

September/October 2019
Volume 1 Issue 4



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Nevada Chapter



Recently NV Energy employees came out to help us put together 100 grocery and hygiene bags for our Adopt-A-Vet Program. They also restocked our pantry when they were finished and helped clean up. They were truly awesome. Thank you so much for your help and support of our chapter and our Adopt-A-Vet Program.

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



Our hearts are with our Vice President, Lester Wood, his wife Laverne and their family for their loss of their beloved son Christopher. Christopher was a big volunteer for our chapter, always there when we asked anything of him. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Wood family.

We will be at Rancho High School on September 18th to sponsor the dinner for their Paralympic Kids at their sports activity night.

The Veterans Service Fair is October 9th at Dula Gym, 441 East Bonanza Ave, 9am-2pm. If you or any veteran you know needs help with housing, medical, benefits, haircuts, clothing, hygiene kits, dental screening, help with warrants and many, many more services please come to the Veterans Service Fair. We are looking forward to helping more veteran's transition into a stable home life.

Start training for our annual 5K Walk, Run & Roll which will be held on April 18, 2020.

We sent a KT Therapist, SCI doctors and nurses to the PVA summit for ongoing CEU's in Orlando, FL.

The elections are coming up and I look forward to serving you for two more years.

We attended the annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Louisville, KY. As always, we had a good time. We got to see old friends and make some new ones.

Finally, Patti Matysiak, our Accredited Secretary at the hospital who handled benefits, resigned. She will be missed by all of us who she helped and all of her volunteer work for the chapter. We wish her well on her new journey.

Summer is ending and we hope everyone enjoyed it and stayed hydrated. We are getting ready for our fall and winter events. We are still looking for a place to hold air gun clinics/tournaments.

Upcoming Events

September 18	Paralympic Kids, Rancho H.S.
September 19	Pizza Party @ State Veterans Home
October 9	Veterans Service Fair
October 12	Disability Awareness Day
October 24th	Pizza Party @ State Veterans Home
November 8	Toys for Tots Golf Tournament
November 11	Veterans Day
December 5-8	Nevada PVA Bowling Tournament
December 18	Paralympic Kids Christmas Dinner
December 21	Nevada PVA Christmas Party

Elections

2nd Call for Bio's

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. You can make a difference in what your chapter accomplishes by being on the board and making your voice heard.

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 November/December newsletter. Bio's will be due **no later than** October 1, 2019. Ballots will be sent out in December and due back to our office **no later than** January 10th, 2020.

Advocacy/Legislation Report

SENATE BILL TO IMPROVE VA CAREGIVER PROGRAM INTRODUCED

S. 2216, the Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for (TEAM) Veteran Caregivers Act, seeks to improve the current program by:

- **Ensuring all caregivers are included in veterans' medical records.** Currently, only certain caregivers participating in the Caregiver Support Program are included in veterans' medical records. Annotating all caregivers in medical records strengthens communication between VA and caregivers and recognizes them as an important part of the clinical team.
- **Establishing a minimum standard of information in downgrade notification letters.** S. 2216 requires VA to provide additional context and explanation leading to downgrade or termination decisions. Caregivers have reported that their decision letters are sometimes missing important information that would be necessary to file an appeal
- **Extending benefits for at least 90 days after a termination letter is sent for cases where a veteran is deemed "no longer clinically eligible" for the program.** Caregivers have reported being dropped within a couple weeks of receiving a termination letter and have no time to appeal or make new accommodations. This provision provides the veteran and their caregiver a "safety parachute" and codifies the VA's goals of maintaining care.

Since the inception of VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, PVA has worked to ensure that the program meets the needs of service-connected catastrophically injured veterans. As VA prepares to roll-out the expansion of the program to veterans of all eras, this bill will help ensure that adequate controls are in place to govern what VA must consider before downgrading or terminating a veteran's participation in the program. PVA applauds introduction of this important measure and is working to ensure its swift passage.

Advocacy/Legislation Report—continued

STATUS OF BLUE WATER NAVY CLAIMS

In response to the passage of H.R. 299, VA imposed a stay on all Blue Water Navy (BWN) cases until January 1, 2020. Until that time, VA will not develop or adjudicate any claims for benefits by BWN veterans.

Multiple veteran service organizations (VSOs), including PVA, signed a letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie asking him to lift the stay and quickly adjudicate the claims for the veterans who have been waiting so long for their benefits; however, even with such strong opposition, VA has indicated that it has no intent to lift the stay and will proceed with adjudicating claims beginning in 2020.

During the stay, VA is implementing tools and processes to assist with the adjudication of BWN claims to include: revising policy letters for the Office of General Counsel, drafting new procedures for Regional Offices, and changing regulations to adapt to the new law. VA is also in the process of scanning deck logs to determine the location of all the ships considered to be in Blue Water areas which should conclude by the end of November. There will also be a ship locator tool for Rating Specialists to assist with properly developing veteran's claims. VA has assured VSO representatives that they will have all the tools necessary to assist veterans with the development of their claims for benefits to include copies of the deck logs and the location tool. In addition, VA is developing a communications plan, to include outreach letters to be sent to all affected veterans.

Sports News

National Veterans Wheelchair Games. This year we had a very small team due to illnesses and other issues however we gave it our best shot and came away with the following medals: Dan Kaminski won Gold in both Motorized Rally and Table Tennis and a Silver in Slalom.



NSO Report
by Jason McDonald



I would like to say hello and introduce myself to all the members of the Nevada Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. I will be taking over the responsibilities as the National Service Officer in our Reno Field Office beginning on September 3, 2019. I have worked with Paralyzed Veterans of America since January 2016 out of our Sacramento Field Office. I have sincerely enjoyed my job serving the Veterans of our community in Northern California and I look forward to serving all of you in the Nevada and surrounding region.

A little bit about myself. I was born in Plattsburgh, New York but grew up in Champlain, New York until graduating High School at the age of 17. Upon graduating High School I joined the Army in 1992 as a Non-Morse Signals Analyst. I ended up making a career out of the Army and served for over 21 years, retiring in 2013. During my career I served in many key rolls such as Platoon Sergeant, Drill Sergeant, First Sergeant and Battalion S3 Command Sergeant Major to name a few. I am a Knowlton Award recipient, an award given for significantly contributing to the promotion of Army Military Intelligence.

Step Outside Program

We were dealing with the heat here so a trip to Taste of India seemed to be in order. We ate their Chicken Tikka Masala, a dish of chunks of roasted marinated chicken in a spiced curry sauce, Vegetable Samosa, a crisp turnover filled with mildly spiced potatoes and peas deep fried accompanied by Tamarind Sauce. We also had Baingan Bharta, fired roasted eggplant massed and cooked with spices, Kadai Paneer cooked in a spicy gravy made of onions and tomatoes, capsicum and tradition Indian spices. We rounded out the meal with Masala Tea and Mango Lassi, an Indian mango and yogurt smoothie.

Havalli Indian Cuisine. The buffet was excellent as always but the star of the day was Sugar Cane Water courtesy of their new press. This is a Southeast Asia universal drink made from pressing sugar cane, mixing some water, fresh mint and lemon juice. The drink is not really sweet, but is refreshing and the first time we had it. Thank you to the grantors for making outings like this happen. *Tom Hudson*

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

NV Energy employees putting together grocery and hygiene bags.



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SAVE THE DATES
Nevada PVA Bowling Tournament

December 5-8, 2019
Sunset Station Bowling Venue



Up/Down Bowl on Friday, December 6th

9 Pin No Tap

This special event is for all levels

- ♦ Prizes
- ♦ Raffle
- ♦ 50/50 Tickets

Nevada PVA is in need of sponsors, raffle prizes or items for raffle baskets. If you have any ideas or items you'd like to donate, please give us a call.



September



Norman D. Cruz	02
Ron J. Cantagallo	05
Tad R. Stuart	05
Cedrick J. Arinwine	09
Robert W. Artz	10
Dominic C. Cirino	12
Annette McNaughton	15
Lee Tolliver	20
James M. Wakefield	24
Edrick D. James	25
Shane Derby	25
Christopher M. McMahon	26

October

Dick Blake	01
Scott M. Alderman	01
Luther R. Estes, Sr.	02
Asa K. Richter	02
Arletha J. Carey	05
Chris Ewer	06
Larry F. Orr	07
Kim C. Reed	09
Brian H. Chan	10
Terrence J. O'Neill	12
Robert Yee	12
Douglas H. Jones	15
Jon C. Arnesen	17
Jeffrey Z. Futter	17
Monica L. Goyette	20
Lee A. Shafer	20
Cedric C. DeLong	22
Gary H. Brown	23
Jason D. Kelley	24
Betty Goedhart	25
Brian C. Walker	25
Barbara A. Chackel	28

Membership—157

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11:30AM
— TO —
1:00PM

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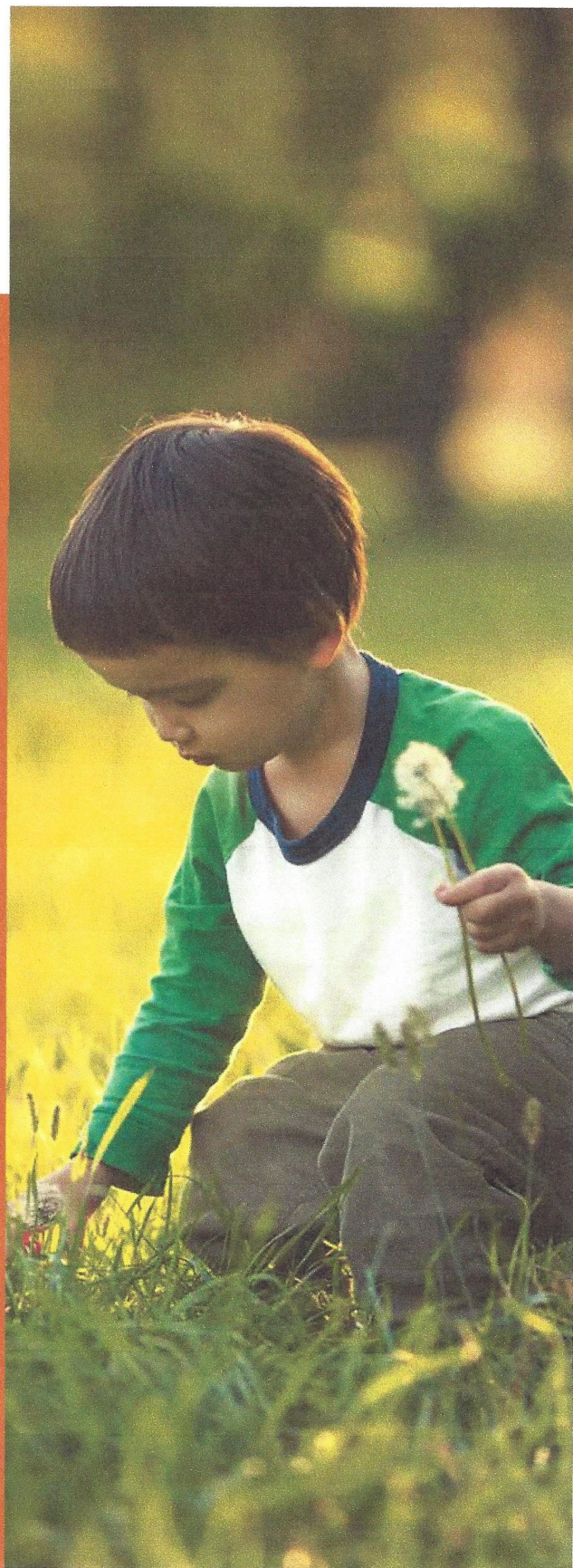
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Las Vegas VA Medical Center Locations

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
	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

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