GATEWAY GAZETTE

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



NVWG 2011By Charley Wright



For nearly three decades, military veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations or certain neurological problems have assembled to participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. This year it was held in Pittsburgh PA - home to nearly 450 bridges and birthplace of the Big Mac and the legendary coleslaw and french-fry-stuffed sandwiches. Pitt is about doing things big. The Wheelchair Games were no exception. Both the Keystone Chapter of Paralyzed Veter-



ans of America and VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System were honored—and thrilled—to present the games Aug. 1-6, 2011, for the second time in their city. With more than 600 participants from the United States, Great Britain and Puerto Rico, it is the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. The Wheelchair Games are an exciting combination of competition, camaraderie and courage where earning medals is just part of the appeal. Team St. Louis Gateway PVA brought 13 seasoned athletes to the games and came home with

13 Gold, 4 Silver and 8 Bronze medals for a total of 25 medals. WAY TO GO "TEAM ST. LOUIS GATEWAY PVA."

Disabled Veteran Participants Span Generations

While most of the veterans competing this year have competed in past NVWG's, for a few, it was only their second year. There are many experienced wheelchair athletes who attend the event every year. Some of these athletes have competed on a national and international level while others make the Veterans Games the mainstay of their annual competitive or recreational calendars. The games offer something different for every participant regardless of their age, military experience or veteran status.



Associate Member Earle Lester on the Slalom course



Rose Ganz Handcycling



Bob Larkin competing in Table Tennis

(See page 6 for the continuation of the article and more pictures)

Reminder-

If you haven't already, you can turn in your election ballots at our next Jefferson Barracks luncheon (Thursday, September 15) or mail them to our office. **We need your votes!**

The Gateway Chapter will be participating in the Labor Day Parade in downtown St. Louis on Monday, September 5. The meeting place will be @ 15th and Olive (same meeting locale as the Veterans Day Parade), and participants must be there no later than 8:00 a.m.! This is a special event worth 15 points!

Inside—Important Upcoming Events & More...

Gateway Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America

http://www.gatewaypva.org

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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 Fax (314) 427-4183

Kuk Sool Won Martial Arts Demonstration

September 10, 2011 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

St. Charles High School Gym 2

16th Annual Jack Buck Golf Tournament

September 13, 2011

The Landings at Spirit Golf Club 180 N. Eatherton Rd. 20 Points!

Chesterfield, MO 63005

GPVA Trap Shoot "Shoot for the Gold"

September 16, 2011 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Olin Trap & Skeet Facility East Alton, IL

This event is free to all members and lunch is provided.

Annual Veterans Appreciation Day

September 17, 2011 *Noon - 6 p.m.* High Ridge Elks Lodge 2808 Old Hunning Rd. High Ridge, MO 63049



Worth

Membership Picnic

September 30, 2011 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Lone Elk Park (White Tail Deer Shelter)

For Sale:

Tan 1999 Ford Econoline (E150) 5.4L, V8 accessible van; raised roof and lift. Runs well/fair body condition. Power driver seat; A/C; Cobra CB Radio; AM/FM Cassette; TV. 108,223 miles, only \$3,795 Please call Shirley at (618) 475-3760.



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 D. Brown

Dr. Peter Taylor Named As New SCI/D Chief for the St. Louis VA

On Friday, August 12, 2011, it was announced that Dr. Peter Taylor had been appointed as chief of the spinal cord injury/dysfunction service line for the St. Louis VA Medical Center. The St. Louis VA has a spinal cord center with a 32-bed spinal cord unit currently at the Jefferson Barracks campus. Dr. Tay-



lor served as a physiatrist in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Unit (building 53) at Jefferson Barracks; he began his medical career as an occupational therapist with the VA in New Orleans. After graduating from medical school at Louisiana State University, Dr. Taylor again went to work for the VA Medical Center in New Orleans. He will begin duties as the SCI/D Chief on November 1, 2011. More information on Dr. Taylor and his vision for the spinal cord service will be forthcoming in future newsletters. Gateway PVA welcomes Dr. Taylor and looks forward to working with him on behalf of all veterans with a spinal cord injury or disease.

Free Rams Tickets

Gateway PVA has purchased three sets of St. Louis Rams football tickets for the 2011 season. Each set has two seats, a space for a wheelchair and a seat for a walking person. The two tickets are on the Rams side around the 15 yard line on the terrace level, easily accessible from the disabled entrance and elevator on the east side of the stadium on Broadway. Because of the quick notice required, we already gave away through an e-mail raffle, one set of tickets to a preseason game. We have two tickets available for the September 25, 3:05 PM, Baltimore Ravens game and two tickets for the November 27, Noon game against the Arizona Cardinals. Please e-mail or write to the office if you're interested in one or both of the games and the tickets. E-mail and letters must be received by September 15. Indicate which game(s) you would like to attend.

Accessible Taxis Now Available in the St. Louis Area

Wheelchair accessible taxi service is now available in the St. Louis area. Airport Best Taxi Services in collaboration with Paraquad (the St. Louis Independent Living Center) has four accessible vehicles in its taxi fleet. The rates and hours of operation will be the same as all other taxis. Paraquad received a federal grant from the Federal Transit Administration in 2009 to bring accessible taxi service to the St. Louis region. This service was announced the second week of August and is brandnew. Contact information for Airport Best (ABest) Taxi Services is: phone number 314-781-1515 or e-mail info@abesttaxi.net. MetroWest Transportation in St. Peters also has some accessible minivans and they serve St. Charles, St. Louis County and City. Their phone number is 636-272-8294 or 314-427-3456; e-mail is accesstaxicab@gmail.com. Although I've not used either service yet, the major benefit appears to be that you are not required to provide 24 hour prior notice to secure an accessible ride. If you avail yourself of this new service, I would appreciate hearing about your experience.

Elections and Appointments for the Gateway Board of Directors

By the time this newsletter is mailed, we will have nearly completed the voting for the officers and Board of Directors for the Gateway Chapter. I have seen the nominations for the ballots and can tell you we are going to see the same "familiar faces." Not saying that's good or bad because I'm certainly one of those "old faces," but I am convinced we need an infusion of new people to make our chapter viable in the future. Several issues ago I wrote of the board approving the appointment of two non-St. Louis area board members. We made one excellent appointment in Rusty Montague from the Columbia area, but there is another appointment available. If you're interested and live in "outstate" Missouri, please contact me.

In memory of...



	· · ·	
Robert Boos, Jr.	Fenton, MO	07/31/11
Marvin Byas	Chesterfield, MO	07/18/11
Victoria Freeland	Fairfield, IL	07/23/11
Melvin Hagan	Bonne Terre, MO	06/18/11
Henry Mecey	Desloge, MO	07/29/11
Larry Mosby	St. Louis, MO	05/30/11
Barry Schriefer	St. Louis, MO	03/22/11
Charles Smiley	Louisville, KY	06/22/11



Please have someone contact our Chapter in the event of a member's death so that we can inform other members who might wish to pay their respects to the departed.

Government Relations Director's Report

By Jessica Dunsmore

News and Notes



Accessible Parking Info

The ADA favors broad coverage, and parking issues are no different. Questions have been asked regarding van accessible parking spaces, and here are the parameters: van accessible parking spots are suitable for **any** vehicle that displays the appropriate disability placard/license plate. However, additional signage may be provided **recommending** that cars not be parked in van-accessible spaces unless no other accessible parking space is available. Please contact me if you have a complaint or any questions. Also, for Missouri residents, the Great Plains ADA Center (1-800-949-4232) can assist with filing parking complaints. For Illinois residents, you can file parking complaints (no signage, no accessible spaces, etc.), with the Disability Rights Bureau at the Illinois Attorney General's Office (217-524-2660 in Springfield and 618-529-6400 in Carbondale).

2013 Deadline to Switch to Direct Deposit/Direct Express Debit Card for Federal Benefits

If you are still receiving paper checks for federal benefits (including payments from Veterans Affairs, Social Security and SSI) you must switch to electronic payments by **March 1, 2013.** You can sign up now for direct deposit to a bank or credit union account or to the Direct Express® Debit MasterCard®. For more information, please visit **http://www.godirect.org/** or call **1-800-333-1795**. If you do not choose an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013, or at the time you apply for federal benefits, you will receive your payments via the Direct Express® card so you will not experience any interruption in payment. Those already enrolled in electronic payments will not be affected.

Gateway Accessible Housing Updates

This past July, Stan and I ventured across I-70W to visit the residents of Gateway Accessible Housing IV, one of the four fully-accessible apartment complexes in Missouri that our chapter sponsors. We listened to concerns and spoke with residents about new projects, improvements and additions to the property. Currently, applications are being accepted for a 1 BR/1 BA unit in the complex. Call me for more details.

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders through a confidential, toll-free hotline and online chat. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1** or chat online to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Visit **www.veteranscrisisline.net** for more information.

Legislative News

In early August, Congress finally passed the "2011 Budget Control Act" after much discussion and debate. The bill allows the President to raise the debt ceiling by \$2.1 trillion, and calls for spending cuts totaling \$2.4 trillion over ten years. The first installment of cuts will total about \$900 billion, and should have no effect on VA benefits and compensation, Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare. However, a bipartisan committee of 12 members of Congress (dubbed the "Super Congress"), will decide on another round of cuts totaling \$1.5 trillion late this year. The committee is allowed to consider both spending cuts and changes in the tax policy, and this could potentially affect VA's discretionary programs and entitlement programs like Social Security.

The Missouri General Assembly will convene for a special legislative session in September. Governor Nixon called for the session to discuss a comprehensive jobs package, disaster recovery policy and a reform of Missouri's tax credit program, which includes a potential \$50 million cut to the Circuit Breaker Property Tax Credit Program for seniors and individuals with disabilities who rent. If you are a beneficiary of this tax credit, or would like more information about it, please contact me.

- Finally, Happy Birthday to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which turned 21 on July 26!-

Attaboy

By Ruth Kult

This is what you call an "In the blink of an eye article." It'll be an extremely short Attaboy. No, it's not because this person doesn't do much, it's because they do a lot, so I don't know where to start.

Once upon a time in a land far, far, away, also known as the Gateway PVA office, there was this beautiful princess named Susan, the Executive Director of the chapter office, who mentioned needing newsletter articles. Since I usually write an article, I thought maybe this time around I could sit this one out. However, listening to Mrs. Susan today, I felt that I should write one. So, I wrote a short article.



I heard through the grapevine that someone else wanted to write an article about the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. I'm graciously bowing out on that subject. Honestly, I don't know if maybe it's just late or it's not going to happen. I'm sure one of the coaches will talk about it. If not, let me inject my personal opinion. Pittsburgh has nothing on St. Louis, but it was a good time. There is only one bad thing - if you don't care for french fries too much, you're in trouble. They put them on everything there. Even on salad! I thought Idaho was supposed to be the potato state.

Anyway, speaking of Pittsburgh, I am going to present Ms. Jessica Dunmore, the newest addition to our GPVA (Gateway Paralyzed Veterans of America) staff, with an ATTABOY. In case you don't keep up with all of your newsletters, she's our new Government Relations Director.

The reason for this Attaboy is dedication. Granted Jessica is from Pittsburgh, but to go back home for a vacation and drag your family out into the extreme heat (that particular field day was extremely hot) to see a few people they have never met before doing sports, and not professionally, is about awesome. (See picture on back cover.)

Another great thing about Ms. Jessica is she is extremely thorough with everything she does, which is noticeable and pretty great. She really keeps on top of all the new legislation and advocacy issues, which is totally perfect if you aren't big on the news and want it summarized, like me and a few other people. I'm thinking WOW, this is pretty cool. How did we get so lucky? First Susan, then Jackie, and now Jessica. We must be doing something right. Thanks for reading.

Gateway Chapter PVA Wishes to Welcome Our New Members

Ronald Whitford...... Sullivan, MO



(Continued from cover)

Meet Some of the Team St. Louis Gateway PVA National Wheelchair Games Attendees Terri Fuda



"I look forward to coming to the Wheelchair Games each year," Fuda explains. "I get to see old friends and meet new ones, and I've enjoyed the long-lasting relationships that you make at the Games." In 2010, Fuda received the "Spirit of the Games Award," an award given to the athlete who best exemplifies the values of the games through his or her personal and athletic dedication, values and commitment. Terri earned Gold medals in Bowling, Table Tennis and Swimming.

Terri Fuda, Rose Ganz, and Ruth Kult

Bobby Hutchinson

"This has been a great time for myself, but sharing this experience with my wife and kids is priceless." Bobby earns the endurance award of the week... Traveling by car, they were not able to start driving until late Monday afternoon and arrived at the hotel around 3am. After only a couple hours of sleep, Bobby made all of his three events that following day, finals in one event, and took a Bronze in Softball.



Ed Caldwell

"The Wheelchair Games help build confidence, self esteem and motivate you to stay active," Caldwell states. "It gives me renewed self confidence to see what others with disabilities can do,

Bobby Hutchinson and his family

and it makes me want to do them, too." Ed's extended family always joins him at the National Wheelchair Games and makes a family reunion out of the week. Ed earned Bronze medals in both Weightlifting and Bowling.

Ed Caldwell Weightlifting

In addition, we would like to give a shout out to all of our Team St. Louis Gateway PVA team members and associate members...Great Job Everyone...Joey Avellone, Jamey Bollinger,

Ed Caldwell, Terri Fuda, Rose Ganz, Bobby Hutchinson, Bobby Jackson, Ruth Kult, Bob Larkin, Earle Lester, Bill Skiles, La-Roy Smith and Terrance Stith.

Make sure to contact your coaches at the VA for more information on training dates and attending next year's games in Richmond, VA. Team St. Louis Gateway PVA has its own Facebook page now. Please log in and search for "Team St. Louis Gateway PVA." MAKE SURE TO "LIKE" our page. Your coaches will be posting information on upcoming events including NVWG in 2012 and beyond. Please contact us if you have a question or want to get more involved with adaptive sports or participate in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games or other VA-sponsored national events: Matt Luitjohan or Charley Wright at 314-652-4100 Ext. 64590 (Charley) or Ext. 66602 (Matt).



Team St. Louis Gateway PVA



Bill Skiles on the Slalom course

Pick an Adaptive Sport and Mark Your Calendar

From quad rugby, wheelchair basketball, weightlifting, billiards and archery to power soccer, slalom, handcycling and track and field, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games offers a variety of competitive events, as well as clinics and demonstrations for novice and seasoned athletes alike. But competing in the games is not just about winning medals. Like service to our country, the games are about getting out there, pushing just a little harder and contributing to a greater good. The games are about being an athlete, an individual and a proud veteran.

(More pictures on back cover)







Middle-LaRoy Smith weightlifting

Left-Joey Avellone in the Slalom event

Right-Bob Larkin on the Riverfront

Middle-Jamey Bollinger in the Slalom event

Far Right-Terri Fuda bowling







Thank You!

Gateway Thanks These Motorcycle Organizations

In 2005, in the midst of Gateway's financial difficulties, we received an unsolicited phone call from Robert Fitzgerald who is a member of the central Missouri chapter of Missouri's Star Touring and Riding Association. Robert (an Army veteran) and his wife Leslie had read of Gateway's financial woes and wanted to help. For the next several years the Fitzgeralds organized an annual motorcycle fundraising event with the Missouri chapters of the Star Touring Association. Mr. Lee Lash took over for them, and does a great job, and their tradition continues with an annual fundraising event. Two years ago retired Army First Sergeant Brad Walker called the office and wanted to know if Gateway would appreciate some fundraising assistance. Of course we said "yes." His group from Arnold, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, has put together a motorcycle fundraiser the last two years for Gateway. The pictures below show members of these great organizations at the chapter office.



The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association presented the Gateway Board of Directors with a check. Left to Right–(Back) David King, Sheila King, Brad "Top" Walker, Charles Randolph, Dave Gardner, Leo Jessen, Linda Theis (Front) Mike Norris, Rose Ganz, Stan Brown, and Ruth Kult.



Star Touring members came to the chapter office to present a check to our President, Stan Brown. Left to Right-Mike Raglin. Stan Brown, Rick Kimberling, and Zeus Soriano. Quality

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Apportionments

By National Service Officer, Tom Herrington

I recently have dealt with a claim relating to apportionments and found myself wanting to know more about the subject. I also thought this would be a good topic to share in the newsletter. Information on this subject can be found under the Apportionments section of the 38 CFR, starting at 38 CFR 3.450 and 38 CFR 3.458.



When the VA distributes portions of a benefit for a child, spouse or dependent parent they set up apportionments. "All or any part of pension, compensation, or emergency officer's retirement pay payable on account of any veteran may be apportioned." The apportionments can be for the veteran's spouse, children, or dependent parents. For dependent parents to receive apportionments they must be receiving treatment or care by the United States, and or a political subdivision thereof. If the veteran who is receiving benefits is not residing with their spouse or children and isn't taking care of his/her part of the responsibilities, then he/she may be apportioned. Even a spouse receiving dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) can be apportioned, if the deceased veteran's children are not residing with the spouse. Some of you may have noticed that if a veteran's child enters active military the benefits for that child are taken away, not in the case of existing apportionments. If an estranged spouse of a veteran is receiving an apportionment for a child of the veteran, and the child joins the service there is no adjustment to the apportionment.

An important factor to keep in mind is that the Department of Veterans Affairs will not apportion a veteran's benefits unless a claim has been filed for an apportionment. Also keep in mind that no apportionment will be made where the veteran, veteran's spouse, surviving spouse, or fiduciary is providing for the dependents. When there are multiple children involved in the apportionment, everything is divided equally.

There are benefits received that are not apportionable and the following is a list of some of the non-apportionable benefits and reasons apportionments will not be given:

- When the total benefit to be paid to the disabled person will not permit a reasonable payment to an apportionee, then the apportionment will not be paid.
- If the disabled person's spouse has been found guilty for infidelity by a court with the proper jurisdiction.
- If the spouse of the veteran enters into or openly holds themselves in the public as the spouse of another, then there will not be apportionment made unless there has been reconciliation and later an estrangement.
- If a child has been legally adopted by another.
- Apportionments will not be payable for any dependent of a disabled veteran, or surviving spouse where the forfeiture of benefits, before September 1, 1959, entitled to that person is due to fraud, treason, or subversive activities.
- Until the estranged spouse of a veteran actually files a claim for an apportionment for the veteran's children, in whom the veteran does not have custody of, there will be no apportionment of benefits.

There is much more to apportionments and I recommend calling one of your National Service Officers if you have any questions concerning the subject. (Please see page 2 for contact information and phone numbers.)



Mark Beel Paula Lemon Keith Roberts Cecil Rodgers James Sullivan-McGuire Rick Taylor 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 any of these members are! Our contact info is inside the front cover.

Head's Up Members! New Rules Regarding Participation Points-

The GPVA Board of Directors voted to clarify and set gift card redemption minimums. If a member did not attend the Winter Sports Clinic or National Veterans Wheelchair Games this year, he or she may opt to turn their participation points into gift cards. Each point translates to \$1 worth of gift cards. Since sporting points are redeemed at 25 or more points, the gift cards will also require a minimum of 25 points earned before redemption applies. We will no longer automatically send out gift card forms to members. A member must contact our office to request a redemption form. This year, we will allow members a little extra time to call in and redeem those points! If you feel you have earned 25 or more points during the sports year (through June 14) and would like to request your gift card form, you have until September 30 to call or email our office. See page 2 for contact information.

PVA's 8th Annual National Veterans Day Poster and Essay Contest

Open to grades 1-8, PVA's Veterans Day poster and essay contest is a chance for kids to express their gratitude to veterans and the sacrifices they've made for our country and our freedoms. The theme of this year's contest is "America's Veterans: Our Heroes

of the Past, Present, and Future." The poster contest is open to students in grades 1–4 (separated into two categories for judging: 1st–2nd grade and 3rd–4th grade). The essay contest is open to students in grades 5–8 (separated into two categories for judging: 5th–6th grade and 7th–8th grade).

The grand prize winners (one student from each contest) will receive an award plaque and an all-expense paid trip for the student accompanied by a parent or guardian to Washington, DC for Veterans Day 2011.

All poster and essay entries must be received by September 30, 2011. The grand prize winners will be notified by October 24, 2011. Visit www.pva.org for official rules and the entry form (click on "Get Involved" at the top of the website, and then scroll down to 2011 National Veterans Day Poster and Essay Contest).



<u>September</u>							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1	2	3	
4	5 Labor Day Office Closed Parade 8 am Downtown St. Louis Special Event 15 pts.	6	7	BOD Election Ballots Due! (9/15)	9	10 Kuk Sool Won 10 am-12 pm St. Charles HS Gym 20 pts.	
11 Patriot Day	12	13 16th Annual Jack Buck Golf Tournament 20 pts.	Prof. Education Seminar @ JB 9/14-9/15 Bldg. 52	Member/Patient Luncheon/Qtr. Mbr. Mtg. at JB @ Noon 5 pts./15 pts.	16 "Shoot for the Gold" Trap Shoot at Olin-East Alton,IL 10 am - 2:30 pm	17 Vets Appreciation Day High Ridge Elks Noon - 6 pm 10 pts.	
18	19	BOD Meeting 11:30 am 15 pts. non-BOD Mbr.	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	Member Picnic Lone Elk Park 10 am - 3 pm 5 pts.		

<u>October</u>									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
						1			
2	3	4	5 CFC Kickoff Scott AFB 9:30 am-1:30 pm	6	7 Newsletter Articles Due	8			
9	Columbus Day Office Closed	BOD Meeting 4 pm 15 pts. non-BOD Mbr	12	13	(Rescheduled) KC Mbr. Forum- Rec Hall @ Noon	15			
16	17 Nation	al Veterans Creative Art Fayetteville, AR Oct. 17-23	19 s Festival	Member/Patient Luncheon at JB Noon 5 pts.	21	22			
23/30	24/31 Happy Halloween!	25	26	27	28	29			
11	"Veterans w	vith Spinal Cord	Injury or Diseas	se, Living Life to	the Fullest"	I			

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