual trauma claims (MST) and even amyotrophic lateral sclerosis claims (ALS), which used to stay on the station of jurisdiction, which for Nevada, would be Reno. I have seen claims transfer stations as much as three to four times in a single day!

How can this possibly be tracked, and how does your claim keep from falling into the proverbial "cracks"? For your claim to be a success, this takes due diligence from the service officer to monitor the claims regularly, if not daily. My office spends multiple hours a day correcting poor rating decisions, ensuring Veterans are notified of their exams, making sure paperwork is processed that is needed, and constantly following up with regional offices to make sure our Veterans' claims are accurately rated in a timely manner.

How this NWQ affects our Veterans is not only in that regard, but also in the fact this takes time from being able to communicate with our Veterans immediately. We definitely care about our Veterans, and try to respond as much as possible in the most timely and efficient manner.

We thank our Veterans for continuing to have patience with us while trying to find resolution in a system that is within its first year of active processing. There is no finite timeline which the claims are processed at this point – some claims can go as fast as a month or two, some take four to six months. It's a battle of patience for not only the service officer, but our Veterans. Always know we will do our best to work with each and every one of our Veterans in the most timely, proactive, and professional way possible.

# Elections

It's once again time to start thinking about elections. We are approaching the time for electing a new President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five (5) members of the Board of Directors for our chapter.

Please get involved and run for office. If you would like to run, please submit your biography to our office, along with a letter of intent advising us of which position you are interested in running for. We will be publishing biographies of all members interested in running for office in our October/November newsletter. Bio's will be due **no later than** September 1, 2017. Ballots will be sent out in December and due back to our office **no later than** January 10th, 2018.



## **Congress Passes Choice Program Extension**

With the Choice program set to expire on August 7, 2017, Congress recently passed a law eliminating the mandatory expiration date for the program, allowing it to continue to deliver health care services to veterans in the community and use up the remaining funds in the program. Without the extension, the projected remaining funds would be returned to the Treasury. This extension now provides extra time for Congress to address the shortfalls of the current program and move toward a wider and more permanent health care reform in VA. The bill now awaits the President's signature.

## **The "Social Security 2100 Act" Reintroduced**

On April 5, 2017, PVA Senior Associate Advocacy Director Susan Prokop joined Members of Congress, disability advocates and representatives of the aging community at a Capitol Hill roll out of H.R. 1920, the "Social Security 2100 Act," introduced by Rep. John Larson (D-CT). Rep. Larson is Ranking Minority Member on the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee. Citing polling data that shows 72 percent of Americans believe that Social Security benefits should be increased, not cut, Rep. Larson described provisions in his bill favored by 7 out of 10 Americans. Among those provisions are:

**Adoption of the CPI-E for inflation increases:** Using the CPI-E for the annual Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA) would better reflect the costs incurred by seniors and people with disabilities who spend a greater portion of their income on health care, utilities and other necessities.

- ◆ **Protections for low income workers:** To ensure that low income working people who paid into the system over a lifetime don't retire into poverty, the bill establishes a new minimum benefit set at 25 percent above the poverty line.
- ◆ **Adjustments in the payroll tax wage base to help finance the system:** Presently, payroll taxes are not collected on annual wages over \$127,000. H.R. 1902 would apply the payroll tax to wages above \$400,000 which would affect the top 0.4 percent of wage earners.
- ◆ **A gradual increase over 20 years in the payroll contribution rate to keep the system solvent:** Beginning in 2018, FICA taxes would rise 0.05 percent annually so that workers and employers would pay an additional 1.2 percent by 2041. For the average worker this would mean paying an additional 50 cents per week to ensure the system's longevity.

In addition, HR 1902 would provide a modest increase in benefits for all beneficiaries equivalent to 2 percent of the average benefit, cut taxes for upper income beneficiaries by raising the thresholds at which benefits are taxed to \$50,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for couples and combine the old age and survivors and disability insurance trust funds to foreclose future arguments over the disability insurance program by eliminating the artificial separation of the trust funds.

PVA supports H.R. 1902 because of its more realistic cost-of-living-adjustment for beneficiaries, enhanced protections for low income workers, and long overdue adjustments in the financing mechanisms for the system. Indeed, an independent analysis by the Social Security Administration's Chief Actuary indicates that this legislation will extend the financial health of the system beyond the next 75 years. PVA believes this legislation demonstrates that preserving and strengthening Social Security can be done without causing harm to beneficiaries.

NATIONAL CRISIS HOTLINE

1/800-273-8255

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## June

Jim Wiseman	02	Tina Lemus	13	Michael P. Roy	23
Reynaldo Diaz	04	Wilfred Friedman	17	Albert Thurman	27
Walter Olevsky	06	Wayne Litzinger	17	Roger Long	28
Chuck McDivett	07	William Burlew	19		

## July

Patricia Lechuga	03	Mary Cunningham-Irwin	16	Bill L. Sharkey	24
William Taylor, Sr.	05	Ashley Varndell	18	Yokiko Kowlton	24
Anthony Del Fante	10	Roy A. Warren	19	Richard Squires	26
Dennis Geil	11	Raymond J. Pumel	19	John Schaefer	26
Ronald Castro	11	James W. Dickson	21	Larry Rogers	28
Linville E. Hinch	16	Mariza A. Shaffa	22	Craig Shaw	29
L.E. Curtis	16	James W. Leibberger	24		



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# Thank You!

## Donor Spotlight

### Bank of America

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

#### Donor List

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Smith's

**Help support veterans  
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Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

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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](http://www.nevadapva.org) or call 702-646-0040.

# **Community Partners**

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**City of Las Vegas Parks and Recreation**

**Easter Seals**

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**Heaven Can Wait Animal Society**

**Help Genesis Apartments**

**Mobility Works**

**Paralympic Sports Club**

**Sam's Club**

**Security National Mortgage**

**Smith's**

**The Grand Canyon Tour Company**

**The NV Energy Foundation**

**United Health Group**

**United Way of Southern Nevada**

**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

	<b>Northeast Primary Care Clinic</b> 4461 East Charleston Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89104	<b>702-791-9050</b>
	<b>Northwest Primary Care Clinic</b> 3968 North Rancho Drive North Las Vegas, NV 89130	<b>702-791-9020</b>
	<b>Pahrump Community Based Outpatient Clinic</b> 2100 East Calvada Boulevard Pahrump, NV 89048	<b>775-727-7535</b>
	<b>Southeast Primary Care Clinic</b> 1020 South Boulder Highway Henderson, NV 89015	<b>702-791-9030</b>
	<b>Southwest Primary Care Clinic</b> 7235 South Buffalo Drive Las Vegas, NV 89113	<b>702-791-9040</b>
	<b>Community Resource and Referral Center</b> 926 West Owens Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89106	<b>702-791-9077</b>
	<b>Mike O'Callaghan Federal Medical Center</b> 4700 North Las Vegas Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89115	<b>702-653-2227</b>
		<b>EMERGENCY CARE ONLY</b>
	<b>Psychosocial Rehab Recovery Center</b> 3525 W. Cheyenne Avenue North Las Vegas, NV 89032	<b>702-791-9060</b>
	<b>Vet Center - Las Vegas</b> 1919 South Jones Boulevard, Suite A Las Vegas, NV 89146	<b>702-251-7873</b>
	<b>Vet Center - Henderson</b> 400 North Stephanie Street, Suite 180 Henderson, NV 89014	<b>702-791-9100</b>
	<b>Women's Health Center</b> <b>Temporarily at Northeast PCC</b> 4461 East Charleston Boulevard Las Vegas, NV 89104	<b>702-791-9050</b>





# Connect With What Matters



## Being there makes a difference

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.

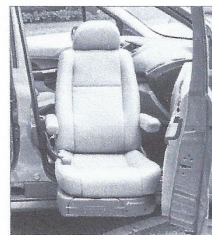
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