

Gateway Gazette

January/February 2019

Volume 52 Number 1



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Gateway Chapter

Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Disease, Living Life to the Fullest

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**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Gateway Chapter

Time to update your address or email?

Please email us at info@gatewaypva.org or write or call us at the following:
Gateway Chapter PVA•1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center•St. Louis, MO 63132
(314) 427-0393 or (800) 426-4058 •Fax (314) 427-4183

We are offering the option to receive our Chapter's newsletter by email. Members taking advantage of electronic delivery will help to reduce the cost of printing and postage. In turn, this will allow the Chapter to put more funds toward our members and member programs. If you have not done so already, please contact Administrative Assistant Amber Lee at amber@gatewaypva.org, or Executive Director Chris Blanchard at chris@gatewaypva.org, if you would like to start receiving your newsletter electronically.



President's Message

by Stanley D. Brown

• Holiday Wishes

■ FY18 Gateway PVA Audit

* October 19, 2019 Gateway Veterans Run/Roll Marathon

~ PVA Chapter Hospital Liason (CHL) Program

• **W**e had our office Christmas party and open house today December 11, 2018 with a very good turnout. The chapter and I want to wish everyone receiving this newsletter to have a joyous season and a healthy 2019. As a chapter and as individual members, we have so much to be thankful for. I spent three weeks during October in an area hospital and received a pacemaker I needed. I'm thankful to be up and about, doing well and again being active, seeing people both at John Cochran and Jefferson Barracks. If you get a chance, visit our members who are in these hospitals over the holidays.●



■ **L**ast month we received our completed FY18 audit for July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018. Our program expense ratio is 90.4%. Every dollar we spend had 90.4 cents going to members and their programs. That's an exemplary percentage as the Better Business Bureau only requires 65% for their Wise Giving Guide approval. We will also meet

all their governance standards for approval again this year. We will also receive the Platinum Seal (highest awarded) from GuideStar a preeminent charity watchdog organization. In this last fiscal year, we had total expenditures of \$560,079 and revenue of \$628,513. Our largest expenditures were for membership services in the amount of \$208,085. We spent \$80,691 on home improvement grants for members, \$16,500 on home generators, and \$110,894 on vehicle grants. The stellar numbers are recognized by my counterparts in the other chapters who email me with congratulations. ■



* **W**e are now scheduling a Saturday, October 19, 2019 run/roll event in Tower Grove Park in South St. Louis. I believe we are planning on a 5k (3.1 miles) event open to runners and wheelchair users. Gateway VP Rose Ganz and board member Chad Buder are organizing the race and will be seeking everyone's help in securing sponsors and participants. We are reserving the park tomorrow, December 12, 2018. It would help if as many of us as possible, could get

involved or at least enter the race. More information will follow in future newsletters.*

~ **O**ur National Organization has a hospital liaison program whereby chapter members visit the VA hospital SCI units and patients and also the spokes of the Jefferson Barracks SCI Hub Unit, to include the Kansas City VA, the Columbia VA, the Poplar Bluff VA, and the Marion Illinois VA. I serve as the liaison for the John Cochran six bed unit and Scott Richards is the liaison for the SCI unit at Jefferson Barracks. We still need liaisons for the spokes I have mentioned. These duties would include visiting the spokes, patients and staff at least once a month and doing a monthly report which is only one page. Gateway will reimburse you for mileage and award participation points for your efforts. Please contact me at the office if you think you are interested.~

Motorized scooter available. A friend of our Treasurer has donated a new Golden Companion, GC340, blue scooter with a 350 lbs capacity. It comes with a battery charger and is in great condition. See the picture on page 9 of this newsletter. If you are interested please email or write the Board no later than Friday, January 4, 2019 of your interest. We will draw the winner by lottery method.

Thank you to all Gateway members for a wonderful 2018!



Are you Non-Service Connected and Considered Catastrophically Disabled?

by Brent Follas, National Service Officer III

If you are non-service connected and meet the criteria of catastrophically disabled but not in Priority Group 4, you could be paying unnecessary copays.

Description:

Based on a VA clinical decision, veterans are considered to be catastrophically disabled when they have a severely disabling injury, disorder or disease that permanently compromises their ability to carry out the activities of daily living. The disability must be of such a degree that the veteran requires personal or mechanical assistance to leave home or bed, or require constant supervision to avoid physical harm to themselves or others, according to Title 38 CFR 17.36(e).

Veterans determined catastrophically disabled are placed into Priority Group 4 unless eligible for a higher Priority Group placement based on other eligibility criteria such as being a compensable service-connected veteran, a former Prisoner of War, or a Medal of Honor or Purple Heart recipient.

A catastrophically disabled determination may be authorized when a VA clinician determines that there is sufficient medical documentation without further evaluation. Veterans may also request a catastrophically disabled evaluation by contacting the Enrollment Coordinator at their local VA health care facility. It is VA policy to provide a catastrophically disabled veteran an evaluation within 30 days of the request. There is no charge for this examination.

VA Form 10-0383 "Catastrophic Disabled Veteran Evaluation" is the form needed to record the evaluation which can be done in person or by record review. The Katz Index of Independence in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) scale may be needed to prove that you need assistance in at three ADLs or more.

- Paraplegia to include those incomplete
- Quadriplegia to include those that are incomplete
- International Classification Diseases (ICD -9-CM)
- ICD-10 diseases if they meet a score of 30 or lower using Global Assessment of Functioning
- Other disabilities listed on VA Form 10-0383

Additionally, On May 5, 2010, the President signed Public Law 111-163, the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2011. The law provides Veterans determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled an exemption from inpatient, outpatient and prescription copays. Veterans with catastrophic disabilities are also exempt from copayments applicable to the receipt of non-institutional respite care, non-institutional geriatric evaluation, non-institutional adult day health care, Homemaker/Home Health Aide, Purchased Skilled Home Care, Home Based Primary Care, and any other non-institutional alternative extended care services. Copayments for other extended care services (ex. Nursing Home Care) not mentioned still apply.

So if you are a non-service connected veteran and meet the criteria of catastrophically disabled but not in Priority Group 4, contact your physician or specialty clinic to inquire and start the process. You can also contact your local Paralyzed Veterans of America Service Officer or Accredited Secretary for assistance.

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GATEWAY GI

General Information



Dec 24 to Jan 1 -
OFFICE CLOSED

Jan 6-
Meat Shoot
1:00pm @ Legion Post 162
10 pts for members

Jan 8 -
BOD Meeting
11:30am @ GPVA Office
15 pts for non-BOD mbrs

Jan 17 -
JB Luncheon/Chili cook-off
12pm @ JB, Building 52
5 pts for members

Jan 17 -
Virtual Reality Demo
12pm @ JB, Building 52

Jan 21 -
OFFICE CLOSED



Feb 3 -
Meat Shoot
1:00pm @ Legion Post 162
10 pts for members

Feb 7 -
VA's Got Talent
5:30pm @ JB Theater

Feb 12 -
BOD Meeting
4:00pm @ GPVA Office
15 pts for non-BOD mbrs

Feb 18 -
OFFICE CLOSED

Feb 21 -
JB Luncheon
12pm @ JB, Building 52
5 pts for members

Feb 22 -
VA Art Show/Creative Arts
11:30am @ JB, Building 63

Feb 23 -
Trivia Night
6pm @ Crestwood Elks

NVWG 2019 Info:

The 39th Annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on **July 11 to July 16, 2019**. Registration will open on January 7, 2019 on the NVWG website (www.wheelchairgames.org).

Please direct any questions to Matt Luitjohan 314-894-6602 or Charley Wright at 314-652-4100 Ext 64590.



39TH
NATIONAL VETERANS
WHEELCHAIR GAMES

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Welcome to Our New Members

Curtis Briscoe • Lonnie Marriot • Irvin Perkins

Missing in Action

Have you seen or know the whereabouts of these members? They are in danger of being dropped from the PVA roster. Please call us, write to us, or e-mail us if you know where they are! Our contact info is inside the front cover.

Thomas Dooley • Michael Harbison • Nicholas Hendrickson • Victor Stieben

In Memory Of

James Hook of Cameron, MO	03/03/18
William Brendel of St. Louis, MO	07/05/18
Joseph Zappa of Glen Carbon, IL	10/28/18
Frederick VanVliet of Owensboro, KY	10/31/18
Otis Fowler of Overland Park, KS	10/31/18
John Neill of Savannah, MO	12/03/18
Ronald Stearns of Perryville, MO	12/03/18

Annual SCI Chili Cook-off

Come and join us for the greatest chili cook-off known to the VA. It's once again time to start getting your chili recipes perfected and then put it to the test on January 17th, 2018. All crock pots of chili must be in the SCI dining room by 11:30AM. There will be chili tastings and voting by all, followed by a luncheon provided by the Gateway PVA Chapter. Please inform Matt Luitjohan and Charley Wright if you plan to bring a pot of chili so that they can have adequate table space for all of the entries. To reserve your spot, for more information, or to have any questions addressed please contact Matt at 314-894-6602 or Charley at 314-652-4100 Ext 64590.

New Scooter Giveaway

Please see President's Message on page 3 for details.



We proudly support Gateway PVA



If you have a **service-connected disability**, you may qualify for VA funding assistance for wheelchair accessible vehicles or driving modifications. If your current mobility is more than two years old, you may even qualify for a brand new conversion.

St. Louis North

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Are you a Veteran with a service or non-service connected Spinal Cord Injury?

Did you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its national policy to expand access to ReWalk exoskeletons through a VA SCI Hub and Spoke or the VA Choice Program?



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Ret. Army Specialist Gene L.

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**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Gateway Chapter

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