

The Wheeled Herald



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Great Plains Chapter

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7612 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68134
1.800.454.7782

**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**
Great Plains Chapter
tel. 402.398.1422
e-mail: pva@greatplainspva.org
fax: 402.398.1424
www.greatplainspva.org

GPPVA Ladies Auxiliary Hosts Annual Fundraiser

On February 18th, the Great Plains PVA Ladies Auxiliary hosted its annual fundraiser - Wine & Roses. The event is in its 11th year and has gained a dedicated following.

Those in attendance enjoyed tasting wines from around the world, cheese and crackers, and a variety of specialty desserts prepared by members of the Ladies Auxiliary. A raffle was offered with a variety of items ranging from themed gift baskets to Creighton basketball tickets and restaurant gift cards.

The Auxiliary is grateful for all who supported the event, whether by attending or providing donations, including members of the Great Plains PVA Board of Directors. The Auxiliary would like to express special appreciation to Bill & Jackie Siebert for their continued, generous sponsorship.

All proceeds from Wine & Roses support the Ladies Auxiliary's McAleer/Pierce Memorial Scholarship Program. This program provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors who have a physical disability or have a parent with a disability.

The Ladies Auxiliary awarded its first scholarship in 1988. Since that first year, the Auxiliary has awarded 87 scholarships to deserving high school students worth a grand total of over \$35,000.

Photos below were taken from this year's Wine & Roses event.



Follow us on Social Media!

@greatplainspva





President's Message *by Randy Squier*

Here in the midwest the winter weather often dictates just how active we can be, at least outside anyway. If you're anything like me, I hate to be cold. With that said, we're anxious for the spring to hurry and arrive. Hopefully no one was seriously affected by the terrible strains of flu making the rounds throughout the country. Many sickened by the flu and associated respiratory illnesses were severe. Here's hoping you made it through without incident.

By the time you read this newsletter, the Ladies Auxiliary will have had their yearly "Wine and Roses" event, which is a wine tasting fundraiser to help fund scholarships given to college bound students. The ladies have a great time with this event.

Athletes wishing to attend this year's National Veterans Wheelchair Games have until April 15th to submit their application. If you have questions or need help, call the Chapter. This year's games in Orlando, Florida will surely be very well attended. If you're thinking of going, don't delay as hotel and flights will be filling up. Patrick, our Sports Director, continues to bring it. I've heard from many participants that the workout he delivers is a good one. The cross-fit work out that he's putting our guys and gals through has a few breathing funny when they're done - "in a good way". Cross-fit is an exhibition event at this years wheelchair games. It'll be interesting to watch others experience what our members are benefiting from already. I know Patrick will be taking notes.

In April we hope to make the rounds to the VA Hospitals as it will be our opportunity to have information tables during PVA awareness month. There are still people out there that can benefit from our programs and we would like to help them if we can. Our involvement with the VA spinal cord centers and clinics are beneficial to our membership. Your questions or issues can be solved and/or directed to our NSO Mike Sheets.

Hopefully your 2018 will be a good one. Lets make it a good year, let us know if we can help.

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Vacant, Secretary
Seth Kotouc, Treasurer

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Chris Crews, Director
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National Director

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Mike Sheets
1-800-795-3615

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Mary Bushman

bushman@greatplainspva.org

Government Relations

Director

Amanda Vazquez

vazquez@greatplainspva.org

Director of Grants and Development

Angelina Ramos

ramos@greatplainspva.org

Sports Director

Patrick Reynolds

reynolds@greatplainspva.org

Administrative Assistant

Jane Healy

Building Attendant

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PVA Trapshoot Event Comes to Omaha

Paralyzed Veterans of America will hold its National Shooting Sports Circuit year-end trapshoot in Omaha this summer. Event organizer Andy MacDonald says he is expecting around 50 participants from across the country. Any PVA member is encouraged to register; however, you do NOT have to be a PVA member to participate.

Great Plains PVA is excited to provide local support to a National PVA trapshoot event. Staff is helping with some of the preparations and will be present during the event to offer 50/50 raffles and a silent auction. The trapshoot will take place July 13-15, 2018 at the Harry A. Koch Trap and Skeet Range in Omaha near 72nd & Harrison Streets.

If you are interested in participating, please reach out to the chapter at 402-398-1422. We hope to have a lot of local participants in what's sure to be an exciting event!



Photo taken of a PVA member participating in the Trapshoot event during the 2008 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Omaha.

Executive Director's Report

by Mary Bushman

On January 30th Chapter President Randy Squier accepted a check for \$1,000 from Madness Haunted House representatives Bryon Beins and Linda Sell. Great Plains PVA was one of 4 charities selected to receive proceeds from this year's Haunt season. During the 7 weeks that Madness Haunted House was open, 7100 people went through the house and experienced what Haunt.com posted as the #1 Haunt in Iowa.

An additional 1600 people, including young children, went through the Haunt during a special 2- hour "Lights On Walk-In-Tour. The Sunday afternoon event invited children to come in costume, walk through the Haunt with all the lights on and minimal actors, and then trunk-or-treat in the parking lot. Cost of the event was a free-will donation. According to Beins, this year's Haunt season required 70 volunteers as actors, builders, technicians, support staff, management and security. Linda Sell and her husband Steve (aka Bobo the Clown) managed the house this year.

Thanks to all the Great Plains PVA members who visited the Haunt this year, braved the weather, and greeted guests in line. Next year, Beins said his team plans to build an additional outdoor shelter for our members. Madness Haunted House is located in Council Bluffs and is the only 100% wheelchair accessible Haunt in the area. Thank you to Bryon, Linda and the Madness Haunted House team for once again selecting our Chapter as a Haunt beneficiary and supporting our Great Plains PVA veterans.



Save-the-Date!

Great Plains PVA and its volunteer committees have already begun planning for two of its biggest events this summer. Mark your calendars and watch your email/mail for more information as we get closer to the dates!



**16th Annual
Tee Off & Support Wheelchair Sports
Golf Tournament
Sunday, June 3, 2018
Tiburon Golf Club**



**2nd Annual Great Plains PVA/AWBA Wheelchair
Bowling Invitational
July 12-15, 2018
Thunderbowl Lanes in Council Bluffs**

Registrations are available to download from our website: www.greatplainspva.org. Feel free to share the information with anyone you know who may be interested in participating or supporting these events!

Spring Craft Fair

Saturday, March 24, 2018

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Over 30 Vendors / Crafters

Cafeteria serving lunch

Bake Sale and Raffles

Paralyzed Veterans of America

7612 Maple Street, Omaha

Benevolent Patriotic Order

of Does Drove #1, Omaha

NSO Report

by Mike Sheets, PVA National Service Officer

Elements of Service-Connection

By: Mike Sheets, NSO - Lincoln

I am often asked questions about getting service-connected. Title 38 United States Code (38 U.S.C) and Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations (38 C.F.R) are the authorities which govern VA benefits. There are five main avenues of getting service-connected: Direct, Presumptive, Secondary, Aggravated, and entitlement under 38 U.S.C 1151. Each avenue is an article by itself. This article will focus on direct service-connection.

Buried within Title 38 C.F.R. is the following:

Service connection connotes many factors but basically it means that the facts, shown by evidence, establish that a particular injury or disease resulting in disability was incurred coincident with service in the Armed Forces, or if preexisting such service, was aggravated therein. This may be accomplished by affirmatively showing inception or aggravation during service or through the application of statutory presumptions. Each disabling condition shown by a veteran's service records, or for which he seeks a service connection must be considered on the basis of the places, types and circumstances of his service as shown by service records, the official history of each organization in which he served, his medical records and all pertinent medical and lay evidence. 38 C.F.R. § 3.303 (a).

After digesting the legal verbiage, the elements of service-connection boil down to:

- An Event in Service
- A Current diagnosis
- A Medical opinion linking the event and diagnosis

The first two elements are relatively easy to obtain, it's that third element that proves difficult more often than not. A colleague of mine wrote an article, that was published in the Beachcomber, discussing the importance of a well written medical opinion.

Why a Correctly Written Medical Opinion is Important

By: Patrick Cronk, NSO - San Diego, Published in the BEACHCOMBER JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

As many of you already know, getting service connected is the key to many VA benefits. In order to get service connected we must apply to the VA for compensation for disabilities incurred in service. One of the key regulations used by the VA for determining entitlement to disability compensation is 38 Code of Federal Regulations (38 CFR). According to 38 CFR 3.4 (b) for disability compensation, "basic entitlement for a veteran exists if the veteran is disabled as the result of personal injury or disease (including aggravation of a condition existing prior to service) while in active service if the injury or the disease was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty." Sounds simple but is it?

Often I'm asked, why was my claim denied? Why is my friend getting compensation from the VA and I'm not? Generally, every claim goes through the same process. Specifically, every claim faces different challenges. In a perfect world, a veteran claims for compensation within one year of discharge and files for every disability incurred in service. Within one year the VA is more likely to give you benefit of the doubt. Once the year has passed, the VA places a greater burden on the veteran to prove his/her case. If you make a claim more than one year from discharge, many times the VA will want some type of proof that there is a link or "nexus" be-

tween your current disability and military service. Especially with claims made for service connection numerous years post service, a medical opinion in your favor is extremely valuable.

A medical opinion relates directly to how your military service and your current disabilities are linked. Notice I stressed the word your. Numerous pages of generic information downloaded off the internet are not a personal account of how your military service is related to your current disabilities. A personal letter from you or an acquaintance concerning your disability is not considered medical evidence although it may have some merit. A short but precise medical opinion carries much more weight.

There are three parts of a medical statement:

1) The evidence that has been reviewed, example: "The veteran has submitted copies of his/her service medical records and current treatment records for me to review."

Many times a doctor makes a statement in the veterans favor regarding service connection but no service medical records were used in the evaluation process. The VA will question the validity of the statement because he/she is only using current treatment records. If someone claims a back condition 20 years post service, both current medical records and service medical records would be needed to make a strong opinion. When a doctor states in his/her opinion that the veteran told me he hurt his back in the military instead pinpointing specific dates showing treatment for a back injury in the service medical records, I know this medical opinion is weak at best.

2) The medical opinion, example: "In my medical opinion, the current medical condition is more likely than not or at least likely than not (either will suffice) related to or caused by the veterans military service."

The phrases "more likely than not or at least likely than not" are used by the VA themselves. When a veteran goes for a compensation exam, the VA appointed doctor will make an opinion on whether he/she believes there is a connection between military service and the veteran's current disability. Right at the end of the examination report, the VA appointed doctor will state if service connection was more likely than not the cause of the veteran's current disability. Ideally, you can get your doctor to use the same terminology. If not, make sure there is some statement relating the current disability to military service.

3) The reasons for the medical opinion, example: "The veteran was seen during his/her military service on 12/05/96, 04/07/97, and 06/11/97 for complaints of low back pain. The x-ray and MRI showed evidence of trauma but not recent trauma. Based on the x-ray and MRI findings coupled with current and past evidence, I make this medical opinion."

Part 3 is usually where an opinion goes wrong. Many times the doctor will get parts 1 and 2 right but they don't connect the dots in part 3 or there is no part 3. Part 3 should show a logical reason for the opinion. As with many opinions, a doctor will not be able to say with 100% certainty that there is a link but neither can the VA's doctor. That is why a statement showing a greater than 50% chance of a link is important. Even if the VA doctor does not find in your favor, a strong medical opinion from your doctor can cause reasonable doubt and the claim would go in your favor.

According to 38 CFR 3.102: "When, after careful consideration of all procurable and assembled data, a reasonable doubt arises regarding service origin, the degree of disability, or any other point, such doubt will be resolved in favor of the claimant. By reasonable doubt is meant one which exists because of an approximate balance of positive and negative evidence which does not satisfactorily prove or disprove the claim."

Fitness Update

by Pat Reynolds, Sports Director



December Challenge Announcement & Results

- For Time; 10 Minute Cap
 - 25 Calorie SkiErg
 - 50 Overhead Press
 - 75 Pulldowns
 - 100 VitaGlide – 7
 - ▷ Elite Men - 35/120
 - ▷ Rx Men - 25/120
 - ▷ Scaled Men - 15/96
 - ▷ Rx Women - 15/96
- Leaderboard
 - Nancy Berg (Rx) – 7:08
 - Greg Minow (Rx) – 7:51
 - Travis Hasenkamp (Elite) – 8:17
 - Tim Hobbs (Rx) – 8:25
 - Bruce Froendt (Scaled) – 8:36
 - Chris Parnell (Rx) – 8:47
 - Daniel Schmitt (Scaled) – 8:58

January Challenge Announcement & Results

The January 2018 Challenge included a BIG buy-in of cable muscle ups followed by three rounds of chest presses and calories on the SkiErg. Travis Hasenkamp started 2018 off with a win, taking the Challenge with a time of 15:57. Below is the format and final leaderboard for the January Challenge:

- For Time; 20 Minute Cap:
 - 100 Cable Muscle Up Buy-In
 - ▷ Then 3 Rounds of:
 - 40 Chest Presses
 - 20 Calories on the SkiErg
 - ▷ Quads have 21 minute cap and will subtract 1 minute from score if finished under the cap
 - Divisions
 - ▷ Elite Men – 72/180
 - ▷ Rx Men (Para) 72/156, (Quad) 48/144
 - ▷ Scaled Men (Para) 60/120, (Quad) 48/108
 - ▷ Rx Women – 48/120

Fitness continued...

- Leaderboard
 - Travis Hasenkamp (Elite) – 15:57
 - Nancy Berg (Rx) – 16:40
 - Greg Minow (Rx) – 17:32
 - Daniel Schmitt (Scaled) – 18:17
 - Bruce Froendt (Scaled Quad) – 18:22
 - Tim Hobbs (Rx Quad) – 19:53
 - Chris Parnell (Rx) – Cap +10

February Challenge Announcement

The February Challenge is how long it takes to get to 1.5 miles on the handbike. The catch is you only get to work at 2 minutes at a time and you have to complete 30 pulldowns, each round, before you can start accumulating distance on the handbike. Below is the format for the February Challenge:

- Handbike 1.5 Miles for Time; 10 Round Cap:
 - 30 Pulldowns
 - Max Effort Handbike
 - ▷ 2 Minutes Work; 1 Minute Rest
 - Quads have 2:10 Work; 1 Minute Rest
 - Divisions
 - ▷ Elite Men – 168/7.0
 - ▷ Rx Men (Para) 156/7.0 (Quad) 156/4.0
 - ▷ Scaled Men (Para) 120/7.0 (Quad) 108/4.0
 - ▷ Rx Women – 120/7.0

2018 Spring Open News

The Spring Open is coming up soon, but the start date is up in the air as of now. We will be receiving the brand new VitaGlide at some point in the next 2 months (hopefully), and I would like to wait until we have it to start the Spring Open. So, fingers crossed, we will be able to start the Spring Open in the middle of March.



CHAPTER BIRTHDAYS

February

Neeley R. Gentry * Jerry S. Tharp * Clayborn C. Barnett, III * Andrew C. Nelsen * Sidney S. Rightmyer
* James M. Harrin

March

Lindsay M. Stearns * Thomas A. Pollock * Jerry W. Sandage * Randolph J. Squier * Charles F. Dus
* Russell E. Rimovsky * Sara J. Campbell * Joseph M. May * David D. Hebert * Barbara R. Bailey *
Roy L. Gray * Darrell E. Alberty * Marvin B. McClaughry * Charles (Chas) E. Magdanz



Current Veteran/Disability Legislation in Nebraska

Veteran Bills

LB 121 - would change provisions relating to the taxation of military benefits. This bill exempts a portion of one's military retirement each year starting with \$10,000 the first year, gradually increasing to \$50,000 over 5 years.

LB 169 - would exempt social security benefits and retirement income from income taxation.

LB 351 - would change provisions relating to veteran designations on operators' licenses and state ID cards

LB 497 - would change references to a federal form relating to veterans.

LB 827 - would provide for disposition of property of members of veterans' homes and changes state personnel system exemptions for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (**Speaker Priority Bill**)

**You can view the full list of Veteran/Military related bills on the Department of Veterans Affairs website. Visit <https://veterans.nebraska.gov/legislative-issues>, then click on the top link: 2018 Legislation.*

Disability-related Bills

LB 800 - would provide and change strategic plan requirements for services for qualified persons with disabilities. This bill defines more specifically requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services' strategic plan to provide services to individuals in the most integrated community setting, in accordance with the Olmstead decision. (For more information on the Olmstead decision, visit: https://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead_about.htm)

LB 968 - would adopt the Disability Employment and Engagement Program Act. This bill would change eligibility provisions for the medical assistance program, allowing individuals with disabilities to work more hours or accept a raise without the risk of losing their benefits.

LB 1063 - would provide funding to assist victims of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and increase certain driver's license fees as a source of such funding. This bill would allow greater support to be given to people with TBI.

LB 1066 - would require photographic identification for purposes of voting, which would create greater barriers to voting especially for individuals with disabilities.

**You can view all of these bills and more on the Legislature's website: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/>.*

NCCD Hosts Common Grounds at Nebraska State Capitol

by Amanda Vazquez, Government Relations Director

The Nebraska Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (NCCD), of which Great Plains PVA is a member, hosted its annual Common Grounds event at the Capitol in Lincoln, Nebraska on February 15th. State Senators and their staffs were invited to join us for a light breakfast, specialty coffees, and smoothies and engage in conversation with NCCD members around issues affecting people with disabilities.

NCCD members prepared and passed out briefs on the 8 most pressing topics that people with disabilities face on a regular basis. These included: Community Living, Early Childhood, Education, Employment, Health-care, Managed Care, Restraint and Seclusion, and Transition. The full briefs can be viewed on NCCD's website at www.nebraskaccd.org.





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PVA Testifies on Rapid Appeals Modernization Program

Information from National PVA

On January 30, 2018, PVA Associate Legislative Director, Steve Henry testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) on the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP) and whether or not the program is effectively helping veterans. The testimony consisted of two panels; one panel was made up of VA and GAO staff and the other panel was Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the National Organization of Veteran Advocates.

The Rapid Appeals Modernization Program is a “test” program implemented by VA to test aspects of the Modernization law that will be fully implemented on February 2019. RAMP offers veterans an alternative to appealing their claims to the BVA by offering them two options: Veterans can choose between a higher level review and the supplemental claim process.

The higher level review is conducted by an experienced Decision Review Officer (DRO), who will review the veteran’s claim and provide a decision based on what was in the record. The supplemental claim option allows the veteran to submit additional evidence, have their claim reviewed by a DRO, who will then make a decision based on the entire record, including the newly submitted evidence.

Unlike DAV’s testimony that provided a positive outlook on the RAMP program, PVA’s testimony was quite the opposite. For veterans to “opt in” to RAMP, all of their appeals must be withdrawn from the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA); consequently, they would lose their docket date and their place in line. Furthermore, if veterans receive an unfavorable decision, they would be unable to appeal their claims to the BVA until February 2019.

PVA reiterated to the HVAC that unlike DAV, claims filed by PVA members are more often than not extremely complex. It is difficult to believe that the same representatives who had previously denied and improperly adjudicated PVA’s initial claims would then re-review and provide a proper decision.

Furthermore, to force veterans to withdraw their claims and lose their docket date is unacceptable. The claims of our members must be adjudicated expeditiously. Our members require quick and accurate decisions. They should not have to navigate more layers only for a negative outcome. When asked by Committee Chairman Roe what PVA would change about the program, we stated that veterans should not be required to withdraw their appeal from the BVA resulting in losing their docket date.

PVA feels that RAMP is not good for our members.

House VA Committee Holds Hearing on Caregiver Program

Information from National PVA

On February 6, 2018, the House Committee on Veterans Affairs held a hearing entitled “Correcting Course for Veteran Caregivers.” Chairman Roe’s goal for the hearing was to examine how to strengthen and modify the existing caregiver program. Sarah Dean, Associate Legislative Director, testified on behalf of PVA regarding the state of the program and current legislation that would authorize its expansion.

As is, the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers provides monthly stipends, respite, CHAMPVA, and training to caregivers of veterans injured on or after 9/11. PVA, alongside DAV, and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation (EDF), used their opening statements to highlight the unconscionable inequity created by the date of injury requirement.

In November 2017, S. 2193 passed out of the Senate VA Committee with a vote of 14-1. Included in that com-

Caregiver Program continued...

munity care reform bill is the expansion of caregiver eligibility pre-9/11. The bill has not yet passed the Senate nor has it gained support from Chairman Roe because of his concerns of the cost of the expansion. During the hearing he expressed his belief that expansion can only be done by tightening eligibility in order to drive down costs.

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin proposed a limited expansion to certain pre-9/11 veterans to appease the cost concerns of some members of the House of Representatives and the White House. In a memo to Congress sent last month, the White House said it could not support expansion to pre-9/11 veterans because of "fiscal restraints." Secretary Shulkin said he believes his proposal would allow for a restricted expansion with a more appealing cost. It would restrict pre-9/11 eligibility to veterans who require assistance with three activities of daily living, rather than one as currently required for post-9/11 veterans. Veterans with severe PTSD and TBI would remain eligible.

The 26,000 caregivers already in the program would continue under the current eligibility. PVA, DAV, and EDF made it clear to the committee that while this proposal would not be opposed, our priority remains the equitable treatment of all veterans in need of caregiver services. We will continue to work to see that veterans who were made ill or injured in any era are able to receive the services they need.

Delta and United Announce Changes to Their Service Animal Policies

Information from National PVA

In recent weeks, Delta and United have issued revised policies for the transport of service animals and emotional support animals on their airlines. The new policies go into effect on March 1.

Delta's revised service animal policy includes several key requirements that will impact all passengers with disabilities who use service animals. First, Delta's revised policy requires all service animal users to submit a completed "Veterinary Health Form" 48 hours prior to travel. The form is available here: <https://www.delta.com/content/dam/delta-www/pdfs/policy/TrainedServiceAnimal-RequiredForms.pdf>. Second, Delta's revised policy requires all psychiatric service animal and emotional support animal users to submit, in addition, a completed "Confirmation of Animal Training" form 48 hours prior to travel. On this form, available here: <https://www.delta.com/content/dam/delta-www/pdfs/policy/EmotionalSupportAnimal-RequiredForms.pdf>, the user of a psychiatric service animal or emotional support animal must confirm that the animal has been trained to behave in public and affirm that inappropriate behavior will lead to denied boarding of the animal or its removal from the aircraft.

United's revised policy would also require emotional support animal users to provide confirmation of training and a health certificate, to include an affirmation from a veterinarian "that there is no reason to believe that the animal will pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others on the aircraft or cause a significant disruption in service," 48 hours prior to travel. More information about United's policy is available here: <https://hub.united.com/united-emotional-support-animal-policy-2530539164.html>.

Paralyzed Veterans and nine other disability organizations sent a letter to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao on February 6th, asking the Department to deem these revised policies to be in violation of the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and advise Delta and United accordingly. On February 8th, disability organizations, including Paralyzed Veterans, also met with Delta to discuss their policy and express our concerns.

In the meantime, however, the policies are still slated to move forward. We will continue to follow their status. Also, the Department has stated that it will begin the process for revising the ACAA's service animal regulations starting in July.



WHEELS ON THE GO!

Paralyzed Veterans of America Great Plains Chapter is pleased to continue this program for calendar year 2017.

**We will pay you for where you go and what you know!
We are ready to reimburse you to go out on the town
and have fun!**

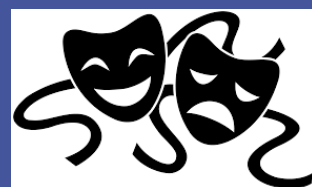
And as you do, we want you to tell us how accessible your experience was. Go out to dinner; go to the theater; go to the movies; go to a sporting event or any other public place where people gather, eat or are entertained. Report back to us if the facility was accessible; if the staff was receptive to your visit; and if you would recommend the establishment to others in wheelchairs.

Here is how this program works:

- Go to a restaurant or place of entertainment and enjoy!
- Send your receipt to the chapter office with your name and the name of your guest on the reverse side of the receipt.

We will only accept original receipts.

- Complete the questionnaire on the back of this form.
- You will be reimbursed for 100% of your expenses, up to \$300 per calendar year per Great Plains PVA member.
NOTE: Mileage is not included.
Reimbursement will be forthcoming, pending approval by the Chapter Board of Directors (as all expenses are currently processed).
- You can utilize this program as many times as you wish, up to the \$300 limit per calendar year but you will not be reimbursed multiple times for attending the same place of business or venue.



7612 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68134
402-398-1422
www.greatplainspva.org



WHEELS ON THE GO!



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Great Plains Chapter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Where did you go? Name and address of establishment.

When did you go? Day of week and time of day.

Was there adequate accessible parking?

Were there curb cuts and were they wide enough?

Was the entrance wheelchair friendly? Was it wide enough?

Was there an automatic door opener?

Were you well received by the staff?

Were you able to sit comfortably at a table or at your seat?

Was the facility accommodating? restrooms, aisles, buffet lines, etc.

Would you recommend the establishment to other individuals who use wheelchairs?

Mail this completed form and your **original receipt** to: Great Plains PVA
Wheels on the Go
7612 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68134



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

PAVE

Paving Access for Veterans Employment

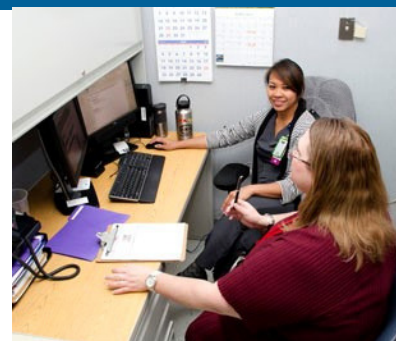


"My PAVE counselor helped me to transition from what I can't do to focus on what I can do!"
J. Wright, Veteran

WHAT WE DO

PAVE (Paving Access for Veterans Employment) provides vocational counseling and job placement assistance to all veterans, spouses and caregivers across the country.

Our unique, no-cost program offers assistance with a variety of customized job search strategies that position our clients for success. Through the generous support of both private and public partnerships, the PAVE program strives to place at least one veteran, caregiver or spouse every day.



PAVE also provides on-going support to employer partners who want to leverage the unique training and skills of our nation's veteran workforce. Through its newly launched Employer Training Curriculum, our partners will recognize why hiring veterans is good for their bottom line and will learn how to incorporate these skills into successful veteran hiring and retention programs.

PAVE strives to find the best jobs for veterans and the best veterans for jobs!
For more information about participation and support, please visit our website at www.OperationPave.org

FAST FACTS

- PAVE serves **ALL** veterans, military spouses & caregivers
- PAVE served more than 5,000 veterans, spouses and caregivers since 2007
- PAVE offers training and ongoing support for employers
- More than 1200 nationwide employer & community partners have committed to promoting employment & providing resources for PAVE clients
- PAVE provides a **Partner for Life Guarantee**. We never close a case!

Upcoming Events

March

5th-8th: PVA Advocacy Seminar in Washington, DC

8th: BOD Meeting 1:00pm
General Membership Meeting 2:30pm

11th: Daylight Saving Time



28th: GPPVA Easter Eggstravaganza 6:30pm



April

PVA Awareness Month

1st: Happy Easter!



12th: BOD Meeting 1:00pm

18th: Blackjack with Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home members 9:30-11:00am

22nd: Earth Day



May

6th: National Nurses Day

10th: BOD Meeting 1:00pm



28th: Memorial Day - Office Closed

Access to Care

When comparing Veteran Service Organizations, Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) leads the way not only by assisting Veterans with Compensation & Pension benefits, but also in ensuring that all SCI/D Veterans are receiving timely and proper medical care within the VA Spinal Cord Injury/Disease System of Care. With that being said, PVA is requesting feedback from our members in regards to any access to care issues you may be having. We would like to hear from you if you are experiencing any restrictions to receiving access to care at the SCI/D Center or SCI/D Clinic. This would include issues such as your ability to receive timely quality health care, delays in obtaining an appointment, delays in appointments for a particular procedure, delays in obtaining specific prosthetic equipment and supplies, delays that resulted in you having to use the Choice Act, and/or denial of care from the VA facility.

If you are experiencing any of the following issues, please contact your local PVA National Service Officer (NSO) or Veterans Health & Benefits Specialist, who is compiling a database of reported issues and working to resolve them on your behalf. Please be ready to give specific details about your experience such as the time, date, request that was made, and person you spoke with, if possible. We thank you for your time and involvement with this matter. Your local NSO is Mike Sheets and can be reached at 402-420-4017 or by email at mikes@pva.org.



That coat you still keep that you wore on that awesome date with that guy from Algebra II.

Through Paralyzed Veterans of America's G.I.V.E clothing donation program, service never goes out of style. Your generous donations of clothes and other common household goods help improve the lives of severely injured veterans and strengthen the fabric of our community.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere
Great Plains Chapter

Give G.I.V.E a try and schedule your FREE pickup today.

To learn more, call 402-733-4328 or go to pva.org/givegoods


Paid for by the Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation


G.I.V.E. Clothing Donation Dropbox Locations

2 Sheds	8896 L St, Omaha, Ne 68127
A&W/Long Johns	8220 Giles Rd, La Vista, Ne 68128
Abelardo's Mexican Food	8417 Park Dr, Omaha, Ne 68127
American Legion	230 West Lincoln St, Papillion, Ne 68046
American Legion Post 1	7811 Davenport St, Omaha, Ne 68114
Amoco Gas Station	14403 Frontier Rd, Omaha, Ne 68138
Bag N Save	2670 N. 90th St, Omaha, Ne 68137
Best Western White House Inn	305 Fort Crook Rd North, Bellevue, Ne 68005
Bulls Eye Paintless	1501 S Fort Crook Rd, Bellevue, Ne 68005
Disabled American Vets	4515 F St, Omaha, Ne 68117
DJ's	6618 S 13th St, Omaha, Ne 68107
Fraternal Order of Eagles	6607 Sunshine Dr, Omaha, Ne 68107
Grandma's Attic	2001 Vinton St, Omaha, Ne 68108
Hi Performance Car Wash	8904 Fort St, Omaha, Ne 68134
Jim's Rib Haven	3801 Ames Ave, Omaha, Ne 68111
Lina's Restaurant II LLC	8420 Brentwood Dr, LaVista, Ne 68128
Los Portables Restaurant	2614 S 13th St, Omaha, Ne 68108
Marcus Twin Creek Cinema	3909 Ranor Parkway, Bellevue, Ne, 68123
Omaha Vet Center	3047 S 72nd St, Omaha 68124
Phillips Gas Station	12005 Pacific St, Omaha, Ne 68154
Pump and Pantry	6912 S 110th St, LaVista, Ne 68128
PVA	7612 Maple St, Omaha, Ne 68137
River City Glass	13305 Millard Ave, Omaha, Ne 68137
Royal-Te-Childcare	3209 N 90th St, Omaha, Ne 68134
Star Plaza	7511 S 36th st, Bellevue, Ne 68147
Superior Spa and Pool	14005 S Plaza, Omaha, Ne 68137
Tailgaters Sportsbar	2603 S 120th St, Omaha, Ne 68144

If you know of any business that would be interested in allowing a dropbox on their lot, please contact Mary at the Great Plains PVA office at 402-398-1422.

FUND A LIFETIME OF SUPPORT FOR SERIOUSLY INJURED VETERANS.





Thank you for the support!

DEAR MR. TAYLOR:


THANK YOU FOR DONATING YOUR CAR TO THE PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA. WHEN I WAS PARALYZED IN A 40-FOOT FALL FROM A HELICOPTER, THEY CAME TO MY BEDSIDE. THEY BROUGHT ME HOPE, BENEFITS AND CARE... ALL MADE POSSIBLE BY PROCEEDS FROM DONATIONS LIKE YOUR CAR. I KNOW YOU COULD HAVE DONATED IT ANY PLACE. FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, I AM SO GRATEFUL YOU CHOSE US.

SINCERELY
Sean Halstead

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TODAY.


Regardless of the condition, all vehicles have value and are sold at auction. Proceeds from the sale help provide jobs, care and benefits for severely injured veterans and their families. Scheduling a pickup is free and easy, and you may be eligible for a tax deduction, too! There's no better way to give back to those who have given so much.

Marketing and advertising paid for by The Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation



Wheels Helping Warriors.org
866.841.2023

Schedule a **free** pickup.



ADA & Accessibility Concerns

If you have experienced a situation in which you believe an individual or business is not in compliance with ADA laws, and you would like assistance from Great Plains PVA, fill out this form as completely as possible.

Your Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Name of the Individual/Business that is not in compliance:

Description of the situation (including any steps you have taken to address the situation):

Date that non-compliance was realized: _____

If you have pictures or documents that could assist us with your case, please provide copies along with this form when it is returned.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amanda Vazquez at 402-398-1422 or by email at vazquez@greatplainspva.org.

Return form:

by mail: Great Plains PVA, Attn: Amanda Vazquez, 7612 Maple St., Omaha, NE 68134;

by fax: 402-398-1424; or

by email: vazquez@greatplainspva.org



Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle Tournament
March 7-8, 2018
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle Tournament
March 23-25, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Buckeye Air Rifle Tournament
April 20-21, 2018
Geneva, OH

**indicates combined events*

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

Florida Gulf Coast Shooting Sports Tournament
March 1-3, 2018
Odessa, FL

Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament
March 16-18, 2018
Pistol Tournament - March 16
Las Vegas, NV

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Cal-Diego Rifle/Pistol
March 23-25, 2018
Pistol & Rifle Tournament - March 23
Redlands, CA

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament
April 20-22, 2018
Edwardsville, IL

Minnesota Shooting Sports Tournament
May 18-20, 2018
Minneapolis, MN

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament
June 22-24, 2018
Waxahachie, TX

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
June 15-17, 2018
Pistol Event - June 15, 2018
Cedar Rapids, IA

PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
April 6-8, 2018
Kissimmee, FL

KY-IN Bass Tournament
May 4-6, 2018
Kuttawa, KY

National Bass Tournament
June 1-3, 2018
Marbury, MD

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 8-10, 2018
Richmond, VA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament
March 23-25, 2018
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament
April 20-22, 2018
Oklahoma City, OK

Mountain States Billiards Tournament
June 29-30, 2018
Fountain, CO

Buckeye Billiards Tournament**
June 22-23, 2018
Wickliffe, OH

***non-sanctioned events*

BOCCIA

Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament
Feb. 22-23, 2018
San Diego, CA

ANNUAL PARALYZED VETERANS/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament
Feb. 23-25, 2018
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament
April 12-15, 2018
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
May 3-6, 2018
Woodridge, IL

PARALYZED VETERANS RACING

Top End Euro-American HC Championship
Feb. 3-4, 2018
Clermont, FL

Valley of the Sun
Feb. 16-18, 2018
Phoenix, AZ

One City Marathon
March 4, 2018
Newport News, VA

Off-Road Spring Expo
April 13-15, 2018
Chesterfield, VA

Paralyzed Veterans of America Learn to Race Camp
April 17-20, 2018
Gettysburg, PA

Blue and Gray
April 21-22, 2018
Gettysburg, PA

Redlands Cycling Classic
May 2-6, 2018
Redlands, CA

Pittsburgh Marathon
May 6, 2018
Pittsburgh, PA

Clocktower Classic
May 2018
Rome, GA

Wichita Omnium
May 2018
Wichita, KS

Para-Cycling Nationals
June 13-14, 2018
Augusta, GA

Tennessee Paracycling Open
June 16-17, 2018
Knoxville, TN

Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Mini-Camp
June 19-28, 2018
Delafield, WI

Tour De Nez
June 23, 2018
Reno, NV

Tour of America's Dairylands
June 22-24, 2018
Milwaukee, WI

Treasure Valley Grand Prix
July 7-8, 2018
Nampa, ID

National Veterans Wheelchair Games
July 30, 2018
Orlando, FL

Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Hi Performance Off Road Camp
Aug. 19-24, 2018
Crested Butte, CO

Off Road Handcycling Championships
Aug. 24-26, 2018
Crested Butte, CO

Pensacola Cycling Classic
Sept. 15-16, 2018
Pensacola, FL

Air Force Marathon
Sept. 15, 2018
Dayton, OH

Off-Road Fall Expo
Sept. 29-30, 2018
Chesterfield, VA

Army Ten Miler
Oct. 7, 2018
Washington, D.C.

Marine Corps Marathon
Oct. 28, 2018
Washington, D.C.

38TH NVWG
July 30-Aug. 4, 2018
Orlando, FL



For more information, visit:
pva.org/sports



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Great Plains Chapter

7612 Maple Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68134-6502

www.greatplainspva.org

402-398-1422



Paralyzed Veterans of America Great Plains Chapter (Great Plains PVA) is a non-profit organization that has dedicated over 46 years to helping veterans with spinal cord injuries, as well as other individuals living with disabilities across Nebraska, Western-Iowa, and Kansas. Great Plains PVA is dedicated to improving quality of life by providing education, promoting equal opportunities, encouraging independence, and enhancing lifetime health and fitness. PVA is at the forefront helping and advocating for the rights and benefits of veterans and all people living with disabilities.