

The Wheeled Herald



Published by the Paralyzed Veterans of America Great Plains Chapter

Omaha, Nebraska

Dec '24 - Jan '25

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Great Plains Chapter

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GPPVA Member Dave Nelson Wins Gold on Team USA at Para Bowling Championships in China

Great Plains PVA's National Director David (Dave) Nelson, Jr. was chosen to represent the United States on Team USA at the International Bowling Federation (IBF) Para Bowling World Championships in Hong Kong, China! To know Dave is to know that he has a passion for bowling unmatched by anyone you've probably ever met. So this was an opportunity of a lifetime that he has been working toward for a long time, and he made the most of it!

Dave joined fellow American George Holscher to compete in the Men's Doubles Division and the pair won Gold! Dave also competed in the Men's Singles Division placing 3rd and receiving a Bronze medal (pictured below). He won another Bronze medal in the Men's All-Events. In the Men's Team Event, the USA placed 5th.

Team USA members Debra Freed and Gina Jenkins competed in the Women's Doubles Division and won Gold, as well! Congratulations to Team USA and their many achievements at the world championships.

Dave has made it his mission to share his passion for bowling with others. He is truly an inspiration to PVA members and all who know him.

-Pictured at right: Team USA members Gina Jenkins, George Holscher, Dave Nelson, and Debra Freed pose with their gold medals in doubles.

-Pictured at bottom right: George Holscher & Dave Nelson with their silver & bronze medals respectively in singles.

*-Pictured below, Team USA members from left to right: Back row- Dave Nelson, Eddy Hutchens, Gina Jenkins, George Holscher
Front row- Debra Freed, Toody Perry*



President's Message by Randy Squier



Welcome to the first chapter in the book of 2025. It's always exciting to begin a new year with realistic goals. I know we're looking forward to what the year may bring. We want to start off with high expectations as we are determined to deliver to our membership and the community, always moving forward to add to our successes of the previous year.

The 44th National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota this year. The dates are July 17th-22nd. It's an opportunity to share friendships, camaraderie and competition with your fellow veterans. If you'd like information on this one-of-a-kind, awe-inspiring, friendship-generating event please visit www.wheelchairgames.org or contact the chapter. Having attended several of these events, I can tell you it's an eye-opener. As more than 500 to 600 athletes separated only by classification, compete with confidence and determination, inspired by the overwhelming support of all. I can still hear the roar of the crowd as the gladiators enter the arena.

Chapter Officers

Randy Squier, President
John Scott, Vice President
Will Leavitt, Secretary
Seth Kotouc, Treasurer

Chapter Directors

Dave Nelson, Director
Tom Timmerman, Director
Shayna Goerd, Director

Immediate Past President

Mark Linquist

National Director

Dave Nelson

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MS/Women Veterans Lead

Shayna Goerd
shayna@greatplainspva.org

Activities in and around the chapter building are still ongoing. The bowling league continues at Mockingbird Lanes here in Omaha. Our poker games continue at the building on Thursday afternoon. Come and join us if you can.

Information From Your NSO

by Mike Sheets, Eastern Region Director

Within the Nebraska Western-Iowa Health Care System (NWI) there are three designated Spinal Cord Injury/Disease (SCI/D) clinics (Spokes), which funnel into the Minneapolis SCI/D Center (Hub).

These Spokes are vital to the VA Spinal Cord System of Care. Each Spoke has a designated SCI/D Coordinator:

- Omaha & Lincoln SCI/D Clinic - Theo Moennig at 402-995-4119.
- Grand Island SCI/D Clinic - Jennifer Black at 308-995-3760 ext. 342274.

I encourage everyone eligible to utilize the VA Spinal Cord System of Care to do so. If you have any questions about the eligibility criteria for the VA Spinal Cord System of Care or have concerns with the care you are receiving from the VA, please contact me at 402-420-4017. Be prepared to give me details of your concerns.



Executive Director's Report

By Mary Bushman

The Great Plains PVA Board of Directors met earlier this month and set four goals for 2025 to guide the chapter in its programs and services for the year. Goals can be new, or they can build on work started in the previous years. This year's goals do both.

Goal: To enhance programs and services to our Great Plains PVA members living with MS. In 2024, Great Plains was the first PVA chapter to add MS Divisions to its PVA Bowling and Billiards Series tournaments and its Cornhole Clinic & Tournament. This was groundbreaking for PVA and we were proud to offer these opportunities to our Great Plains members living with MS. In 2025, the Chapter will continue to offer MS Divisions in its sports & recreation programs with the goal of growing member participation. In addition, the Chapter will be providing a new MS Support Series in collaboration with area medical providers, our PVA National Service Officer, our National PVA MS Chapter Representative, and our chapter staff. We will also continue to feature MS specific information in our chapter newsletter.

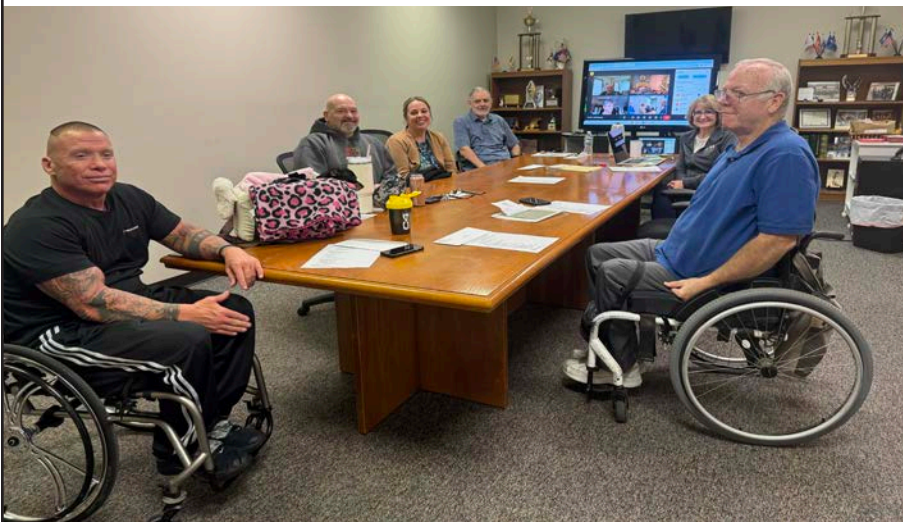
Goal: To acknowledge and support individuals who care for our Great Plains members through a Caregiver Support Series. The chapter recognizes the vital role caregivers play in the health and well-being of our members. Thanks to a grant from The Enrichment Foundation, the chapter will be providing a multi-part Caregiver Series in collaboration with our PVA National Service Officer, VA staff and chapter staff.

Goal: To grow participation and sponsorship of our PVA Billiards Series Tournament. The Chapter hosted its first PVA Billiards Series tournament in 2024 and welcomed players from across the country. In 2025, the chapter will continue to work with National PVA and the National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association to further promote the tournament and increase participation. In addition, the Chapter will work to increase local sponsorship of the tournament.

Goal: To create a welcome video introducing Great Plains PVA to new members and member eligibles. The video will include a tour of the chapter building, information on chapter programs and services, comments from the Chapter NSO, and introductions to chapter members and staff.

Board members and staff are excited to work toward these goals. If any members have questions or would like to offer input in any of the above areas, please reach out to me at bushman@greatplainspva.org.

Great Plains Receives Donation from PenFed Credit Union



Special thanks to PenFed Credit Union for choosing Great Plains PVA as the recipient of their end of year \$5,000 donation! We are grateful for the support of this company and their employees.

Rena M., PenFed's Community Relations representative, joined us at our December board meeting to present the donation. Thank you!

GPPVA Member Chris Parnell Competes at Heyball Parasport World Championship

by Mary Bushman

This past December, Great Plains PVA member Chris Parnell represented the United States at the 2024 World Poolplayers Association (WPA) Heyball Parasport World Championship. The 5-day event was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center and welcomed 151 poolplayers from over 20 countries. Participants were divided into three divisions: Men's Standup, Men's Seated, and a combined Women's Standup and Seated division. Chris was invited to play by the National Wheelchair Poolplayers Association (NWPA) and he competed in the Men's Seated Division. This division included 68 players from 14 countries. Chris competed in 5 matches against players from South Africa, France, Australia and the United Kingdom. At the end of the tournament, Chris placed as one of the top 16 seated poolplayers in the world.



Chris has been playing pool and participating in tournaments for 21 years in both the PVA Billiards Series and through his weekly leagues. He has competed in local, regional, national and world tournaments including the 2008 World 9-Ball Championship in Reno, Nevada. Last September, Chris placed 3rd in our Chapter's PVA Billiards Series tournament.

December's Heyball World Championship was a new game format for Chris and presented a different style playing table from traditional 8-Ball or 9-Ball games. The heyball table had rounded snooker pockets and steel rails that played differently. Chris said he was challenged by the new format. "In Heyball, you play more of a strategic chess style game.

You don't necessarily go for the pocket every shot. It's a more defensive style, where you work to set up balls for simpler shots." According to Chris, the WPA is trying to get Heyball to become a paralympic event. The December Championship had the minimum 14 countries required by the Olympic Committee and committee members were present observing the games.



HELP US STAY CONNECTED!

In an effort to keep our records current, please contact Amanda at the chapter office 402-398-1422 or vazquez@greatplainspva.org with any updates or changes to your email address, mailing address, or phone number. We want to ensure you stay informed of chapter activities, VA health care and benefits changes, and other issues affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

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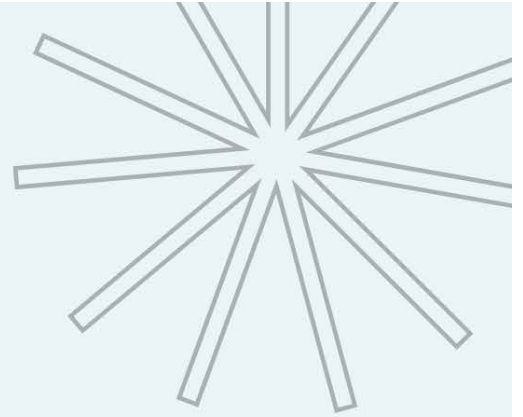
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Great Plains Chapter



SAVE THE DATES 2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

FEB 23

Caregiver Benefits Seminar
with PVA NSO

MAR 11

MS Zoom with PVA NSO

MAR 22

Ladies Night Out

APR 26

MS Walk - PVA Team

MAY 3

Wine & Roses Fundraiser

JUN 1

Golf Tournament Fundraiser

JUN 26-29

PVA National Bowling Tournament 

SEP 19-21

PVA Billiards Tournament 

 **WATCH FOR EMAILS AND INVITATIONS!** 

 VAZQUEZ@GREATPLAINSPVA.ORG

 402-398-1422

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Upcoming Events

January

1st:	Happy New Year!	
9th:	BOD Meeting	1:00pm
20th:	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
30th:	General Membership Meeting	11:00am

February

13th:	BOD Meeting	1:00pm
14th:	Valentine's Day	
23rd:	Caregiver Benefits Seminar with PVA NSO	

March

4th:	Omaha Power Soccer Club spring session begins	6-8pm
11th:	MS Zoom with PVA NSO	
13th:	BOD Meeting	1:00pm
17th:	St. Patrick's Day	
22nd:	Ladies Night Out	

Poker games held every Thursday (except BOD meeting days) at the Chapter building at 12pm.

CHAPTER BIRTHDAYS

January

Mark Zulkoski * James Tichota * Shawn Stencil * Charles Fattig * Jerry Trumble *
David Burgess * Kim Hanson * Charles Geffen * Daniel Kurtenbach * Richard Cornett *
Ronald Hendryx

February

Dominic Lovison * Neeley Gentry * Teddy Daniels * Dana Hall * Sidney Rightmyer * Clay-
born Barnett * David Seyler * Andrew Nelsen * James Harrin * Jerry Tharp

March

Zach Libben * Eric Rudberg * Lindsay Stearns * Chris Holcomb * Richard Kahla * Michael Brown *
William Connor * Michael Warde * Michelle Shupe * Russell Rimovsky * Randolph Squier * Charles
(Chas) Magdanz * David Hebert * Joseph May * Barbara Bailey * Marvin McClaughry * Dale Grub *
Jerry Sandage * Larry Burghardt * Charles Dus * Robert Roskens * Lloyd Russell * Thomas Pollock

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New Image Flooring Replaces Carpet in Our Fitness Center

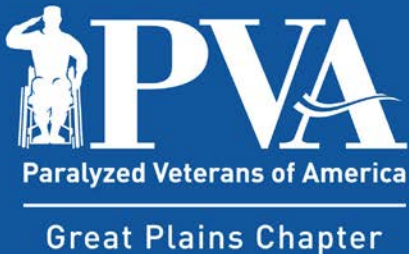
by Amanda Vazquez

After years of wear and tear, the carpet in our Adapted Health & Fitness Center was in dire need of replacement. Not only was it worn out, but there were rips, holes, and seems pulled up around the edges. In December, our friends at New Image Flooring - one of our most dedicated supporters of our annual golf tournament - came out and replaced the carpet. In one day they removed the old, worn out carpet, leveled the ground, and laid the new carpet squares. What a difference it made! Special thanks to Scott Crowe and his team for taking on this job and helping create a safer, more usable space for our fitness program.

BEFORE



AFTER



LADIES AUXILIARY'S
MCALEER/PIERCE
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**Applications
Due March 1st**



For graduating high school
seniors who have a
permanent physical disability
or who have a parent with a
permanent physical disability.

Visit www.greatplainspva.org to download an application.



2nd Annual *Great Plains PVA Ladies Night Out*

Bingo Around The World

Saturday, March 22, 2025

4:00 - 7:00 pm

Great Plains PVA 7612 Maple Street



This is a special, complimentary night for Great Plains PVA's women veterans and caregivers, Ladies Auxiliary members, and other friends of PVA.

Join us for an evening of fun, food, drinks, and prizes inspired by countries around the world!

**Please RSVP to
Vazquez@greatplainspva.org
by March 14th.**



Ladies! If you are a caregiver of a PVA member, your spouse is welcome to come and play poker or pool with other PVA members while you enjoy this event.

A Look Back at the Great Plains Chapter Christmas Party

by Amanda Vazquez

In December, Great Plains PVA members, auxiliary, staff, and friends joined together for our annual Christmas Party. This is always a spirited event with so many smiling faces and laughs shared among friends. Olive Garden catered a delicious pasta bar with salad and breadsticks and the Ladies Auxiliary provided desserts and punch.

Staff organized some games, including Heads or Tails and Bingo - both of which are fan favorites! Everyone had plenty of chances to win raffle tickets which could then be placed in specific boxes to win items separated into an adult table and kids table. We also had a number of door prizes that were given away.

This year, the Ladies Auxiliary helped provide a gingerbread house decorating kit to every child who attended. The chapter provided a special candle to each of the Ladies Auxiliary members and a PVA mug filled with goodies to our chapter members and friends. This is one of our favorite chapter events as it brings together so many people in a joyful and fun atmosphere.





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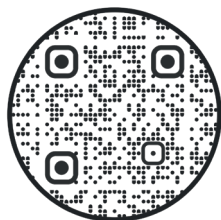
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* A screening process through the VA is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device. For full indications for use, visit: www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/

PN: 044-028-001 Rev. A



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Issue 19 • Volume 33

December 19, 2024

Washington Update

Check out the [PVAAction Force](#) page to view alerts and a list of key legislation.

MAJOR VICTORY!

CONGRESS PASSES ELIZABETH DOLE LEGISLATION

On December 16, Congress finally passed the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371/ANS to S. 141). This legislation addressed some of the biggest legislative priorities for PVA, like eliminating the cap on the amount VA can pay for care in the home; increasing access to home and community-based services, like Veteran Directed Care; and strengthening supports for caregivers.

Other PVA-endorsed provisions in the bill allow veterans' survivors to retain their eligibility for education benefits and create a pilot program for the VA to furnish assisted living services for certain veterans in rural areas. Barring anything unforeseen, the package should be on the President's desk before the year is over. PVA has worked tirelessly over the past few years to get these critical, life-changing provisions signed into law. We look forward to working with the Administration on implementation.

ANOTHER MAJOR VICTORY!

DOT RELEASES PROPOSED RULE TO IMPROVE THE AIR TRAVEL EXPERIENCE OF WHEELCHAIR USERS

On December 16, the Department of Transportation (DOT) [released a final rule](#) on ensuring safe accommodations for wheelchair users in air travel. The final rule resulted, in part, from [PVA's February 2022 DOT petition](#) to initiate rulemaking, as well as follow up letters on the topic. The new requirements, many of which go into effect in January, will dramatically improve the air travel experience for people with disabilities. Specifically, they clarify airlines' obligations and responsibilities to individuals with disabilities; better enforce violations and administrative penalties onto airlines that mishandle assistive devices; and improve airline processes for returning, repairing, and replacing mishandled wheelchairs, to include informing wheelchair users about the location of their device during transit and allowing them to choose their own repair company, if their wheelchair or scooter is damaged. The changes also mandate critical hands-on training on an annual basis to any airline staff or contractors who physically assist passengers with mobility disabilities or handle battery-powered assistive devices.

PVA's comments on DOT's proposed rule were extensively referenced in the discussion language accompanying the final regulation. These changes

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represent the culmination of a multi-year effort spearheaded by PVA to improve the safety and dignity of wheelchair users in air travel. Thank you to everyone who shared their air travel stories, filed complaints, and commented on the proposed rule. [Click here](#) to watch DOT's event announcing the final regulation.

UPDATE ON VA FUNDING SHORTFALL/FY 2025 FUNDING

At the end of November, the VA announced that it needed an additional \$6.6 billion to fill gaps in the Veterans Health Administration budget for fiscal year (FY) 2025. In addition to needing funds to hire clinicians and purchase much-needed equipment, VHA stated a need for relief due to the cost pressures occurring in the pharmacy and prosthetics programs that were not anticipated when the VA developed its FY 2025 budget.

On December 17, Congress unveiled a short-term bill to keep the government funded through March 14, 2025. The bill contains language codifying VA's Veteran Experience Office and providing greater oversight of the department's accounting procedures. The latter provision would require VA leaders to regularly meet with the members of the VA committees for the next three years to provide updates on the agency's finances. It also would withhold bonuses to senior VA leaders when financial shortfalls exist.

Although the VA requested to receive the needed \$6.6 billion in additional funding in the continuing resolution, it was not included in the released bill. It's unclear whether or not the request will be revised in the new year. Recent hearings on VA's reported shortfall showed that many members of Congress were unhappy with VA's management of its budget and inability to accurately project its financial requirements.

HOUSE VA SUBCOMMITTEE TAKES LAST LOOK AT PENDING BILLS

PVA submitted a statement for the record for a December 17 House Veterans' Affairs, Health Subcommittee hearing where lawmakers examined 10 pieces of veterans-related legislation. In our statement,

we supported bills that would allow veterans to receive eyeglass lens fittings through a VA community care provider; clarify the reimbursement process for emergency treatment furnished in non-VA facilities; and direct the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on menopause care furnished by the VA.

One of PVA's top priorities is to ensure proper staffing in VA's health care system. Without proper staffing, veterans may be forced to accept care in the community, even when it is not their choice to do so. Thus, PVA endorsed new legislation that would allow VA to pay for the medical education of an officer of the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service in return for an obligated period of service at a VA health care facility. We believe this legislation would help fill some of VA's most critical staffing needs while attracting more health care providers to the department. We also supported many of the provisions of H.R. 10,267, the Complete the Mission Act of 2024, which seeks to preserve access to community care and strengthen requirements from the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-182). PVA supported or had no objections to many of H.R. 10,267's provisions, including requiring the department to notify veterans of their eligibility for community care and if their requests for such care are denied. We continue, however, to have significant reservations with proposals to apply value-based reimbursement models to VA care, regardless of where it is delivered. In value-based care, health care providers are reimbursed based on the quality of care they provide, rather than the number of services they perform. Complex health issues like SCI/D do not fit neatly into such models and could have unintended consequences for veterans with these conditions. We are unable to support such requirements until there is straightforward evidence that the care veterans with SCI/D might receive, and/or their access to it, would not be impaired through the use of such models.

PVA did not endorse a trio of bills that sought to widen the aperture of eligibility for community care by diverting VA funding into other healthcare programs, including a pair of newly created pilot programs. We have grave concerns about the impact this legislation would have on catastrophically disabled veterans; therefore, we cannot support them at this time. A

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recording of the hearing and all relevant documents, including PVA's statement, can be found [here](#).

PVA TESTIFIES AT OVERSIGHT HEARING ON VR&E

On December 11, PVA participated in [an oversight hearing](#) on the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program held by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. Associate Legislative Director, Julie Howell, testified on behalf of PVA and was joined by the President of the National Association of Veteran Program Administrators (NAVPA).

The first panel was the Director of the VR&E Program, Nick Pamprin, and he was joined by Kenneth Smith, the Assistant Deputy Undersecretary for the Operation Management Team at the Veterans Benefits Administration. The subcommittee reprimanded the VA for not doing more to ensure that veterans have timely access to the VR&E program and they shared concerns about IT modernization efforts that are underway. The VA shared that in the past two years the program has seen record growth with very few additional supports for counselors working in the field.

PVA focused its statement on solutions that Congress could pass to address systemic issues in the program. Our testimony suggested that Congress remove the 12-year delimiting date that creates a barrier for veterans accessing the program if they've been separated from service for 12 years or more. PVA also stressed the need for increasing the number of VR&E counselors in the field to help with wait times in the face of high enrollment and application numbers, reducing the minimum education requirements for veteran success on campus counselors, and tying the subsistence rate for VR&E to that of veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

HOUSE PASSES VETS SAFE TRAVEL ACT

On December 10, the House passed an amended version of the VETS Safe Travel Act (H.R. 7365). This bipartisan legislation, introduced by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ), would provide free access to TSA Pre✓® for certain eligible

veterans who otherwise meet the requirements of the program. Unfortunately, the bill was amended prior to passage to limit eligibility to veterans with service-connected disabilities. On December 11, Senator Todd Young (R-IN) and a bipartisan group of Senators introduced a companion bill (S. 5487). It's uncertain whether the House version of the bill will be addressed by the Senate prior to the end of the congressional session.

TECH MOD SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS OVERSIGHT HEARING ON MODERNIZING VA'S IT SYSTEMS

On December 12, the Technology Modernization (Tech Mod) Subcommittee for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee held an oversight hearing reviewing the work of the subcommittee over the 118th Congress. The hearing focused on addressing the challenges with VA IT projects like Electronic Health Record Modernization, Financial Management Business Transformation, and the Digital G.I. Bill rollout. Representatives from the VA, Government Accountability Office, Georgetown University, and the Foundation for American Innovation were present and provided in-person testimony.

While the consensus was that modernizing VA's IT systems would have undeniable benefits, it must be done with proper oversight and management. The hearing highlighted many recent projects whose cost had gone far beyond their original budgets. Notably, this was the final hearing for outgoing Chairman Matt Rosendale (R-MT) who was the Chairman of the Subcommittee in the 118th Congress and the Ranking Member in the 117th. You can watch the hearing [here](#).

NEWS OF NOTE

Major VA Construction Bill Approved

PVA works to protect VA's specialized care services by trying to ensure funding is provided for the department's infrastructure projects. Recently, Congress approved S. 4176, the Fiscal Year 2024 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act, which authorized the use of previously approved funding for

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11 major construction projects around the country. One of these projects included nearly \$312 million toward the construction of a spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D) center, renovation of parking facilities, and upgrades to the central utility plant at the San Diego Health Care System. A portion of the funding will also go towards a seismic retrofit of San Diego's existing SCI/D center.

Legislation Requiring Amtrak Reports on Station Accessibility Headed to the President

On December 17, the House passed the bipartisan Think Differently Transportation Act (S. 4107). The legislation was introduced in the Senate by Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and in the House (H.R. 6248) by Representative Marc Molinaro (R-NY) and the late Representative Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ). This legislation will require Amtrak to complete an action plan and provide status reports on its efforts to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act at Amtrak-served stations.

Lurie Institute Launches Interactive Dashboard to Spread Education on People with Disabilities

The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy has launched a [Disability Data Dashboard](#). The interactive dashboard serves as a resource for researchers, advocates, and policymakers to learn more about people with disabilities and community living services. The Institute is also looking for feedback on how to improve the dashboard.

IVF in the NDAA

Several times over the past few months, we highlighted that IVF expansion language was in both the House and Senate drafts of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the funding vehicle for the Department of Defense. While this was the first time both bills contained IVF expansion provisions, the final language of the bill did not include any. However, language creating a pilot program for cryopreservation did make it into the final version of the NDAA, which passed the House on December 11. The Senate passed it on December 18.

WEBINARS & COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Government Relations Webinars on PVA.org

October and November were busy months for PVA's Government Relations team. On October 29, we covered this year's efforts to improve access to air travel for people with disabilities in our webinar titled, "[Improving Disability Access in Air Travel](#)." Then, in November, we kicked off caregiver month by discussing the results of a RAND study on caregivers with representatives from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation titled, "[Hidden Heroes Emerging from the Shadows](#)." Finally, we wrapped up November with a webinar with TSA titled, "[Navigating Airport Security as a Passenger with a Disability](#)." Recordings for these webinars are now available on PVA.org.

Access Board Hosts Webinar on Its Role in Accessibility

The U.S. Access Board will host a webinar on January 9, 2025, from 2:30 to 4:00 P.M. ET. During the webinar, members will educate attendees on the Access Board's role in creating, enforcing, and providing training on accessibility standards. The webinar will also cover how federal agencies lead and enforce accessibility standards in other areas.

[Registration](#) for the webinar is now open.

Veterans' Committee Activities

Please visit the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Veterans' Affairs Committee webpages for information on previous and upcoming hearings and markups.



Join PVAction Force to keep up-to-date on legislation that impacts veterans and people with disabilities, and easily communicate with your Senators and Representatives about these issues.

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WIZARD OF OZ Costume & Prop-Making Workshops

Hanscom Park Church
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Omaha, NE 68105



**SUNDAYS,
2:30-4:30 PM
MARCH 2, 9, 16**

**FREE ADMISSION!
*Beginners and
Families Welcome!***





CIRCLE THEATRE presents: Theatre for All: A Journey to Oz

Who We Are

Circle Theatre is Omaha's leading inclusive theatre, dedicated to providing creative opportunities for individuals with disabilities both on and off the stage. Our goal is to celebrate diversity, foster creativity, and build community through accessible theatre productions and arts programs.



What We're Planning

This spring, we're proud to present "The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition" as part of our inclusive theatre initiative!

- Our project brings together diverse participants, including:
- Military families and disabled veterans (costume-building)
 - Core cast of actors (over 50% individuals with disabilities)
 - Featured community partners (QLI, MMI, Vodec, and more)

Together, we'll create a magical, fully integrated production where every participant contributes their talents to tell this iconic story.



Circle Theatre's costume-building workshops invite military families with disabilities and disabled veterans to create unique costume pieces for our production of "The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition".

All supplies and instruction will be provided, ensuring an accessible and enjoyable experience for participants of all abilities.

This program is proudly funded by the Creative Forces Community Engagement Grant through the Mid-America Arts Alliance.



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Great Plains Chapter



Follow us on Social Media!

@greatplainspva



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Paralyzed Veterans of America Great Plains Chapter (Great Plains PVA) is a non-profit organization that has dedicated over 50 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.