

GATEWAY GAZETTE



**Gateway Chapter Named "Most Outstanding PVA Chapter"
At Annual Convention May, 2015 in San Diego**



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

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

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JB SCI, Room 2S25
 #1 Jefferson Barracks Drive
 St. Louis, MO 63125
 Office: (314) 894-6467 or (866) 328-2670
 Fax: (314) 894-6465
 Rodney Harris, Senior National Service Officer

Hospital Liaisons

Scott Richards—Committee Chairman, JB
 Stanley Brown—St. Louis-John Cochran
 Troy Bucklew—Kansas City

VA Summer Service Event
2015 Welcome Home Warriors Summit
Chaifetz Arena
Saturday, July 18, 2015
9 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

Summer Splash
Creve Coeur Park
July 31– August 1
Contact Vito Lucido at 636-229-5532 or
vitolucido@dcil.org

Trap/Archery
Missouri Dept. of Conservation
Jay Henges Shooting Range
1st Monday of each month
May 4 thru August, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
1100 Antire Road High Ridge, MO 63049

Veterans Scuba Trip
To Cozumel, Mexico
August 15-22
Contact Charley
at 314-652-4100 ext. 6-4590
Or email Charles.Wright6@va.gov

Annual Membership Picnic
Lone Elk Park
Friday, September 25,
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Veterans Adventures
Trout Lodge
September 17-20
Potosi, MO YMCA

GPVA Annual Trapshoot
Gateway Gun Club
Friday, October 2, 2015

Sweat With the Vets 5K Run, Walk, Roll
Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center
Saturday, October 24, 2015
7:30 a.m.



Paralyzed Veterans
of America
 Gateway Chapter

Has your address changed?

Please inform us by email:
info@gatewaypva.org,
 or

write or call us at the following:

Gateway Chapter PVA
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
St. Louis, MO 63132
Office (314) 427-0393 or (800) 426-4058
Fax (314) 427-4183



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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

Stanley D. Brown

2015 PVA "Most Outstanding Chapter Award"

As noted on the front cover and in my National Directors Report in this newsletter, our chapter was named PVA's "Most Outstanding Chapter" for 2015. This really is quite an accomplishment and one that should make all members proud. I would analogize about receiving this award to winning the World Series. There are 30 major league teams and 34 PVA chapters, so it's even better than winning the World Series!

Van & Generator Grants for 2015

We have just completed our accessible van giveaway and grants, and generator grants for this fiscal year. By the time we've paid all bills, we will have spent a total of \$77,770. Only two people applied for home generator assistance and both have been authorized by the board the maximum amount of \$5,500. Eleven members submitted requests for an accessible van. Numerous member requests cited owning aging vans with considerable mileage or repair needs. As a result, our Board of Directors decided to grant the amount of \$10,000 to three "winners," randomly drawn, who needed to trade up their vehicles or needed significant repairs. We also purchased from a dealer one used accessible van in the amount of \$36,770 to give to another member, who was randomly chosen and in need of a van.

SCI/D Veteran Home Health Care Assistance

In this newsletter, Senior PVA Service Officer, Rodney Harris, talks about various VA and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) programs and funding for home care assistance to keep us out of nursing homes. He summarizes the complicated funding avenues for us to both hire attendants/aides, who will get paid directly from the VA, and programs where the VA will pay agencies to provide assistance in our homes. These services are available for both service connected and non-service connected veterans who need help with activities of daily living (ADL). VA representatives have begrudgingly met with us once to explain the programs and listen to our concerns over the timeliness of implementing home health care programs. I have used VA paid agency help for some time now and recently requested to be enrolled in the Veterans Independence Program (VIP), where I would hire my own aides and they would be paid directly from the VA. A consult was submitted by my SCI/D social worker, and it took a month and two "what's-going-on" emails before I was contacted by the St. Louis VA home care staff. Obviously, these programs are not working as efficiently as they should be and we are still trying to address the problems. Please contact your designated SCI/D social worker and/or Rodney Harris for your home care assistance eligibility and participation in the program. Please also let me know of the difficulties you encounter. These benefits should really be readily accessible to us.

GATEWAY CHAPTER PVA

WISHES TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Brian DePaulKansas City, KS

Stanley Bissell Baring, MO

Larry MossExcelsior Springs, MO

Larry Coile Harper, KS

Michelle MellandKansas City, MO

Gregory Morris St. Louis, MO

Richard LindenbuschKansas City, MO

Edwin Evans Grain Valley, MO

George BrownCamdenton, MO

Frank Otterman Kansas City, MO

David CollinsLee's Summit, MO

National Director's Report

Stanley D. Brown

PVA's 69th Annual Convention was held May 4-11, 2015 in San Diego, California. The pictures on the front of this newsletter were taken on the deck of the USS Midway, where the opening reception was held. It was a little cool with the wind blowing off the bay, but the reception on the Midway aircraft carrier was indeed impressive. San Diego is a marvelous city and very wheelchair accessible. The public transport bus system works well and the buses are very wheelchair friendly, with a step/



ramp folding down from the bus to the sidewalk. My "only" complaint for the entire week was the weather. When we left St. Louis, it was 81°. Upon arriving in San Diego, it was 67° and raining.

The biggest and best news of the Convention was Gateway being named PVA's 2015 "Most Outstanding Chapter." This is the John M. Price Award, given annually to the PVA chapter that excels the most in the following programs: meetings, services, chapter newsletters, programs, communication, new ideas, and public relations.

Gateway last won the "Most Outstanding Chapter" award in 1994. We won the "Most improved Chapter"



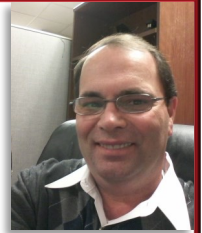
award in 2007. The Most Outstanding Chapter is selected by majority vote of PVA's Executive Committee, which may consider nominations from any of PVA's 34 chapters. During the rating period of this award, Gateway PVA had a program expense ratio of 90.5%. Out of every dollar we spent, almost \$.91 went to programs for members. During this rating period we also purchased and gave away four accessible vans to members.

PVA's annual elections were also held at the Convention. The officers' slate was uncontested. Al Kovach returned as President, David Zurfluh returned as Senior VP, Tom Wheaton returned as Treasurer, and Larry Dobson returned as Secretary. I believe we have a great team of officers. PVA also has and annually elects four Chapter Vice President Liaisons, to work with PVA's 34 chapters. Three candidates returned: Charles Brown, Joe Fox, and Ken Weas. Kentucky-Indiana's Hack Albertson was elected as the fourth and newest Chapter Vice President Liaison. Many Gateway members know Hack from Gateway events. He will be a great addition. I think we have a good group of chapter liaisons.

There were two significant resolutions passed at the Annual Convention. Resolution 15-M-3, Judicial Committee Response Time, passed in substitute version. This resolution, authored by Gateway, provides the respondent (person being charged) under exigent circumstances, to request additional time beyond existing set limits, in which to file a response to a judicial committee complaint. Resolution 15-M-8, Eliminating Financial Connection Mandate & Renaming Support Program, passed easily. This resolution addresses two "problems" that needed to be resolved. The first issue was that across the board increases (staff wide cost-of-living increases) in PVA staff salaries, were tied directly and dependent on increases in funding for the chapters. Increasing either the chapter contribution or PVA National staff salaries (COLAs), had to be done together. The need or justification for either one is not related. The resolution removed this mandatory connection. The resolution also removed the word "contribution" and replaced it with the word "grant" when referring to the amount PVA distributes, usually on an annual basis, to chapters for operation. This also, in my opinion, was appropriate for legal liability purposes.

Purchased Home Health Care Services Procedures

Rodney Harris, Senior Benefits Advocate



I am asked by many veterans and caregivers: “What services will VA provide for care of a veteran that would like to stay in his/her own home?” If a veteran is enrolled in VHA’s health care, they are eligible for a comprehensive array of medically necessary in home services as identified in the medical benefits package described under 38 CFR 17.38. VHA has shifted from an episodic treatment of illness, to a greater commitment to home and community based options for short and long term care. VHA is committed to the provisions of clinically appropriate home health care services as an important component of medical care. VHA has a long history of coordinating care across settings and payer sources to ensure health care continuity for veterans. Types of VHA purchased care include, Purchased Skilled Home Health Care (PSHC) or Directed Care (also called the VIP), Home and/or Home Health Aide (H/HHA), Respite Care and Palliative care (also known as Hospice).

The eligibility and determination of the need for home health services is done through an interdisciplinary assessment when the veteran is determined to have the following clinical conditions:

- (a) Assistance with three or more ADL (activities of daily living) dependencies, or*
- (b) Significant cognitive impairment, or*
- (c) Require H/HHA services as adjunct care to community hospice services, or*
- (d) Two ADL dependencies, and two or more of the following conditions:*
 - 1. Has dependency in three or more IADLs (instrumental activities of daily living);*
 - 2. Has been recently discharged from a nursing facility, or has an upcoming nursing home discharge plan contingent on receipt of home and community-based care services;*
 - 3. Is seventy-five years old, or older;*
 - 4. Has had high use of medical services defined as three or more hospitalizations in the past year or has utilized outpatient clinics or emergency evaluation units twelve or more times in the past year;*
 - 5. Has been diagnosed with clinical depression;*
 - 6. Lives alone in the community.*

When a veteran who does not strictly meet the preceding criteria and, nevertheless, is determined by the clinical care team to need H/HHA services, the services may be ordered, but the reason for the variance from these standards must be documented in the patient’s record. This interdisciplinary team must complete an appropriate assessment and VA Form 10-0415, Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) Referral. This determination of need must be completed before a veteran is referred for service. The receipt of Aid and Attendance (A&A) is not to be considered when placing veterans into home health care services.

Another question then arises: “What are the costs for these programs and who pays?” Remember, home health care is a covered benefit for all enrolled veterans, on par with all other medical services included in the medical benefits package. A veteran who is dually eligible for both VA care and Medicare may elect to have home care services paid for under the Medicare benefit. Veterans who choose Medicare retain their eligibility for VA care and benefits. Veterans should be notified that the VA has no authority to pay for any balances or co-payments that may be due after Medicare or any other non-VA source make payment for care. The total monthly VHA cost of an individual veteran’s home and community-based care services, to include skilled home health care, H/HHA services, community adult day health care, and non-institutional respite services, should not exceed 65 percent of the monthly cost per patient in the nearest VA Nursing Home Care Unit (VANHCU). Processes for purchasing home health care and hospice services must be jointly developed by Acquisition and Materiel Management Services (A&MMS) and appropriate clinical staff at each VISN or VA health care facility level. The purchasing options ensure that a broad array of home and community-based care options are accessible to veterans, and that the veteran’s preference for specific resources is considered when facilitating referrals. All VA health care facilities must integrate into their overall quality management program a system of oversight and monitoring for VA-purchased home health care services. All veterans receiving VA-purchased home health care services have their need for service reviewed at least every six months for the first year of placement and annually thereafter.

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Are there waiting lists for home health care services? In some VISNs within VHA the answer is "yes." Veterans should check with their local social worker. It is current VHA policy to utilize an electronic waiting list (EWL) for veterans in need of home health care services when budget resources are not sufficient to meet all identified home health care needs of veterans. For eligible veterans, who are determined to be in need of H/HHA, the VA gives priority to those who are in receipt of, or are in need of, nursing home care primarily for the treatment of a service-connected disability, or who have a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more. A waiting list process for hospice care services is not to be utilized, as the VA must provide or purchase needed hospice services without delay.

So, if you are in need of home health care services and are enrolled in the VHA system of care, speak with your primary care team. They will determine your needs and get the process started to keep you in your home or community, close to your family and friends, and to get the support you need to achieve your health care goals. Your local NSO or SBA can also give you insight into these programs provided by the VA.

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.*

Phillip Baldwin

Joe Sabo

Michael McKinney



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www.UnitedAccess.com

The Gateway Chapter Celebrated Dr. Robert Huskey's 80th Birthday at the Jefferson Barracks SCI/D Patient Luncheon in June!!!

Dr. Huskey is a former President of the Gateway Chapter, a current member of the board and an invaluable participant in the peer support program.



"Thank You" Note From Paul "Rusty" Ezzell



Well I don't know if this is an attaboy or just a note to say Thank You but I'm writing this to let you all know what happened to me. Me is Rusty by the way. I recently received a true blessing from our beloved Gateway PVA. I don't know if you all remember when Stan had brought it up at a meeting that the PVA was going to be giving away handicapped accessible vans again this year or not. Well I did remember and I submitted a small essay to the PVA let them know how one of them would benefit me and my life. Given the fact that I am non service connected, and that being one of the criteria, and having a truck that is on its last leg I kind of figured what the hell. Well on or about the 28th of May I received a call from Stan stating that I had not won a van but had in fact had gotten a gift of \$10,000 to apply to either a new vehicle or to fix up the one that I currently drive. I have to tell you that I broke down and cried. I had just spent \$550 on basically a brake job on the old truck just the day before. You see I have been dealing with a lot of personal issues for about the last year, my old truck being one of those issues. I was out in the garage praying to the good Lord to please send me some relief for my issues. A

bit of sunlight at the end of the dark tunnel that I felt I had been in for such a long time. Well needless to say it came in a huge way thanks to the PVA!

I know that we have had our issues with the PVA at one point in time. The points thing, trying to get this or that, making meetings, whatever the issues. Heck I've even called and crabbed to Susan once or twice over things, sorry Susan, but I'm here to say that if you put in the time and talk to them things will happen. In my case a VERY AWESOME thing happened. I can't say Thank You enough to the PVA for this wonderful gift. It has giving me hope that tomorrow will, and can be, a better day. That the organization is a great one that looks out for all of us disabled vets that belong. I can't make as many meetings as I would like to make and I can't be at all the functions that we have either. I do try but because I have to work during the summer and fall months I do what I can. I think that all of us that belong should try to make as many of the meetings and functions that we can. The PVA goes above and beyond to try and make sure that they can do what they can to help with whatever needs that any of us may have. Yes we have to go through some hoops to get them but as we all know, given our disabilities, we have all had to work a little harder to get what we want in this world. We have all had to overcome and strive to become who we are today. Nothing is easy and nothing that is worth anything ever just comes to anyone with a disability. Having said that I want to say THANK YOU to the local chapter of the PVA. Thank you for this life changing wonderful gift that you have bestowed on me. It has given me a new outlook on life and has restored my faith, not only in this organization, but on life itself. It is a true blessing not only from you but from the good Lord above. Again THANK YOU very much!!!!

Gateway Chapter PVA Clothing Donations

Did you know that the Gateway Chapter PVA
accepts clothing donations year round?

Call the office at (314) 427-0393 or toll free at
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St. Louis, MO 63132

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WARRIORS
Paralyzed Veterans of America

In memory of...

Robert Korbus	Licking, MO	April 9, 2015
Alfred Ross	Wichita, KS	May 8, 2015
Kenneth Williams	St. Louis, MO	November 4, 2014
Everett Hughes	Carbondale, IL	December 10, 2014
Craig Johnson	St. Jacob, IL	March 17, 2015



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

SPORTS UPDATE



WHEELCHAIR GAMES

The Local Wheelchair Games were held on May 8th, 2015 at the Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center Gymnasium.

Gateway Chapter PVA's Most Important Annual Fundraiser!

By Susan Lyle, Executive Director

Our **20th** Annual Jack Buck/Gateway Chapter PVA Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. The event will take place at The Landings at Spirit Golf Club in Chesterfield, Missouri. **We need everyone to spread the word about this most important annual fundraiser AND we need our members to show up for the tournament to thank our donors.** Member attendance is worth 20 participation points! Plus, if you can get relatives or friends together for a team, that would be awesome. They will get a tax donation deduction letter from our charity.



This year, registration forms can be found on our website. Team and sponsorship payments can also be made on our website golf page. Just go to www.GatewayPVA.org and click on the golf ball icon (like the one above), which is located in the top left corner of the home page. Everything needed is easily accessible. After all, isn't that what the PVA is all about – making things easily accessible???

There will be over 200 people at our event, so if you have friends who own businesses, please mention that we have hole sponsorships for \$200. It's a great way to get some advertising out there, as well as network with other business sponsors! Finally, we are in need of auction items, so this is an area where we could really use your help! Ask everyone you know. We would be happy to pick up any items; just call our office at 314-427-0393. Thanks and let's make this the BEST golf tournament EVER!!!

						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Office Closed for Holiday	3 Office Closed for Holiday	4 
5	6 Jay Henges Trap Shoot 11am-3pm	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA, 4pm <div>15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.</div>	15	16 Member/SCI Patient Luncheon at JB @ Noon <div>5 pts.</div>	17 Boccia National Championships Kansas City Begins	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Summer Splash at Creve Coeur Park	

						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Jay Henges Trap Shoot 11am-3pm	4	5	6	7 National Veterans Golden Age Games Omaha, NA Begin	8
9	10	11 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA, 11:30 am <div>15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.</div>	12	13	14	15 Veterans Scuba Trip to Cozumel, MX Till Aug 22nd.
16	17	18	19	20 Member/SCI Patient Luncheon at JB @ Noon <div>5 pts.</div>	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Boccia Tourna- ment of Champions Cup @ Crestwood Elks 12pm	29
30	31					



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Gateway Chapter

**1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
St. Louis, MO 63132**

Address Service Requested

Thank You



Pictured above are two groups that have recently held fundraisers on our behalf. On the left are members of **NAPA Auto Parts, AAA, and STS Car Care**. The three groups and their members held a trivia night, with us as one of two beneficiaries for their proceeds. Plus we were given a free table and access to food and beer! Pictured above on the left are Steve Adams, NAPA; Stanley D. Brown, Gateway President; Steve Porkorny, STS Car Care; Daniel McKaige, NAPA; and Philip Linck, AAA. Pictured on the right are members of the **Steel Mayhem Brotherhood** plus Gateway members Ruth Kult, Chad Buder and Jeremiah DeGuire. This riders club held a Poker Run on June 6th, that raised funds solely for our Gateway PVA Chapter. Riders received their “cards” stopping at various restaurants and taverns in the St. Louis area.

Thank you Steel Mayhem and NAPA group!

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