

GATEWAY GAZETTE

The Official Publication of the Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America



Jeremiah and Cristy DeGuire on Lake Killarnie during the September Camp Penuel PVA fishing tournament. Jeremiah is a recently injured Marine Veteran and new member of the Gateway Chapter PVA. A great time was had by all with Lonnie Crider winning the biggest fish contest. A special thanks goes out to all the volunteers and to Camp Penuel for having the event again this year.

Specially Adapted Housing Alert!

PVA NSOs Bill Conroy and Tx Vogler recently discovered that VA has interpreted the recent changes to the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program that were part of Public Law 109-233.

On August 3, 2006, VA's General Counsel held that any eligible veteran who is entitled to SAH or Special Home Adaptations (SHA) may now use the grant up to three times to a maximum aggregate amount of \$50,000 (\$10,000 for SHA). This means that any veteran who has used the grant before at a lower amount is eligible to re-apply and use the remainder up to the \$50,000 limit! We believe that this change in the law may affect several thousand members.

In the coming weeks we will be developing plans to notify these members and other eligible veterans. It is our hope that we can do so through a mailing from the National office to minimize the impact upon the field. However, it will be imperative for NSOs to respond quickly to file claims as they are received.

Continued on next column

In summary:

- One-time usage clause eliminated.
- Anyone who originally used the grant before December 16, 2003 may be eligible to use the grant again.
- You can use the difference between what you have already received and the current maximum grant of \$50,000.00.

Please hurry!

The law may change soon so apply now even if you don't have specific plans to use the additional grant funds.

Questions should be directed to our National Service Officer, (NSO) Fred Bradley at (314) 552-9887 or (800) 795-3614.

Inside...

President's Report

Attaboy

National Director's Report

Executive Director's Report

Stan Brown

D. Durrwachter

Gerald Brown

S. Gokenbach

And much more.....

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

Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

<http://www.gatewaypva.org>

GPVA Officers

President	Stanley Brown
Vice President	Matthew Wilcox
Treasurer	Dennis Durrwachter
Secretary	Donald McCoy
National Director	Gerald Brown

Board of Directors

Jamey Bollinger	Gerald Brown	Douglas Conklin
Rose Ganz	Robert Huskey	Bobby Jackson
Ruth Kult	Robert Larkin	Mike Norris
James Williams		

St. Louis Service Office

400 South 18th Street, Room 109
(314) 552-9887 (800) 795-3614
FAX (314) 421-3709

Fred Bradley	Senior Benefits Advocate
Tony Timmons	NSO Candidate
Cathy Steele	Secretary

Kansas City Service Office

(800) 795-3612 (816) 861-4700 extension 6032/33
Bonnie Hilburn Senior National Service Officer

GPVA Staff

Susan Gokenbach	Executive Director
Beth Caster	Administrative Assistant
Dennis Durrwachter	Editor

Telemarketing Department

Steve Muench	Night Manager
Vacant	Day Manager
Ken Zuellig	Delivery Driver

Has your address changed? Please inform us by email to: sgokenbach@gatewaypva.org, or writing or calling using the below information :

Gateway PVA
9738 Lackland road
St. Louis, MO. 63114
(314) 427-0393 (800) 426-4058
FAX (314) 427-4183



Steve Stratmann, Roy Gantt, and James Williams shooting in the finals in the end of year Shoot for the Gold Trap Shoot.

Accessible Home for Sale

Four bedroom ranch home on 1.2 acres. Home is completely wheelchair accessible. Walkout basement with a platform lift to basement which is finished with a room and full bath. Large in ground accessible swimming pool. Many trees. Located in Town and County near Highway 64/40 and three major hospitals. Excellent location.

Call 314 434 2852 for more information.

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:

ddurrwachter@gatewaypva.org or in the US mail at address shown to the left and mark with attention to the editor.

President's Report

By Stan Brown



My president's article this month is easy to write. We have nothing but good news and opportunities facing us. As a chapter we have just finished our fiscal year (October 2005 through September 2006) with a positive cash flow. With the exception of one year (2002) when we received some exceptional donations (a boat and a yacht), we had spent more than we made the last six years. A portion of our success this year was the fact we had our most successful golf tournament ever in September. A management group that manages three of our disabled apartments, "volunteered" to help us put on the golf tournament this year. Professional Equities, Bob Rives in charge, and their friends solicited great auction items and for the first time ever filled our tournament with 36 teams. Another golf tournament was held by Jim Canoy, Denis Canoy's nephew, and he raised over \$4000 that went directly to the sports account as it did last year. And lastly, Susan and I worked on a Missouri Foundation for Health grant (the tobacco lawsuits settlement for Missouri) and we just received notice we were awarded a substantial two-year grant. In October of 2005 we were looking at running out of money in three months unless we made some drastic changes. To the credit of the board, we approved a painful reorganization and we now are in position to offer those services and programs we had in the past plus expand.

We have three new individuals on our Board of Directors: Mike Norris, Jamey Bollinger, and Doug Conklin. In either November or December they and the rest of the board will take part in re-examining our strategic plan. We will specifically adopt a five-year plan and consider if and when we should buy another building. Our current lease will be over May 2008. Now that our finances are again in order, I personally hope we can renew and intensify focus on the health care of our members. Matt Wilcox heads our hospital committee and has been diligent working with a "charter team" to improve care for spinal cord patients at the John Cochran Hospital. He and I both remain frustrated that the VA committee/council bureaucracy has spent over a year trying to approve a patient satisfaction/care survey. There was an independent (not VA) patient satisfaction survey done for all the VISIN 15 medical centers to include John Cochran and Jefferson Barracks for the first six months of 2006. The Kansas City VA results were made available to our representatives without asking. When I requested the same survey for our St. Louis facilities, I was instructed to file a formal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request and did so. As I write this article I'm awaiting response to that request. Three years ago we (Gateway PVA) used our own narrative survey instrument interviewing patients from John Cochran and Jefferson Barracks and received some startling responses. We are considering going forward again with our own questionnaire.

To close I will leave you with a pleasant problem. One of our regular products customers volunteered to give us several model airplane kits for our patients. I explained to him, a Korean War Marine veteran, that probably most of our patients were not capable of assembling model airplanes but that I would pick up the kits and find a use for them. Last Saturday my driver stacked six boxes containing 165 model airplane kits in my van! Now they are on two shelves in our office. Any suggestions?

Stan



Pictures taken at the JB Halloween party
Left: PVA National Vice President Greg Joyce and Sandra.
Right: Ken and Jan De-Clue of the High Ridge Elks.



Dear PVA board,

My name is Jim Canoy. I am the nephew of Mr. Denis Canoy. This is a letter from my family to yours.

The 4th annual Denny Canoy Hack-A-Thon Tournament was a huge success. The team of Jim Canoy, Mike Fraser and Lon Whitesell took home the first place trophy, as did honorary captain Denny Canoy. Some how this guy wins every year.

This is the 2nd year I have taken up donations for the PVA. Two years ago I had a strong feeling that I could at least try and make a difference for the PVA with this golf tournament... by bringing my family and friends together to help support the cause you all fight so strongly for. The response two years ago was impressive. We generated \$2825 for the PVA in 2005. This year was even better. We collected just over \$4000 for the PVA.

Denny, we owe it all to you. You are a true inspiration to the Canoy family. Your will, courage and strength are unmatched. You are a fighter and a survivor... as are all of the veterans. It is your strength and determination that has brought our family/friends together to help make a difference for the PVA and its family. We wish we could have donated more, but we hope at least it makes a difference.

In hour of Denny, our family would like him to determine where these funds go in your organization. We know the funds will go to good use.

Denny, you are a great son, father, brother, uncle, soldier and friend. It is with great honor that our family and friends are able to support you and your PVA family. Thank you for inspiring me and so many others. And to the PVA and it's members, please know you are no forgotten.

Sincere Regards,

James M. Canoy, family and friends

As a note to Gateway members, Denny has elected to place these funds into the Chapter Sports Fund.



Group photo taken of all the participants in the Kuk Sool Won fundraiser event for Back Stoppers and Paralyzed Veterans, Gateway Chapter. Master Jack Harvey has included our Gateway Chapter in the event for the last three years. Thanks so much Master Harvey!

One Full Year and Counting...

By Susan Gokenbach



I have been the Executive Director for the Gateway Chapter for a little over a year now. I thought it was about time I write my own article for the newsletter to let everyone know how much it means to me to be working for and with such awesome people! I would like to welcome our new board members and congratulate the board members who were re-elected. Our board meets the second Tuesday of every month, and as always, all members are welcome to come by the office for our meetings or just for a visit.

I consider myself very fortunate to be in a worthwhile organization like the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The hours are sometimes long, but the outcome is quite fulfilling. I have met people who have not only touched my heart, but have also become a big part of my life. Looking back over the past several months, we have accomplished so much! I would like to thank some of the people who have helped our cause and our veterans: (This is in no particular order and please forgive me if I have left anyone out...my mind is not what it used to be!)

Jim Canoy	Bob Rives	Fred Waelters
Christine Mason Buck	June Matulewic	Jerry Hollingsworth
Jay Randolph	Charlie & Shirley Carlson	Greg Rives
Charlie Grotzinger	Carole Straussner	Karin Martinez
Tom Houlihan	Kathy Hamby	Dave Lyle
Cal Garrett	Cathy Teague	Victor Ganz

I would also like to thank our transportation drivers, Monica, Dick and Jim, for their smiles and dedication. And, how could I forget the volunteers that help me serve the food at our luncheons and other events: Irvine, Eleanor, Audrey, Charlie, Jeff, Steve, Betty and Ken. Thank you, thank you, thank you. You all mean so much to me!

Last, but not least, I want to acknowledge three more people: Our President puts his all into this organization. Stanley Brown has logged in many, many hours and made some hard decisions to get us where we are today. Our Treasurer/Editor has also logged in many hours going over our finances and also creating the very newsletter you are reading today. Finally there is Matt Wilcox who is our Vice President and Hospital Liaison. Matt really keeps active checking up on patient care. A big thank you to these three gentlemen and to the entire Board of Directors for volunteering their time to make our chapter a great place to be. I'm looking forward to another prosperous year with this wonderful group of people.

Thanks for reading and have a wonderful holiday season.

MIA

Have you seen or know the where these members are? They are in danger of being dropped from the PVA Roster. Please call us, write to us or Email us if you know where any of these members are! Contact info is on page 2.

Downs, Garry W	Dulinski, Richard L	Gore, Steven G	Kocina, Chad B	Marrone, Karen A
Miller, Ronald L	Ohen, Robert L	Reese, Joe	Washpun, Odell	White, Eric D

In memory of....



Jarvis, William
Williams, Kenneth

Gillespie, IL
Arnold, MO

10/7/06
9/23/06



Attaboy!

By Dennis Durrwachter

I know what you're thinking. What is Dennis doing writing the Attaboy article? What happened to Ruth? Well, I couldn't really expect Ruth to write an Attaboy about herself could I?

Yes Ruth, this Attaboy is for you and for all the things you do!

Ruth has had this coming for a long time and I glad I'm finally getting around to giving it to her. Let me attempt to provide a few reasons why I wanted to give Ruth the Attaboy this issue of our newsletter.

During the comparative short time I've been involved with the Gateway PVA I've noticed the many contributions Ruth has made. I'm sure most of you are not familiar with what she brings to the table. Speaking of the table, Ruth always brings cookies or the like to our board meetings at her own expense and inconvenience. She brings treats (cookies, cakes, and other goodies) to the craft room to celebrate veterans birthdays...often times she brings in treats for no reason, just to share! Its gotten to be so common-place that no one even thanks her for it. She purchases all of the items and baskets for our Team St. Louis fundraising raffles. She also takes the basket around to the VA clinics and out in the community. Ruth is very generous donating both her time and money to the sports team.

When its your birthday who do you think sends you the nice PVA birthday card? Ruth does, and since Susan Gokenbach has been our Executive Director, she can't ever remember reimbursing Ruth for the stamps. You do the math: Over 600 members x 33 cents apiece.

Whenever we have an PVA event Ruth is always there and glad to be there. She is always very outgoing and friendly. She's always got a great attitude. She participates in national events such as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the National Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. In 2005 at the Winter Sports Clinic she was awarded the Linnie Howard Spirit award proving that others outside our organization have also recognized her character. I think she was surprised about receiving the award, but none of the rest of us were.

Ruth swims 3 days a week, bowls every Thursday and participates in crafts twice a week. She enters craft projects in the creative arts festival. She sets a great example to newly injured vets by living a life full of activities.

With all of the above, I've talked about what she's done. What I haven't talked about is what kind of person she is. Ruth is a kind, considerate and caring person who will always listen if you've got a problem that is bothering you. She puts up with a lot of people and usually turns the other cheek.

Well Ruth, I hope that I have sufficiently embarrassed you by now and if not at least I'm glad to have tried to do it. And in closing as Ruth would normally say:

St. Louis V.A. Medical Center - JB Division Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction Service Patient Support Group

The St. Louis VA Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction Service is introducing the Spinal Cord Injury Patient Support Group as the most recent addition to our services.

This service allows SCI veterans, their families and friends, the opportunity to become part of a group that provides support, information, companionship and resources.

At times guest speakers will give presentations, at other times SCI staff and PVA service officers or representatives will discuss topics of interest. At all times there will be ample opportunity for discussion among members and questions for SCI staff.

The group will meet once a month at the SCI Service at Jefferson Barracks. Those who cannot attend in person, can call in and join by conference call.

The Patient Support Group will be meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month starting with the first meeting on November 9, 2006 at 1:30 - 2:50 p.m. at the 2nd floor conference room

Examples of Topics that will be Covered include Leisure activities, respite care, dating and intimate relationships, family issues, financial issues, adaptive equipment, travel, healthy living. We are open to your suggestions.

If you can't attend and would like to join in on a conference call please call 1-800-767-1750, then enter the access code: 29945#

The group will be hosted by SCI staff. Contact Virginia Wagner, MSW: 314-652-4100, ext. 64832, or Angela Cass-Prost, PsyD: 314-652-4100, ext. 64827

Attention: All gifted or wanting-to-be-gifted Musicians

Have you ever wanted to play a musical instrument, sing in a choral or gospel group? Have you ever heard the saying "it's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks?"

Well, here is your opportunity to expand or explore your musical side! The VA Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction Service is in contact with individuals in the community that are interested in coming to the VA to provide musical instruments and music lessons

If there is sufficient interest, we will recruit someone to lead a choral, gospel or instrumental group. Please contact Amy, Matt or Becky at the VA at 314-652-4100 ext 63708 or ext 64512. We look forward to hearing from you!

National Director's Report

By Gerald Brown



Highlights

Paralyzed Veterans of America 60TH ANNUAL CONVENTION open in San Diego California. Approximately 100 delegates from PVA's 34 chapters registered for the week of meetings and activities. The Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, delivered the keynote address. Secretary Nicholson addressed veteran's health care issues; however, because of a busy schedule he departed without any questions.

The following chapters were given awards:

1. The New England Chapter PVA was presented with the 2006 Most Outstanding Chapter Award.
2. The Mountain States Chapter PVA was presented with this years Most Improved Chapter Award.
3. The Iowa Chapter PVA was presented with the Membership Development Award.
4. The VA Voluntary Service Award was presented to Ralph Smith of the Wilmington VA Medical Center.
5. The Annual Chapter Volunteer Service Award was presented to the North Central PVA.
6. The Buckeye Chapter PVA was presented with the Chapter Sports and Recreation Award.

Congratulations to all the Award winners and to the Host Chapter Cal Diego PVA!

Report of the Outdoors Recreation Heritage Fund (ORHF)

General Randy West presented a report on the activities of our Outdoor Recreation Heritage Fund. This fund was created to supplement PVA's sports program and provide perpetual funding for its activities. One of ORHF stated goals is to provide hunt-masters equipment on all military facilities where hunting is allowed.

PVA's Five-Year Medical Service Plan

Jim Dudley, VBD Director of Medical Services, unveiled PVA's Five- Year Medical Service Plan. The plan was developed to meet the needs of veterans in the following areas: quality of care, long-term care, access/timeliness, rehabilitation, prosthetics, training and SCD. I think a close look at the five-year plan would possibly benefit the membership.

PVA's Special Guest

Representative Bob Filner of California's 51st Congressional District addressed the delegates. Bob Filner has served on the House Committee for Veterans Affairs since 1992 and has been a tireless advocate for veterans and a champion for the Independent Budget.

Ratification of The Presidential selection for Executive Director of PVA

The Board of Directors ratified the appointment of Louis Irvin as PVA'S Executive Director effective September 21, 2006. Mr. Irvin has served as Associate Executive Director of Veterans Benefits, as well as the Cal Diego PVA Executive Director, Board Member, National Director and NSO 3 in San Diego.

Election of Officers

Randy L Pleva Sr. of West Virginia was reelected to a third consecutive term as PVA's National President. In addition, the following officers and members of PVA's Executive Committee were elected for FY 07: Senior Vice President Gene Crayon of Gateway PVA; Vice President William Larson of Mid-America PVA; Richard Glotfelty of Southeastern PVA; Gregory Joyce of Texas PVA; Secretary Carl Lemons of Mid-South PVA; and Treasurer Craig Neenah of Great Plains PVA. The new officers and Executive Committee will be effective October 1, 2006.

PVA Closing Awards Brunch...

The Speedy Award non-member category was presented to former Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony J. Principi, a friend of PVA and a champion for America's Veterans--end story.





Pictures of some of our recent outings. At top are pictures taken at the Lone Elk Park Outing and just below that are a couple of pictures taken at the Camp Penuel Outing.



Participants and friends at the Shoot for the Gold final Trap Shoot of the 2006 season. Trophy winners were James Williams, Roy Gant and Patty Stratman.

SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS



*Mobility for Living...
Service for Life*

**Proud Sponsor of
the Gateway PVA**

**New & Used
Wheelchair
Accessible
Vans**



8 Locations to Serve You!

St. Louis, MO • Columbia, MO • Springfield, MO • Lenexa, KS
Belleville, IL • Springfield, IL • Champaign, IL • Memphis, TN

888-939-1010

www.unitedaccess.com

Quality

Convenience

Reliability

Peace of Mind

Choice

Safety

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS BORN IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER!

Robert R. King	November 01
Jack Bunch	November 02
Thomas M. Dooley	November 02
Paul W. Frye	November 02
Kenneth Curtis	November 03
Michele C. Esquivel	November 03
Gary J. Fortune	November 04
Martin L. Harris	November 05
Kevin S. Orr	November 06
Anthony M. Durant	November 07
Roy M. Jones	November 07
Harry E. Pendlay	November 08
George F. Phillips	November 08
Dennis L. Torres	November 09
Vernon L. Hammersley	November 11
Reckey F. Marby	November 11
Rickey F. Mosby	November 11
Derwin C. Hollis	November 12
Richard E. Mehrle	November 14
William F. Auvenshine	November 15
Terri L. Fuda	November 15
George E. Harris	November 15
Ted V. McCorvey	November 15
Rose M. Ganz	November 16
Glenn W. Neeman	November 17
Gene B. Maultsby	November 18
Floyd R. Henderson	November 19
Kerry J. Davis	November 20
Willie A. Julian	November 20
Harrison D. Neal	November 21
Jon R. Petersen	November 21
Kelty B. Ross	November 21
Adam E. Thomure	November 21
Melvin D. Hagan	November 22
William E. Webster	November 22
Gregory S. Hefner	November 23
Jerry R. Ray	November 23
Soloman I. Parker	November 24
Donald R. Pennington	November 24
Ronald L. Stearns	November 25
Gary W. Byrd	November 26
Danny W. O'Connor	November 26
Stanley D. Brown	November 28
Charles L. Cecil	November 28
Charles Singleton	November 29
William L. Cameron	November 30
Ruth Kult	November 30



Herbert L. Rayford	December 01
Herbert L. Rayford	December 01
Ralph E. Haskell	December 05
William R. Knipple	December 05
Terrance D. Malone	December 05
Tommy L. Reece	December 05
Bradley C. Remmers	December 05
Phillip Stringfield	December 06

Larry J. Whitman	December 06
Michael J. Anderson	December 07
Richard E. Bradshaw	December 07
John E. Finch	December 08
Terrence Smith	December 08
Harry Kutemeier	December 09
Mark S. Waldmann	December 09
Henry F. Boyle	December 10
Christopher L. Dawson	December 10
Don C. Dinnella	December 10
Charles W. Gillespie	December 10
Clarence Boyer	December 11
Garry J. Mehn	December 11
Curt L. Sidmore	December 11
Erik Syvertsen	December 11
Charles Wilson	December 11
Don J. Farley	December 12
Mark E. Pilley	December 12
Howard K. Kensinger	December 13
Warner E. Robertson	December 13
James Easton	December 14
Therain W. Gilman	December 14
Julie A. Glaves	December 14
Michael S. Harbison	December 14
David L. Atwood	December 15
Ronald E. Lagemann	December 15
Roy L. Goforth	December 16
William D. Jacobson	December 17
Chad B. Kocina	December 18
Michael P. Senseney	December 18
Robert D. Strunk	December 19
Michael D. Lake	December 20
James Riley	December 20
Rick Taylor	December 20
Thomas T. Weisel	December 20
Karen A. Marrone	December 22
Lewis E. Carroll	December 23
Daniel Six	December 23
John E. Wood	December 23
David J. Huesing	December 25
Christopher M. Keener	December 25
John A. Meyer	December 25
Mai T. Crane	December 26
Wayne A. Holt	December 26
James White	December 27
Bobby J. Wilson	December 27
Brett A. Jeffryes	December 28
LaRoy F. Smith	December 29
Richard A. Branch	December 30
Forest L. McGuire	December 30

<i>November 2006</i>						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Patient Sup- port Group at JB 1:30 - 2:50	10 Veteran's Day Office Closed	11 Veteran's Day Parade Downtown
12	13	14 BOD Meeting Overland 11:30	15	16 Thanksgiving Luncheon, JB	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	24 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	25
26	27	28	29	30		

<i>December 2006</i>						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Patient Sup- port Group at JB 1:30 - 2:50	8	9
10	11	12 BOD Meeting Overland 11:30	13	14	15 Newsletter Articles due	16
17	18	19	20	21 Christmas Luncheon	22	23
24 31	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28 JB Steak Dinner 5:00PM	29	30

Address Service Requested

Gateway Chapter
Paralyzed Veterans of America
9738 Lackland Road
St. Louis, MO 63114

