

## ST. LOUIS REPRESENTS AT THE NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

22

14

7

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Gateway Chapter



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

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St. Louis, MO 63125  
Office: (314) 894-6467  
or (866) 328-2670  
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### Time to update your address or email?

Please email us at [info@gatewaypva.org](mailto:info@gatewaypva.org) or write or call us at the following:

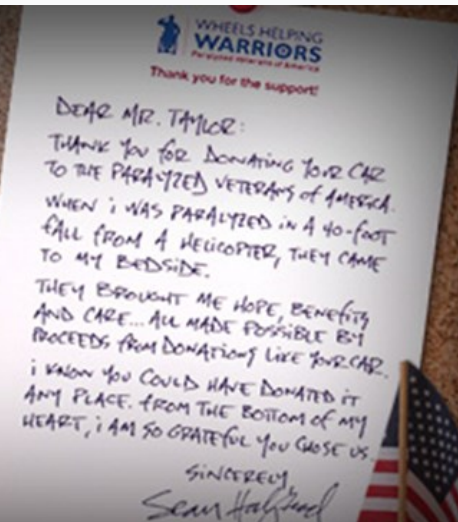
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## FUND A LIFETIME OF SUPPORT FOR SEVERELY INJURED VETERANS.

### DONATE YOUR VEHICLE TODAY.

Proceeds from the sale help provide jobs, benefits, and care for severely injured veterans and their families.



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

### Gateway Chapter

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# President's Message

## By Stanley Brown



### *The Fragile Wheelchair Life and Gateway's Vision Statement*

I am dictating this newsletter's message from bed, going on my seventh day trying to finally get rid of a spot on my right ischial area. I've been dealing with this for four months now. At our Board meeting two weeks ago, I noticed three of us quads had been struggling with health issues. One was in the John Cochran ICU with another UTI, another Board member was at the meeting for a few hours and going back to bed to care for a spot on the corner of where he had a previous flap surgery, and I was presiding at the meeting drinking a lot of fluids, after spending four days in the hospital for dehydration. This wheelchair life isn't simple. That is why Gateway's efforts to enable our members to "live life to the fullest," is so important. First and foremost, we must continue to ensure we receive the best medical care possible, to include the continuation of our specialized SCI/D Centers. We must also continue to fund and enable our members to stay at home and get out into the community. In the following paragraphs I am going to talk about specific Gateway sponsored benefits and obligations that enable our members to realize our vision statement of "living life to the fullest."

### *21<sup>st</sup> Annual Jack Buck/Gateway PVA Golf Tournament - September 20, 2016*

Our single biggest fundraiser will again this year be our annual charity golf tournament. This work is all done by volunteers and our costs are minimal. We usually have 144 golfers and it is crucial that they see "us" as they register that morning and drive off for the shotgun start at noon. We need as many members as possible at the golf course between 10am and 12:30pm on Tuesday, September 20, 2016. We will have lunches for members. Members are welcome to stay that afternoon and eat dinner before the auction, which usually starts around 5pm. This year's tournament will be held at the same place as in the past which is The Landings at Spirit Golf Club (Chesterfield, Missouri 63005). It is by the Chesterfield Airport and a little tricky to find. I recommend you MapQuest it or use your GPS. We are still looking for auction items, so if you know of any businesses you deal with, see if you can get a gift certificate and we will send them a tax donation letter. Attendance at this event is worth 20 sports/participation points.

### *Second Legal Clinic Day - October 20, 2016 at the GPVA Luncheon*

Third year law students and supervising attorneys from the St. Louis University Law School will be available at our luncheon on Thursday, October 20, 2016, from 10am to 2pm. They will assist Gateway members, both Missouri and Illinois residents, with legal issues/needs. This service will be free of charge to members. The students will be able to assist you in preparing and signing (executing) both durable and nondurable powers of attorney. General durable powers of attorney can grant someone of your choosing the authority to make medical decisions, as well as financial decisions on your behalf, even after you are physically and cognitively unable to do so. The students and attorneys will also help with simple wills, landlord-tenant issues, and consumer issues you may have. Please bring necessary documents and any existing legal documents you have. This "clinic" will be available in Building 52 in the North-end dayroom. Please call the office if you anticipate coming so we have an idea of the numbers.

### *Sports/Participation Points Policy Changes*

It seems like every Board meeting we are discussing/refining the Gateway point system. From the last BOD meeting we have three changes. The following three changes are: 1) Reimbursement requests must be properly completed to be accepted and funds to be distributed. The Gateway reimbursement form must be completed, detailing reimbursable costs and totals entered on the form and signed by the member. Incomplete forms will be returned to the member. 2) Members may use participations points for reimbursing three events each "sport year," not including Trout Lodge. If a member has sufficient points, they can be used for funding events such as the National Wheelchair Games, Winter Sports Clinic and one other event. The number of points required for full funding for each event will be determined by the Board. Full funding for any one event will not exceed the full funding amount provided for the National Wheelchair Games. If members do not have sufficient points for full funding, funding will be reimbursed at the percentage rates of 25%, 50%, or 75 %, based upon the member's total available points or percentage of points they have at the time of their reimbursement request. In addition, points could be used for attending the Annual Trout Lodge Outdoor Adventure. 3) Meals for members and approved attendants will be reimbursed if not covered by meal cards for the events. Attendants will be reimbursed for meals not exceeding the amount that the veteran member's meal card totaled. To be reimbursable, all meals must have receipts and be only for food. Meal reimbursement will also be based upon the member's full funding percentage.

**Continued on Page 12**

# Executive Director's Message

## By Chris Blanchard



### Receive the Gateway Gazette via Email

The Chapter is offering the option to receive via email, our bi-monthly Gateway Gazette to members. 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 money toward our members and member programs.

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact me directly at [chris@gatewaypva.org](mailto:chris@gatewaypva.org).

### The Ralph Braun Foundation

The Ralph Braun Foundation offers grants four times per year to help fund projects for people with disabilities who are trying to make their vehicles accessible for driving. The grant is offered in all fifty states. The applicant has to be working with a Braun mobility dealer and has to fill out the application online during an open application cycle. Applicants must complete the entire form in one sitting and requires having all personal financial and mobility dealer information. More information is available at the following website: <https://ralphbraunfoundation.org/grant-program>.

### Home Equipment Lending Program

In the event that you require a piece of equipment that the VA will not provide, consider visiting the following website for information: <http://stlhelp.org>. This organization lends equipment and also accepts equipment donations. If you need donated equipment picked up you can also call Paraquad at 314-289-4200.



**Cincinnati, Ohio**  
**July 17-22, 2017**

### PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

#### NORTH CENTRAL

Sioux Falls, SD  
Sep. 9-11, 2016

#### KEYSTONE

Clairton, PA  
Sep. 23-25, 2016

#### MID-ATLANTIC

Richmond, VA  
October 7-9, 2016

#### ARIZONA

Tucson, AZ  
October 28-30, 2016

#### NEVADA

Las Vegas, NV  
March 17-19, 2017

#### Pistol Shoot

March 17, 2017

#### CAL-DIEGO

Lytle Creek, CA  
March 24-26, 2017

#### Rifle and Pistol Shoot

March 24, 2017

#### VAUGHAN

Edwardsville, IL  
April 21-23, 2017

#### MINNESOTA

Minneapolis, MN  
April 28-30, 2017

#### COLONIAL

Baltimore, MD  
June 2-4, 2017

#### YEAR-END

Cedar Rapids, IA  
June 16-18, 2017

**BOCCIA CLINICS****GATEWAY**

St. Louis, MO  
Sep. 15-17, 2016

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Charleston, WV  
October 29-30, 2016

**FIVE NEW TOURNAMENTS TO BE ADDED!**

Locations and dates to be determined  
by bids submitted by 9/30/2016.

**ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & PISTOL PROGRAM****CAMP PENDLETON**

Camp Pendleton, CA  
Sep. 8-9, 2016

**CAL-DIEGO**

San Diego, CA  
Jan. 30-31, 2017

**MID-ATLANTIC**

Richmond, VA  
March 22-23, 2017

**BUCKEYE**

Geneva, OH  
April 29-30, 2017

**NEW ENGLAND**

TBD

**PARALYZED VETERANS****NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

TBD

**PARALYZED VETERANS HANDCYCLING****Virginia Beach Half Marathon**

Virginia Beach, VA  
Sep. 4, 2016

**Pensacola Classic**

Pensacola, FL  
Sep. 10-11, 2016

**Air Force Marathon**

Dayton, OH  
Sep. 17, 2016

**Army 10 Miller**

Washington, DC  
October 9, 2016

**Blue and Gray**

Gettysburg, PA  
October 22-23, 2016

**Marine Corps Marathon**

Washington, DC  
October 30, 2016

**ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES****MID-ATLANTIC**

Richmond, VA  
Sep. 23-25, 2016

**NEVADA**

Las Vegas, NV  
Dec. 1-4, 2016

**FLORIDA GULF COAST**

Oldsmar, FL  
Feb. 24-26, 2017

**MID-AMERICA**

Shawnee, OK  
March 16-19, 2017

**KENTUCKY-INDIANA\***

TBD

**\*A non-sanctioned event**

**Continued on Page 12**

## Rentals, Leasing, and Financing Available



Amerivan



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- Wheelchair / Scooter Lifts
- Bruno Valet Plus Seats
- Hand Controls & More

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# Annual Memorial Service

By Kim Vonder Haar

On Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 1:30pm, the VA St. Louis Health Care System Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders department will honor the memory of dear friends who have passed away during these last three years.

Please join us on the Jefferson Barracks campus in the Auditorium (Building 24) as we celebrate these veterans' lives and contributions to our country, as well as their devotion to their brothers and sisters in the SCI/D community: veterans, family, and staff who miss them dearly.

They will not be forgotten.

## Shoot for the Gold



The Gateway Chapter PVA "Shoot for the Gold" Annual Trap Shoot will be held on **Wednesday, October 5**, at the Gateway Gun Club in Bridgeton, MO. This is a free event for our members. If you want to have a chance at a trophy, be sure to arrive by **10am** to get some practice shots in! Lunch will be served at the facility as well.

## Welcome to our new members:

John Krug

Jeremy Garard

Jarrette Stewart

Mark Troutt, Sr. (Associate)

## 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.

Lynn McGrane

Perry Burch

David Berg

Michael Elzey

Allen Medford

## May/June Donations

American Legion Post 162  
Arthur and Laura Schaefer  
Barb and Steve Longland

Barb Hamilton and  
LaRoy Smith  
Billy and Donna Stidman  
Bob and Marie Walkling  
Brian and Susan Foster

Chris Cook  
Cindy Markus  
Combat Veterans Motorcycle  
Association

Community Foundation of  
Sarasota County  
Dave and Michelle Sapa  
Debbie and Skip Winheim  
Dennis Badgley  
Donna Sheehan  
Eric Longland  
Gateway Chapter 82nd  
Airborne Division Assoc., Inc.  
George Yoder, Jr.  
James Niewald  
Jerrold Deuser

John and Betty Kupke  
Joseph and Mary Ann Risch  
Joyce and Paul Schaefer  
Ken Miller  
Kip Lackey  
Kurtis and Cynthia Reeg  
Larry and Judy Kopecky  
Marilyn Baum  
Marlott Rhoades  
Mary and John Hainor  
Mary and Phil Alongi  
Matt Schaefer

Nadine Ruhl  
Nancy Fox  
Reverend Ellen Jones  
Roger Farber  
Ronald and Sandra Johnson  
Saks Foundation  
Stan Brown  
Stephen Salamone  
The Gossett Family  
Theresa Stansbury  
Tony Hasting  
Veterans Care Coordination





# GATEWAY GI

*General Information*



## Gateway Chapter-Social Media

**By Amber Lee, Administrative Assistant**

The Gateway Chapter has new social media accounts with Facebook and Twitter. Please enter the URL's below in your browser and 'like' our new Facebook page and 'follow' our new Twitter!

We have also given our website a makeover! We are very grateful that Tom Beilmann, my husband, volunteered his time and knowledge to set up the website for us. Thank you Tom!

It is the same web address ([www.gatewaypva.org](http://www.gatewaypva.org)) but an altogether new look! It also has an event calendar which is regularly updated and consists of Recreational Therapy and Gateway Chapter events.



[www.facebook.com/GatewayChapterPVA](http://www.facebook.com/GatewayChapterPVA)



[www.twitter.com/PVA\\_Gateway](http://www.twitter.com/PVA_Gateway)

## Annual Membership Picnic

Autumn is around the corner, which means that it is time for the Gateway Chapter PVA Annual Membership Picnic! This is a great time for members, family and friends to get together! There will be games and plenty of food for everyone. Please join us on **Thursday, September 29 at 11am** at the Des Peres Park pavilion (12325 Manchester Road, Des Peres, MO 63131).



## Thank you!



The Gateway Chapter would like to thank Steve Adams from NAPA Auto Parts and Barry Hufstedler from Auto World for donating the proceeds of their annual trivia night to the Chapter!

# New Claims Processing Procedures in the Department of Veterans Affairs



**By Fred Bradley, Senior Benefits Advocate**

Many of you may know that the VA has gone paperless with Claims Folders. This has evolved over the past couple of years. In all active cases, the paper Claims Folder were sent off to a facility in Janesville, Wisconsin to be scanned. Access to the paperless folder is done by computer. We can only access the paperless claims folder if we hold a Power of Attorney on that veteran which is no different than when there were paper claims folders.

Another recent development is what is called the National Work Queue (NWQ). The purpose is to have claims processed quicker and hopefully accurately. For instance, if we submit a claim in St. Louis, it goes to the NWQ. It is picked up and worked literally anywhere in the country. I have had claims that I submitted worked in Las Vegas, San Diego, and Louisville. We are able to review the Rating Decisions prior to the decision being promulgated. This allows us to point out errors before the decision is made and get it corrected.

In cases with terminally ill veterans, the cases are expedited. When we submit a terminal illness claim, we highlight that on our submittal letter to the VA. This is to obviously draw their attention and to have the claim expedited. If the VA has everything they need to make a decision, it can be accomplished in a week or so. If there is something needed before they can make a decision, it slows down the claim process sometimes by months.

In cases that do not involve a terminal illness, the process is faster than what it used to be. Claims can sometimes sail through in a few weeks. Usually it takes 4-6 months depending on whatever may be needed for them to process the claim.

I think overall, the NWQ is working well. There are some annoying bugs in the system but I believe they will be worked out as the VA makes improvements in the paperless claims folder system.

On another matter: I am now semi-retired. My office hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. My hours or workdays are somewhat flexible depending on various circumstances.



Jeffrey L. Duffy  
James R. Kulse  
James R. Matcuk  
Michael Calhoun

## *In memory of...*

Carrollton, MO	05/23/15
Grain Valley, MO	07/09/16
Overland Park, KS	05/15/16
Mayfield, KY	06/08/16



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





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# Access Earth

By Amber Lee, Administrative Assistant

On more than one occasion I have heard stories from members about their experiences of locations having a lack of accessibility, or a poor representation of accessibility. Matt McCann, founder of Access Earth, experienced a related situation in 2012.

“I have cerebral palsy and as such use a rollator to get around the place,” McCann discloses. “I had booked a hotel in London that had advertised themselves as wheelchair accessible but when arriving there were three steps up to the entrance and I couldn’t fit my rollator inside the hotel room.”

McCann states that he then decided “to do something about it to make life easier for people who need accessibility information and to put the degree I [he] was applying to at the time to good use.” After completing his masters in software engineering in 2015, he then formed Access Earth and began pioneering it as a cause that he is extremely passionate about.

“Access Earth is the TripAdvisor/ FourSquare/ Yelp for people living with disabilities and their caregivers. Access Earth is founded on three main principles – know more, do more, live more,” Matt McCann says. “We believe that we can open the world to this community by providing and crowdsourcing the most critical information to access restaurants, hotels and attractions (Know more). By providing this information, it will give those in the community the opportunity to go out and experience new things (Do More). With access to this information, we aim to inspire and encourage our community to find joy in life in spite of their challenges (Live More).”

The app is currently in an active development stage. Depending on how testing and the app store approval process goes, the plan is that it will be released at the end of August (as this issue of the Gateway Gazette is being distributed). McCann states that the projection is for the app to be available on all major mobile platforms such as iOS, Android and Windows 10. In addition, website users will also have the opportunity to interact across social media.

The development of the app did not come without its days of problem solving.

“One particular issue that I remember when developing the platform was that originally we used a five star system for rating places but we found that people weren’t sure what those ratings actually meant. For example the difference between 3 and 4 stars,” McCann says. “So as a result of that we have developed the access profiles system. Where people can state exactly what features they are looking for and the platform can show them places that match their specific needs. The goal of the app is to make it quick and easy for someone to find and rate hotels, restaurants or tourist attractions near them while making it easy for everyone to find places to suit their needs.”

Currently the app is only available in English, but McCann’s intention is to provide more languages in the future as the app grows in popularity. He has partnered with a worldwide location provider to supply information on businesses such as name and location. However he is relying on the community to fill in the accessibility information for those businesses.

“We are looking for any kind of feedback from the community,” McCann illustrates. “We want to make this as easy to use and useful to people as possible so if anyone could drop us feedback either through the website or social media that would be fantastic. Access Earth is nothing without input from the community, so any sort of support is invaluable.”



# September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 ☆☆☆☆ <b>LABOR DAY</b> ☆☆☆☆ OFFICE CLOSED	6	7	8	9	10
11 <b>PATRIOT DAY</b>	12	13 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA 11:30 am 15 pts. Non-BOD Mbr.	14	15 5/15 pts *Member/Patient Luncheon @ Noon *Quarterly Mbr Mtg. after Luncheon	16 POW/MIA Recognition Day	17
18  USAF Birthday	19	20 20 pts 21st Annual Jack Buck/ GPVA Golf Tournament	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 11am-3pm Annual Membership Picnic @ Des Peres Park	30	

Trout lodge ~ Potosi, MO

# October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Newsletter Articles Due 15 pts published	4	5 "Shoot for the Gold" Annual Member Trapshoot	6	7	8
9	10  OFFICE CLOSED Columbus Day	11 BOD Mtg. @ GPVA 4:00 pm 15 pts Non-BOD Mbr.	12	13 US Navy Birthday	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Member/Patient Luncheon @ Noon 5 pts Legal Clinic @ 10am to 2pm-Building 52 Memorial Service @ 1:30pm-Building 24	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 American Legion 12pm-4pm Boccia Cluster Busters Championships	29
30	31  Halloween					





## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Gateway Chapter

1311 Lindbergh Plaza Center  
St. Louis, MO 63132

Current Resident or

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#### ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

MID-ATLANTIC	MID-ATLANTIC	MOUNTAIN STATES	KENTUCKY-INDIANA*
Virginia Beach, VA Sep. 16-18, 2016	Midlothian, VA March 17-19, 2017	Fountain, CO April 21-23, 2017	TBD
MID-SOUTH	MID-AMERICA	BUCKEYE*	*A non-sanctioned event
Memphis, TN Oct. 14-15, 2016	Oklahoma City, OK April 7-9, 2017	Independence, OH June 16-17, 2017	

#### PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR

MID-AMERICA	FLORIDA GULF COAST	NATIONAL
Eufaula, OK Sep. 23-25, 2016	Kissimmee, FL March 31-April 2, 2017	LaPlata, MD June 2-4, 2017
SOUTHEASTERN	KENTUCKY-INDIANA	NEVADA*
Evans, GA Oct. 14-16, 2016	Gilbertsville, KY May 5-7, 2017	Las Vegas, NV June 3, 2017
VAUGHAN	NORTH-CENTRAL*	MID-ATLANTIC
Mt. Vernon, IL Oct. 28-30, 2016	Chamberlain, SD May 18-19, 2017	Richmond, VA June 9-11, 2017
		*A non-sanctioned event

### Continued from Page 3

*JC/JB Site visit - October 5, 2016 at 3pm*

The PVA team of nurses, architects and field advising personnel will be at our office on Wednesday, October 5, 2016, at 3pm for a "listening conference" concerning care at the Jefferson Barracks SCI/D Unit and the 6 bed unit at John Cochran. Please come to the meeting to express any concerns or positive experiences you have had at the unit as well as any recommendations to be made. Attendance at the meeting will be worth 5 sports/participation points. Please let us know if you are able to come and we will look for you.

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