

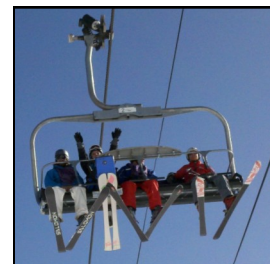
GATEWAY GAZETTE

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

Duke McDonald/Gateway PVA Local Wheelchair Games

By Matt Luitjohan, CTRS, SCI RT

On May 4, 2012, we will be having our Annual Duke McDonald/Gateway PVA Local Wheelchair Games in and around the gymnasium of building 63 at the Jefferson Barracks Campus. Registration will begin at 8:00 am with the first event starting at 9 am. This year we are going to be including Bocce Ball as an exhibition event. We are again encouraging everyone to pre-register for the event to ensure enough assistance, equipment, and to assist in speeding up the registration process. Lunch will be provided by United Access. Please call Matt at 314-894-6602 or Charley at 314-652-4100 Ext. 64590 with any questions. You can obtain a registration form by e-mailing Matt or Charley at matthew.luitjohan@va.gov or charleswright6@va.gov.



National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

On March 24, 2012, Team St. Louis departed for Snowmass, Colorado, in the great Rocky Mountains for the 26th Annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. We ended up having three veterans (Terri Fuda, Jeremiah DeGuire and Rose Ganz) from St. Louis, Missouri, attend the clinic with 382 veterans from other states. We had a great week and learned some new skills while having fun meeting other veterans from across the country. The past few years our team numbers have decreased, but I'm hopeful that some of you reading this will be interested in trying it out next year. And if not to Colorado right away, there is a program at Hidden Valley Ski Resort you could try out. It is sponsored by the Gateway Disabled Ski Association. If you would like some additional information on either the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic or the Gateway Disabled Ski Association, please contact Matt at 314-894-6602, matthew.luitjohan@va.gov or Charley at 314-652-4100 Ext. 64590, charleswright6@va.gov.



New Programs

By Charley Wright, CTRS, SCI RT

Hand Cycling Clinic

Veterans were recently invited to test-drive many different hand cycle models. Depending on injury levels and abilities, our Vets used varying upright and recumbent hand cycles. Riders learned how to steer, stop, maneuver the pedals, and transfer from their wheelchairs to the cycles. Veterans with spinal cord injuries are eligible to receive an adapted sports chair bought for them by the VA. Interested Veterans must work with a therapist and try out different equipment before purchase.

Air Rifle Clinic



Bull's Eye L.L.C., Indoor Firing Range is the most complete shooting sports center in St. Louis. When you attend this clinic:

- Our indoor 10-position range is equipped with automated target retrieval systems and is supervised for individuals and families to shoot safely
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- Eye & ear protection is provided
- Conveniently located just 5 minutes from the Arch, between Highways 44 and 40 at 5100 Manchester Rd. (2 blocks west of Kingshighway)

(Please see the bottom of page 6 for additional program information.)



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BOD Biographies for the upcoming nominations!

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

**Gateway Chapter
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<http://www.gatewaypva.org>

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2012 Cardinal Baseball Tickets Giveaway

Gateway PVA has purchased \$2,512 worth of Cardinals 2012 baseball game tickets. We have purchased 28 tickets, 16 of those tickets will go for inpatients and 12 tickets will be available for outpatients.

We have 2 box seats (one for a wheelchair and one for an able-bodied individual) for the following 4 games:

June 10, Sunday, 1:15 pm game against Cleveland
July 1, Sunday, 1:15 pm game against Pittsburgh
July 22, Sunday, 1:15 pm game against the Cubs
August 19, Sunday, 1:15 pm game against Pittsburgh

We also have 4 box seats (2 wheelchair and 2 able-bodied) for the October 2, Tuesday, 7:15 pm game against Cincinnati.

Sunday games were especially chosen because of ease of parking. Please call or email the office with your choice of game(s). We will hold a random drawing and the winners will be eligible for one game each. These are excellent box seats just to the right of home plate. **Please respond by May 11, at 5:00 pm.**

Mobility Awareness Month

May is Mobility Awareness Month

The NMEDA (National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association) is sponsoring a contest that gives people with a disability or their caregiver an opportunity to tell their story of overcoming day-to-day challenges. The grand prize will be a minimum of three wheelchair accessible vehicles customized to match the winners' needs and presented on national television.

For more information, please visit
www.MobilityAwarenessMonth.com

PVA Educational Scholarship Program

The purpose of the PVA Educational Scholarship Program is to provide assistance to PVA members and their immediate family members by providing scholarship funds to help with a post-secondary education. The 2012-2013 scholarships will be in the amount of \$1,000 for full-time students and \$500.00 for part-time students for an academic year. For information, please visit www.pva.org or call (800) 424-8200, Ext. 776.

Deadline to apply is June 17, 2012.



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Has your address changed? Please inform us by email: susanlyle@gatewaypva.org, or you may 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

By Stanley D. Brown

Disability Air Travel Meeting

Every time I start to write something on this topic, I wonder what the actual and politically correct title should be. Should we call ourselves “disabled passengers on airplanes,” or perhaps “mobility challenged individuals that fly,” or from the airline perspective “Snakes on a Plane?” I do know I can no longer refer to myself as a “handicapped” flyer. Bottom line is I know flying for me and others who use a wheelchair, remains nothing short of a hazardous adventure. In spite of this unfortunate fact, the 1986 Air Carrier Access Act requires commercial US carriers and foreign carriers who fly in the US, provide flights accessible to individuals with both physical and cognitive disabilities. In 2009, a particular airline unstrapped me and let me fall out of the aisle chair upon landing. I spent the next seven hours in the emergency room. In March of last year Dr. Bob Huskey was dropped from an aisle chair and fractured his hip. Other than a civil lawsuit for negligence and your damages, I believe there are no adequate remedies for enforcement or change. The Department of Transportation (DOT) does an annual survey of disability air travel complaints that the airlines receive. If they receive enough complaints and they are reported to the DOT, a fine may be imposed. In February 2011, Delta Airlines was fined \$2 million for accumulating a significant number of violations; the vast majority of the fine was offset by Delta doing training and other improvements that were already required by law. In airline responses received by both Dr. Huskey and me for two complaints that we filed, we were both offered “not my responsibility” form letters and free travel miles. The DOT responses we received acknowledged that there were violations of the Air Carrier Access Act, but that the DOT response could not be used as a basis for a lawsuit against the airline and that if there were enough complaints similar to ours (different airlines in our cases), the DOT may levy sanctions against the offending airline. To date no sanctions have been imposed on those airlines.

This above rather lengthy description leads me and others to the conclusion that air travel remains inaccessible to those with mobility impairments and efforts to make it accessible have failed. After Dr. Huskey was dropped in March 2011 and he sent formal letters to both the airline and the DOT, the airline and the contract service provider actually contacted him in August 2011. We met in our office with the contract service provider who did the transfer of Dr. Huskey and handled his wheelchair. They offered to assist in contacting other airline carriers as well as contract service providers, to meet with PVA representatives at PVA's office in Washington, DC. We held that meeting on March 20, 2012, and there were representatives from Southwest, United, American, Delta, JetBlue, as well as contract service providers from AirServ, Prospect, and Prime Flight. To my knowledge, the only airline that does not contract out “taking care of” disabled passengers and their wheelchairs is Southwest. The meeting resulted in a plan to have PVA representatives helping to provide in-person training to airlines and the contract service providers across the country. PVA is coordinating the different PVA chapters' membership on a regional basis to provide that training. At our March 20 meeting I presented the results of our five month survey with disabled air travel questions. One of the questions had only a 39% “agree” from respondents saying they had a favorable airplane trip. Gateway will again, in May 2012, post the survey and track the results for comparison to the last survey to see if the airline meeting and subsequent training with PVA assistance has accomplished anything. If any reader has had an unbearable airline travel experience, please contact me or Jessica Dunsmore the Gateway Government Relations Director.

National Director Report

By Stanley D. Brown

Mid-Winter PVA Meeting and Finances

I attended, with our exceptional Executive Director Susan Lyle, the February 2012 PVA Mid-Winter meeting in Orlando. The meeting was dominated with the topic of PVA's financial condition. Substantial losses from the operating budget were incurred in fiscal year 2011 (October 2010-September 2011). PVA's significant reliance on its mail program remains problematic. Donor mail programs are particularly susceptible to watchdog criticism, and in today's environment of rising gas prices, negatively affects the small donor's ability to give as well as our cost of paper products. The PVA national office and its operations will be undergoing an outside review that will also include possibly outsourcing some functions that are currently done in-house, all with a cost-saving and efficiency focus. Reductions in PVA grants and matching funds to individual chapters were also approved. Each of the 34 PVA chapters receives an annual monetary contribution from the national organization and matching funds for the individual chapter's salaries for their Executive Director and Government Relations Director. The annual chapter contribution was reduced to \$130,000 which is a \$50,000 reduction from where it was in the beginning of August 2011. Matching funds for the ED and GRD positions were eliminated for fiscal year 2013. Specifically for Gateway, the net result means starting on October 2012, Gateway will have a revenue reduction of \$100,000 for the fiscal year. For fiscal year 2011, the PVA annual contribution accounted for 37% of our total revenue. Several chapters had over 90% of their revenue coming from the national PVA contribution. Gateway will survive, but needs to continue to aggressively seek fund-raising sources and be thankful for our golf tournament and its volunteers.

(Continued on the next page)



(Continued from the previous page)

We will also have to carefully watch our expenditures and reduce where possible. I often get picked on because of my frugal nature (some say cheap), but I still remember 2005 when we were a few months short of being out of money.

PVA Disaster Relief Fund

With tornado and flood season again upon us, members should be reminded of the PVA Disaster Relief Fund. We've had members in the past who have availed themselves of this possible \$2,500 assistance. A maximum of \$2,500 is available for an individual or family and each application is based on need. The funds may be used for transportation, temporary shelter, food, accessibility modifications, medical supplies, and other assistance when unavailable from other sources (insurance, FEMA, etc.). Applications can be obtained and received by the Gateway Chapter or Tony Timmons our NSO. Applications will be reviewed by the Chapter President and the NSO and forwarded to the PVA Veterans Benefits Department. Disbursements may be made for work already completed, but receipts and estimates must be submitted. Contact Gateway's Government Relations Director, Jessica Dunsmore, for further information.

Update from the KCVAMC

Great news provided by NSO, Bonnie Hilburn...We received word today that Secretary Shinseki has signed off on a proposed donation to KCVVA from the Royals. Major League Baseball and the Kansas City Royals jointly expressed the intent to allocate funds and coordinate volunteer resources within the community for development at the KCVAMC Honor Annex. The donations will come from monies associated with the All Star Game scheduled in Kansas City in July 2012. The Royals will be working with *Christmas in October* and *ReBuilding Together* to make this happen. Some ideas for the donations at the Honor Annex include --- enhancing three children's play areas (giving them a baseball theme); aesthetics such as painting the walls and placing art in the PTSD group rooms; and landscaping (healing garden if they have sufficient funds). This is a wonderfully generous offer for our Veterans.



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Government Relations Director's Report

By Jessica Dunsmore



Advocacy/Legislation Seminar and Capitol Hill Visits

Along with President Stan Brown, I attended PVA's Advocacy and Legislation Training/Seminar in late March in Washington D.C. We received extensive updates on current legislation and advocacy issues affecting our membership, as well as veterans and individuals with disabilities in general. Staff and guest speakers provided much insight on these pertinent issues, preparing us for two days of visits on Capitol Hill with our members of Congress (MO and IL). Besides the many "detours" we experienced when crossing through the basement from the House to the Senate side, we had very successful visits with our leaders. With only a short allotment of time to speak with each Congressional office, we tried to cover as many points as we could.

Some key issues we discussed:

- 1) Protecting VA health care from looming sequestration (the budget cuts scheduled for January 2013). There is legislation (**H.R. 3895 and S. 2128**) and bipartisan support to permanently exempt these VA programs from any future sequestration.
- 2) Providing travel reimbursement to catastrophically disabled, non-service connected veterans for inpatient care. Current bills addressing this are **H.R. 3687 and S. 1755**.
- 3) The transportation reauthorization bill (this provides funding for public transportation and specific programs such as the New Freedom Program and Section 5310 grants). The chapter has utilized the latter of these grants to help supplement funding for our accessible bus. A three-month funding extension was agreed upon in late March, pushing the deadline to pass the bill to June 30. Just a couple weeks prior, the Senate passed a two-year reauthorization, which the House did not support.
- 4) Increasing the CHAMPVA beneficiary age (for dependents) to age 26 (**H.R. 115 and S. 490**).
- 5) Addressing the need for affordable and viable long-term care and home/community based services (as you may recall, the CLASS Act was created to address these issues, but was repealed from the Affordable Care Act due to solvency issues).

On our last day in Washington, Stan and I attended a hearing held by the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees, in which PVA's President Bill Lawson testified regarding the dire need to protect VA health care, among other matters which we discussed in our Congressional meetings.

Alton National Cemetery Update (Alton, IL)

Our efforts to address the accessibility concerns at Alton National Cemetery continue, and we appear to be on an upward trajectory. We recently met with the National Cemetery Administration (VA), and along with the IMPACT Center for Independent Living, we will meet with the city's mayor to discuss plans for constructing a switchback ramp system on the property adjacent to the cemetery rostrum and gravesites.

Missouri General Assembly - Funding for Missouri Veterans Homes

HB 1731 and SB 793 appear to be the most viable options at this point with regards to funding the Missouri Veterans Homes and other Veterans Commission programs. These are essentially identical bills that change up the distribution of gaming monies (they DO NOT raise the gaming boat entrance fees by \$1, which other legislation had proposed). HB 1731 received unanimous support when the House voted on March 1, and it has been referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Emerging Issues, Pensions and Urban Affairs. The legislature adjourns in late May, with a possible veto session taking place again in September.

Illinois General Assembly - The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs recently announced that the monthly resident fees for the state's Veterans Homes will rise from about \$930/month to \$1,430, beginning July 2012 (some of this will occur in phases). The state legislature is set to adjourn May 31, 2012.

Funding for PVA Sporting Events—National and Other Chapter-Sponsored Events

Visit www.pva.org (under "Get Sports" click on the Sports Calendar) to see a list of events across the country.

Please visit www.gatewaypva.org (click "Programs" then "Sports") to see how you can earn participation points. You must have accumulated adequate participation points to qualify. Funding is not guaranteed, and will not be provided for past events or retroactively (you must contact the chapter prior to the event). Funding is determined on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the Gateway Chapter BOD. Please contact the chapter for more details.

Attaboy

By Ruth Kult

HELLO,

I hope everyone realizes how lucky we patients at Jefferson Barracks Spinal Cord Unit are. We have individuals that really know what's going on and give some good calming insight when needed. Let me explain.



Just this past weekend, my 17-year old niece rolled her car in between Pocahontas and Highland, Illinois. It was 10:30 p.m. out in the country where it was desolate. My niece crawled out of one of the windows of the car and stumbled to the nearest house which was about a mile and a half away. She beat on the door and yelled out that she was a 17-year old girl who had a wreck and needed medical help. They reluctantly opened the door and called an ambulance. The injuries were so severe that they airlifted her to Children's Hospital in Missouri.

On Monday, I was informed of the worst. As soon as the term C-5 was mentioned, I thought OH NO she's going to be a quadriplegic. Unfortunately, most of us are familiar with that letter and number. If not, the first seven little rings of bone are called the cervical vertebrae. The letter C determines where on the spine the injury occurred, the number 5 is the fifth vertebrae. This usually results in difficulty breathing and loss of function to both the arms and legs. This is quadriplegia and this is why I was scared. Because I'm a C-7, I blocked out the compressed part at first. I didn't even know what it meant. A plus in my mind was that she could walk because she walked to that house for help. She also had a problem with her T-10. The next twelve vertebrae are in the chest and they are called the thoracic vertebrae. They usually affect the chest and the legs and result in paraplegia. The following vertebrae are in the lower back and are the lumbar vertebrae, which typically result in loss of control of the legs, bladder and bowel. The next five vertebrae that run from the pelvis to the end of the spinal cord are called the sacral vertebrae. Sacral injuries involve some loss of function in the legs and difficulty with bowel and bladder control.

In addition, she also had a collapsed lung, a cut in her liver (that hopefully will heal itself), and a few broken ribs. These were minor compared to the other injuries. I went to the hospital to see her Monday and it was awful. She had on a neck brace and another brace to stabilize her spine. A tube was in her chest to drain the blood out of her lung. When I put my hand up next to hers, she grabbed my hand and squeezed; that was a good sign.

On Tuesday, I started calling Jefferson Barracks. I wanted to find out what things meant so I could relay it to my family so they could understand what was happening. We are so lucky to have Jody Paniagua as a Physical Therapist. She is so knowledgeable of medical terminology. She could be a doctor. She was terrific with her explanation. Gracias Jody! I can't forget Becky Ballard and her calming tone. She also helped me with unknown definitions and explained the T-10 part to me. She eased my mind. Thanks Becky!

Well, there's a happy ending to this story. I saw my niece yesterday and oh my gosh, pretty much a complete 180. What a great, great day. She gets to go home on Friday. What an amazing event.

To be perfectly honest, in- and outpatients are lucky people. Although it may not seem that way at times, all of the therapists, nurses, CNAs and our wonderful doctors are here to help us, not themselves. Thank you to all of them!



Mark Beel

Sylvester Roddy

Alfred Ross

Please contact the GPVA office if you know the whereabouts of these members.



This year's "Sweat with the Vets" Run/Walk/Roll will be taking place in November. (Further details will be provided as the date approaches.)

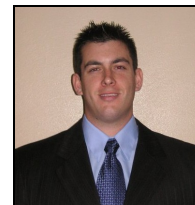
- Please come out to support the athletes at this year's Golden Age Games in St. Louis, May 31-June 5.

(Continued from the front cover "New Programs" article by Charley Wright.)

Life Waters Vets SCUBA is a great equalizer providing a world of opportunity for people with and without physical disabilities. Diving has become an increasingly popular recreation sport, enjoyed by millions of people. We offer scuba certification programs through SDI (Scuba Diving International). The majority of the disabled Veterans we train have Spinal Cord Injuries and other severe injuries. Veterans who are not able to perform a skill to SDI open water standards are offered the chance to earn their scuba certification with a Scubility™ certified scuba instructor. We teach the adaptive scuba program on weekends that are scheduled with the SCI RT Dept. in the aquatic therapy pool at the Jefferson Barracks VA. We use SDI's online training system to allow divers to learn at their own pace. The Life Waters Vets Dive team is comprised of Rehab Therapists, Nurses and Rehab Doctors providing first class instruction and buddy training. Contact the SCI RT Dept. at Jefferson Barracks VA for more info: Charley Wright 314-652-4100 Ext. 64590, or Matt Luitjohan 314-894-6602.

Aid & Attendance

By National Service Officer, Tom Herrington



I have recently been working more and more claims where the need for regular aid and attendance (A&A) has been a reoccurring question. Most of these claims and questions are related to the incoming Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's disease claims. So for this article I figured I would review the requirements for A&A. This may be nothing new to a few of you out there, but I'm hoping that it could open up dialog with some veterans not aware of their eligibility.

The need for regular aid attendance and permanently housebound is awarded to veterans that meet the requirements set forth by 38 CFR 3.350(b)(3) & (4) and 38 CFR 3.352(a). The basic criteria the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) looks for in determining the need for A&A are as follows: the inability to dress or undress oneself or to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable; a frequent need of adjustment of any special prosthetic or orthopedic appliances that by reason of the particular disability cannot be done without aid; the inability to feed oneself through loss of coordination of upper extremities or through extreme weakness; inability to attend to wants of nature; or incapacity, physical or mental, which requires care or assistance on a regular basis to protect oneself from hazards or dangers incident to one's daily environment. "Bedridden" will be a proper basis for a determination of the need for A&A. By bedridden I mean the condition actually requires that the claimant remain in bed, but not if the claimant voluntarily takes to bed or if a physician has prescribed bed rest.

There is also an award of higher level Aid and Attendance authorized by 38 CFR 3.350(h) in lieu of the award of regular Aid and Attendance, but the following conditions must be met for this award: the veteran must be entitled to compensation under (o) or the maximum rate authorized under (p); the veteran must meet all requirements to the regular aid attendance under (r) (1); if the veteran without the provision of such higher level of care, would require hospitalization, nursing home care, or other residential institutional care; last is the need for higher level of care if determined by a VA physician or a contractor carrying out such function under a VA contract where there is no VA physician available.

The above regulations show what needs to be addressed, and along with medical records and examinations there is a particular form that the VA sends out to have completed. The VA form 21-2680, Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance, is usually sent out to assist with the claim. This form in particular is important to these claims, since the records don't always show what is needed for the claim to be granted. This form, when filled out properly by the physician, can help speed up the claims process for Aid and Attendance.

When a claim for Aid and Attendance is pending, your National Service Officer should send out a letter requesting this form be filled out and may even send a copy of this form just in case one was not already received. A phone call may also be made to assist with this process and to stress the importance of having this form filled out and submitted quickly.

The above information on aid and attendance was provided from the Federal Veterans Laws, Rules and Regulations. For more information or details on this subject feel free to contact one of your Service Officers. (Contact information is located inside the front cover.)



In memory of...

Billy Carter	Centralia, IL	02/06/12
Kenneth Curtis	Rock Hill, SC	06/04/07
Allen Hunt	White Cloud, KS	07/24/11



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.

Gateway Chapter PVA Wishes to Welcome Our New Members

Edwin Boria	O'Fallon, MO	Thomas Douglas.....	Savannah, MO
Nicole Johnson		Florissant, MO	

And our newest transfer member...
Kevin Bye.....Lees Summit, MO



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Our Members Spoke and We Listened!

Below are brief biographies of members who are interested in running for a position on the FY 2012-2013 Board of Directors. Hopefully the below information will assist in the completion of upcoming nomination and election ballots. Please contact our office if you are interested in running for any position.

Dennis Durrwachter - Treasurer

Dennis joined the Air Force in 1971 and was discharged in 1975. He was stationed at Whiteman AFB in Missouri.

Dennis became a member of PVA in 2000 and joined the Gateway Chapter in 2002. He joined the Board of Directors in 2004 and was voted into the position of Treasurer in 2005. For several years he was the newsletter editor for the *Gateway Gazette* and he also created the chapter website. He still maintains Gateway PVA's website and keeps track of members' sports points and the chapter demographics. Dennis joined the BOD to try to help other veterans with spinal cord injury/disease.

Currently, Dennis works as an engineer for Boeing in St. Louis. In his free time he enjoys riding hand cycles, fishing, wood-working and computers.

Dennis will be running for Treasurer again this year. He stated, "I would like to continue to serve with your support!"

Rose Ganz - Vice President

Rose entered the service in March of 1979 as an Education Specialist. She retired from the Air Force in 1995, 100% service connected with M.S. (Multiple Sclerosis).

Rose became a member of Gateway PVA in 2003 and joined the Board of Directors in 2005. She has volunteered as an M.S. peer support counselor for four years.

Rose enjoys going to the Winter Sports Clinic and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games; she has participated for the last eight years.

Jim Holland, PhD - BOD

Jim joined the Army in March of 1968 as an M.P. After being injured, he was discharged in 1970 and joined PVA shortly thereafter, originally with the Vaughn Chapter.

Jim has always enjoyed sports and was the first person in a wheelchair to participate in the Physical Education program at SIUE. He has spent time coaching basketball and tennis and taught P.E. at Coolidge Junior High School in Granite City, Illinois. In 1983 Jim earned his Doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Columbia Pacific University.

In 2008 Jim became a member of the GPVA Board of Directors. When asked why he enjoys being a member of the BOD, Jim mentioned that they are a dedicated group of people who truly care about their fellow members.

Robert Huskey, PhD - BOD

Dr. Huskey joined the National Guard in 1952 and later went on active duty. He was injured in December of 1956 and was discharged in December of 1961. From 1960 until 1989, he worked for the Special School District of St. Louis County where he was Associate Superintendant in charge of programs for children with many different kinds of disabilities.

Dr. Huskey joined PVA with the Mid-South Chapter in 1957. In 1992, he joined the Gateway Chapter. He was voted onto the GPVA Board of Directors as Vice President in 1996; he has been a member of the Board ever since. He enjoys being on the Board of Directors because it gives him a chance to meet other veterans and share stories and life experiences.

Dr. Huskey likes to spend time with his grandchildren and enjoys travelling and birding. He also has worked with several non-profit organizations to support issues that allow people living with a disability to live independently, stay busy, stay healthy, and lead productive and enjoyable lives.

Bobby Jackson - BOD

Bobby was in the Air Force from 1978 until 1985. During that time he worked as a jet engine mechanic.

In 1993, Bobby joined Gateway PVA. In 1998, he became a member of the Board of Directors. He enjoys being a member of the BOD because it allows him to work on making things better for his fellow members.

Bobby likes to read, enjoys history and trivia and participating in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games.

Ruth Kult - BOD

While a senior in high school, Ruth, along with about four other people participating in a work-study program, were placed at the Transportation Management Office (TMO) at Scott Air Force Base.

(Continued on the next page.)

(Ruth Kult's Bio continued from the previous page.)

It was during her time there that she finalized her decision to join the Air Force. Ruth was on delayed enlistment until she graduated from high school in May of 1984.

Ruth worked in Air Force Administration, but always for Maintenance. She went to basic training in Texas and Technical School in Mississippi. Before her medical discharge, she was stationed at Mountain Home AFB in Idaho and Anderson AFB in Guam. Ruth also attended classes at Belleville Area College, known currently as Southwestern Illinois College.

Ruth enjoys participating in the NVWG as well as spending time with her family and her dog, Sammy. She also works on her computer and writes a regular article for the *Gateway Gazette* called "Attaboy."

Ruth has been a member of Gateway PVA since 1988 and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2001. She enjoys being a Board member because it keeps her informed and also gives her the opportunity to help her fellow members.

Bob Larkin - BOD

Bob Larkin was born at Hill AFB in Utah. He went to a number of schools throughout the United States because his father was career military. He was baptized at First Baptist Church in Chapman, Kansas, in 1971, where he taught Sunday school to third and fourth graders. He also drove the church bus until joining the Army in 1973. Bob served in both Europe and Asia and was discharged in 1976. He then settled in Lawrence, Kansas, and began attending KU until 1981 when, due to an auto accident, he became paralyzed.

After rehab, Bob moved to Bentonville, Arkansas, near family. He enrolled at AU until he got a job in Overland Park, Kansas, as a leisure services coordinator for the city. It was then that he began volunteering at the KCVAMC. In 1985, Bob became active with the Paralyzed Veterans of America. He has been on the Board of Directors for the Gateway Chapter since 1993.

In 1988, Bob married Victoria Stringfield. Bob and his wife have 2 children: Matt, 33 and Amanda, 31. He has 4 grandchildren.

Bob has worked for the KCVAMC research department as a department non-scientist since 1998. In his spare time, Bob volunteers at the KCVAMC and his church. He is the Gateway Chapter's Hospital Liaison at the KCVAMC. He likes NASCAR, bowling, hunting and fishing.

Bob stated, "If elected to continue to serve on your board of directors, I will continue to try to make your healthcare experience at the VA a positive one. Thank you for your continued confidence."

William "Rusty" Montague - BOD

Rusty was born and raised in central Missouri. He enlisted in the Army directly after high school. His first enlistment was with the 82nd Airborne's 325th Airborne Infantry Brigade. Rusty's second duty station was at Scholfield Barracks, Hawaii. He quickly rose in rank, achieving staff sergeant in five years and four months. Unfortunately, his Army career was cut short.

After serving two years in Hawaii, Rusty fell approximately 30 feet during a night movement. The fall left him with a broken L1 vertebra. He was treated by an extremely competent medical team, and as a result he is ambulatory. Rusty said, "The ability to walk, fairly normally, often hides some of the problems associated with a sacral nerve injury. However, I can more than empathize with the issues faced by people with spinal cord injuries."

Rusty recently completed undergraduate school with the help of the VA's vocational rehabilitation program. Now, he works for the Social Security Administration in Columbia, Missouri, and is attending graduate school.

In early 2011, Rusty received an appointment to Gateway PVA's Board of Directors, as a long distance board member. In October of 2011, he was able to attend PVA's Health Care Advocacy Seminar in Puerto Rico. Living close to Columbia, Missouri, has allowed Rusty the opportunity to be GPVA's Hospital Liaison to the Truman Memorial VA Hospital. Rusty stated, "I look forward to continuing to help address the needs of our members and would appreciate your support for this year's Board elections."

James F. "Jim" Trombley, Jr. - BOD

Jim was born a military brat, which predisposed him to joining the service. He went to High School in Biloxi, Mississippi while his father was stationed at Keesler AFB. Even though his father was an Air Force Air Traffic Controller, he joined the Navy and served as an Electronics Technician on board the USS Batfish, a nuclear powered fast attack submarine. He was also stationed at a couple of technical support facilities and served from 1981 to 1989.

After leaving the service, Jim worked as a contractor and building inspector, but has not worked since 2007 as Building Inspector for the City of Hazelwood. Recently, he earned an Associate's Degree in Business Administration from St. Louis Community College at Wildwood. Jim also completed several courses related to Contract Management at St. Louis University School of Professional Studies. Jim is grateful to the VA and their Vocational Rehabilitation services for his higher education.

While in Vocational Rehabilitation, Jim worked part-time in work-study at the American Legion Service Office at VARO St. Louis. He finds helping veterans very rewarding and is now volunteering there a few hours per week. Jim wants to be active with the PVA and serve on the BOD because he is looking for a place that can help with his progressing service connected disabilities and T8-S3 spinal cord disease and allow him to interact with his fellow veterans.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  <h1 style="margin: 0;">May</h1>  </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Local Games Jefferson Barracks Register @ 8:00 am	5
6	7	8 BOD Meeting 11:30 am <div>15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.</div>	9	10	11	12
13 Happy Mother's Day! 	14	15	16	17 Member/Patient Luncheon at JB @ Noon 5 pts.	18 Trap Shoot @ Olin in East Alton, IL 10 am - 2:30 pm	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 	29 <div>Memorial Day - Office Closed 28-29</div>	30 Registration for Golden Age Games	31 <div>National Veterans Golden Age Games May 31 - June 5, in St. Louis, MO</div>		

<h1 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">June</h1>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Newsletter Articles Due	9 2nd Annual Roy Gantt Mem. Bowling Tourn.
10	11	12 BOD Meeting 4 pm <div>15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.</div>	13	14	15 Trap Shoot @ Olin in East Alton, IL 10 am - 2:30 pm	16
17 Happy Father's Day! 	18	19	20	21 Member/Patient Luncheon/Qtr. Mbr. Mtg. at JB @ Noon 5 pts/15 pts.	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
32nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games June 25 - June 30, Richmond, VA						

Address Service Requested

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



2nd Annual GPVA/Roy Gantt Memorial Bowling Tournament

Please call the GPVA office to register for this event. (credit cards accepted)
Advance payments must be received by Friday, June 1. You may also pay at the door on the day of the event.

\$20 per entry

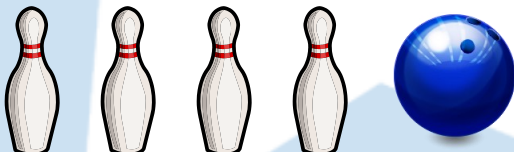
Checks should be made payable to:
Gateway Chapter PVA

Saturday, June 9, 2012, at 1:00 p.m.

St. Clair Bowl
5950 Old Collinsville Rd.
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

For additional details-
Call Bob Dedee
618-632-2400 or 618-632-3386

Snacks will be available and there will be a 50/50 raffle as well as the potential for a bowling ball auction.



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