

GATEWAY GAZETTE

Paralyzed Veterans of America

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



Shoot on June 20, and the election of our new Board of Directors for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Inside this newsletter, members will find the official election ballot with our seal. Copies cannot be made of the election ballot, so make sure you submit the "official" ballot with seal. Nominees were contacted and asked to run for the position in which they were nominated. Some confusion may have occurred because members nominated our Treasurer for Secretary, and our Secretary for Treasurer. Nonetheless, both were asked if they would accept their nominations and they agreed. Please make sure when voting that you select only 7 boxes from the "Board of Directors" section - the names cannot be the same as those voted for in the "Officers" section. When finished, one should end up with a combined total of 11 names and none should be duplicated. You may write in a choice if someone is not on the ballot. We need to get more people, especially younger members, involved. Mail the ballot to our office by May 31 or hand-deliver it to me at our luncheon on June 19. If you have any questions, contact our office—and, speaking of our office, we have a new part-time Administrative Assistant to welcome to our team. Shannon Durington has proven to be a great addition and we're proud to have her!

More exciting news for members—the GPVA Board of Directors at our April meeting voted to <u>increase</u> funding for qualified home and vehicle modifications. If a member is in need of modifications, they are encouraged to contact our office for details on how to apply.

In the President's message on page 3, members will read about drawings for free Cardinals tickets. In the near future, there will be additional games given away. Members can check with our office periodically if they do not have email addresses on file with us. At times, game drawings are sent via email because of the last minute nature of ticket date notifications to us, so if you have an email address and are currently not receiving emails from our chapter, please call or email us to get your name added. You can also "like" us on Facebook to see messages throughout the year about free luncheons, membership meetings, free tickets, events, and more!

Finally, in the last issue of the Gazette, there was an insert with details for the Saturday, June 7, 2014, Patton-ville Firefighters Clay Shoot at the Blackhawk Valley Hunt Club in Old Monroe, MO. This fundraiser will benefit the Gateway Chapter, as well as Responder Rescue. Plus, our biggest and most important chapter fundraiser of the year is fast approaching. Our 19th Annual Jack Buck / Gateway Chapter PVA Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014, at the Landings at Spirit Golf Club in Chesterfield, MO. We are in desperate need of auction items for this tournament. If you have connections with a business owner who would be willing to donate an item or items, please let us know as soon as possible. Members can earn 20 points for attending our fundraising events, plus points can be earned for the value of donation items



Mailed Ballots are due in our office by May 31, 2014!

procured! Please read our Sports Directors' article on page 4 to learn more about earning and redeeming points.





Inside—Important Upcoming Events & More...

President's Message...... Stanley Brown Sports Points Expansion.... Jim Trombley PVA Scholarship Program Deadline

Death Benefits for Spouses..Rodney Harris Healing Through the Arts...Becky Ballard Calendar of Events for May/June

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

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Treasurer Dennis Durrwachter

Secretary Jim Trombley

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Ruth Kult

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Rebecca Warchola Secretary

GPVA Staff

Vacant Telemarketing

Vacant Government Relations Director
Shannon Durington Administrative Assistant
Susan Lyle Executive Director/Editor

John Vasel Transportation

Jaclyn Wetteroff Admin. Assistant/Co-Editor

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 2014 Duke McDonald Gateway PVA Local Wheelchair Games May 2, 2014, at 9:00 a.m.

Events will be held in and around the Jefferson Barracks Gymnasium.

2014 Spring Bash 1st Annual Softball Tournament

May 3, 2014—Spanish Lake Park Spirit Field in Spanish Lake, MO



Trap/Archery Missouri Dept. of Conservation Jay Henges Shooting Range

First Monday of each month, May-September 1100 Antire Road High Ridge, MO 63049



4th Annual Roy Gantt/Gateway PVA Bowling Tournament

May 10, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. St. Clair Bowl 5950 Old Collinsville Rd. Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Registration is \$20, in advance or at the door.

Gateway Chapter PVA Annual Trap Shoot Friday, June 20, 2014 from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. At the Gateway Gun Club in Bridgeton, MO

Pattonville Firefighters Sporting Clays Fundraiser

June 7, 2014

Blackhawk Valley Hunt Club

1259 Brevator Road

Old Monroe, MO 63369

Save the Date!!!
Summer Splash August 1-2, 2014



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 Brown

In My Absence...

From mid-December 2013 until mid-March 2014, I spent most of my days in bed at home. When I thought I had recovered from a pressure sore, I got up and stayed up too long on Christmas Day only to be sidelined again. Once presumably healed again, I ventured on a January PVA trip to Washington, DC, only to encounter a new setback which put me back in bed until mid-March. I am pleased, but not surprised, to say the Gateway Chapter, in particular the office, continued to function well in my absence. This accomplishment was basically thanks to our Executive Director, Susan Lyle, who as usual kept everything on course. I couldn't imagine our chapter without her. My special thanks also to Gateway's VP, Rose Ganz, who attended many meetings in my absence, in addition to her already busy schedule. My last thanks would be to Gateway's previous president, Dr. Robert Huskey, who went as my replacement in mid-February to PVA's Annual Convention. Bob endured the burden of having to go to Orlando, Florida in February when we had freezing weather in St. Louis. He told me it was difficult, but someone had to do it.

First Round of Baseball Tickets



Gateway has now spent almost \$2,300 on Cardinals baseball tickets for 2014. We purchased four games for inpatients at the Jefferson barracks SCI/D unit and fourteen games for outpatients, for a total of 36 seats. We will do a random drawing now for the games on Thursday, May 15 @ 12:45 against the Chicago Cubs, Sunday, May 18 @ 1:15 PM against the Atlanta Braves (four tickets), Sunday, June 1 @ 1:15 PM against the San Francisco Giants (four tickets), Saturday, June 14 @ 6:15 PM against the Washington Nationals (four tickets), and Saturday, June 21 @ 3:10 against the Philadelphia Phillies. We have two field box seats behind home plate- one wheelchair space and one able-bodied seat for most games. If you are interested in entering the drawing for free tickets, please email or call the office no later than Monday, May 5 by the end of the busi-

ness day for the May games and Wednesday, May 21 for the June games.

John Cochran SCI/D Unit Now Open

The long awaited and planned six bed acute-care unit on the seventh floor of John Cochran opened February 17, 2014. This unit is a designated SCI/D unit with staff especially trained for our particular needs and care. The unit was originally planned and agreed to back in 2007. I have visited the unit several times since its opening and met with our members there. Everyone seems to be receiving good care and, in fact, several patients are actually glad to be there. Being an inpatient at this new unit is preferable to being transported back and forth from Jefferson Barracks to John Cochran for specialized treatment like dialysis three times per week. All the rooms are newly furnished single rooms. The Gateway Chapter PVA has begun purchasing and distributing snack items for the SCI/D patients at John Cochran. Future monthly lunches will also be provided.

Passing of PVA Vice President and Former Texas Chapter President - David Fowler

David Fowler died February 18, 2014 at the age of 54. David lived with pride as a high-level quadriplegic for 30 years; he had been involved with PVA on both the local and national levels for 23 years. He drove his wheelchair with a sip-n-puff control and had to be fed every meal. His tenacity and spirit were and will remain an inspiration to me. We often laughed at our disagreements, ending with "we agree to disagree." We both used the same voice activated software and often complained about it. I most admired David for his devotion and ceaseless advocacy on behalf of improving airline travel for persons with disabilities. David will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Sports Points Redemption Program Expands

By Jim Trombley, Secretary/Sports Director

In January, SCI/D Recreation Therapists, Charley and Matt, made a presentation to Gateway PVA's Board of Directors (BOD). They presented an idea of expanding the current Recreation Therapy program at the St. Louis VA SCI/D unit. This expansion would include the addition of more activities (such as Gateway Getaways, Trout Lodge Adventures, fishing trips, etc.).



They also asked if the BOD would consider allowing the redemption of Sports Points to help fund the costs not covered by the VA or other sources. The Board thought this was a good idea, so we agreed to expand the Sports Point Redemption Program to allow points to be redeemed for up to 3 activities in a given year, rather than the 2 previously allowed. Furthermore, the BOD agreed that each member who has earned points can select the 3 activities for which they want to redeem their points. Whether you select the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG), National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (WSC), Recreation Therapy activities, or any combination thereof, you can still select 3 activities in total as long as you have enough points. As usual, the amount of funding and point values would have to be approved by the BOD prior to the activity. My plan is to keep up-to-date with Charley and Matt on each of the upcoming events and have the BOD vote to approve point redemption standards and dollar amounts (based upon VA contribution and total cost) prior to each activity.

To take advantage of the expanded program, you will need to get out there and earn points by attending the Monthly Luncheons, Quarterly Membership Meetings, BOD meetings as a guest, fundraisers, write a newsletter article, and more. For the first time ever, the Gateway Chapter will be having a **Sports Points Workshop** after the Quarterly Membership Meeting **on June 19**. At the workshop, members can learn how to earn points and how to redeem them. Please check out our website www.gatewaypva.org for a schedule of sports events and activities. You can also email me at jimtrombley@charter.net and I can send you a copy of the schedule.

One last note—the Gateway Chapter PVA Annual Trap Shoot will be held on Friday, June 20, at the Gateway Gun Club at 13547 Missouri Bottom Road, Bridgeton. Call the office for more information and to get registered. Spring is here, so let's get active! I hope to see each of you at one or more of our local activities.

In memory of...



Michael Anderson William Criswell Kenneth Hale Elmer Held Burton Maurer Joseph Strickland Robert Wells

 Kansas City, MO
 03/18/14

 Kansas City, KS
 08/01/13

 Russellville, KY
 11/03/13

 Chesterfield, MO
 12/02/13

 St. Peters, MO
 02/21/14

 Effingham, IL
 02/09/14

 Warrensburg, MO
 07/07/11



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.











Phillip Baldwin Nolan Fitzgerrel Billy Hughes Raymond Radecki Dennis Bazant William Grier Shawn Kemp Dale Salyer

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.





PVA Educational Scholarship Program

This program assists PVA members and their immediate family members by providing scholarship funds to help with a post-secondary education. PVA will award scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to full-time students and \$500 to part-time students for an academic year.

To be eligible, the applicant must be: either a PVA member, the spouse of a PVA member, or an unmarried child (under 24 years of age) who is dependent (as defined by the IRS) on the member for principal support; a citizen of the United States; and accepted and enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited US college or university. Previous award recipients may also apply.

Individuals who wish to apply for the scholarship program can download the application at www.pva.org or request an application be mailed to them via telephone (800) 424-8200

Ext. 776, or via email christih@pva.org. Completed applications MUST be returned to PVA NO LATER THAN June 17, 2014. Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions. In addition, incomplete applications will not be considered.

GATEWAY CHAPTER PVA

WISHES TO WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Allen Baird	Ozark, MO	Marvin BakerFestus, MO
Frank Ballance	Kansas City, MO	William BrendelSt. Louis, MO
William Down	Brighton, IL	Alva EdwardsKansas City, MO
Ernest Harris	St. Louis, MO	Charles HeavinSparta, MO
Lynn Hensley	Pierce City, MO	Charles HowardSt. Louis, MO
Gary Hurd	Bonner Springs, KS	Raymond JexHazelwood, MO
Kenneth Lange	O'Fallon, MO	Robert LehmenPortage Des Sioux, MO
Erin Slawinski	St. Louis, MO	Devon WagnerBelleville, IL
	Adam Wietrick	Overland Park, KS

WELCOME TO OUR

TRANSFER MEMBERS

Fred McKnight.......Urbana, MO Robert PrescottFairview Heights, IL

We are pleased to announce the following election results for the new Officers at PVA National:

President: Al Kovach

Senior Vice President: David Zurfluh

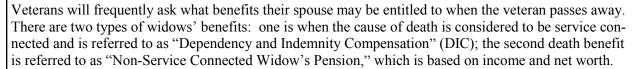
Vice Presidents: Charles Brown, Joe Fox, Tamara Lawter, and Ken Weas

Secretary: Larry Dodson Treasurer: Tom Wheaton

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Death Benefits for a Surviving Spouse

By Rodney Harris, Senior National Service Officer





To be eligible for the service connected death benefits (DIC), the veteran's immediate cause of death has to be caused by a service connected disability/disabilities, death being substantially contributed to by a service connected disability or have a 100% evaluation in effect for over 10 years. The DIC payment rate as of December 1, 2013, is \$1,495 per month and the VA will add \$261.87 per month if the veteran and surviving spouse had been married for eight years or more prior to the death of the veteran.

For example, it would be quite apparent if a veteran is service connected for a form of a heart condition and dies of a heart attack that the VA would relate the cause of death to a service connected disability. If you are service connected for a heart condition, but pass away from cancer, then there wouldn't necessarily be a direct relationship between the service connected disability and the cause of the death. Another example would be: a veteran with a service connected heart condition develops high blood pressure, which is unable to be controlled by medication. The veteran in turn passes away due to an episode of high blood pressure that causes a stroke. Since the veteran has a service connected heart condition, it could be feasible to relate the high blood pressure to the heart condition as a contributing factor to death. This would have to be noted on the death certificate as a contributing factor to the service connected heart condition. Yet another example is a veteran service connected for Multiple Sclerosis requires a period of hospitalization to treat the MS, but develops pneumonia while hospitalized and passes away. The pneumonia was the primary reason for the veteran to pass away. In this instance, a doctor would need to provide a medical opinion. Although MS was not the immediate cause of death, it substantially contributed to the death because of the prolonged period of hospitalization and the development of pneumonia. In cases such as this, it is always beneficial to have the death certificate list the service connected disability as part of the immediate cause of death versus contributing to the cause of death.

For a veteran who has a 100% evaluation for service connected conditions that have been in effect for over 10 years, the VA regulations allow for a surviving spouse to be paid the service connected DIC. The cause of death does not need to be a service connected condition. The Non-Service Connected Death benefit it is a very limited program the VA has for the surviving spouse. As of December 1, 2013, a spouse without dependents is limited to an income of \$8,485 per year. If there is one dependent child, the annual income rate allowed is increased to \$11,107 per year. The VA also considers net worth and as a rule the VA has been accepting \$80,000.00 or less as not excessive net worth. This is an extremely complex benefit program.

If you have additional questions please contact your local PVA National Service Officer. Contact information can be found on page 2.

4th Annual Roy Gantt Memorial Bowling Tournament

Registration is \$20 per entry and can be paid in advance or at the door. To register or for additional information, please contact Bob Dedee at St. Clair Bowl: 618-632-

2400 or 618-632-3386. (Attendance worth 20 member points!)



Saturday, May 10, 2014, at 1:00 p.m.

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



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- Semi-Tractors
- + Iru



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www.WheelsHelpingWarriors.org (or) www.PVA.org/VehicleDonation

Donors will receive a tax donation receipt following vehicle sale.

Address Changed?

Please let us know if your address has changed, even if temporarily.

Mail this to the Gateway Chapter PVA or call us: 1-800-426-4058

First Name:		MI:
Last Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Home Phone: ()	Alternate Phone: ()
Email:		
Membership ID Number:		

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



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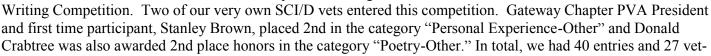
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Vets Healing Through the Arts

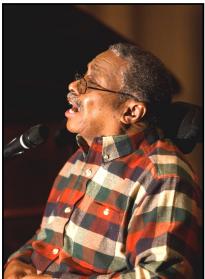
By Becky Ballard

February was a very busy month for our creative veterans in St. Louis. We hosted three very special events that warmed our hearts and lifted our spirits. Kicking off the creative season was our Creative



eran participants!

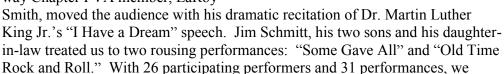
On February 13, the Jefferson Barracks Theater was rocking to the sounds of a very talented performing artist. A recently injured vet, Steve Miller, from Versailles, Kentucky, brought tears to the eyes of many when he sang his original vocal solo, "It Won't be Christmas Until You're Home," and brought the crowd to their feet singing "Timing is Everything." After his performance, he jubilantly remarked, "A month ago I couldn't sing a note without breaking down. Now I just sang two songs with a room full of people!" Steve will now advance to the 2nd phase of judging!



LaRoy Smith

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Our resident thespian and Gateway Chapter PVA member, LaRoy



showed the audience that indeed the St. Louis VA has talent!

Steve Miller

The month concluded with our visual arts show. SCI/D veterans had a clean sweep in the category "Stained or Painted Ceramics". Bernard Carr took 1st place, Bills Skiles took 2nd and Ruth Kult brought home 3rd. James Smith and Bernard Carr were awarded 2nd and 3rd place in "Glazed Ceramics". Devon Carter and Richard Jones received a 2nd place ribbon for their mosaic and drawing talents. Gregory Stone was awarded a 1st place medal for his mosaic flower garden. Newcomer to the program, Lorn Russell, brought home a 3rd place

ribbon for his hand-sewn quilt. Lorn was injured 12

years ago and remarked that he "needed something to do before he went stir crazy". That is when he began his hobby of hand-sewing fabric together to create beautiful quilts. During that time, he has created over 200 handmade quilts!

Healing through the arts is not only fun, but it has brought much warmth during one of the coldest winters one can remember! It has also brought a lot of joy to all who entered, viewed the art and performances and read the creative writings. Thanks to all who participated in our celebrations!



Jim Schmitt and his Family

Gateway Chapter PVA Clothing Donations



Gateway Chapter

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

Call the office at (314) 427-0393 or toll free at (800) 426-4058 to schedule a drop off time!

1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center St. Louis, MO 63132

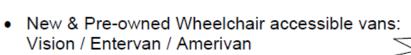
- Clothing must be new or gently used and in good condition.
- Can be delivered to the office during normal business hours.
- CALL FIRST before dropping off donations, please do NOT leave items outside overnight.
- Tax receipts are available!



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May						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Local Wheelchair Games @ JB (See pg 2) 5 pts.	3 Spring Bash WC Softball (Info on page 2) 5 pts.
4 3rd & 4th— Spirit of St. Louis Air Show in Chester- field—Member Vol- unteers earn 20 pts.	5 Trap/Archery Jay Henges Range (Info on page 2)	6	7	8	9	4th Annual Roy Gantt Bowling Tournament (pg. 2) 20 pts.
Happy Mother's Day	12	13 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA 11:30 am 15 pts. non-BOD Mbr	14	15 Member/SCI Patient Luncheon at JB @ Noon 5 pts.	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	Memorial bay Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31

June June						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Trap/Archery Jay Henges Range (See page 2)	3	4	5	6 Newsletter Articles Due	7 Pattonville Sporting Clays Fundraiser (Info on page 2) 20 pts.
8	9	10 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA 4:00 pm 15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.	11	12 BOD Election 6/19	13	14
Happy Father's Day	16	17	18	19 Member/SCI Patient Luncheon & Qtrly Member Mtg. at JB @ Noon 5/15 pts.	Annual GPVA Trap Shoot @ Gateway Gun Club 10—3	Sammer Sammer
22	23	24	25	26 GPVA Sports Work shop following Membership Mtg	27	28
29	30			ional Veteran 28-July 13, 20		

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1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center St. Louis, MO 63132

Address Service Requested





The Missouri Star **Touring & Riding** Chapter 437 stopped by our **February SCI/D** luncheon at the Jefferson Barracks VAMC and surprised us with \$525 in gas cards to use for our transportation program. What a thoughtful gift!

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