

GATEWAY GAZETTE

*The Official Publication of the Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America
A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America*

The 2012 Duke McDonald / Gateway PVA Local Wheelchair Games

By Matt Luitjohan

This year's local wheelchair games can be chalked up as another success. We had some bad weather which caused our numbers to be a little lower than anticipated, but we still had over 35 athletes participate, a fantastic lunch was provided by United Access, 13 booths set up at the community expo, plus live entertainment. We again increased the amount of non-veteran athletes, several of which were recruited by our friends at Paraquad, and had five veterans come all the way from Kansas City to show us what they could do. We are hopeful that next year we will have more veterans participate from our many spoke sites and that the Kansas City team will continue to come and grow.

The local wheelchair games present an opportunity to challenge yourself, meet new people, and cheer on others who are giving it their all. Those of you who participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games are able to use it as a final practice session before leaving to compete nationwide. However, we would like to encourage you to practice, train, and stay active throughout the year. We now offer an air gun program, a cycling program, an introductory computer class, and an adaptive SCUBA program. If you are interested in participating or need more information, contact: Matt Luitjohan 314-894-6602 or email me at matthew.luitjohan@va.gov and Charley Wright 314-652-4100 ext. 64590 or charles.wright6@va.gov. We are also planning more spoke site outreach programs if you live far from St. Louis, so keep checking your newsletters to see when we'll be in your area.



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

**Gateway Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of America**
<http://www.gatewaypva.org>

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**MDWSA Summer
Splash 2012**
Creve Coeur Lake
July 27-28

For more information, please
call the Missouri Disabled
Water Ski Association at
636-458-2573.

Attention Members

Nomination ballots for the 2012-2013 BOD are included in this issue of the Gazette. Please take the time to fill them out and send them back to the office **by July 30**.

For information about those members interested in running for a position on the BOD, please refer to the May-June issue on pages 9 & 10.

Free Fax/Printer/Copier

We will be holding a drawing for a Brother IntelliFAX-2820. This is an all-in-one fax, phone, printer and copier. It has never been used and is in its original box. The retail price of this model is approximately \$200. For those members interested, please call or email the office to have your name added to the drawing. We will select a winner at random on July 31. Please be advised that the winner must be able to pick up the fax machine from our office or from Jefferson Barracks during one of our luncheons—no deliveries available.



Kansas City Membership Forum
August 10, 2012 at Noon

The forum will be held in the Recreation Hall at the
Kansas City VA Hospital
4801 Linwood Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64128



**Gateway Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of
America**

The material contained herein expresses the opinions of the writer and not necessarily the opinions of the editor or the Gateway Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America. All material in the *Gazette* may be reprinted unless specifically prohibited. Readers are encouraged to submit their articles or rebuttals to:

editor@gatewaypva.org or via US mail at the address shown to the left and send to the attention of the editor.

President's Message

By Stanley D. Brown



Leaner Budget Times Ahead

We will begin the next budget year (October 2012) with a tighter operating budget. It is not nearly as bad as the close of 2004 when we were forced to make draconian cuts in what we spent to right size and make solvent our operations. The 2013 fiscal year will commence with approximately \$100,000 less in contributions and matching funds from the PVA national organization. That reduction will be about 24% of our current operating budget. These are difficult times for all charities especially with a new "veterans charity" appearing every day. Our national organization is likewise looking at substantial reductions as it (we) look to wean away from reliance on the mail program which continues to be less cost-effective and subject to criticism from watchdog organizations. Gateway currently receives 37% of its total revenue from the national organization; that percentage will go down the next fiscal year. Our Chapter fortunately emphasizes other revenue sources like our very successful golf tournament and our rental income for leasing out about one half of our building. More than half of the PVA chapters have a 50% or more reliance on the national organization for their total chapter revenue. Fortunately, I do not foresee any reduction in Gateway programs. It's a credit to our Executive Director Susan Lyle and the Gateway board that we are in as good a financial position as we now have.

Indomitable Spirit of SCI Veterans

As I write this article, I have spent the vast majority of the last seven weeks at home in bed, rolling from side to side every four hours, trying to heal a 1/2 inch line on my backside. Of course each time it got better, I stayed up too long in the chair thinking it was healed, only to go back to bed for several more days. Any time I started to feel sorry for myself, I only had to think of the many SCI members on bed rest in the Jefferson Barracks Spinal Cord Injury Unit. Those men and women spend months in bed especially after flap surgery. Last Thursday I was at the unit and visiting with a fellow who had spent six months in bed and was up for one hour for the first time. He was overjoyed just to get outside and breathe fresh air.

Bob Kiger Passes

Since my last article our long-time member, Bob Kiger, passed away at the end of April. Several of our members attended the funeral in Dixon, Missouri, on May 2nd. Our driver took the Gateway bus and transported members to the funeral. I was in bed and upset I couldn't make the funeral. Bob Kiger was one of my favorite people and he was about the same injury level as me. For over the last year he had to endure breathing with a tracheotomy apparatus in his throat. Having been there, I know what a miserable existence that is. Nevertheless, Bob's spirits remained high and he was living at home after being rejected (he apparently required too much care) from staying in a Missouri Veterans Home and a short, uncaring stay in a private nursing home. His family made sacrifices and pulled together to take care of him at his mother's home for his remaining days. Bob now joins Matt Wilcox, Denis Canoy, Bob Bruns and many other Gateway members who have recently passed. I say "recently" only because I vividly recall these individuals as long time active Gateway members who epitomized Gateway's vision statement of "... living life to the fullest." Our prayers should go out to Kiger's family, as well as the families of all deceased members and we should be reminded how fragile is the life of our members with a spinal cord injury or disease.



In memory of...

Thomas Edwards	Grafton, IL	10/28/11
Therain Gilman	Fieldon, IL	04/25/12
Robert Kiger	Dixon, MO	04/28/12
James Sharp	Topeka, KS	11/01/11
Lowell Tarver	Parsons, KS	05/12/12



Please have someone contact our Chapter in the event of a member's death so that we can inform other members who might wish to pay their respects to the departed.

Government Relations Director's Report

By Jessica Dunsmore



Air Travel Survey for Individuals with Mobility Disabilities

From May 15-September 15, 2012, the chapter is once again administering its online survey for air travelers with mobility disabilities. If you travel by air between the aforementioned dates, please take a few moments of your time to fill out the survey. Back in March, along with PVA National, we presented the findings from the first installment of this survey at a formal meeting with six of the major U.S. air carriers and three contract service providers. Currently, steps are being taken to initiate formal trainings with airline staff/contractors and PVA members, with the ultimate goal of improving air travel for individuals with mobility disabilities. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GPVAairtravelsurvey> to take the survey -- you can do so anonymously if desired, and rest assured your information is securely collected.

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)

As part of the **VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011**, VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed veterans, ages 35-60 (please visit <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm> to view **all** of the eligibility requirements). Participants must be enrolled in a VA-approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school. Also, the program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certificate, and it must train the veteran for a "high demand" occupation. Please contact Keisha Wright, PVA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, at keishaw@pva.org, (210) 617-5300 ext. 10148 or toll-free, (877) 469-5300 ext. 10148 for further information, and to see if you qualify.

Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair—July 12, 11:00 a.m. – 3 p.m. (St. Louis University Campus—Chaifetz Arena)
(for more info, visit <http://www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes/events>)

VA Programs Exempt from Sequestration

In late April, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released an official statement announcing that VA programs (health care in particular) are exempt from sequestration (automatic, across-the-board budget cuts). A potential 2% cut to VA programs was set to occur in January 2013 before this clarification was made. PVA National President Bill Lawson, along with other Veterans Service Organizations, testified at a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs in March about the destructive consequences sequestration would have on veterans. Gateway Chapter President Brown and I also spoke with many of our legislators about this issue during our March congressional visits. Finally, even though VA programs have been declared exempt from the cuts, there is legislation that would provide permanent clarification that VA programs are exempt from any future sequestration (H.R. 3895 and S. 2128).

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of 2013

The House passed H.R. 5854 on May 31, by a vote of 407-12. The bill does not quite meet the recommendations made in the *Independent Budget* (co-authored by PVA), but is a close match to the Obama Administration's budget request released in February. Earlier, on May 22, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs approved its own version, S. 3215. It's unclear at the moment if work will be completed on the MilCon/VA appropriations bill before FY2013 begins this October.

Inclusive Home Design Act (IHDA)

One of our advocacy/legislative point papers presented at the March seminar, H.R. 5781 (IHDA) was officially introduced by Illinois Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky on May 16. IHDA requires "visitability" features (basic levels of architectural access for individuals with disabilities) in all newly constructed, federally assisted single-family housing. The bill has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity.

Missouri General Assembly- The 2012 legislative session wrapped up on May 18, and HB 1731 was signed into law, which provides a dedicated funding source for the state's seven veterans homes. Governor Nixon visited one of those veterans homes in Mexico, MO on May 30 to attend a bill-signing ceremony. This legislation changes how revenue from the Missouri Gaming Commission is allocated, which results in over \$30 million annually for the Veterans' homes. HB 1731 received strong bi-partisan support in both chambers.

Illinois General Assembly – The 2012 legislative session concluded on May 31, 2012 (the legislature passed the Hiring Veterans Tax Credit, SB 3241, which provides up to a \$5,000 tax credit to employers who hire post-9/11 veterans).

2012 Winter Sports Clinic

By Terri Fuda



The 2012 Winter Sports Clinic (WSC) was another successful year! This year brought about many changes. This was my fifth year at the clinic, so I am celebrating my '5th Anniversary' at the WSC! The clinic was also moved up a week this year, which meant leaving St. Louis earlier than usual. Our team had a very early take off time, yes EARLY.....0600!!!! I do believe the team slept our way to Denver! Luckily for all of us, our transfers went great. We arrived to Aspen extremely early and to very different weather. Instead of cold and snowy, we arrived to warm and sunny! Yes, we double checked and we DID NOT arrive in Miami!!!! We were sleepy, but not so sleepy that we got to the wrong place! Coats were not exactly needed that day. We arrived in Snowmass and all checked in at the hotel and met up as a team for lunch with Coach Matt. What a great way to go over our plans for the week! Matt made sure we all knew what we were to do and where we all needed to go the next week. Our game plan was now underway!!!

We all had decided to attend the trip to Aspen with Elks and to ride the gondolas up the Aspen Mountain. At the top we were blessed to have a wonderful sunny day to ride the snow cats. The cats traveled around the mountain up to its highest point. I wish I had the words to describe the beauty of the view. It was breathtaking! Luckily for us, there was plenty of snow still left at the top of the mountain for a few to make snow angels, and for others to just stop and enjoy the great, breathtaking view!



I tried the hot springs this year. The day began with a wonderful lunch given by the Elks, and we were then transported to the hot springs. The springs were a nice change of pace; very relaxing. Although I couldn't really tell you if the water was all that 'hot' or not, I was told by one of the workers that the springs were natural springs and they had to pump cold water into them so the public could get in. I did however find myself getting VERY thirsty!!! I'm going with "the water was very warm!" Either way, it was a great day to relax and enjoy the view....this time from a beautiful pool.



The skiing was not the same as the past years, but still a lot of fun! Being a bit warmer, the snow was different. This was great because it taught us how to adapt to the conditions. I did one day of my normal skiing with riggers and my next day I tried skiing without my riggers! Big step for me, and I have to give a big shout out to Coach Matt and teammate Jeremiah for cheering me on--Matt for the pep talk before I actually began, and Jeremiah on the mountain for giving me the last minute cheering on!!!! Thanks Guys....you have no idea how much you encouraged me!

Overall the week was warmer as far as weather, but just as fun as ever!!!! This is one trip I will still highly recommend everyone come out and at least try. There's so much

to do and try. The bonus is all the Veterans you get to meet up with again and or for the first time! Not to mention all the coaches, team leaders, staff, helpers and volunteers out there that make things run!

The saying is "Miracles on the Mountainside," and when you're out there and you're able to experience your own tiny 'miracle'it's amazing!!!! I truly can't encourage you enough to at least try this trip. It's amazing! I've never come back from this trip not having had a wonderful time. My only regrets are not trying more things.....but there's always next year! Hope to see new faces on the slopes!!!!



Finding Courage on the Mountainside

By Susan Haley

On March 23, 2012, the Kansas City V.A. Winter Sports Team left for Snowmass, Colorado. The air on the bus was thick with excitement. We were all laughing and looking forward to seeing friends that we have not seen for a year and the most important...a week of challenging ourselves.



When we finally arrived in Snowmass, I got off the bus and looked around. My eyes came upon a banner that read "Miracles on a Mountainside." This is what the week is about; vets from all over the USA with different disabilities coming together, to prove to themselves that their disabilities do not define who they are. During the week the vets had the chance to alpine ski and also had the opportunity to get involved in cross country skiing, rock climbing, snowmobiling, scuba diving, kayaking (new this year), curling, and shooting – including pistol, rifle, trap & archery.

This was my third year and it's true what they say that the third time is a charm. I remember when I was at a physical therapy appointment and my therapist Allison asked me, "Would you like to join our winter sports team and go to Colorado?" I looked at her and asked, "What would I be doing?" Her reply was, "You would be skiing." I started to laugh at her and told her, "I never skied when I had two good legs, now I have one and you want me to ski?!" We laughed about that, but it turned out to be the best decision I ever made. So three years ago I decided to try skiing - this year I decided to try a new event which was curling. I remember watching curling on TV and thinking that does not look like that much fun. But I was wrong - it has turned into my new passion. Along with finding a new passion for curling I ended up on the cover of the daily Winter Sports Clinic paper *The Summit*. That night while I was having dinner with the team, I had the privilege of meeting Rusty Schieber---Assistant Coach of the U.S. Paralympic Curling team. While we were eating he came up to our table asked me to sign my cover photo and he also gave his contact information and asked me to send him my information. On April 21, 2012, I will have my first curling training session. Then I hope to join a curling team here in Kansas City.



Finally, this year changed my life and in a good way. It has given me something to work toward. I asked my fellow teammates, "What did this year mean to them?" and this is what they had to say...

Patrick Hokanson- Navy Vet, 1st year attending...downhill skiing. "It was emotionally overwhelming – in a good way – I can't wait for next year."

David Johnson- Army Vet, 2nd year attending...downhill skiing. "My coach asked me if I wanted to go to the top of the mountain and live dangerously. I told him, "Why not, I always live dangerously."

Charlie Johns- Army Vet, 11th year attending...cross country skiing. "Cross country skiing is the greatest sport up here. It gives you a great work out, along with a good feeling when you have skied cross country."

V. Smith- Air Force Vet, 3rd year attending...trip to Aspen. "Skiing is about conquering your fears. I am really afraid of heights. I conquered this fear by riding the gondola lift in Aspen and skiing at 12,000 feet on top of a mountainside. If anything, the phrase I would use is, "I CAN."

Then, I asked Kathy Ricker, "How has organizing/coaching the team changed your life?"

Kathy Ricker- Coach-Spinal Cord Injury Coordinator, 5th year attending. "I love the look of joy on the faces of the veterans when they discover they can do something they'd perhaps not considered before."

This year we had a new coach, Melissa Jacobson. I asked Melissa, "Was the clinic anything like you imagined?"

Melissa Jacobson-Coach, 1st year attending. "The Winter Sports Clinic was more amazing than I could have imagined—to see so many disabled veterans in one place, supporting each other, trying and succeeding at sports they never thought possible and being inspired to go home and do even MORE—truly inspirational for everyone involved."

I would like to thank everyone who puts everything into this week.
It's true, MIRACLES DO HAPPEN ON THAT MOUNTAINSIDE!

2ND ANNUAL JEFFERSON BARRACKS SCI/D VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE

1:30 PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL SCI/D VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE

This will once again be held in the
Jefferson Barracks Auditorium
Building 1 above the cafeteria;
Reception following service.

HONORING VETERANS WITH
SPINAL CORD INJURY OR DISEASE
WHO HAVE
DEPARTED 2011 – 2012

For more information, call 314-894-6677



Gateway Chapter PVA Wishes to Welcome Our New Members

Shawn Bartz..... Knox City, MO

Donald Blanchette O'Fallon, IL

Andrew Flood New Memphis, IL

James Mazdra..... St. Louis, MO

Charles Stewart St. Joseph, MO

Cleveland Belton Kansas City, MO

Susan Cunningham Easton, KS

Scott Haak..... Belleville, IL

Joseph Oros Hartford, IL

Francis Williams Kansas City, KS

MIA

Mark Beel
Sylvester Roddy
Alfred Ross



*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
any of these members are! Our contact info is inside the
front cover.*



2012 GPVA “Roy Gantt Memorial” Bowling Tournament and Fundraiser

Although our bowling fundraiser, held at St. Clair Bowl in Fairview Heights, IL on Saturday, June 9, did not draw a big crowd, it was still a lot of fun!!! Our members, Joey Avellone, Chad Buder, Terri Fuda and Ruth Kult were all in attendance. Terri didn't bowl, but made a great cheerleader. Ruth brought one home for our group - way to go Ruth!

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's fundraiser. Unfortunately, we were missing our favorite coordinator, Bob Dedee, due to illness—we hope he's doing well. The St. Clair Bowl staff did a fine job of filling in for him. I also want to thank our favorite therapists, Matt & Charley, for facilitating our use of the bowling ramps so that our members could bowl this year! And, a special thanks to Dave Lyle for going out of his way to pick up and drop off the bowling ramps from Jefferson Barracks during the week, as well as for taking them to Illinois on the day of the event.

The totals are not in yet, but I believe we will make two-three hundred dollars for all our efforts. I have not bowled for many years, but it was so much fun! I can't think of a better way to spend a Saturday than with our members and kind supporters!

Susan Lyle
Executive Director



"Ain't That Just Like A Dream"

By Cara Combs

Let me start by giving Shell/Pennzoil and PVA a huge THANK YOU for the VIP tickets to the Tim McGraw / Kenny Chesney concert on June 10 at the Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. Let me not forget, the backstage passes! It was one of the most memorable gifts I have ever received. I'm grateful that I won that drawing!



Upon our arrival we were greeted by the Pennzoil staff, who were great! We received a great welcome gift that consisted of a free Tim McGraw T-shirt, a key chain, a magnet, an Apple Crisp bar, and a nice nylon bag (that fits my wheelchair, as if it was made for it).

We were then ushered downstairs, where free snacks and beverages were served. Shortly after our arrival, a nice lady came over and struck up a conversation with us. After, about ten minutes into the conversation the woman introduced herself as "Betty, Tim's mom." She was so down to earth and had great things to say about veterans. She was proud of the long line of veterans in her family. Starting from WWI, WWII, and Vietnam, to present; she also mentioned how Tim, himself, insists that in each city he plays, many tickets are given to disabled veterans. We met lots of people and had a very nice, social time.

Tim McGraw then came out and thanked everyone, made some jokes and sang some songs. We had a really great view! After performing several songs for us, he came down off the stage and gave me a hug!! And OMG, he smelled so good!!!!!!

Just when we thought we couldn't handle anymore, we were then taken to our seats for a great concert. Very energetic. We were treated with the utmost respect from start to finish!

In closing, I would like to reiterate just how thankful we are to PVA-Gateway Chapter for an experience of a lifetime! I have been a member of PVA for many years. But, since moving to Missouri and becoming a member of the Gateway Chapter, I have never been more considered, inspired, or given the opportunity to be part of such a great organization! All of the assistance and information that I receive is remarkable. The perks are unbelievable.



Thank you PVA,
the Gateway Chapter,
Tim McGraw
and Shell/Pennzoil!



VA PROSTHETIC CHANGES IN PURCHASING



By Senior National Service Officer, Bonnie Hilburn

On July 1st, there are changes being made to the way that VA Hospitals will purchase prosthetic items over \$3,000. All items over \$3,000 will be sent to a new Logistics Office mandated by VA Central Office.

Our Veterans Integrated Service Network is known as VISN 15. It covers the VA hospitals in Missouri (Columbia, Kansas City, St. Louis and Poplar Bluff), as well as Kansas (Leavenworth, Topeka and Wichita) and Marion, IL.

VISN 15 has a Network Contract Manager. She supervises the nine team members in this department that are specifically designated to this team. According to VISN 15 Director of Prosthetics they are anticipating approximately 4,000 orders a year in which they will process two to four orders a day. The team is made up of two Prosthetic Agents taken from the Kansas City VAMC and seven contractors. They will be responsible for ordering all prosthetic items over \$3,000. Items included are customized wheelchairs, artificial limbs, implants, stair glides, patio lifts, ramps and HISA grants.

Their job will be to approve line items that the different VA Hospitals will be submitting. An example of how it works: A veteran requires a power wheelchair. His primary care provider puts in a consult that explains what the item is that is needed with medical justification. The veteran is then referred to the Wheelchair Committee where he will be measured. This committee will determine what his needs are and any specialty features he may require (reclining, seat system, leg rest, controls, etc). The order will go into a Purchasing Agent in the Prosthetics Dept. They will put together a "purchasing package."

If it is determined to be over \$3,000 it will be sent to this new team. They may approve it (as is) and send approval for the VA Hospital Prosthetics Department to order the item; or send out three (3) bids across the country to get the best possible rate. If there isn't appropriate justification or something wasn't included in the package, it could be sent back to Prosthetics for further justification.

According to the VISN Director this should only delay the ordering process by seven working days if everything goes according to plan. We, however, anticipate a longer delay. All PVA service officers will be keeping a spreadsheet of these items as we are informed of them. It is vitally important that if you are in need of these items that after your doctor puts in a consult that you contact your local PVA Service Officers to alert them to put your name on their spreadsheet. We can only monitor the issues since we have been informed that there is no contacting the Logistics Department. Your local VA Prosthetics Department is the only way to check on these items.

I would also like you to know that the Kansas City VAMC is presently down three vital positions in the Prosthetics Dept. They are presently hiring in this area but it is causing some delays of service. The process that an individual goes through to be hired is usually extensive. We can only hope they will be expedient in filling these positions.

Dear Members:

In an effort to cut costs, as well as go "green," we are offering to email your future newsletters to you. If you would be interested in receiving your bi-monthly *Gateway Gazette* via email instead of snail mail, just contact our office to be added to the email list; please make sure that we have a current email address on file for you and that you are able to open a "PDF" file on your computer.



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Deer Blinds

By Bob Larkin

Each year, on the weekend before the Thanksgiving holiday, disabled hunters get the opportunity to put some meat in the freezer or even bag a trophy.



The deer blinds need a path, a small ramp, and a little maintenance.

A weekend in the outdoors that 59 disabled hunters stand in line (no pun intended) for the opportunity to participate. There is always a waiting list to get a blind.

Over the last 24 years this program has not only benefited the disabled hunter and the parks and recreation department, but the benefit to the animal population cannot be measured. The years of use of the blinds and exposure to the elements has worn them out. Many need to be repaired or replaced. Thanks to the Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America, the blinds used in the hunt are going to be repaired. Necessary fixes such as ramps, leveling of the blinds and new floors will be completed because of this generous donation by the Chapter. Throughout the summer and fall, updates and photos will be sent to the *Gazette* so that you can see the progress from this gift.

Thanks should also go to Derek Dorsey, park manager at Smithville Lake State Park. Without his dedication and guidance, we could not do this hunt.

This hunt is open to all hunters with a physical disability, with preference given to the most disabled. Anyone interested in hunting or volunteering to assist a hunter should call the Smithville Lake Project Office at (816) 532-0174 or E-mail their office at Smithville@usace.army.mil.

The deer herd at Smithville Lake has been increasing in recent years. Vehicle accidents and some crop damage on adjoining land is already a problem at the lake and throughout the state. Disease and starvation can also ravage a deer herd if its population is not kept in check. Officials hope that besides providing recreation for hunters with disabilities, the hunt will help control the deer population.

In 1990, 18 blinds were open and hunters shot nine deer. In 2011, 55 blinds were open and 93 deer were killed. This year there are plans for four new blinds to be placed. Most of the hunting is on land managed by the Corps of Engineers. Some undeveloped areas of parks leased by Clay County are also used. This program provides a



Bob presents a check from GPVA to Park Manager, Derek Dorsey.



Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 Duke McDonald / Gateway Chapter PVA Local Wheelchair Games!!!

Long Love Cars Contest



Paralyzed Veterans of America, with the generous support of Pennzoil, is offering three amazing prizes: one car, one SUV/truck and one van. Each vehicle will be perfectly customized to the needs of the lucky winners.

The contest is open to all disabled veterans 18 years or older. If you are a caregiver, spouse or family member of a disabled veteran, you may also nominate your deserving someone.

The contest will be open for entries from April 2, 2012—August 1, 2012. A panel from Paralyzed Veterans and Pennzoil will then narrow the entries down to six finalists. The six finalists will be posted online from September 1, 2012—September 30, 2012, and the public will be asked to vote to select the three winners. The winners will be announced and awarded at a ceremony on/around Veterans Day in November.

To enter, go to www.PVA.org and click on “GET INVOLVED” near the top of the page. Then, along the left side of the page, click on “PENNZOIL: Long Love Cars.”

Earn Money for Gateway PVA

Every time you order flowers or gifts from the Walter Knoll Florist website, on the checkout page under “Lend a Hand Contributions,” please select Paralyzed Veterans of America, Gateway Chapter as your preferred charity and then Walter Knoll will donate \$2 to our organization. This is at no cost to you!



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Golf, Golf, Golf—Gateway's Most Important Fundraiser

Our 17th Annual Jack Buck/Gateway PVA Golf Tournament is fast approaching. As noted on our back cover, the event will be Tuesday, September 11. It will be held at The Landings at Spirit Golf Course in Chesterfield, Missouri. We are in desperate **NEED** of auction items (both silent and oral), as well as hole sponsorships (\$150), and golf teams. Anything you can donate would be greatly appreciated as this is our most important fundraiser of the year! If you want more information or a team registration form, please contact us at 314-427-0393.



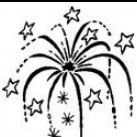


2012 National Veterans Golden Age Games



By Matt Luitjohan

This year, the St. Louis VA Medical Center became the first VA Medical Center to host all of the traveling National Rehab Events. We have hosted the 1989 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, 2004 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and now the 2012 National Veterans Golden Age Games. We had five Gateway PVA members participate with *Team St. Louis* and several members volunteered throughout the week. In total there were close to 800 veterans over the age of 55 competing from all over the country and over 1300 volunteers who made the week possible. Hopefully you all had a chance to make it out and cheer on the veterans throughout the week. If you're over the age of 55 and interested in participating in future Golden Age Games, please contact us:

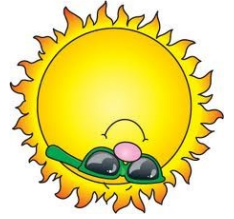
Matt Luitjohan 314-894-6602 or matthew.luitjohan@va.gov
Charley Wright 314-652-4100 ext. 64590 or charles.wright6@va.gov



<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  <h1 style="margin: 0;">July</h1>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4  4th of July Office Closed	5	6	7
8	9	10 BOD Meeting 11:30 am <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.</div>	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Member/Patient Luncheon at JB @ Noon 5 pts.	20 Trap Shoot @ Olin in East Alton, IL 10 am - 2:30 pm	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">MDWSA Summer Splash Creve Coeur Lake</div>	28
29	30 BOD Nominations Due	31 Drawing for Fax Machine (see page 2)				

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  <h1 style="margin: 0;">August</h1>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Newsletter Articles Due	9	10 KC Member Forum Noon @ KCVAMC 5 pts.	11
12	13	14 BOD Meeting 4 pm <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.</div>	15	16 Member/Patient Luncheon at JB @ Noon 5 pts. Also—2nd Annual JB Memorial Service @ 1:30 pm in auditorium	17 Trap Shoot @ Olin in East Alton, IL 10 am - 2:30 pm	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	<i>Upcoming Event: Our Annual Picnic will be held at Des Peres Park on 9/28</i>

★ Attention Members ★
Please complete the enclosed
BOD Nomination Form and
mail it back to GPVA by July 30!



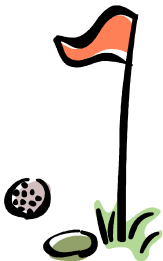
Address Service Requested

Gateway Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of America
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
St. Louis, MO 63132



The 17th Annual Jack Buck Paralyzed Veterans of America Golf Tournament

Tuesday, September 11, 2012



Mark your
calendars!



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