



PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Gateway Chapter

MAY/JUN 2023

VOL.47 NO.3



VETERANS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY OR DISEASE, LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST

www.gatewaypva.org
www.twitter.com/PVA_Gateway
www.facebook.com/PVAGatewayChapter

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**NEED TO UPDATE
YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?**

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**DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE
YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?**

••••

Contact us at one of the following:

Gateway Chapter PVA
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
St. Louis, MO 63132

314.427.0393 or 800.426.4058
Fax 314.427.4183

info@gatewaypva.org

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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.

OFFICERS

Rose Ganz, President
Ken Johanning, Vice President
Don Feldott, Treasurer
Bram Lucieer, Secretary

BOARD

Doug Barnes
Harry Brown
Chad Buder
Bonnie Hilburn
Robert Huskey, PhD
Ruth Kult
Lou Monken
Matt Schneider

APPOINTMENTS

VAVS Representative JB - Doug Barnes
VAVS Deputy - Ken Johanning
Membership Officer - Chris Blanchard
Acting Government Relations Director - Amber Lee
Sports Director - Lou Monken
National Director - Don Feldott
Hospital Committee - Harry Brown

GPVA Staff

Chris Blanchard, Executive Director
Amber Lee, Executive Assistant
John Vasel, Transportation
Martha Rampani, Transportation

Kansas City Service Office

4801 Linwood Blvd, Rm. M1-566
Kansas City, MO 64128
(816) 922-2882 or (800) 795-3612
Fax: (816) 922-3369

Brent Follas, Senior National Service Officer

St. Louis Service Office

9700 Page Blvd. Suite 101, Room 1-114
St. Louis, MO 63132
Office: (314)253-4480 or (800)795-3614
Fax: (314) 253-4170
Susan White, Accredited Administrator

Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center

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 Benefits Advocate

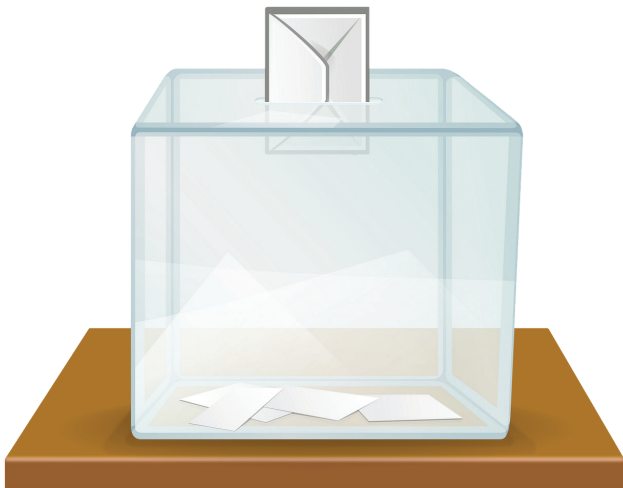
PVA National Liaison VP

Josue Cordova

FY24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT ENCLOSED

It's time to vote on the Chapter Board of Directors and the Offices of Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Please take the time to fill out the enclosed FY24 Gateway Chapter PVA ballot. Make sure to read the ballot instructions carefully and return your completed ballot to the Gateway Chapter office by Friday, June 9, 2023.

If you have any questions please contact the Chapter office at 314.427.0393 or email at info@gatewaypva.org.



ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE GRANT OPEN

The Gateway Chapter is now opening its annual grant for accessible vehicle funding. There are three different grant levels:

\$35,000 - member does not currently own any accessible vehicle

\$17,500 - for a member to purchase a non accessible vehicle with knowledge that hand controls will be purchased

\$10,000 - member currently has an accessible vehicle that needs updates OR member has vehicle to trade-in, in addition to the Gateway funding for a newer accessible vehicle.

If you have interest in this grant, please complete the Accessible Vehicle Grant Application that can be found on our website www.gatewaypva.org under the “Forms” tab. You can email the application to the office at chris@gatewaypva.org or amber@gatewaypva.org, or send it to our office.

This application form helps explain your need for the vehicle and what difference the grant would make in your life. Entries must be received by Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

As in the past, the Board will not grade or rank the entries, but rather put all qualified requests “in the hat” and randomly draw names for the winners at the June Board of Directors meeting.

FROM THE DESK OF GATEWAY CHAPTER'S **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Amber Lee **ACCESSIBLE VAN GIVEAWAY**

A 2019 Dodge Grand Caravan has been donated to the Gateway Chapter to give to a quadriplegic member in need. It has a passenger side ramp and has a Q'Straint QLK-150 system installed.

As the Chapter does with the Accessible Vehicle Grant, if you are interested in having your name entered in the drawing for this vehicle; please fill out the Accessible Vehicle Grant Application found on our website. Once completed, please send to the Chapter office at chris@gatewaypva.org or amber@gatewaypva.org by Wednesday, May 31, 2023. You may also mail your completed application in.



Spinal Cord Injury Parking Signs



As you may be aware the parking area in the Kansas City, MO VAMC for veterans with Spinal Cord Injury and Dysfunction (SCI/D) in the parking lot by the Patriot Store and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) does not exist anymore. The new parking spots are located across from the Freedom Tower Entrance. There are four spots and you will need a Red Placard like before. If you don't have one then you can get one from Ann Culver, SCI/D Nurse in PM&R or Carrie Duncan, Neurology Nurse. Please display the Red Placard when you park in those spots. If you see a vehicle that does not have a Red Placard please report it to the VA Police. Some people still mistake them for regular handicapped spots and they are strictly 24 hour parking spots for veterans with SCI/D.

Also, please let your local National Service Officer know if you are having any issues with your VA Medical Care. For the past few years it appears that the spinal cord clinic has migrated to veterans with SCI/D have a regular Primary Care Doctor. I want to advise that if you have any concerns related to your SCI/D then to contact your Specialty Clinic, such as, the Spinal Cord Clinic Nurse or Social Worker or Neurology Nurse to address any specialty needs.

We proudly support Gateway PVA



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 more than two years old, you may even qualify for a brand new conversion. Veterans discounts available. Check out our daily rental rates!

St. Louis North

9389 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63134
Local: (314) 989-1010
Toll-Free: 877.501.8267

St. Louis South

980 S. Highway Drive
Fenton, MO 63026
Local: (314) 292-5150
Toll-Free: 877.501.8267



We're here to help!

Call us today or stop by and take a test drive.



Proud Supporters of the



WHAT DOES THE GATEWAY CHAPTER BOARD DO?

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT-

3 year term

The President is the principal executive officer of the Chapter. The duties of the Chapter President are:

- preside at all membership and Board of Director meetings
- supervise and direct business affairs of the Chapter
- represent the Chapter at various such as but not limited to fundraising, educational or advocacy functions
- give a full and true statement of affairs of the Chapter
- at times perform duties assigned by the Chapter Board of Directors

VICE PRESIDENT-

1 year term

The Vice President has the duties of:

- fulfill the duties of the Chapter President in absence, resignation or removal of the Chapter President
- at times perform duties assigned by the Chapter Board of Directors

TREASURER-

1 year term

The Treasurer has the duties of:

- act as a financial officer

- responsibility of Chapter financial status and transparency

- responsibility of signing checks; may delegate authorization of signing checks to other Chapter Officers and/or Board members

SECRETARY-

1 year term

The Secretary has the duties of:

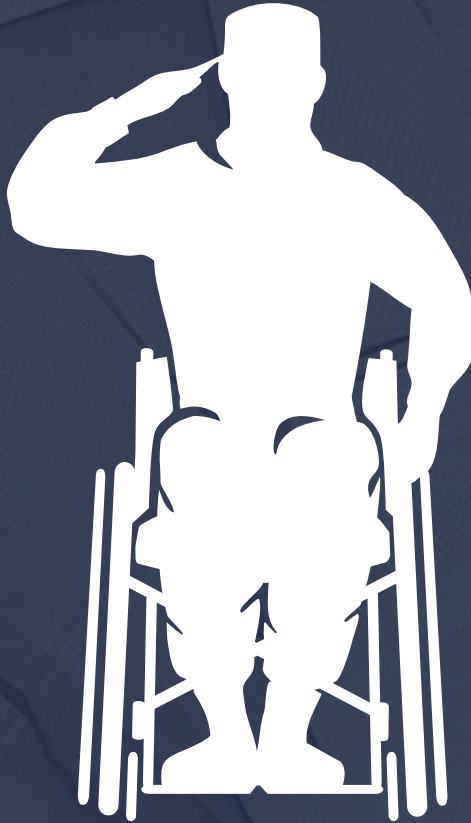
- keeping the complete and proper records of all Chapter and Membership meetings and/or Chapter business

DIRECTORS

1 year term

The Board of Directors have the duties of:

- power and responsibility to develop and initiate policies and/or programs for the Chapter and its membership
- to enter into contractual agreements and to conduct such other business as shall be deemed desirable to promote and achieve the goals of the Chapter within the framework of Article of Incorporation and National and Chapter Bylaws
- to develop and approve an annual budget projecting Income and Expenditures for the coming fiscal year, including financial assistance from the National organization



GATEWAY G.I.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mickey Bradshaw
Michael Broadhacker
Eugene Carter
Thomas Redington

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 contact the Gateway office with current contact information for the following members:

Michael Acton
Ronnie Anderson
Ronald Edwards
Dennis Hanks
Curtis Herrington
Jarid Hill
Kevin Jackson
William Jacobson
Davett Jones
Laurice Sappington
Curt Sidmore
Jeremy Talley
Donnell Thames
Wayne Webster

IN MEMORY OF

William Buckman of Ridgeway, IL	10/12/2022
Perry Gilliard of Paducah, KY	11/22/2022
Birchie Hodge of Fayetteville, AR	12/07/2022

GENERAL INFORMATION



MAY

MAY 9 at 11:30am

Board of Directors meeting
Via Zoom (contact office for link) and
in person w/proof of COVID vaccination
and signed waiver

15 points for nonBOD members

MAY 29

OFFICE CLOSED



JUNE

JUNE 13 at 11:30am

Board of Directors meeting
Via Zoom (contact office for link) and
in person w/proof of COVID vaccination
and signed waiver

15 points for nonBOD members

JUNE 15 at 1:30pm

Quarterly Membership Meeting
Via Zoom (contact office for link)

15 points for members

JUNE 19

OFFICE CLOSED



Sales, Service, Rentals, Leasing, & Financing

PROUD SUPPORTER OF:



Did You Know...

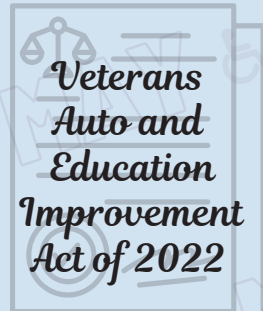
MAY IS NATIONAL MOBILITY AWARENESS MONTH



Help us celebrate!

Did You Know...

Congress passed new legislation that could provide additional benefits for qualified veterans.



Southern Bus & Mobility's

OPEN HOUSE & CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023

TIME: 11AM - 7PM

LOCATION: 12950 KOCH LANE, BREESE, IL 62230

SCAN TO VIEW OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION



Contact your Southern Bus and Mobility sales rep today!

Breese, IL
Valley Park, MO

12950 Koch Lane, Breese, IL
80 S Highway Dr., Valley Park, MO

+618-526-4131
+636-825-0700

ReWalk is Working to Put Veterans First



“It changes your whole perspective. It takes your life up a notch. I may not have everything else back, but I’ve got this part back.”

John Benner - Air Force Veteran Spinal Cord Injury in 2007 ReWalker since 2021

ReWalk is proud to work with the VA to provide Veterans with access to personal exoskeleton evaluations and training as soon as they are medically eligible and interested in the benefits of walking again.

Put Veterans First | Think ReWalk First



Contact ReWalk for more information

rewalk.com/refer-a-veteran • 508.251.1154

Who is at the Chapter Board meetings?

The Chapter Officers and Directors.

Can members that are not on the Board attend?

YES! All Gateway members are welcome to attend Board meetings, with the exception of any Executive Sessions of the meeting. The Chapter encourages members to attend meetings so that they may stay up to speed on the activities of the Chapter throughout the year.

Do I earn Sports Points for attending?

YES! Whether you attend in person or via Zoom, members earn 15 Sports Points for sitting in.

What happens at these meetings?

General business is conducted at these meetings, such as approving Chapter grants, voting on expenditures, amending policies, or voting on donation requests.

Am I able to vote on anything?

Only Chapter Officers and Board of Directors may vote on matters during these meetings. If any Gateway member would like to become involved on the Chapter Board, you may nominate yourself for the ballot at each fiscal year end, for the following fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). For example, at the end of Fiscal Year 2023, we sent out a notice via the Gateway Gazette (March/April issue) asking for nominations so that we may present them in the Gateway Gazette in the May/June issue on the enclosed ballot.

When are the Chapter Board meetings?

Unless otherwise rescheduled, meetings happen on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30am.

Where are the Chapter Board meetings?

Meetings are held at the Gateway Chapter office, but members may also join on Zoom after contacting Amber via email for the meeting Zoom link.

Are there any rules I should know about?

Overall there are not specific rules to follow, but we do ask that you are courteous to the Board while they are conducting business during meetings. Please silence your phones, do not have any side conversations while they are discussing matters, and in general please do not interrupt. If you have any concerns or questions about the subject being discussed, if needed to be addressed timely please pull Executive Director Chris Blanchard or Executive Assistant Amber Lee to the side, or otherwise wait until after the meeting has concluded.

CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS

Jacqueline Black, PT, ATP

Spring is in the air! I love seeing nature start to bloom, but I'm going to start off with a shout out regarding an event that happens in the snowy Rocky Mountains! We are proud to have 2 of our local St Louis SCI/D Therapy team members take part in the 37th National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. It looks like the closing video is posted on the website National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. You should check it out! Matt Luitjohan CTRS serves as our local St Louis Team Coach, as well as supporting the National team throughout the week. Jody Paniagua, PT, serves as an invited team member on the National Prosthetics and Seating team, which supports safe and optimal participation in the activities for ALL veterans of ALL abilities. Thank you, Jody and Matt, for your exceptional work!

I would also like to acknowledge our SCI/D Occupational Therapy department as a whole, since April is Occupational

Therapy month. OT specializes in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)- with a focus on maximizing ways to independently manage your care throughout the day- and that plan is unique to YOU and YOUR day. Our VA SCI/D OTs cover so much more beyond ADLs- including Assistive Technology; Home adaptations/ equipment/ access; Transportation management and community access; VA and community grant resource education/ consultation- just to name a few! Occupational Therapy covers a lot of ground in VA SCI/D healthcare! Our OT staff has really expanded their presence with our SCI Outpatient Clinic and SCI Home Care team. This presence beyond the inpatient rehabilitation clinic is essential to support our lifelong health and wellness goals for veterans with SCI/D.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge that I've had a few voicemails where I was unable to get the name/ number of the person calling due to very poor connection. I apologize if you are one of those individuals that did not receive a return call. Please call again -or- email (preferred), and I will call you back with name/number listed in the email.

Thanks to Gateway PVA for all you do to support our St. Louis SCI/D Center. We truly appreciate your partnership. We are proud to serve our veterans, and we appreciate your support!

If you have questions, concerns, or kudos about SCI Therapy/ SCI Programming- please contact me at Jacqueline.black@va.gov or 314-652-4100, ext 64691.



APVA
Paralyzed Veterans of America



OPEN:

- 1st Place - Doug Barnes**
- 2nd Place - Cynthia Rockwell**
- 3rd Place - Marcus Murray**

BC5:

- 1st Place - Scott Richards**
- 2nd Place - Bob Weigand**
- 3rd Place - Corey Tabb**





Gateway Chapter
1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center
Saint Louis, MO 63132



Generosity can be found anywhere.
Even the back of your closet.

Donating clothes and other household goods
can help improve the lives of injured veterans.



**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.



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548
Paid for by the Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere

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pva.org/givegoods today!**