

Gateway Gazette



May/June 2018

Volume 51 Number 3



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Gateway Chapter



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

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere
Gateway Chapter

(Call the office or see page 7 to locate a box)

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Rodney Harris, Senior Benefits Advocate
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Time to update your address or email?

Please email us at info@gatewaypva.org or write or call us at the following:

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

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

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

President's Message – Spring 2018

By Stanley Brown

Gateway Wins the PVA Most Outstanding Chapter Award and Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award

Our Gateway Chapter has been notified that we were selected for 2018 as the PVA Most Outstanding Chapter out of the 33 PVA Chapters. This award comes after receiving the same award for both 2015 and 2016. The Most Outstanding Chapter is judged on the following categories: meetings, service, chapter newsletter, new programs, communication, new ideas, and public relations. The Bob Webb Excellence in a Newsletter Award is judged on the following criteria: quality of content, format, design and appearance, consistency of reporting issues and national issues, relevance to PVA members, timeliness of copy, and original and creative reporting. Gateway has never received this newsletter award before. Both awards will be presented at the PVA Annual Convention in May in Minneapolis. In addition to myself, both our Executive Director Chris Blanchard and our Administrator Amber Lee will be present to accept the awards. Several chapters employ outside individuals to produce their newsletters, while Gateway does it in-house, with Amber being the one really responsible for the entire newsletter, to include format and pulling together the articles and content.



Gateway Awards \$95,000 in Vehicle Accessibility Grants

At the April 10, 2018, Board of Directors meeting, among numerous entries, the Board awarded six \$10,000 grants for individuals to use with trading in their existing vehicles or upgrading what they currently have. The Board also awarded one \$35,000 grant to a member who has no existing vehicle. The Gateway vehicle grant program will again open in the spring as we determine our financial reserves at the end of FY 19.

Chapter Elections and Ballots in This Newsletter

I strongly encourage members to take time and participate in this year's election process. Nominate yourself if you are interested. Ballots are in this newsletter. Seven Board member positions and all the Chapter Officer positions are open, including the crooked President (pictured above), in this election. Three Board positions are reserved for "long distance" members that will be appointed by the new Board. If you are interested in one of those positions, please inform the office. The Gateway Board of Directors meets 11 times a year, with alternating start times of 11:30 AM and 4 PM, on the second Tuesday of every month except December at the Chapter office. We also provide Skype being used for participation in the Board meeting. Election participation is further explained in this newsletter.

Gateway Again Chosen to Host the Bocchia Championship Tournament in St. Louis

We have just been informed that our Chapter submission was chosen to host the Second Annual PVA National Bocchia Championship Tournament. We hope to have another successful tournament with the assistance of our SCI Recreation Therapists Charley Wright and Matt Luitjohan. I believe we will hold the tournament again this year at the same location in South St. Louis County.

Healthcare While Traveling

By Rodney Harris, Senior Benefits Advocate

Are you planning a trip outside of the United States anytime soon? If so, are you service connected? Do you know about the VA's Foreign Medical Program (FMP)?

The FMP is a health benefits program for U.S. veterans who are residing or traveling abroad and have a VA rated service connected condition/disability. VA assumes responsibility of payment for certain necessary health care services associated with treatment for those service connected disabilities or any disability associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected condition. Veterans living in Canada are under the jurisdiction of FMP; however, inquiries and claims must be directed to the Foreign Countries Operations in Canada. Additionally, VA may authorize necessary foreign medical services for any condition of a veteran participating in the VA Vocational Rehabilitation Program (38 U.S.C. 31).

How do I know if I am eligible for FMP?

The eligibility requirements are different for veterans outside the U.S. than for those within the U.S. VA may authorize foreign medical services for veterans only for a VA rated service connected condition, or a condition associated with and aggravated by a VA rated service connected disability. Disability percentage has no bearing on determining eligibility for FMP.

Should I notify FMP if I am traveling abroad?

Pre-registration for eligible veterans is not necessary. However, veterans who are permanently relocating to a country under the FMP Office's jurisdiction are encouraged to notify the FMP Office upon establishing a permanent foreign mailing address (address and telephone number). At that time, arrangements will be made for FMP registration and the mailing of detailed program material. Included in the program material will be an FMP Program Guide which provides detailed information on benefit coverage and limitations, how to select health care providers and claim filing instructions. Veterans who are simply traveling abroad need not bother with notification. However, program information is available upon request. Please use VA Form 10-7959f-1 when registering with FMP.

What is/is not covered under FMP?

Unlike typical health benefit/insurance plans, where the range of benefits is standard among all enrolled beneficiaries/subscribers, FMP benefits are limited to services that are medically necessary to treat a VA rated, service-connected disability or for a condition that is associated with and held to be aggravating a service-connected disability. Supporting medical documentation is always required. The FMP does not pre-authorize services. A copy of the medical documentation must be submitted to determine if the care was related to a service connected disability. Claims filed under the FMP should be submitted no later than 2 years from the date of services or in the case of inpatient care, within 2 years of discharge date.

Continued on Page 8

Are you aware of the VA Home Modification Grants? Contact us!



We are veteran owned and local firm providing home mobility & accessibility solutions.

855-620-1923 x1

lynn@promisehomeworks.com

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**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

**WHEELS HELPING
WARRIORS**

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans. Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too! Schedule your free, easy pickup today.



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GATEWAY GI

General Information



Welcome to Our New Members

James Adams • Ulysses Clark • Trent Gustin • Jeremy Holeman

Glen Lindemann • Ken Newton • Joseph Ritter

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.

Troy Bucklew • Thomas Dooley • Nicholas Hendrickson • Edward Williams

Darrell Flowers • Gregory Morris • Thomas Krafft

Free Legal Clinic



Students and supervising attorneys from the Saint Louis University Law Clinic, Saint Francis Community Services Veterans Law Clinic, City of St. Louis Veterans Advocacy Project, and Veterans for Peace will again be available for Gateway members for wills and trusts, powers of attorney, minor civil matters, and traffic cases on Thursday, May 17, 2018. The law students and attorneys will be available at the Spinal Cord Building (Building 52) in the south dayroom from 10:30AM until 1:30PM. Please bring all your necessary documents. Old wills or trusts, full names of beneficiaries' contact information, bank and stock account numbers, CD numbers, owned property addresses, and anything else relevant to the work you want done need to be given to the clinic people on that Thursday. Please call our office to tell us you're attending on that Thursday for legal clinic assistance. Also, please contact President Brown if you have questions about what you will need or whether or not the legal clinic will work with your issue.

In Memory Of

Joseph Reichmuth	Barnhart, MO	06/27/17
Benjamin Sinclair	Sandoval, IL	09/16/17
Robert Milleville	Rochester, IL	09/18/17
Gregory Hefner	Eureka, MO	11/15/17
Floyd Moore	Branson, MO	01/23/18
Terry Whittle	St. Louis, MO	02/01/18
Robert Yanick	St. Louis, MO	02/14/18
Denis Hogan	St. Louis, MO	03/02/18

Y6 Trout Lodge Applications Due

If you have never been to the Veterans Outdoor Adventure at YMCA's Trout Lodge near Potosi, Missouri, ask one of your fellow members that have attended about the amount of fun that can be had! There is a multitude of adapted activities including Archery, Rifle Range, Fishing, Kayaking, Trapshooting, Action Track Trails, Boccia, Golf, Zip Line, and Water Skiing. Trout Lodge applications are due on **June 15, 2018**. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Luitjohan at 314-894-6602 or Charley Wright at 314-652-4100 ext. 64590.

G.I.V.E. Clothing Drop Boxes

PVA's G.I.V.E. Clothing Donation Program helps support veterans in the community. Below are the St. Louis metro area locations. If you are interested in hosting a location for a drop box, please contact the office for further information. Members will earn twenty (20) participation/sports points for hosting a location.

AAA Mini Storage -

233 Lacey St., Jackson, MO 63755

AAA Mini Storage La Croix -

1815 Cape La Croix Road, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Auto Tire -

3300 Lemay Ferry Rd., St Louis, MO 63125

Autoworld -

801 James S. McDonnell Blvd., Hazelwood, MO 63042

Cape Mini Storage -

1915 Golden Eagle Ct., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Columbia Liquor -

203 N Providence Rd., Columbia, MO 65203

Farview Farms -

1614 W Meyer Rd., Wentzville, MO 63385

Macadoodles -

455 E Green Meadow Rd., Columbia, MO 65201

No Limits Car Stereo -

16 Sanders Dr., O'Fallon, MO 63366

Quick Stop -

1089 Gravois Rd., Fenton, MO 63026

Shoppes @Mallard -

3786 Elm Street, St. Charles, MO 63301

VFW Post 1117 -

48 W Wait St., Caseyville, IL 62232

Lumber Company -

8526 Hanover Ind. Dr., Columbia, IL 62236

Continued from Page 4

Covered benefits include:

- Durable medical equipment
- Emergency services
- Hospitalization
- Skilled nursing care
- Outpatient services
- Physical therapy, when under the direct supervision of a licensed physician
- Prescription drugs (including insulin) that are FDA approved
- Emergency ambulance services to the nearest medical facility for a VA rated service connected disability
- HISA-Home Improvement and Structural Alteration grant (must be preauthorized)

There are a number of exclusions to FMP, so before relocating contact the Health Administration Center in Denver, Colorado at 303-331-7950 for help. For more information visit the PC@HAC website at www.va.gov/hac or contact your local PVA NSO for assistance.



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

YOUR FUTURE AWAITS

Paralyzed Veterans' scholarship program now accepting applications



Attention Members:

Paralyzed Veterans of America invests in our members and their families.

Our Educational Scholarship Program assists members and their immediate family members by providing scholarship funds to help with a post-secondary education.

We will award scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to full-time students and \$500 to part-time students for an academic year.

Applicant Must Be:

* A Paralyzed Veterans of America member, spouse of a 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 United States citizen

* Accepted and enrolled as a full- or part-time student in an accredited U.S. college or university

Previous award recipients may apply.

For more information contact Christi Hillman at 800.424.8200, ext. 776; ChristiH@pva.org.

Applications must be completed in full and postmarked no later than June 17, 2018.



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If you have a **service-connected disability**, you may qualify for VA funding assistance for wheelchair accessible vehicles or driving modifications. If your current mobility vehicle is over 2 years old, you may even qualify for a brand new conversion.

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Government Relations Report

By Stanley Brown, Acting GRD

Dismissal of VA Secretary Shulkin and Selection of New Secretary

On March 28, 2018, the President ordered the removal of Dr. David Shulkin as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In his place, the President nominated Rear Admiral Ronny L. Jackson, MD in the interim position. This struggle continues to define the role of community care and serving the healthcare needs of veterans. PVA Executive Director Carl Blake states: “We look forward to understanding more about the qualifications of Admiral Jackson, MD to helm the VA during this critical time... In particular, reforming VA’s health care system to better serve the needs of veterans and their families is of great importance.” Jackson is still under Congressional review at the time of this newsletter.

March Visit to Washington DC Capitol Hill

In March I went to PVA’s Legislative and Advocacy Week in Washington DC. We had two days of training and spent two days visiting Missouri’s legislator offices (two Senators and seven Representatives), as well as Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth who is an amputee veteran. Below are the main issues I tried to cover:

- **Air Carriers Access Act Amendment (HR5004/S1318).** Unlike other civil-rights laws, an individual has no separate right of private action (civil suit for damages) against airline carriers and their service providers. Current law only authorizes us to file complaints when we are dropped or our wheelchairs damaged. Both problems have happened to me on flights and I filed Department of Transportation complaints that were found “substantiated,” but nothing else was done and the airlines were not fined. These Amendments would provide among other remedies, an individual’s right to sue the airline for the damage they caused. I’m convinced this is the only way to alter the airlines’ treatment of disabled passengers and their wheelchairs.
- **Expand Eligibility for the VA Comprehensive Caregiver Program (S2193).** Current law only authorizes financial support to caregivers of veterans injured after September 11, 2001. We want to expand service to all eras of veterans and as a compromise, to all veterans injured during the Vietnam war and earlier.
- **Oppose ADA Notification Legislation (HR620).** Deceptively titled the ADA Education and Reform Act, the House passed this misleading title with its provisions that would put new roadblocks for disabled individuals to file claims under Title III of the American with Disabilities Act. Individuals are not entitled to any monetary damages for bringing these complaints. The accessibility provisions of the ADA have been known by businesses since 1990. This proposed law delays the individual’s right to enforce ADA provisions ensuring accessibility of public and government spaces. Senator Duckworth drafted a memorandum opposing any such bill in the Senate, and the memorandum was signed by both Illinois Senators and Senator McCaskill in Missouri. To date, no such Senate bill adversely affecting our rights under Title III of the ADA, has made it to the Senate floor for debate.
- **Protection of Specialized Services (Future of the Choice Act).** While recognizing the need for private care outside, PVA strongly advocates for the continued funding of the concept of specialty care VA centers, like the Jefferson Barracks SCI/D Unit. The specialty units in the VA cannot be duplicated in the private sector with a veteran centered mission which includes peer support from other veterans who have experienced similar injuries and diseases. Future Choice Act funding should not detract from VA specialty care.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Boccia Mid-American Regionals Kansas City, MO	7	8 VE Day (1945) BOD Mtg. @ GPVA 11:30 am 15pts. Non-BOD Mbr.	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Happy Father's Day</i>	14	15	16	17 Member/Patient Luncheon @ Noon 5 pts.	18	19 Armed Forces Day
20	21	22 National Maritime Day	23	24	25	26
27	28 <i>Memorial Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED	29	30	31		



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 D-Day (1944)	7	8	9 Bonaire Scuba Diving
10	11	12 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA 4:00 pm 15pts. Non-BOD Mbr.	13	14 US Army Birthday	15 Boccia A. Legion 162	16
17 <i>Happy Father's Day!</i>	18	19	20	21 Member/Patient Luncheon @ Noon Quarterly Mbr Mtg. after Luncheon	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 USA Boccia Nationals	29	30 Naperville, IL



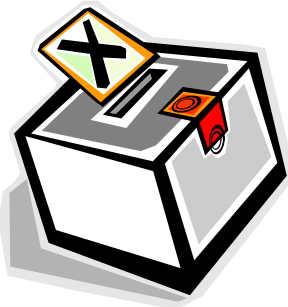
**Paralyzed Veterans
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Gateway Chapter

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

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BOD Election Ballot is enclosed! (Due by June 8, 2018)

Your official election ballot for the **2018-2019** Board of Directors of the Gateway Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America, is enclosed in this newsletter. Please note, only one ballot per member will be counted.

All mailed voting ballots should be sent to us by **Friday, June 8, 2018** at the Gateway Chapter office (address already printed on the back of your tri-fold ballot). Please carefully read and follow the instructions, printed on your ballot to include giving us your name and the last number of your SSN. **ALL** member ballots will be opened, counted and announced at the June 12, 2018 Board meeting. An email with results will be sent to all members. If you do not have an email feel free to call the office.

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