

Gateway Gazette



20th Annual Jack Buck/Gateway PVA Golf Tournament



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

Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

<http://www.gatewaypva.org>

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

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St. Louis Service Office

400 South 18th St., Room 109
St. Louis, MO 63103
Office: (314) 552-9887 or (800)795-3614
Fax: (314) 552-9738
Fred Bradley, SBA-Senior Benefits Advocate
Alan Knabe, National Service Officer II
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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

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, NSO II
Rebecca Warchola, Senior Secretary

National Liaison VP

Charles Brown

Gateway Chapter PVA Holiday Party/Open House

At our office on Tuesday, December 8, 2015

11:00am—2:00 pm

Members and guests are welcome!

St. Louis Blues Ticket Giveaway

Please email amber@gatewaypva.org or call the office with your contact information by **November 12** to enter the drawing. Winners will be drawn by lottery method.

St. Louis Blues vs Buffalo Sabres	Thursday, November 19 at 7pm
St. Louis Blues vs Columbus Blue Jackets	Saturday, November 28 at 7pm
St. Louis Blues vs Dallas Stars	Saturday, December 26 at 7pm

Veterans Day Parade

November 7, 2015

Meet at Olive and 13th

At 11:00 am

Members earn 10 pts. for participation



Time to update your address or email?

Please email us at:

amber@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

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



<https://www.facebook.com/GatewayPVA> https://twitter.com/Gateway_PVA

President's Message

By Stanley D. Brown

Homage to parting Executive Director Susan Lyle

Long time (over 10 years) Gateway PVA Executive Director Susan Lyle has resigned for personal reasons. She is leaving under cordial terms and will assist in training a replacement. When Susan came to the office ten years ago, I had been President for one year, and we were in a financial crisis. We were within two months of being out of money if we continued to spend as we had been doing. Our choices were difficult, services were cut and staff were laid off. Susan and I basically picked up the slack. In reality, Susan did much more than I did. She successfully filled the responsibilities of what had previously been done by three employees. Throughout the years, our continued success and growth have in no small measure been because of her work, dedication, and skills. I cannot imagine a person being more dedicated to our mission and our members. The last move to our current office, we did not use any paid movers. Instead, to save money, Susan enlisted/cajoled her family members into doing the move over several days. This may sound trite, but Susan Lyle indeed gave her "heart and soul" to our organization and all of us veterans. She will be missed.

Blues and Fox Tickets Available

As noted on the inside front cover, we have accessible tickets for the Blues games on [Thursday, November 19 versus Buffalo](#), [Saturday, November 28 versus Columbus](#), and [Saturday, December 26 versus Dallas](#). All games are at 7pm. We have two tickets for each game and both seats are "spaces" where one or two wheelchairs can fit, or one or two folding chairs can fit. Please call or email no later than Thursday, November 12 by 5pm. We have also purchased three Blues games for inpatients. There are also Fox tickets available that we have purchased (\$686.22), for the following Sunday matinee (1pm) shows: [December 13, Wicked](#); [March 13, Beauty and the Beast](#); [May 8, Sound of Music](#); and [May 22, Jersey Boys](#). For each show we have a regular seat and an accessible space. These are great seats on the lower mezzanine that are easily accessed by a large elevator on the first floor. You must email or call the office by November 30, 5pm. If you win these tickets, thank member Terri Fuda who had the idea to purchase the tickets.

Veteran's Home Healthcare Options

According to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA Handbook), the total monthly home and community based care services the VA spends for the veterans to stay at home, should not exceed the monthly cost per patient in the nearest VA nursing home care clinic. Although I have been unable to pin the VA down, that cost is somewhere between \$4,000-\$6,000 per month. Theoretically, the VA could be spending that monthly amount to keep you living at home as opposed to a VA facility. There are the normal aid and attendance payments, and bowel and bladder payments for veterans at home, but there are also two specific attendant programs available to us. One program/option is where the VA contracts directly with a healthcare agency to provide you a set amount of attendant care hours per month. The benefit of that program is the agency recruits and trains the person, and is responsible to find a replacement when an attendant calls in "sick" at the last moment. The other program is relatively new, and only available in limited areas. This program is the Veterans Independence Program (VIP). The veterans select their attendants, who in turn either mail in or go online with their time sheets every two weeks for veteran approved payment. I have been using the latter program for two months now and I recommend it. In this VIP program, the dollars approved for your attendant are directly used in purchasing so many hours of care. In the former program, using a healthcare agency, the total money approved gets paid to the agency who in turn may pay half that amount to their workers. A veteran gets more healthcare hour "coverage" using the VIP program. Contact your social worker to get enrolled with one of the programs or for more information.

Government Relations Director's Report

By Stanley D. Brown



Missouri Congresswoman Ann Wagner joins our September 17 Member Luncheon

Longtime supporter of veterans' issues and a Gateway PVA supporter in particular, Congresswoman Wagner, came to our inpatient/outpatient monthly luncheon on Thursday, September 17. She even brought treats from a local noted St. Louis bakery. It somehow disappeared before I got to them! Congresswoman Wagner has a son that is a West Point graduate and Infantry Officer who has just returned from overseas duty. Pictured above is the Congresswoman listening to our members as well as meeting with St. Louis VA Medical Center leadership. From left to right, Congresswoman Wagner with member Bill Skiles; group photo of new SCI/D Chief Dr. Katherine Stinson, Congresswoman Wagner, Gateway PVA President Stan Brown, Associate Medical Director Fabian Grabowski, acting Medical Director Patricia Ten Haaf, and Deputy Medical Center Director Keith Repko; and members Ernest Harris and Steve Womak talking with Congresswoman Wagner.

Expansion of the Veterans Choice Program

The Veterans Choice Program provides eligible veterans the option to receive VA Community Care for approved providers in their communities. You have no doubt received VA correspondence and read material on the Veterans Choice Program. The law was enacted to give veterans a "choice" when they lived too far from a VA Medical Facility or had to wait too long for a medical appointment. To receive non-VA medical services, the VA must either not be able to give you the medical appointment within 30 days of the clinically indicated date, or you reside further than 40 miles from where VA services can be provided. The second eligibility requirement (mileage) has recently been clarified/interpreted to me more than 40 miles in driving distance from the nearest VA medical facility. These Choice Program options are also being merged into the local VA's (St. Louis VA Medical Center for example) ability to, on their own, without formal request from the veteran, purchase private care in the community. For instance, if the St. Louis VA has established the veteran needs by-pass surgery and the VA contracted surgeon cannot schedule an appointment until three months out, the St. Louis VA Medical Center can, on their own, contract or purchase the surgery sooner in the private sector. In that case, the veteran would not have to wait to have their request go through the Veterans Choice Program.

Come one, Come All - Recreational Therapy

By Matt Luitjohan

We have a lot of events going on here at JB and we would love to get more of you involved when and if possible. If there is something you would like to participate in or something that we do not currently offer, let us know. We have weekly Exercise Clinics, Aquatic Therapy groups, and Bowling Clinics. This past year, an up and coming sport called Boccia has exploded with interest and participation. The Vet Cave hosts practice clinics on Tuesdays at 1PM and Wednesdays at 10:30. Come in and give it a try you just might like it!



Our Annual Halloween Party will be on Friday, October 30th from 11AM - 1 PM. Get in your costume and come join us for some pizza and fun!



Many of our Vets will be going to the Atlanta Aquarium November 6th-8th with Lifewaters to SCUBA Dive and Snorkel in the World's largest aquarium for Veterans Day. We are still attempting to get this program up and going here at the VA but for now it is still available through Lifewaters. Contact Charley Wright for more information on this opportunity.

The Cluster Busters Boccia Team will be traveling to Louisville, Kentucky to participate in a clinic/tournament on November 13th and 14th.

The Annual Chili Cook-off will be January 21st as part of the PVA Luncheon that month, so start perfecting your recipes for a chance to compete against the best in the Midwest!

Creative Arts Festival will be getting organized the beginning of January.

If you are interested in performing or have a piece of art you would like to enter please let us know so that we can get you registered.

Additional program information such as Trapshooting, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Photography and Video Editing Clinics, The 2016 Boccia Tournament Circuit, a Recap for the 2016 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, Spoke Outreach Visits, Trout Lodge Outdoor Adventure Program, and many more in store for 2016 will be in future newsletters so please keep your eyes open for those.

We would love to see and hear from more of you so don't be a stranger. The new RT office AKA "The Vet Cave" is located in the Former PT Clinic in the basement of building 52 in room GN34. Give us a call, shoot us an e-mail, or come on by and check us out.

Charley Wright
314-652-4100 Ext 64590
Charles.Wright6@va.gov

Matt Luitjohan
314-894-6602
matthew.luitjohan@va.gov



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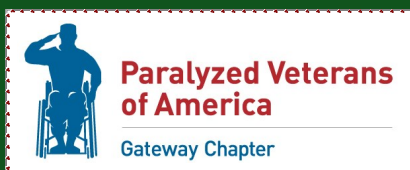
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Or at

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Gateway Chapter PVA

Wishes to welcome our new members:



William Foster.....Trenton, MO
 Alex Bolar.....Kansas City, MO
 Russell Bainer.....Hutchinson, KS
 Charles Hayworth.....Sedalia, MO
 Kenneth Myers.....St. Louis, MO
 Grover Rippey.....Waverly, KS
 Tom Langelia.....St. Louis, MO
 James Hulse.....Grain Valley, MO
 Robert Yanick.....St. Louis, MO
 Ernest Harris.....St. Louis, MO
 Rickey Marsh.....St. Genevieve, MO



William Dixon.....Benton, KS
 Jeffery Combs.....O'Fallon, MO
 James Brumfield.....Pittsburg, KS
 David Elam.....St. Louis, MO
 James Smith.....St. Louis, MO
 Thomas Baxley.....St. Louis, MO
 Jennifer Morgan-Tyra.....St. Louis, MO
 John Teegarden.....Olathe, KS
 Gerald Jacobson.....Overland Park, KS
 Gerald Chamberlain.....Stonefort, IL
 Eddie Watson.....St. Louis, MO

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Updates in the Department of Veterans Affairs

By Fred Bradley, Senior Benefits Advocate

The VA has updated the VA Form 21-22 (commonly known as “Power of Attorney”). The most recent form is effective as of October 2014. The update is for several reasons:

1. The VA is going to a paperless claims folder system. Eventually, all claims folders will be scanned and will be accessible in the VA computer system. In order for any service organization to have continued access to the computerized claims folder, the new VA Form 21-22 is required. The new form is compatible with the VA computer system.
2. The new form will continue to give us the authority to submit a change of address for our clients.

Some of you have already received the new form along with a detailed letter explaining the reasons for the new form. If a new form is not provided, we will eventually be blocked from being able to review a client’s claim folder. This applies to any form completed in year 2009 or prior to year 2009.

VA has increased the Special Adapted Housing grant, the Special Home Adaptation grant and the Automobile grant. The Special Adapted Housing grant is now \$73,768.00 and the Special Housing Adaptation grant is now \$14,754.00.

Both of these grants require specific service connected disabilities or disabilities under 38 USC 1151 in order to be eligible.

The Automobile grant is now \$20,174.68. The grant is a one-time benefit. The Adaptive equipment is a recurring benefit. There are specific service connected disabilities or disabilities under 38 USC 1151 to be eligible for the grant.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility for the grants or the new VA Form 21-22, please contact your National Service Officer.

Accessible Vehicle Giveaway—Good and Bad News

The 2013 Cadillac I pictured in our last newsletter was given away under our nose. The Kansas City owner who had guaranteed us the vehicle as a donation, gave it away prior to our drawing. This was an irritant but even more irritating was the fact I could not convince them to donate the car to us to sell, so we could purchase an accessible van that could have been used by many more people than their hand controlled Cadillac. Good news is, one of our member’s family is donating a slightly used full sized Ford van, raised roof with a lift and 160,000 miles. It will be given “as is.” If you are interested in this accessible van, please send an email or letter to the office on why you cannot afford a van and what a difference it would make in your life. Please have your submission in by Friday, November 20, 2015.



Y3 Veterans Outdoor Adventures

By Charles Wright



Y3 Veterans Outdoor Adventure was a great success this September, we had approximately 150 participants! Participants included current and retired VA staff from three different VAs that had donated their personal time. Volunteers included National PVA, caregivers, family members, and 42 veterans with functional impairments. These participants traveled from seven different states including Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Florida, and Maryland. Everyone was able to participate in and be exposed to activities consisting of fishing, archery, zip

lines, trapshooting, kayaking, rifle marksmanship, bocchia, tennis, tubing, campfires, action track trail rides, golf, a bird sanctuary exhibition, concerts, astronomy and camaraderie.

The event is sponsored by a large number of donors and sponsors; Gateway PVA Chapter, Kentucky Indiana PVA Chapter, PVA National Office, Permobil, American Legion Post 162, High Ridge VFW Post 6516, Missouri Department of Conservation, Team River Runner, anonymous donors, and the gratuity of numerous volunteers.

We are excited to announce that we have our date secured at Trout Lodge YMCA next year! Y4 dates will be September 15-18, 2016.



Annual Membership Trap Shoot

"Shoot for the Gold"

at Gateway Gun Club



The Gateway Chapter would like to thank United Access for coming out to the Gateway Gun Club on October 2, 2015 to assist our members, as well as provide lunch from Main Street Diner. Though attendance was low this year, and the winds were high, James Smith won Grand Champ, followed by LaRoy Smith and James Williams.

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 PVA -Fall- Board of Directors meetings	3	4	5	6	7 Veterans Day Parade 10pts.
8	9	10 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA 4pm 15pts. Non-BOD Mbr.	11 Veterans Day OFFICE CLOSED	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Mbr/Patient Luncheon at JB@Noon 5pts.	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED	27	28
29	30					

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Newsletter Articles Due 15 pts. published	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 GPVA Holiday Party/ Open House 11am-2pm	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Mbr/Patient Luncheon at JB@Noon 5pts.	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED		



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St. Louis, MO 63132**

Address Service Requested

Happy Holidays from the Gateway PVA Board of Directors



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