



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Northwest Chapter

Volume XLIII Issue 2

NORTHWEST OUTPOST

December 2019/January 2020

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Column</i>	3
<i>Executive Director's Column</i>	4
<i>Vice President's Column</i>	5
<i>Washington Update</i>	8
<i>Membership & Certification Applications</i>	6
<i>Membership Program</i>	12
<i>Events Calendar</i>	16
<i>Boo In Burien</i>	16
<i>Birthdays</i>	18



Soon to be Firefighters at Boo in Burien



Senior National Service Officer

Michael Killen

Henry M. Jackson Federal Bldg.

915 Second Avenue

Room 1054

Seattle, WA 98174

206-341-8210

800-795-3576

Veterans' Health & Benefits Specialist

Maria Rigolo

206-768-5415 (VA Hospital)

206-220-6136 (Fax)

Our Mission

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members-veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.

PVA will use that expertise to be the leading advocate for:

- Quality health care for our members,
- Research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction,
- Benefits available as a result of our members' military service,
- Civil rights and opportunities which maximize the independence of our members.

To enable PVA to continue to honor this commitment, we must recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for PVA to achieve its mission.

The Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America (NWPVA) a member chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America accomplishes it's mission by coordinated efforts through programs that:

- Provide opportunities for health promotion, recreation, employment, sports and recreation, service and camaraderie for paralyzed veterans;
- Elevate society's information level about the attitudinal, physical and legal barriers that confront persons with disabilities in order to influence the removal of those barriers;
- Advocate for and monitor the delivery of high quality and appropriate health care benefits and service;
- Cooperate with and seek the support of other groups and individuals that share NWPVA's objective;
- Educate the public with the current and ongoing needs and current and past contributions of America's veterans.

NWPVA Officers

President-Robert Brush

Vice President-Matthew Mickunas

Secretary-Weldon Lee

Treasurer-Aaron Hastings

National Director-Michael Partridge

NWPVA

Board of Directors

Russ Norris, Joe Sapienza,

Terry Chenoweth, Weldon Lee,

Michael Partridge, Andrew Bechtle,

Robert Clinton, Fred Margiotta,

Thomas Bungert

NWPVA Appointees

Sports Director-Russ Norris

Membership & Advocacy Director-
Thomas Bungert

Seattle VAWS-Weldon Lee

Outpost Editor-Lisa Lawrence

Legislative & Government Relations
Director-Mike Partridge

Seattle VA Hospital Liaison-
Skip Dreps

Staff

Executive Director-Brent King

Office Manager-Lisa Lawrence

Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

616 SW 152nd Street, Suite B

Burien, WA 98166

206-241-1843

1-800-336-9782

Fax: 206-433-0749

E-mail: pvachnw@mindspring.com

Web site: www.nwpva.org

Robert Brush

Getting Involved



There's always many things going on at the NW Paralyzed Veterans of America Chapter. Some you see in the form of activities you as a member see in the form of donated SCI vans, pizza parties, National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Then there's many behind the scenes happenings too, such as Advocacy Legislation in WA DC to make sure your benefits and SCI Unit are protected.

We are here to serve our Veterans with spinal cord injuries/disease, MS and ALS. We also would love to see more of you get

involved and give your input on what you would like to see happening for sports and outdoor activities.

We have the ability to get you out to learn to golf, trap shoot, and fish.

There are many hunting opportunities throughout the U.S. that different groups put on for Disabled Veterans. You just need to get yourself to the destination and the accommodations and hunt are free to qualified Veterans.

Please take the time to give us your input. Just email Bking-homes@gmail.com and you will get a response back.

Are You a Veteran with Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (MS)?

VA Puget Sound MS Center of Excellence is recruiting for a research study **Lipoic Acid for Treatment of Progressive MS** to see if the over the counter antioxidant, lipoic acid, helps people with progressive forms of MS.

You might be eligible for this study:

- Veteran (18 years or older)
- Have primary progressive MS or secondary progressive MS
- Able to walk with or without a walking aid (cane, walker, etc.)
- Willing to get 2 brain MRIs
- Willing to be randomized to a study medication (lipoic acid or placebo)
- Willing to participate in 7 visits and complete study procedures over a 2-year period

Participation:

Study participants are randomly assigned to take lipoic acid or placebo. You may continue your current MS therapy while participating in this study.

\$25-50 for each completed visit and travel money if you live far away.

For More Information, please contact:

The Study Coordinator at 206-277-3593

Principal Investigator:

Jodie Haselkorn, MD, MPH

MS Center of Excellence-West

VA Puget Sound Health Care System

1660 S. Columbian Way, Seattle, WA 98108

<https://tinyurl.com/LAtrial>

Brent King Bird Hunting



It's that time of year again to get outdoors, breath in some fresh brisk air get in some bird hunting. It takes some creative ways for different disabilities to maneuver the terrain and find areas that accommodate each of our abilities to hunt.

I travel a few hours with my gas TracFab chair and hunt with a guide. I pre-pay for 10 hunts in advance during the summer and get 2 for free. I found a guide near Pasco, WA that was excited to take a Disabled Veteran out hunting. He kept an open mind and thinks outside of the box on accommodating the adaptive needs my particular limitations.

My Chocolate Lab, "Scout" is use to being around my TracFab chair and she listens to my commands while we hunt. We've had a lot of fun hunting for quail,

pheasant, ducks and geese over the past three years. If I didn't have Scout, the guide can bring one of his many hunting dogs too. Having a bird dog takes a lot of patience and putting in the training time to have successful hunts. Luckily my son worked two summers for a dog trainer and took Scout along to train too. She had her junior hunt to retrieve title at just over a year old.

I make a lot of goose and duck breast jerky and cook up the pheasant and quail in a variety of different ways. It's very good lean protein if your fortunate to harvest some of these beautiful birds!

If hunting isn't for you, it's just fine to get out and about to roam the great Northwest. There's many accessible trails and adventures that can be had if you desire to get outdoors! I'll be out hunting with friends and family until the seasons end!



Orting Soldiers Home WDVA By: Matt Mickunas

3 1 October; Haunted Halloween Farm at the Orting Soldiers Home. The Staff were dressed up as "Wicked Scarecrows". The haunted farm room was a scare, the smoke was billowing out all throughout the farm and across the resident's wheel-

chairs. Three big boxes were set up with curtains on them, they were set up to stick your hand through & into to guess what you were touching without seeing. This was a sensory partaking that may be gooey or even spaghetti like as your imagination cringes.

Another great day at the bowling alley. Once a month during the cold season, the Orting Soldiers Home partakes at the local bowling alley and gets to throw, roll, & push a ball down the alley for some fun. While there, might as well order some alley food to go along with having a good time.





**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Membership Application

*An individual is eligible for membership by meeting the following criteria: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) was regularly enlisted, inducted or commissioned for active duty service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States, or our allies as evidenced by other-than-dishonorable character of service documented by a verifiable DD-214 or DD-215 (entry-level separation not acceptable); (3A) was separated from the service in the Armed Forces under conditions other than dishonorable; or (3B) is on active duty or must continue to serve after the cessation of hostilities; and (4) has suffered a spinal cord injury or disease (such as MS, ALS), whether or not service connected in origin. Membership is free. **Complete and return application to the chapter of choice or by mail/email to: Paralyzed Veterans of America Membership Department, 801 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; (E) members@pva.org. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with Paralyzed Veterans of America.***

Chapter Name: _____

First Name: _____ **Middle Initial:** _____ **Last Name:** _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ **Social Security Number:** _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female

Race/Ethnicity:

☐ Asian/Pacific Islander

☐ African American/Descent

☐ Hispanic/Latino

☐ Native American/Alaskan Native

☐ Caucasian

Address: _____ **City:** _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Email:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

Please submit the following with application:

- DD214 showing character of discharge.
- Medical evidence of spinal cord injury or involvement (medical records or physician's statement).

Proof of active duty status must be verified prior to membership approval.

Have you been discharged under conditions that are less than honorable? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain: _____

Are you a United States citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a spinal cord injury or disease? ☐ Yes ☐ No If disease, specify: _____

Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease service connected? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Paralyzed Veterans of America is your accredited representative, do you permit PVA Service Officers to provide information to PVA National Membership Department relative to your membership eligibility? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I have read and meet the qualifications and I understand that my membership could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** ____ / ____ / ____

Witness Signature: _____ **Date:** ____ / ____ / ____



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

CERTIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Chapter Name: _____

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Social Security Number: _____

Please submit the following with application:

- Proof of U.S. or U.S. Territorial Citizenship (Birth Certificate, Passport, USCIS Form).
- DD214 showing character of discharge.
- Medical evidence of spinal cord injury or involvement (medical records or physician's statement).

I hereby request that my eligibility for membership in the Paralyzed Veterans of America be certified. I consent to process my submitted medical documentation to a confidential review by a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Medical Staff, to validate that my condition presents as having spinal cord involvement and to allow official Certification by the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Secretary. I have no objection and hereby permit Paralyzed Veterans of America Service Officers to provide information to the Paralyzed Veterans of America National Membership Department that pertains to my qualifications for membership/certification.

I declare that I have read and meet the qualifications. I understand that my membership/certification could be denied or revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

OFFICE USE ONLY

CAUTION TO ANYONE HAVING ACCESS TO THESE DOCUMENTS

The documents provided by the requester are personal in nature and are for certification only. Information contained within these documents shall be treated with extreme confidentiality and released only to those employees of Paralyzed Veterans of America authorized to access.

I certify that I have personally examined the documents provided by the requester and find him/her to be eligible for membership/certification.

National Secretary's Signature: _____

Date Received: ____/____/____ Date Acted Upon: ____/____/____



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

WASHINGTON UPDATE

Recent news regarding legislation and regulatory actions affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

Written and produced by Paralyzed Veterans of America - Government Relations Department

November 21, 2019

Volume 25, Number 11

PVA Participates in Round Table on Passengers With Disability

On November 14, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Aviation held a round table entitled, "From Curb to Gate and Back Again: The Air Travel Experience for Persons with Disabilities." Subcommittee Chairman Rick Larsen (D-WA) noted that this was the first time the committee had held a round table on issues of passengers with disabilities. Thirteen members of the subcommittee attended the meeting and asked questions of the panelists. The panelists included: Ms. Blane Workie, Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Department of Transportation (DOT); Ms. Seena Foster, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Transportation Security Administration; Mr. Tom Devine, General Counsel, Airports Council International; Mr. Doug Mullen, Vice President and Deputy

General Counsel, Airlines for America; Mr. Lee Page, Senior Associate Advocacy Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ms. Michelle Erwin, President and Founder, All Wheels Up; and Mr. Ian Watlington, Senior Disability Advocacy Specialist, National Disability Rights Network. Each panelist had an opening statement identifying the work they have done on assisting passengers with disabilities in the air travel experience and was asked to note other issues that are not currently being addressed that could further enhance accessibility.

Ms. Workie spoke about the implementation of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, including implementation of the requirement for airlines to submit on a monthly basis to DOT the number of wheelchairs and scooters enplaned and the percentage returned damaged to passengers with disabilities. Ms. Workie also discussed the Advisory Committee

on the Air Travel Needs of Passengers with Disabilities and the requirement for it to look into airline practices for ticketing, pre-flight seat assignments, and stowage of assistive devices for passengers with disabilities. The advisory Committee will also work with stakeholders, including disability organizations, air carriers, and their contractors, to develop an Airline Passengers with Disabilities Bill of Rights. Ms. Workie further stated that DOT would soon publish a regulation on accessible lavatories in single-aisle aircraft.

Mr. Mullen talked about the work A4A has done over the past few years starting with the negotiated rulemaking in the summer of 2016, which was convened by DOT to work on the issues of service animals, in flight entertainment and communication, and access to a lavatory on a single-aisle aircraft. He was grateful to PVA for the work the organization

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

is doing with the air carriers, other disability stakeholders, and wheelchair manufacturers to come up with a RESNS standard for wheelchairs in air travel that would alleviate damage from being placed in the cargo holds of airplanes.

Ms. Foster spoke about the TSA Cares Program, which outreaches to different segments of the disability population. She credited PVA for assisting TSA to understand more about catastrophic spinal cord injuries and the needs of PVA members. Also, TSA Cares has a wounded warriors and disabled veterans outreach program. She further spoke of the advantages of TSA Pre-check and how they encourage passenger with disabilities to sign up. Ms. Foster also talked about the new technology of screening passengers that will be less invasive in the future.

This will include a body heat sensor that will see areas blocked by items identifiable by size and would garner further inspection via a pay down if determined necessary by the TSA agent. She acknowledged that PVA had participated in a preliminary meeting to review the device.

Mr. Page emphasized three areas of concern. First, PVA members are still having trouble in boarding airplanes due to the lack of training of personnel to assist in boarding. Specifically, the transfer process to an aisle chair can be precarious. Second, the path of travel to enter the plane is not accessible like other modes of public transportation and standards of access are needed. Lastly, he spoke of the need for individual recourse when a passenger with a disability is aggrieved by the airline for violations of the law.

Representative Brian Mast (R-FL), a combat disabled veteran, demonstrated his prosthetic leg and the wheel from his wheelchair as assistive devices that are an extension of his body and make him whole again. He directed his comments towards Ms. Foster of TSA and relayed the problems he has had with coming through security and having to be “patted down” or physically searched by TSA agents because they did not understand his disability. Mr. Page added that other problems going through security revolved around the wait time a person with a disability must endure for a same gender officer to arrive to escort the person to a location for more detailed inspection. This waiting time and announcement only draws more attention towards the person with the disability, causing anxiety and embarrassment.



U.S. Justice Department Settles with Public Accommodations to Protect The Rights of Veterans Who Use Service Dogs

The Justice Department announced two settlement agreements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to protect and advance equal access for veterans with disabilities who use service dogs. One agreement is with Deerfield Inn & Suites, in Gadsden, Alabama. The second agreement is with the Landmark Hotel Group in Virginia Beach, Virginia, which manages the Holiday Inn Express in Hampton, Virginia. These matters were investigated and resolved in furtherance of the Department's commitment to ensuring that our veterans enjoy equal access to public accommodations, such as restaurants, hotels, and shops.

The ADA generally requires public accommodations to provide access to individuals with disabilities who use service animals, including those who use service dogs for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or anxiety. Yet, in public accommodations across the country, individuals with disabilities are frequently barred from entering with a service animal.

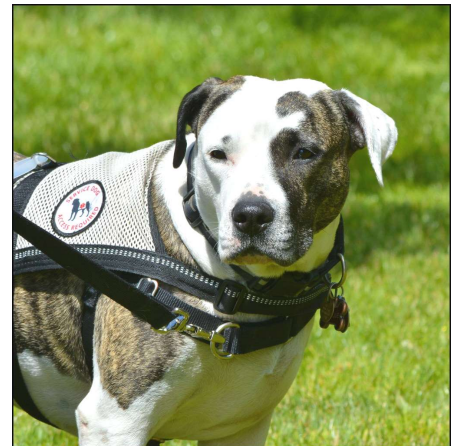
The Deerfield Inn & Suites agreement resolves allegations that, after driving many hours, a veteran arrived at the Deerfield Inn &

Suites at 4:00 am. When the desk clerk learned that the veteran was accompanied by her service dog, the desk clerk refused to honor the reservation, insisting that no dogs were permitted in the hotel. Despite numerous attempts by the veteran to explain that the dog was not a pet, but a highly trained animal required for disabilities she acquired in the service of our country, the clerk would not allow the veteran to stay at the hotel. As a result, and given the late hour, the veteran ended up sleeping in her car in the parking lot of a church.

Similarly, the complaint underlying the Landmark Hotel agreement alleged that, at the Holiday Inn Express managed by the Landmark Hotel Group, the desk clerk refused to honor a reservation by a veteran because he would not provide documentation that the dog with him was a service dog. The veteran informed the clerk that it was unlawful to ask for documents to establish that a dog is a service animal, but the desk clerk informed him such documentation was corporate policy. The veteran then requested to speak to the hotel manager, who confirmed that it was the hotel's policy to require such documentary proof. The veteran was forced to find another hotel.

Under ADA, public accommodations generally must make modifications to their policies, practices or procedures—such as no-pet policy—to permit the use of a service animal by a person with a disability. A service dog generally may go wherever the public is allowed to go, and a public accommodation may not require documentation about the service dog.

Under these agreements, both entities will adopt and implement a service dog policy; provide training on the service dog policy to employees and managers; post the service dog policy at their facilities and in their advertising; and pay money damages to the two veterans. All entities cooperated with the Department throughout the investigations.



House Approves Education Bills

Recently, the House approved a pair of education-related veterans bills: H.R. 4625, the Protect the GI Bill Act, which increases transparency and accountability among educational programs that receive VA funding; and H.R. 4162, the GI Bill Planning Act, which would eventually end the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). Both bills have been received by the Senate where they await further action.

H.R. 4625 ensures that schools receiving GI Bill funding inform prospective students of key items, including the cost of attendance, how much their benefits cover, and student outcomes. It also empowers State Approving Agencies to flag or suspend new enrollments to schools that violate these requirements. H.R. 4625 also aligns the definitions of an eligible child in VA and the Department of Defense (DoD) for the purpose of education benefit

transfers and bans schools from misrepresenting themselves while marketing, recruiting, and enrolling students. Currently, DoD includes wards and foster children while VA does not. The second bill, H.R. 4162 gives new enlistees six months instead of two weeks to decide whether to pay \$1,200 or opt-out of the MGIB benefit. It also ends new enrollments in the MGIB by October 2029.

Webinar on VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program

In late October, PVA's Legislative staff hosted a webinar entitled, "VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program: Status of Expansion and Improvements Efforts." It was the first segment of two part series on care giving. The recording of the webinar is available for anyone who may have missed it. (<https://pva.zoom.us/recording/play/NCXAOHlvurYeyfUyCAB9zD2A35Z-s1GJlefWQj6WpNT9HkQlJkLmVCGouhXLNeo?continueMode=true>)

Disabled Veteran DoD Shopping Initiative

A provision in the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act allows the Department of Defense to expand commissary; military exchange; and moral, welfare, and recreation retail privileges on stateside military installations to certain veterans and their caregiv-

ers. Beginning January 1, 2020, all service-connected disabled veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war (POW), and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers can use commissaries; exchanges; and moral, welfare and

recreation retail facilities, in-person and online. Please note that veterans and their caregivers must have specific credentials in order to enter an installation. For more information regarding these privileges and access to military installation, please visit <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/products#!/detail/780>

Budget Struggles Continue

Congress continues to struggle with their efforts to complete the annual spending bills. With the current resolution set to expire on November 21, the House and Senate passed a second continuing resolution (CR) that will keep the government running through December 20. The bill that funds VA, has been delayed due to broader concerns over border wall funding. VA has already received its health care funding for Fiscal Year 2020 due to advance appropriations but needs to receive additional funding to meet its full spending needs for the fiscal year. It's highly unlikely that the additional time afforded to Congress by the VR will be enough for them to complete their work. Thus, another CR will likely be needed to keep the government funded beyond December 20.

Advocates Meet To Consider Disaster Recovery Housing Policy

VA Advocacy staff participated in an invitation-only policy conference in Houston, Texas, on October 28-30, to discuss ways to improve federal disaster housing response and recovery systems to ensure that the needs of low-income survivors are not overlooked. The meeting was sponsored by the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition (DHRC), which is comprised of more than 850 local, state, and national organizations.

Often, when disasters strike, the lowest-income survivors-among them many people with disabilities-sustain the greatest damage, have the fewest resources, and face the longest paths to recovery. The current disaster housing response and recovery system exacerbates and reinforces racial, in-

come, and accessibility inequities at each stage of response and recovery. Many of the system's flaws were outlined in a preliminary report developed by DHRC members, the Fair Share Housing Center of New Jersey, and the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC). The document, *Fixing America's Broken Disaster Housing Recovery System: Barriers to a Complete and Equitable Recover*, served to set the stage for the convening focused on creating an improved disaster response system.

The conference began with a bus tour highlighting some of the successes and continuing challenges in Houston two years after the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. Organized by Texas Housers and the Houston Organizing Movement for Equity (HOME) Coalition,

participants heard from survivors and community organizers and toured a home being renovated by a neighborhood recovery group, a public housing complex that flooded during Hurricane Harvey, and a home built with accessible features utilizing PAPIDO, an efficient temporary-to-permanent post-disaster housing program.

Attendees also viewed the premiere of a Revisioning Recovery film compilation by Working Films highlighting the inequities I present day disaster preparedness and response systems, and the solutions needed to respond to natural disasters. Among the documentaries was, "The Right To Be Rescued," focusing on people with disabilities affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

The meetings over the next two days consisted of in-depth discussions concerning improvements needed in the federal disaster housing response system. Separate sessions were held on the immediate response following a disaster; the provision of long-term housing recovery; and mitigation and resilience efforts. Each session began with a panel discussion featuring stakeholders

with direct experience in each area and policy experts, followed by in-depth small-and large-group sessions exploring new and more effective policies, systems, and structures to address challenges identified in the plenary. Every group and panel focused on similar themes such as addressing racial and economic equity, improving meaningful community involvement and power, ensuring compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws, strengthening

pre-disaster planning, and driving federal investments to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. The NLIHC will now work with DHRC partners to consolidate the recommendations generated at the convening into a comprehensive set of policy recommendations. The report, the second of two on *Fixing America's Broken Disaster Housing Recovery System* series, will be released in 2020.



American Lake Division
Tacoma WA 98493-5000

Seattle Division
Seattle WA 98108-1597

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Puget Sound Health Care System
1660 South Columbian Way
Seattle, WA 98108-1597

In Reply Refer To: 663/S-00-VOL

November 27, 2019

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Northwest Chapter
616 SW 152nd St., Suite B
Burien, WA 98166-2224

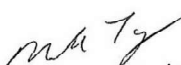
Dear Friends:

On behalf of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System patients and staff, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Northwest Chapter, for your ongoing sponsorship and provision for Veteran patients to attend the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Your continued support is priceless. Your generous gifts have given our Veteran patients rich experiences, prospects for camaraderie and an opportunity to showcase their resiliency. These kinds of experiences that foster whole health and wellness, in partnership with the quality care and services we provide, makes an immeasurable difference in the lives of our deserving Veterans.

A most heartfelt thanks for your enduring care and advocacy.

Sincerely,


Michael C. Tadych, FACHE
Director

NWPVA Membership Program By: Weldon Lee

NWPVA is moving forward to focus on those aspects of our mission in reaching out to veterans with spinal cord injuries and/or diseases. If you, as part of our readership within the VISN-20 States (AK, WA, OR, MT, ID) and you know spinal cord injured or diseased veterans not part of our chapter, please refer them to us.

Unknown to many, there is no fee to become a member of NWPVA.

Throughout all of the Veteran Service and Veteran Organizations in the United States, numbers are diminishing rapidly. There is a myriad of reasons for the decrease too many to discuss in one article. However, it is safe to say that if we don't keep our current membership apprised of programs and development of new programs, numbers do decrease due to being not kept informed.

You, as current members of the NWPVA organization, are this organization's ambassadors to other spinal cord injured and/or diseased veterans. Because of recruiting restrictions imposed by the VA Hospitals, a void of SCI/D veterans has been created. Many have been treated at hospitals and left without being informed of NWPVA's mission and programs to help them transition back into a way of "normal" living. So we are asking you to be our eyes and ears. To help promote our story to those veterans who have "dropped" through the cracks.

We are asking you to do our "investigative leg work" for us in order reach these "forgotten" veterans.

Here are some facts concerning our membership requirements.

1. There are two types of membership. One is the regular application for SCID veterans and the other is for non-SCID folks.

a. The **Regular** membership forms on (page 6 & 7) is free.

b. The **Associate** membership form (page 15) requires a payment of a \$10 fee for a Lifetime membership. The Associate membership is a non-voting member and cannot hold an officer or board member position.

2. You can belong to more than one Veteran Service Organization. This is optional.

3. Due to the complexities of being spinal cord injuries and diseases, fulltime NWPVA Service Officers are trained to assist veterans with those complex issues.

Here are a few facts about our chapter.

1. There are more programs within the NWPVA/PVA organization geared towards SCI/D veterans than any other Veteran Service Organization.

2. There are very few chapters in VISN-20 due to a lack of information of how many SCI/D veterans are out in the community.

3. Our NWPVA Chapter is one of the top ten or better in the United States.

This is where we need your help to being one of the best in the nation. In order to maintain that, we need to continually reach out to SCI/D veterans to make them aware that they are not alone and that they don't have to struggle in silence.

If we can build our membership in those States mentioned above, we may be able to:

- a. Build sub-chapters or help create additional chapters in higher SCI/D density areas.
- b. If the membership is large enough in certain areas, with the help of our staff and PVA guidance, satellite programs could be developed to support the group or a new Chapter.
- c. Increasing our communications network utilizing current technology to spread the word and develop more camaraderie among SCI/D veterans.
- d. To develop more community involvement in helping our SCI/D veterans adjust back to being a part of the community.
- e. To arrange and instill corporate involvement and participation in helping out the SCI/D community.

See Application and Certification forms inside this edition (page 6 & 7), and Associate membership form (page 15) If you have any questions, please either e-mail your questions to pvachnw@mindspring.com or call **206-241-1843**.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please check any of the following volunteer activities that you may be interested in:

_____ Sports Programs _____ VAMC Programs _____ Public Relations
Events

_____ Family Time Activities _____ Fund Raising Activities _____

_____ Other (please detail in comments section)

COMMENTS:

Lifetime Associate Membership Fee: \$10.00

Please return this application and your payment to NWPVA at:

616 SW 152nd Street, Suite B

Burien, WA 98166

206-241-1843

Associate Member's Signature:

December

- 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 19th Chapter Membership/BOD Meeting
12:00 Noon Chapter Office
SCI Ward Christmas Party
5:00 PM
- 21st Winter Begins
- 25th Christmas Day



January

- 1st New Year's Day
- 15th Chapter Membership/BOD Meeting
12:00 Noon Chapter Office
SCI Ward Pizza Party 5:00 PM
- 20th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Boo In Burien-Ghosts, Goblins, & Holiday Treats

By: Bob Clinton

The October, Northwest Chapter, PVA Board of Director's meeting was invaded by dozens of ghosts floating from the ceiling of the chapter office, the windows facing the sidewalk along Burien, Washington's busy 152nd Street was festooned with scenes of weathered and leaning tombstones, obituaries of 19th century citizens, and other spooky scenes. Once inside, ample proof that the spirits were friendly came in the many sweet treats, including carrot cake rolls, Halloween candy, and assorted cake slices presented on sticks like lollypops, each individually frosted and arranged around the room, ensuring plenty of calories for all. After the Board meeting the few leftovers were distributed to attendees to take home and share with their family and friends.

This delightful Halloween atmosphere was the handiwork of NWPVA's Office Manager, Lisa Lawrence, a self-described Halloween fan who says she, "enjoys Halloween more than most any other holiday, because it's just so much fun." Lisa has been bringing, at her own expense, Halloween to NWPVA's office with the help of her children and their friends since she began working for NWPVA 17 years ago.

Lisa, her family and NWPVA are also active in the Burien community, participating in *Boo In Burien*, a safe trick or treat and community activity that includes Kids Crafts, Haunted House, Wiener Dog Races, Costume Dog Parade and CANDY! Guaranteed fun for all!

NWPVA Medical Equipment Distribution Program Ends

Effective immediately, the NWPVA will no longer receive or distribute hospital/medical equipment and supplies. To those individuals and companies who have donated equipment and/or supplies in the past, we thank you for your wonderful giving spirit. Know that, you have been a godsend to those recipients of your donations.



- ARE YOU LOOKING TO GET MORE ACTIVE?
- WOULD YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE THE SAME INTERESTS AS YOURSELF?
- DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN GIVING BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

Come check out Seattle Adaptive Sports!

We offer individual and team sports for youth and adults. There are opportunities to participate and/or help provide the experience to others.

Sign up for our newsletter to find out about monthly sports clinics and happenings with our members. Just send us an email to be added or go to our website.



Seattle Adaptive Sports

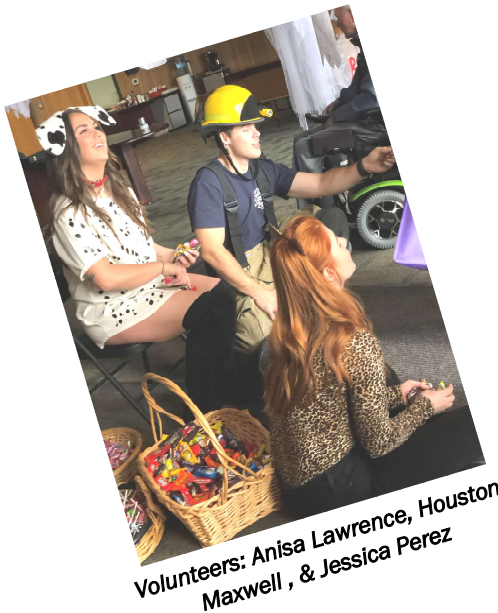
1111 E Madison #137

Seattle, WA 98122

(253) 297-5389

www.seattleadaptivesports.org

info@seattleadaptivesports.org



Volunteers: Anisa Lawrence, Houston Maxwell, & Jessica Perez



Firefighter, Dalmatian, & Young Firefighter



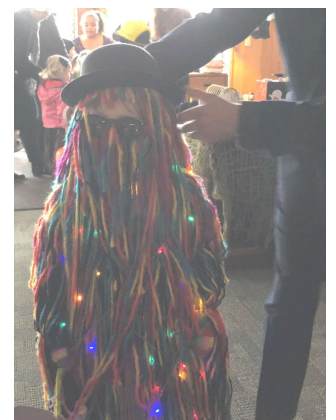
Sandy & Terry Chenoweth



BOO In Burien



NWPVA Chapter Office



Rainbow Cousin It

Happy Birthday!

December

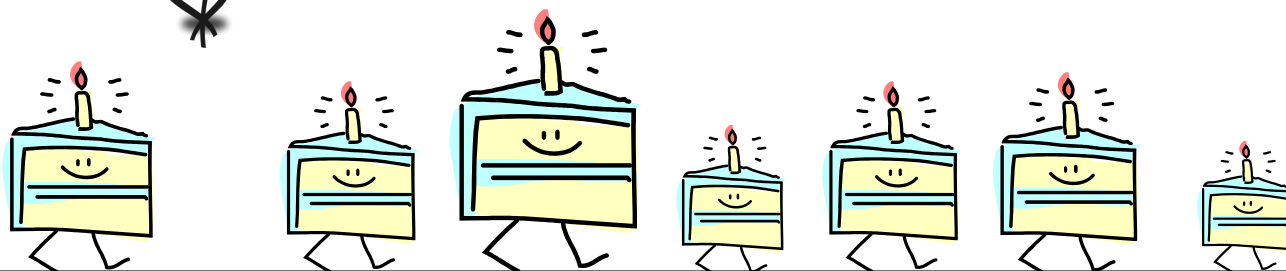
Leo Perry.....3rd
 Jack Karnes.....5th
 Terry McManus.....5th
 Craig Bollinger.....8th
 Jean-Paul Lauren...9th
 Daniel Dudek.....15th
 Sheri Pedersen.....16th
 J. Whitlow.....17th
 Kristina Sawyckj..18th
 Thomas McTevia..20th

Paul Chiaravalle.....21st
 Ross Ries.....21st
 C. Arrow Top Knot..22nd
 Kenneth West.....23rd
 Roger VanBuren.....23rd
 Gregory Choiniere...23rd
 Harry Parmer.....24th
 Tim Gardipee.....30th
 Dean Korn.....31st

January

Terry Lee.....3rd
 Lawrence Muckley....3rd
 James Sternola.....3rd
 Anthony Davis.....4th
 John Bartle.....5th
 Barrie Muller.....5th
 Charles Mitchell.....6th
 Anthony Lansing.....9th
 Charles Gorr.....10th
 Yasmean Stewart....11th
 Sylvester Tucker.....11th
 David Lockett.....11th
 Susan Hicks.....11th
 Anthony Miller.....11th
 Delton Yada.....12th
 James Luco.....13th
 Kenneth Johnson....13th

Michael Partridge....13th
 Kevin Mays.....13th
 Roger Sudberry.....16th
 Donald Hansen.....17th
 Richard Collier.....19th
 Melvin Roberts.....20th
 Cathy Bourget.....20th
 James Prince.....22nd
 Warren Collver,III...23rd
 Hermes Rodriquez..25th
 Leonard Wagner, Jr.26th
 Gregory Schilieve....27th
 Keith Sekora.....27th
 Donald Waddell.....29th
 Keith Clark.....30th
 Rod Smith.....30th



**WHEELS HELPING
 WARRIORS**
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Considering a new car, throwing in the towel on an old motorcycle that won't run or looking to get rid of an ATV? In all situations, Paralyzed Veterans of America's Wheels Helping Warriors Vehicle Donation program is a perfect outlet for your generosity. It's easy to donate. Be sure your title is on hand, fill out the online form at www.wheelshelpingwarriors.org or call (855) 744-0782. We will schedule the pickup free of charge and donors receive a tax deduction for the donation.



SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1982 NOW WITH 3 LOCATIONS!

We offer a comprehensive line of mobility products including new and used wheelchair accessible vans, lifts, hand controls and mobility aids. Our certified mobility consultants are trained to help you discover the right solution for your specific needs. Need service? Our certified technicians have more than 98 years of combined knowledge and experience. We service **all** mobility vehicles and equipment.

Check out our inventory at kerseymobility.com

TOYOTA
SIENNA



NEW!
HONDA
PILOT



CHRYSLER
PACIFICA



SALES | SERVICE | RENTALS

EVERETT

7202 EVERGREEN WAY
EVERETT, WA 98203
425-353-6563

REDMOND

14640 NE 91ST STREET "A"
REDMOND, WA 98052
425-406-8484

SUMNER

6015 160TH AVE EAST
SUMNER, WA 98390
253-863-4744

Authorized  dealer

Northwest Outpost

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Seahurst, WA 98062
Permit #75



HELPING OUR SOLDIERS MAINTAIN THEIR FREEDOM!

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED FOR OVER 30 YEARS

**Over 70 fully equipped new and
pre-owned vans for the disabled in stock.**

- Wheelchair Lifts
- Portable Ramps
- Hand Controls
- Transfer Seats



**We have the largest inventory of wheelchair accessible vans in the Pacific
Northwest with two indoor locations in Woodinville and Tacoma!**

CHRYSLER



HONDA



TOYOTA



DODGE



CHEVY

www.absolutemobilitycenter.com

Toll Free (800) 376-VANS | Woodinville (425) 481-6546 | Tacoma (253) 267-5280