



Nevada Chapter

November/December 2021
Volume 1 Issue 6

The Election Issue

Ballots will be mailed out in December and due in January, please make sure you fill out your ballot and return it. Please vote, all votes count.

Nevada PVA wishes everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving



A very Merry Christmas



And a Happy New Year



We are excited to see what the new years brings us. We look forward to being out and about and sponsoring more events for our members. Wishing everyone a very joyous and prosperous New Year.

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Nevada Chapter

www.nevadapva.org

704 S. Jones Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107
702/646-0040 fax: 702/646-3712 866/638-3837

Nevada PVA Officers

Dan Kaminski, President
Mike Romanowski, Vice President
Dominic Cirino, Treasurer
Lawrence Brown, Secretary

Sports Director

Mike Romanowski
L.E. Curtis, Bowling Director

Legislative/Advocacy Directors

Roger Dauffenbach
Lawrence Brown

Board of Directors

Roger Dauffenbach
Tom Hudson
William Burns
Marc Fenn
L.E. Curtis

National Director

Dan Kaminski

Hospital Liaison

Dan Kaminski

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Executive Director

Julie Johnson

Office Manager

Ann Perelman

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/Executive Director Report

by Dan Kaminski and Julie Johnson



It was great seeing everyone in person at our Annual Banquet. We recognized the VA staff and volunteers.

We presented awards to the following:

Foundation of the Year
The MGM Resorts Foundation
Lifetime Achievement Award
Barbara Chambers
Volunteer Group of the Year
The Palio Crew

Volunteer of the Year
Steve Custer
Greg Weeks
Community Supporter of the Year
Elks Lodge #1468
Infinity Award
Jeanette Miller

Dan attended the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in NYC. He was the only representative from our chapter. We hope to see more members attending next year in Arizona.

The Paralympic kids are back at their sports activity nights. We sponsored their pizza party and hot dog party.

NV Energy is putting together 1,000 hygiene kits and the Elks Lodge #1468 is storing them for us. We love when our community works together to support veterans.

We are staying busy in our new normal but taking precautions. The Wellness Group is meeting via Zoom on Monday's. If you would like to join this group, let us know. In November we will be going on a group outing at zero cost to participants.

The Veterans Day Parade is coming up and we would love for you to participate with us and join us afterwards for lunch. Call the office for details and place and time to meet.

We wish the Nevada PVA bowling team all the luck at the December AWBA National Championships.

On December 11th we will be holding our annual Holiday Party and we hope you can all come out for a great holiday lunch. The party will be held at the Howard Lieburn Senior Center, 6230 Garwood Ave. from 12-2 pm. Please RSVP to 702/646-0040.

Finally, National Director, Dan Kaminski attended the Fall Boards in Orlando, FL. They took care of housekeeping issues and they reviewed/updated policy and procedures. They also voted to come up with a new ad campaign and approved the new logo. The next meeting will be in May 2022 in Atlanta, GA.

Hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Next year we will begin publishing our newsletter on a quarterly basis rather than bi-monthly.

New Resources for Air Travel on PVA.org

Check out pva.org/airtravel to see new resources for air travel passengers with disabilities, including new [complaint](#) and [travel tip](#) sheets and an animated video showing the barriers wheelchair users commonly encounter.

Recently, PVA participated in a roundtable conversation with several of its veterans service organization (VSO) partners and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT) to discuss ways Congress can best meet the evolving needs of veterans and their families. Much of the discussion centered on supporting veterans amid the ongoing pandemic, curbing veteran homelessness, providing benefits to veterans suffering from conditions related to hazardous exposures during military service, and delivering critically needed mental health services. Several participants, including PVA, urged the Chairman's support of bills that would automatically re-enroll eligible veterans in VA's clothing reimbursement program, allow adult children to remain under the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) until age 26, and increase mammography accessibility for paralyzed and disabled veterans.

PVA's National Legislation Director Morgan Brown urged Chairman Tester to support S. 444, the "AUTO for Veterans Act," which would grant eligible veterans a second auto allowance giving them access to reliable, safe transportation and allowing them to take advantage of innovative automobile design and mobility equipment advancements. Mr. Brown also expressed PVA's concern with the extremely limited availability of home and community-based services through VA, including the urgent need to expand the Veteran Directed Care program to all of VA's medical centers. Morgan also identified some of the difficulties PVA members have in finding suitable workers to provide home health services and recommended that VA be properly resourced to administer its own programs to incentivize direct care workers for veterans.

VA Offers Debt Assistance to Veterans Affected by Natural Disasters

VA's Debt Management Center (DMC) can provide temporary financial relief for veterans unable to make payments towards their VA benefit debt because of a natural disaster. The relief window for each disaster may vary and assistance must be requested by the veteran. VA's DMC is currently offering temporary financial relief from collection on VA benefit debt due to hardships related to Hurricane Ida and the California Wildfires. The relief window is from September 1, 2021, through November 30, 2021. If veterans impacted by a natural disaster have a VA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief from collection, they can contact VA Debt Management Center [online](#) or call 1-800-827-0648.

ELECTION BIO'S

Dan Kaminski

Running for: **President**

I am a founding member of this chapter, which was established in 1999.

Committed and dependable President of Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America. Have developed excellent skills in management, event planning, fundraising, investing and time management. I am a quick learner and very motivated. I have excellent leadership/team management skills which allow me to ensure the growth and chapter awareness in the community needed for leading a non-profit organization.

As President and Board Member I have performed the following duties:

Oversee all programs including but not limited to, fundraising, adaptive sports, membership, administration, communication and hospital liaison.

Attend member activities such as Wellness Group, sporting events, fundraising events, community outreach events, etc.

Maintain an open and active communication between our chapter and other service organizations.

Maintain open and active communication between the chapter and our Congressional Representatives by attending roundtable discussions, town halls and other events they sponsor.

Give direction for event planning such as annual membership meeting, 5K fundraiser, fishing outing and monthly board of directors meeting.

Mike Romanowski

Running for: **Vice President**

I was born and raised in Detroit, MI. I then enlisted and served in the United States Air Force as a Security Policeman from 1994-1998. I was stationed for three years at Kadena AB in Okinawa, Japan and spent one year at Hanscom AFB in Lexington, MA. I was honorably discharged in 1998 as a Senior Airman and then became a police officer in Michigan. After I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, I went to work at FedEx as a Logistics Analyst. While at FedEx, I went to Northwood University in Midland, MI, where I earned both my Bachelors in Business Administration (BBA) and then finished my college matriculation with my MBA.

I have worked since 2018 as a Training Officer at the Mob Museum in Las Vegas. I joined the Nevada PVA Board of Directors in 2019 and currently serve as Vice President and Sports Director.

Dominic Cirino

Running for: **Treasurer**

I was born in Detroit and raised in the city and enlisted in the Air Force in June of 1967. I was a Morse Intercept Operator and cross trained as a Cryptographer.

I was honorably discharged in 1971. Got married in 1972 to my wife Judy and had two children. Graduated from the University of Michigan and was regional manager for a courier company. We moved to Las Vegas in 2005.

I am currently retired and my wife and I volunteer at the VA Hospital.

Lawrence Brown

Running for: **Secretary**

I served in the Armed Forces in the Vietnam War. I'm a T3 spinal cord vet. I've been a spinal cord patient for 40 years. I've been a life member of PVA since 1982. Worked with the Texas PVA chapter for five years before I moved to Las Vegas, I was one of the founding members of the Nevada Chapter. I have degrees in Mid Management, Finance Management, Human Relations and PRN. I look forward to working with the board members as well as with the President and Vice President.

Bill Burns

Running for: **Director**

I have been married to my wife Regine for 37 years and we have three grown children. We have lived in Las Vegas for just over six years. I grew up in North Alabama.

I have been a lifetime member of PVA since my injury in 1988. Prior to becoming a member of the Nevada Chapter, I was a member of the Mid-South PVA located in Memphis, TN. I served in the Army from 1977 until my permanent medical retirement in 1990.

While serving in the Army, I attained the rank of Staff Sergeant 11B30H. As an infantryman, I served as a rifleman, M60 gunner, team leader and squad leader. I also served as a Basic Training Instructor at Ft. Bliss, TX.

My last assignment was as Squad Leader with the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. While there we were deployed to Australia where I suffered a T-11 complete spinal cord injury while on maneuvers. I was evacuated back to Hawaii while my medical retirement paperwork was started. I started my transition to the Spinal Cord Injury Center in Memphis, TN

Post military career, I moved back to Huntsville, AL where my wife and I owned a small business for many years. I served on the local youth baseball board that served almost 1,000 children. I also volunteered with the Tennessee Valley Council of Boy Scouts of America as the Advancement Chairman. I was also selected by my adult peers to be inducted in the BSA Order of the Arrow.

If selected to join the board, I hope to use my past experiences to keep the Nevada Chapter as a premier chapter with National PVA.

L.E. Curtis

Running for: **Director**

I served in the US Navy during the early stages of the Vietnam War. I was honorably discharged in 1968 as an HM2, hospital corpsman 2nd class. I studied at San Diego State University where I earned a BS in Health Science and at San Jose State University where I earned a Masters in Public Health.

From 1985-2003 I served the Bay Area and Western PVA chapter as a member of the board of directors, sports director and filled in as secretary/treasurer.

Roger Dauffenbach

Running for: **Director**

I have a cervical injury C-3 and an ambulatory member of the Nevada PVA, Reno District. My Marine Corps career was December 3, 1963-December 1969. I was discharged from the Reserves with a rank of E4. In my past life I worked at the Palo Alto VA Hospital as a contract Perfusionist, running the heart lung machine during open heart surgery for 26 years.

After retirement I started a bank courier service for NV Security Bank in Reno. After five years, the bank decided it no longer needed my services and laid me off in March 2007. While working for the bank I took on a partner to start an engine install business for super performance cars. In August 2006, I turned the business over to my partner.

I have been on the Board of Nevada PVA for several years now and a few years ago I was appointed the Advocacy/Legislative Director. In this capacity, I travel to Capitol Hill annually to meet with Nevada representatives on issues of importance to veterans and specifically members of PVA. I also attend legislative sessions in Carson City when the legislation meets.

Marc Fenn

Running for: **Director**

US Army 1988-90 Infantry Airborne. Paraplegic since 1990. Former two time Paralympic athlete in track & field in 1996/2000. Silver medalist in discus-national record. Hall of Fame inductee 2019. Lifetime member of PVA and associated with Nevada PVA since 1999. Promoting sports and adapted recreation since 1990.

Motivational speaker/peer counselor/mentor/Ambassador for adapted recreation with the PVA and local communities.

Tom Hudson

Running for Director

My met goals to date since doing so are: expansion of the Nevada PVA definitions in the Entertainment Reimbursement Program to include all meal venues & times without them having to be part of a larger outing; getting a number of Northern NV businesses to give PVA members discounted services; insuring that these businesses receive regular recognition; worked with Ann to get a portion of the website made Reno area specific and constantly updated; continue to act as a liaison with Reno Recreation to get word of local outdoor activities to our members; and have working relationships with Northern CA Disabled Sports organizations so that other venues are reported timely so that travel, meals and accommodations can be secured by Nevada PVA members.

As a paralegal, I have done legal research on legislative issues for the parties that are proposing legislation, and also for concerned effected users of various legislative proposals. The areas of assistance also include the Fair Housing Act issues, PTSD discrimination research, agency age exclusion issues, and Veteran's Rights. I promote Nevada PVA's existence as much as possible and am asking for *your vote* to return to the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration and votes.

Harley Davidson Fundraiser



Paralympic Kids Pizza Party



General Membership Meeting



Pictures from our three-day event in Reno.





November

<i>Anthony Cherry</i>	<i>06</i>
<i>Kenneth Harrop</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Jaime (Jay) Segarra</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>James Oliver</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Robert McFalls</i>	<i>03</i>
<i>Wade Reckinger</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Frank Kennemur</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Robert Hudson</i>	<i>02</i>
<i>Raymond Daigle</i>	<i>02</i>
<i>Patricia Meints</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>John Simmons</i>	<i>07</i>
<i>Roy Kekahuna</i>	<i>07</i>
<i>Joseph Blicharz</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Vic Skaar</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Gary Odorowski</i>	<i>05</i>
<i>Ann Perelman</i>	<i>03</i>
<i>Jeffrey Alcorn</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Lawrence Cabrera</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Michael Perelman</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Vicki Halloran</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Greg Hughes</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Bryan Bedoy</i>	<i>06</i>
<i>Linda Bennett</i>	<i>25</i>

December

<i>Shane Irwin</i>	<i>04</i>
<i>Donald McCrory</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Ina Edwards</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Lawrence Cook</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Robert Frederick</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Tom Hudson</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>John King</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Ina Edwards</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Stacy McMahon</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>John Kennedy</i>	<i>09</i>
<i>Kenneth Sandoval</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Robert Stilz</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Steven Simmons</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Judy Cirino</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Rona Mae Fenn</i>	<i>14</i>

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Donors through Benevity
Causecast
The Engelstad Family Foundation
Elks Lodge #1468
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JP Morgan Chase & Co.
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MGM Resorts Foundation
Network for Good
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The Patriot Law Firm
Race 2 Erase 22
The Raiders Foundation
Silver State Refrigeration & HVAC
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Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.

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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Resources related to Afghanistan

Veterans who served in Afghanistan may be experiencing a range of challenging emotions related to the U.S. withdrawal from the country and the events unfolding now. Veterans who served during other conflicts may also be feeling strong emotions as they may be reminded of their own deployment experiences.

Here is a list of available resources, call center information, peer support, and other community services:

NVDS - [Local Vet Center groups](#)

Vet Centers – *Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. 70% of Vet Center staff are Veterans. Call [1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387)*

Veterans Crisis Line – *If you are having thoughts of suicide, call [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255), then PRESS 1 or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>*

For emergency mental health care, you can also go directly to [your local VA medical center](#) 24/7 regardless of your discharge status or enrollment in other VA health care.

VA Women Veterans Call Center – Call or text [1-855-829-6636](tel:1-855-829-6636) (M-F 8AM – 10PM & SAT 8AM – 6:30PM ET)

VA Caregiver Support Line – Call [1-855-260-3274](tel:1-855-260-3274) (M-F 8AM – 10PM & SAT 8AM – 5PM ET)

Download VA's self-help apps – Tools to help deal with common reactions like, stress, sadness, and anxiety. You can also track your symptoms over time.

VA Mental Health Services Guide – *This guide will help you sign up and access mental health services.*

MakeTheConnection.net – *information, resources, and Veteran to Veteran videos for challenging life events and experiences with mental health issues.*

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) – [Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors \(TAPS\) Is Here For You!](#) or call [800-959-TAPS](tel:800-959-TAPS) (8277)

If you are struggling, the worst thing you can do is nothing. Don't be afraid to lean on your Veteran community and please consider reaching out to VA if you would like to learn more about what is available.



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

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.



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[rewalk.com/contact](https://www.rewalk.com/contact) or
508.251.1154 option 2**

* Chun A, et al. Changes in bowel function following exoskeleton-assisted walking in persons with spinal cord injury: an observational pilot study. *Spinal Cord*. 2020;58(4):459-469.

Nevada Paralyzed Veterans of America
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