Buckeye Chapter Proud!

Pictured below, Holly Koester, Buckeye Chapter President, gets a kiss from her service dog, Glory, during one of her marathon races. Holly is on her second quest to complete a marathon in every state in the country.

We wish her great success!
Mission Statement

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter strives to improve the quality of life of honorably discharged veterans who have spinal cord injury, dysfunction or illness including but not limited to multiple sclerosis and ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) through advocacy, medical research, sports and recreation, education and communication.

DISCLAIMER

The Buckeye Banner is a publication of the Buckeye Chapter, PVA and is meant to inform its readers of Chapter activities, legislation, and other matters of concern to veterans and/or members of the disability community. The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of BPVA, its Officers, Board Members, the Editor or production staff.

Rev 4/2019

We’re on TWITTER!

BPVA is trying to increase our followers on Twitter.

Please follow us and spread the word!

@Buckeyepva
Yes spring has sprung and summer is peeking her head around the corner. I can’t believe the Buckeye Wheelchair Games are already over and those of us on the Buckeye Wheelchair Team are getting ready to head to Louisville for the NVWG! I had a great time at the Buckeye Wheelchair Games and am very proud of all the athletes that competed. We had novices step out of their comfort zones, and veterans coaching and buffing up on their own skills in preparation for the NVWG. Big thanks to the many volunteers and our coaches that encouraged us and kept us rollin’.

With the heat coming, I want to stress the importance of drinking water. If you wait until you are thirsty, you’ve waited too long! As a wheelchair racer, I see the hardships our bodies face if we don’t drink enough water. Our bodies are 60% water, and studies show we lose 64 ounces every day through perspiration. Water keeps our organs working properly, boosts the immune system, prevents cramps, helps joints, keeps us regular, and helps with weight loss. Some overlooked benefits include providing brain power and energy, flushing toxins, keeping skin healthy, and preventing bad breath and headaches. The rule of thumb about how much water you need to drink is as follows: take your weight times 2/3, then add 12 oz for every 30 min of exercise. Here’s to your health-drink water!

As many of you know, we had the PVA site visit at the end of May. National PVA sends a head nurse, doctor, engineer, and PVA representative to look around the VA SCI unit. They check the status of patient rooms, talk to nurses, therapists, psychologists, sociologists, and interview veterans receiving care at the VA. They try to identify deficiencies, make recommendations, and take positive points to pass on to SCI units in other VA’s. I learned a lot, and now hope to pass on knowledge to you, our members. The site team was very impressed with LTC, the new women’s health bus, and the telehealth features we have available for our members. I want to thank the veterans that came in to voice your concerns. If we don’t speak up, nobody can fix things. The SCI administration on 6th floor are working hard on your concerns about home health care, a topic that is currently effecting veterans in all 50 states.

Last but not least, the National Convention was held in May. At the Annual Dinner, our late member, friend and supporter Terry Tyna was awarded the Speedy Award posthumously by PVA. It is one of PVA’s highest awards. Terry’s wife Alice spoke eloquently about him and his dedication to his family, friends and veterans with spinal cord injury. He is greatly missed by all who knew him and through the Speedy Award his legacy will live on.

Alice Tyna (pictured above) receives the Speedy Award in honor of her late husband, Terry.
Brighter Days Ahead!

Finally I see a big orange ball in the sky. They call it the sun. Most of us have been wrapped in a cold, wet, cold and cloudy spring. But maybe it’s all over and we can begin to warm up!

Even with the sad weather, the Buckeye Chapter has been so busy. As many of you know, the Buckeye Wheelchair Games took place April 26-27, 2019. Preparation for this event began in January. Let me just say that all the work paid off. We had record attendance; media coverage from local TV; live streaming of events and some great surprises at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Congratulations go out to Dale Spiller, recognized as the first annual President’s Award recipient. Anyone who knows Dale understands why he received this award. Dale is dedicated to his fellow veterans, going to the Dayton V.A. Medical Center several times a week to protect their interests and just be helpful. Dale is also devoted to the success of the Chapter. He is known to come to Cleveland to support our events. Additionally, he is a really nice person and well-deserving of this Award.

Congratulations also go out to Renee Young. Renee received the first annual Volunteer of the Year Award for her undying devotion to the Chapter helping at anything and everything that comes along. Renee is a retired Cleveland VAMC occupational therapist so she understands the needs of our members. Renee has taught me so much both as a professional and as a person. So well deserved, Renee!

Dennis Brostek received the Spirit of the Games award; and Brendan Beck was awarded the Outstanding Athlete award. Both of these members are so deserving! Congratulations Dennis and Brendan.

But, none of this would be possible without the support of our sponsors-MobilityWorks, Key Bank, Preston Superstore, and SPIRE Institute. We had over 150 volunteers during the three days of the Games including registration. Ohio VAMC’s provide so much support with their leadership. They are often unsung. So on behalf of the Board and Staff of Buckeye PVA, THANK YOU!

Now as we settle back in to everyday work, it’s time to get everyone ready for the National Veterans’ Wheelchair Games in Louisville, KY, July 11-16, 2019. Our team of nearly 70 athletes is ready to bring home the medals!

For the near future we will be planning the Chapter Golf Outing being held August 5, 2019. If you know anyone who would like to play, please look for the information on the Chapter website. www.buckeyepva.org.

Of course, if you need to reach the Chapter, please don’t hesitate to call us at 216-731-1017.
Urgent Care Benefits

President Trump signed the Mission Act into law on June 6, 2018. Some of the changes will begin June 6, 2019. The Mission Act encompasses many changes to the Veterans Health Administration’s Community Care Programs, such as combining Programs, improving access to care, and the future expansion of the Caregiver Program to all eras of military service.

One of the provisions of the Mission Act was to provide an Urgent Care benefit. Although PVA would encourage our Members to seek treatment at a Spinal Cord Injury Clinic, it may not be feasible for a sore throat, cold, or other non-emergent issue.

Now veterans will be able to seek Urgent Care Services at specific locations approved by VA. This benefit is expected to be available after June 6, 2019. Urgent Care Services are being directed by Tri West. So far, there only a few locations showing when searched. It is my understanding this will expand.

To find a location, go to https://www.va.gov/find-locations
Under “search for” use the drop down listing of “Community Care” and then select it
Once you start typing Clinic/Center in service type a list of options come up. Select “Clinic/Center-Urgent Care”
Put your city, state and zip code of where you want the service
Tri West may be putting plaques in the Urgent Care Centers that are VA approved
This is supposed to be updated daily
This benefit does not include preventive health care (with exception of flu vaccinations). Urgent Care does not require pre-authorization. Eligible Veterans can seek treatment at their convenience. Eligibility requires the veteran is enrolled in VA healthcare & received care through VA in the last 24 months prior to the visit. There are co-pays associated with this urgent care benefit depending on your priority group and number of visits. For more detailed information, please see: https://www.va.gov/communitycare/docs/pubfiles/factsheets/VA-FS_Vet-Urgent-Care.pdf
For any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your National Service Officer.

Greater Cincinnati including Dayton, Donate Today

Greater Cincinnati including Dayton, give G.I.V.E. a try and support veterans through a donation. Through the Paralyzed Veterans of America's G.I.V.E. (Goods Inspiring Veterans Everywhere) clothing donation program, service never goes out of style.

Your generous donations of clothes, small appliances, and gently used household goods help improve the lives of severely injured veterans and strengthens the fabric of our community. Plus, your donations are tax deductible – a receipt will be issued upon pickup/drop off.

In Ohio, this service is only available in the Greater Cincinnati/Dayton area, but is expanding to different locations. Stay tuned for an area near you!

To donate, call (314) 416-1300 or visit the website for more information: www.pva.org/ways-to-give/give/give-clothing
We Proudly Support the
Paralyzed Veterans of America
BUCKEYE CHAPTER

Improving the Lives of Those Who Have Protected Ours

PRESTON
Superstore

13600 W. Center Street
Burton, OH 44021
440-834-9700

PRESTONSUPERSTORE.COM
Buckeye Banner

**ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM**

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
January 28-29, 2019
San Diego, CA

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 6-7, 2019
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
March 30-31, 2019
Milwaukee, WI

New England Combined Air Rifle and Bocce Tournament*
April 26-28, 2019
Brockton, MA

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament
April 26-27, 2019
Geneva, OH

*Indicates combined events

**PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT**

North Central Trapshoot
September 8-9, 2018
Sioux Falls, SD

Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament and Handgun Shoot
November 9-11, 2018
Charles City, VA

Arizona Shooting Sports Tournament
February 8-10, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
March 29-31, 2019
Redlands, CA

Pistol Shoot - March 29, 2019
Lytte Creek, CA

Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
May 17-19, 2019
Rifle/Pistol Shoot - May 17, 2019
Green Bay, WI

**ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES**

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Battle at the Beach
September 14-16, 2018
Virginia Beach, VA

Mid-South Billiards Tournament
October 12-13, 2018
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem
March 22-24, 2019
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament
April 5-7, 2019
Oklahoma City, OK

Buckeye Billiards Tournament
June 14-15, 2019
Wickliffe, OH

**HANDCYCLING RACING**

Museum of Aviation Marathon
January 12, 2019
Warner Robins, GA

PVA Racing High Performance Camp
January 26-February 1, 2019
Brocksville, FL

Top End Euro-American HC Championships
February 2-3, 2019
Gainesville, FL

Valley of the Sun
February 16-18, 2019
Phoenix, AZ

One City Marathon
March 2, 2019
Newport News, VA

Off-Road Spring Expo
April 19-21, 2019
Chesterfield, VA

PVA Learn to Race Camp
April 23-26, 2019
Gettysburg, PA

Blue and Gray Half Marathon and Criterium
April 27-28, 2019
Gettysburg, PA

**NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES**

Great Plains Bowling Tournament
July 12-15, 2018
Council Bluffs, IA

Mountain States Bowling Tournament
August 15-18, 2018
Colorado Springs, CO

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament
September 28-30, 2018
Glen Allen, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament
November 29-Dec 2, 2018
Las Vegas, NV

Florida Gulf Coast Bowling Tournament
February 21-24, 2019
Tampa, FL

Mid-America Bowling Tournament
April 12-14, 2019
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
June 27-30, 2019
Romeoville, IL

For more information, visit: pva.org/sports
**Sports Directors’ Report**

*by Scott Law
BPVA Sports Director*

_Spring is finally here! Get out there, enjoy the weather and take advantage by hauling out those handcycles, racing chairs and sports chairs. Lube up those bearings, tighten up that hardware and hit the road._

_Hopefully you all are starting to get ready for the upcoming 2019 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Louisville, KY July 11th-16th._

_Many of our members “warmed up” for the Nationals by competing at the Buckeye Wheelchair Games held at Spire Institute April 25th-27th._

_Nearly 70 athletes competed. Awards were presented at the end of competition banquet. This year’s Spirit of the Games award was presented to Dennis Brostek. The Most Outstanding Athlete award winner this year was Brendon Beck._

_Renee Young was presented with the well deserved first chapter Volunteer of the Year award. Dale Spiller was presented with the first chapter President’s award. Carl Harris was recognized for his ongoing outstanding service to the Buckeye PVA._

_Thanks and congratulations to all of the award winners! See you in Louisville! Scott R. Law Sports Director*

---

**Emergency Assistance Program**

_Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter has available an Emergency Assistance Program. This program helps members of the Buckeye Chapter who may find themselves in financial distress causing possible eviction from their homes, disconnection of utilities or the inability to pay for food._

_Members must be in good standing for a minimum of 90 days prior to qualifying for consideration. Application for help is limited to twice yearly or up to a maximum of $500 per year. This is a confidential process. Payments must be made directly to the vendor._

_Please contact the Chapter office for more details. (800) 248-2548; (216) 731-1017._
Buckeye Wheelchair Games
Buckeye Wheelchair Games
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birthday</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birthday</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birthday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Love</td>
<td>6/3</td>
<td>John Kiss</td>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Lawrence Grieshop</td>
<td>7/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clyde Triplett</td>
<td>6/5</td>
<td>Jerry Martin</td>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Blaine Denious</td>
<td>7/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Swenson</td>
<td>6/8</td>
<td>Charles Thompson</td>
<td>7/9</td>
<td>Robert Thomas</td>
<td>7/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Guffy</td>
<td>6/8</td>
<td>Alton Taylor</td>
<td>7/9</td>
<td>Cecil Brown</td>
<td>7/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brett Clingan</td>
<td>6/8</td>
<td>Samuel Johnson</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>William Shorts</td>
<td>7/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Ford</td>
<td>6/9</td>
<td>James Keltz</td>
<td>7/11</td>
<td>Allen Frye</td>
<td>8/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard Lemmo</td>
<td>6/11</td>
<td>Michael Payne</td>
<td>7/11</td>
<td>Larry Shifferly</td>
<td>8/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Trimbath</td>
<td>6/12</td>
<td>Louis Vernon</td>
<td>7/12</td>
<td>Stanley Kolby</td>
<td>8/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Stikeleather</td>
<td>6/13</td>
<td>Cynthia Strong</td>
<td>7/12</td>
<td>Stephen Bell</td>
<td>8/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Lake</td>
<td>6/15</td>
<td>Donald Paige</td>
<td>7/13</td>
<td>Larry Benner</td>
<td>8/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Streets</td>
<td>6/15</td>
<td>Robert Hagara</td>
<td>7/13</td>
<td>Steve Sigourney</td>
<td>8/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Ackerman</td>
<td>6/16</td>
<td>Anthony Zampino</td>
<td>7/13</td>
<td>Douglas Pierce</td>
<td>8/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khadijah Hakeem</td>
<td>6/16</td>
<td>Terry Clark</td>
<td>7/14</td>
<td>Dean Sidick</td>
<td>8/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Miller</td>
<td>6/18</td>
<td>John Myers</td>
<td>7/14</td>
<td>Paul Neville</td>
<td>8/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawoud Muhammad</td>
<td>6/18</td>
<td>William Anderson</td>
<td>7/15</td>
<td>John Robertson</td>
<td>8/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rodney Hissong</td>
<td>6/19</td>
<td>William Lewis</td>
<td>7/16</td>
<td>Ronald Baltes</td>
<td>8/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Utley</td>
<td>6/19</td>
<td>Donald Glynn</td>
<td>7/18</td>
<td>Harold Pittaway</td>
<td>8/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Patterson</td>
<td>6/20</td>
<td>William Nolte</td>
<td>7/18</td>
<td>Sylvester Cooper</td>
<td>8/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenneth Yoakum</td>
<td>6/20</td>
<td>Herman Benson</td>
<td>7/18</td>
<td>Charles Hays</td>
<td>8/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrence Menefee</td>
<td>6/20</td>
<td>Gary Schweikert</td>
<td>7/18</td>
<td>William Beekman</td>
<td>8/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Safford</td>
<td>6/21</td>
<td>James Markham</td>
<td>7/18</td>
<td>Terry Beasley</td>
<td>8/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Sulak</td>
<td>6/22</td>
<td>Todd Mix</td>
<td>7/18</td>
<td>Dale Lomax</td>
<td>8/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Steele</td>
<td>6/22</td>
<td>Larry Kelly</td>
<td>7/19</td>
<td>Lee Holbrook</td>
<td>8/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Miller</td>
<td>6/23</td>
<td>Ralph Wellendorf</td>
<td>7/19</td>
<td>Dannie Shelton</td>
<td>8/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Connelly</td>
<td>6/23</td>
<td>Timothy Calvin</td>
<td>7/20</td>
<td>Brian Fyffe</td>
<td>8/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Corn</td>
<td>6/24</td>
<td>Charles Kershaw</td>
<td>7/21</td>
<td>Robert Hill</td>
<td>8/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Jordan</td>
<td>6/24</td>
<td>Robert Burtin</td>
<td>7/21</td>
<td>Robert Mace</td>
<td>8/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Bortner</td>
<td>6/25</td>
<td>Andrew Shienkaruk</td>
<td>7/21</td>
<td>Kenneth Parker</td>
<td>8/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Hall</td>
<td>6/26</td>
<td>Robert Gobble</td>
<td>7/23</td>
<td>Harry Clay</td>
<td>8/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Damron</td>
<td>6/26</td>
<td>Carol Eaves</td>
<td>7/23</td>
<td>William Patterson</td>
<td>8/27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Byers</td>
<td>6/26</td>
<td>Johnny Maddox</td>
<td>7/24</td>
<td>Ralph Owens</td>
<td>8/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curt Lucas</td>
<td>6/26</td>
<td>Kevin Weilacher</td>
<td>7/24</td>
<td>Philip Nechvatal</td>
<td>8/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John (Jack) Richards</td>
<td>6/30</td>
<td>Robert Hewitt</td>
<td>7/25</td>
<td>Michael Brooks</td>
<td>8/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Crago</td>
<td>6/30</td>
<td>John Arnesen</td>
<td>7/26</td>
<td>Dale Dalrymple</td>
<td>8/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Takacs</td>
<td>7/1</td>
<td>William King</td>
<td>7/26</td>
<td>Raymond Bonner</td>
<td>8/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance Kepler</td>
<td>7/2</td>
<td>Bennie Foggin</td>
<td>7/27</td>
<td>Gayle-Jayne Allepan</td>
<td>8/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Holder</td>
<td>7/3</td>
<td>William Wheeler</td>
<td>7/27</td>
<td>Thomas Shipp</td>
<td>8/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Maley</td>
<td>7/3</td>
<td>Robert Newland</td>
<td>7/28</td>
<td>Evan Graver</td>
<td>8/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Stonebraker</td>
<td>7/5</td>
<td>Robert Gilham</td>
<td>7/29</td>
<td>Fefiloi Noa</td>
<td>8/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaime Neverly</td>
<td>7/6</td>
<td>Timothy Lacour</td>
<td>7/29</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Beat Goes On In Long Term Care

In recreation news, the Buckeye Chapter Board of Directors approved a very exciting funding request to purchase Djembe Drums for the Long-Term Spinal Cord Unit located in Cares Tower at the Louis Stokes VA.

A Djembe drum is a small, goblet shaped, skin covered hand drum. These drums were introduced to the residents by a nurse who works on the floor, Amy Jimenez. Drumming has been noted to have many health benefits ranging from increased mobility and blood flow, to an increased release of endorphins.

Here at the Chapter, we strive to improve the lives of our members both physically and mentally and encourage members and visitors to help in any way that they can.
Connect With What Matters

Being there makes a difference

It could be a simple trip to the mall, a ride to the movies or just a visit to a friend’s home. The little things in life can make a big difference. It’s why MobilityWorks has been helping veterans connect with who and what matters most since 1997. Veterans have unique needs so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together to find the best solution.

MobilityWorks considers it a privilege to help our nation’s veterans. Every day we work with local VISNs and service organizations to make the process of securing accessible vehicles, lifts and driving equipment for veterans as easy as possible.

MobilityWorks has more than 50 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:
- Minivans, full-size vans and trucks
- The latest in adaptive technology
- Complete maintenance and service
- Rental vans — veterans receive a 10% discount

MobilityWorks is committed to serving you. Contact us today so we can evaluate your needs and find a solution that best fits your lifestyle.

MobilityWorks
810 Moe Drive
Akron, OH 44310
330-247-6295

USA’s largest accessible van dealer!

www.mobilityworks.com
The National Board of Directors convened in Denver, Colorado to attend to the business of the National organization May 14 -17, 2019. Several resolutions and the annual budget were discussed. There was also a presentation by Scott Pearl regarding the organizations fundraising operation. Lastly elections were held for the Executive Committee.

The following resolutions were PASSED under the consent agenda:

Resolution 19-M-5 Revised Categories for the John M. Price Most Outstanding Chapter Award

Resolution 19-M-8 PVA Chapter Library Requirements

Resolution 19-M-12 VA's Bowel and Bladder Program

The following resolutions were debated on the floor of the meeting with the noted outcomes:

Resolution 19-M-1 as amended Missing Meetings Penalty. Chapters having an unexcused absence may be fine $1000 or more PASSED.

Resolution 19-M-2 Removal of Bowel and Bladder from PVA Medical Requirements PASSED.

Resolution 19-M-3 Authority to Change Budgeted Program Expenditures allowing the ED to move budgeted funds around with approval of EC PASSED.

Resolution 19-M-4 as amended Spoke CHL attending site visit Amended and PASSED that only one CHL will attend site visit chosen by Chapter.

Resolution 19-M-6 Voting requirements for passing a deficit budget new requirement 3/4 majority vote PASSED.

Resolution 19-M-7 E-Mail Marketing Usage PASSED.

Resolution 19-M-9 Staff Changes to PVA Program Policy Manual PASSED.

Resolution 19-M-10 Major Funding of New Grants within PVA Research Foundation twice amended $0 dollars from PVA Budget will be obligated to the Research Foundation in FY2020 PASSED.

Resolution 19-M-11 restructuring of the Chapter CHL Program PASSED

The following resolutions were debated on the floor of the meeting with the noted outcomes:

Resolution 19-M-0-01 PVA Membership Documentation POA for NSO to be able to help obtain need documents for outside the VA PASSED.

Resolution 19-M-0-02 Women Veterans Health Committee as a Standing Committee PASSED.

The following individuals were elected to the Executive committee:

President  
Dave Zurflu

Sr. Vice President  
Charlie Brown

Vice President  
Hack Albertson

Vice President  
Robert Thomas

Vice President  
Tammy Jones

Vice President  
Ken Ness

Treasurer  
Tom Wheaton

Secretary  
Marcus Murray
Buckeye Banner

Paralyzed Veterans of America Buckeye Chapter
Visitor Mileage Reimbursement Program

Who is eligible to participate in the program?
Must be a BPVA Member in good standing for a minimum of 90 days to participate. The Committee has the option to make exceptions for extenuating circumstances.

What is the acceptable time period before the program becomes available for use?
The BPVA Member must be hospitalized for a minimum of one week.

What is the acceptable distance for mileage reimbursement?
The mileage reimbursement will be given to visitors for travel to a VA hospital in the State of Ohio for the wellbeing of members who are hospitalized. Beginning and ending travel must be in the State of Ohio.

How much is the reimbursement?
Reimbursement will be at a rate of .20 per mile. Mileage will be determined via MapQuest based on the submission of the visitor of the beginning and ending address. Chapter will reimburse up to 2 trips per month with a $2,000 cap per year.

How will reimbursement be paid?
Reimbursements will be via check.

Reimbursement request containing the name of the member, name and address of the visitor, the date of visitation and the origin of the trip must be submitted by the 20th of the following month, with payment at the end of month. Request for reimbursement will only be valid for one calendar month following travel.

For more information contact the Chapter Office at 800-248-2548.

Buckeye PVA Events

Billiards Tournament - June 14-15, 2019
National Veterans Wheelchair Games - July 11-16, 2019
Buckeye PVA Golf Tournament - August 5, 2019
Buckeye Cup - November, 2019

Buckeye PVA Chapter Meetings
Meetings are subject to change. Call the Chapter office to confirm. Monthly meetings are held at the Chapter office. General Membership meetings are held at Cleveland V.A.M.C.; Cincinnati V.A.M.C.; and Dayton V.A.M.C.

June 22, 2019- General Membership Meeting
July 25, 2019
August 15, 2019
September 21, 2019- General membership meeting.
October 17, 2019
November 16, 2019- General Membership and Thanksgiving Meal
December 21, 2019  Holiday meeting and dinner
According to Veterans Health Administration Directive 2010-054, veterans are considered to be Catastrophically Disabled when they have a severely disabling injury, disorder or disease that permanently compromises their ability to carry out the activities of daily living. The disability must leave the veteran so dependent as to require assistance to leave home, or require constant supervision to avoid physical harm to themselves or others.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) place all veterans eligible for medical care into one of eight priority groups. Veterans determined Catastrophically Disabled will automatically be placed in Priority Group 4 unless eligible for a higher priority group based on other eligibility criteria.

On May 5, 2010, the President signed Public Law 111-163, the Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2011. The law states that Catastrophically Disabled veterans will be exempt from paying inpatient, outpatient and prescription copays. Veterans with catastrophic disabilities are also exempt from paying copayments for non-institutional respite care, non-institutional geriatric evaluation, non-institutional adult day health care, Homemaker/Home Health Aide, Purchased Skilled Home Care, Home Based Primary Care, and any other non-institutional alternative extended care services. However, Catastrophically Disabled veterans will still be required to pay copayments for other extended care services such as Nursing Home Care.

A Catastrophically Disabled determination will be authorized upon review from a VA clinician and signed off on by the facility Chief of Staff. An evaluation appointment may be scheduled for Veterans who may not have sufficient medical evidence made available to the VA Medical Center. Veterans may also request a Catastrophically Disabled evaluation by contacting an Enrollment Coordinator at their local VA health care facility. It is VA policy to provide a Catastrophically Disabled Veteran an evaluation within 30 days of the request.

Remind yourself to ask your SCI Outpatient Social Worker during your next annual examination if you have been determined to have a Catastrophic Disability. If you would like additional information about this benefit, please contact your local PVA Service Office at (216) 522-3214 or (216) 791-3800 Ext. 4159.
Columbus Mobility Specialists

Vehicle & Adaptive Driving Equipment

Columbus Mobility can help you through the V.A. grant process, whether you are service connected or non-service connected, with both the automobile grant and vehicle modification grant. If you can’t come to us, we make house calls!

SPECIAL OFFER FOR VETERANS:

UP TO $3,000.00 OFF THE PURCHASE OF A NEW WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VAN OR HONDA PILOT FROM VMI

Handicap Accessible Vans For Rent
MENTION THIS AD FOR 10% OFF

CALL TODAY • 1-614-825-8996
6330 Proprietors Road • Worthington, Ohio 43085
www.columbusmobility.com

ANY VAN PURCHASED WE WILL MAKE A $250.00 DONATION TO THE P.V.A. BUCKEYE CHAPTER!
PVA DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHARES VIEWS ON SOCIAL SECURITY

On May 2nd, Deputy Executive Director Shaun Castle participated in a roundtable convened by House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee Chairman John Larson (D-CT). The purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for students at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government to present a proposal for ensuring the solvency of Social Security. Present at the forum were a number of members of the Ways and Means Committee as well as former Senator Heidi Heitkamp and former National Economic Council Advisor Gary Cohn.

Chairman Larson also gathered a group of advocates so the students could learn what the legislative process is really like. In addition to Mr. Castle, representatives from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and Social Security Works took part in the discussion to offer up "real world" reflections about the impact of Social Security in the lives of everyday Americans. As a member of the millennial generation, Mr. Castle’s remarks focused largely on the importance of the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program to younger Americans with disabilities and the positive difference that SSDI made in his own life.

CONGRESS HOLDS HEARING ON VETERAN SUICIDE

A growing trend of veterans taking their lives on VA property prompted the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee (HVAC) to hold a rare nighttime hearing in late April to examine the continuing crisis. Sadly, the fourth death by suicide on VA property in the month of April occurred hours before the April 29th event which was entitled, “Tragic Trends: Suicide Prevention Among Veterans.” Witnesses included officials from the National Institutes of Health, VA, and the Suicide Prevention Branch of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Every day 20 veterans, servicemembers, reservists, and members of the National Guard die by suicide, totaling more than 7,300 deaths per year. Despite the fact that funding for VA’s veteran suicide prevention programs has increased more than 250 percent since 2005—to $9.4 billion—the rate of veteran suicide remains relatively unchanged. This constant seems to have VA officials stumped and lawmakers visibly frustrated.

During the hearing, Dr. Richard Stone, Executive in Charge of the Veterans Health Administration, and Dr. Keita Franklin, VA’s National Director of Suicide Prevention, outlined a number of recent initiatives to curb suicide. They included:

- Screening every veteran who receives VA services anywhere for suicide risk;
- Training all employees to recognize veterans in crisis and get them the care they need;
Hiring hundreds more suicide prevention coordinators; and
Creating a system to flag veteran health records, if they are found to be a suicide risk.

Asked if more funding could help reduce veteran suicides, Dr. Stone told lawmakers, “This is not a
financial problem. I can hire another 20,000 mental health providers and the people in the VA will get
great care,” he said. “This is a problem with the society we live in,” adding that the social disconnec-
tion of American society is a larger obstacle to reaching veterans at risk than VA staffing or funding.
“Is this about loneliness, isolation, being disconnected? The answer to all of these is yes,” Stone
said.

PVA recently endorsed several pieces of legislation addressing the issue of veteran suicide and
mental health care in general. There will be many more and PVA will be tracking these as well as
other efforts to combat veteran suicide. VA and HVAC have made suicide prevention their top prior-
ity and the Senate is likely to share the same view.

**Appropriations Committee Approves PVA DOL VETS Proposal
Caregiver Program Funding**

On May 8th, the House Appropriations Committee approved a proposal developed by PVA and its
allies in the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Veterans Task Force to establish a Disabled
Veteran Program staffer within the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Ser-
vice (DOL VETS). In the report accompanying the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, the
committee stated that it was including “$300,000 within Federal Administration to establish a Dis-
abled Veteran Program (DVP) to address the high unemployment and low labor force participation
rate of veterans with service-connected and non-service-connected disabilities.” The committee fur-
ther stated that, “The DVP will help increase employment and advancement opportunities for veter-
ans with disabilities by working with federal, state, and private partners to promote the hiring of veter-
ans with disabilities, improve coordination of available employment services and supports, and to
identify and share employment best practices for hiring, retaining, and advancing veterans with dis-
abilities in the workforce.”

The overall funding level for VETS was set at $316 million, an increase of $16 million above the
2019 enacted level and $10 million above the President's budget request. In addition to the DVP pro-
posal, the bill included $60 million for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, an increase of
$10 million above the 2019 enacted level and $29 million for the Transition Assistance Program, an
increase of $6 million above the 2019 enacted level.

The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill also contained other provisions of importance to PVA
members including support for caregiver programs. The full committee included $5.5 million for Life-
span Respite, which is $1.39 million above the FY 2019 level and $200 million for the National Care-
giver Support program, which is $18.8 million above the FY 2019 level. PVA joined with 28 other na-
tional organizations in a letter to the appropriators in support of increased funding for these valuable
programs.

**AUTO ALLIANCE AND AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES**

On May 3rd, the Auto Alliance brought together safety advocates, policymakers, and disability advoc-
cacy organization to discuss how to make autonomous vehicles more accessible to those with dis-
abilities and older drivers. Lee Page, Senior Associate Advocacy Director, participated on behalf of
PVA. The Auto Alliance, the leading advocacy group for the auto industry, represents automakers
who build 70 percent of all cars and light trucks sold in the United States. Its members include auto-
makers BMW Group, Fiat Chrysler US LLC, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Jaguar Land
Rover, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz USA, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota, Volkswagen Group of
America, and Volvo Car USA.

Manufactures continue to move forward in developing driverless autonomous vehicles that can be
used for low cost individual transportation. These vehicles must be made accessible for people with
disabilities including those who use wheelchairs. The debate at the meeting on May 3rd focused on
independent entry and securement for wheelchairs. A wheelchair can be secured in a vehicle by
four point tie downs or other securement device and yet the wheelchair occupant is not secure.

Future workshops will explore the actual technologies that can be used for providing increased vehi-
cle accessibility, as well as looking at the broader impacts of expanded mobility. Research shows
that a majority of Americans support the use of autonomous vehicles to improve the independence
and access for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

**COSPONSORS NEEDED FOR AIR CARRIER ACCESS AMENDMENTS ACT (ACAAA)**

On April 30th, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee hosted an afterhours gather-
ing for aviation insiders to mingle with Representatives and their staff members on a less formal ba-
sis. Heather Ansley, Associate Executive Director of Government Relations, and Lee Page, Senior
Associate Advocacy Director, attended the reception for the second year in a row to get to know leg-
islators and further explain the hardship our members face while flying on commercial airlines.

In response to the difficulties people with disabilities encounter in air travel, the Air Carrier Access
Amendments Act (ACAAA) of 2019 (S.669 / HR.1549) was introduced in early March. National Ad-
vocacy staff continue to call on Representatives and Senators to gain cosponsors for this PVA prior-
ity legislation. PVA chapters and members also need to call on their legislators to inquire about
sponsorship.
The ACAAA would improve access to air travel by: 1) Strengthening ACAA enforcement by requiring referral of certain passenger-filed complaints to the Department of Justice and establishment of a private right of action; 2) Ensuring new airplanes are designed to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities by requiring airlines to meet defined accessibility standards; and 3) Requiring removal of access barriers on existing airplanes to the extent that it is readily achievable – easily accomplishable and may be done without much difficulty or expense.

The current Senate cosponsors are: Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) (Lead Sponsor), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Ed Markey (D-MA), and Bob Casey (D-PA).

The current House cosponsors are: Jim Langevin (D-RI) (Lead Sponsor), Dina Titus (D-NV), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Jose Serrano (D-NY), Grace Meng (D-NY), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Gwen Moore (D-WI), Conor Lamb (D-PA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Jim McGovern (D-MA), Chris Pappas (D-NH), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Tom Malinowski (D-NJ), and Tom Cole (R-OK).

**HVAC Launches Bipartisan Women Veterans Task Force**

The House Veterans’ Affairs Committee (HVAC) has launched a new bipartisan Women Veterans Task Force to promote equitable access to VA resources, benefits, and health care for women veterans. The Task Force will be chaired by Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-CA), who is also the Chairwoman of the HVAC Health Subcommittee.

Women are the fastest growing subpopulation within the military and veterans’ communities presently comprising 16 percent of active-duty military forces, 19 percent of National Guard and Reserves, and about 10 percent of all veterans. Women of the newest service eras are taking on unprecedented roles in combat and other positions that expose them to the violence of war and environmental injuries which is likely to increase their utilization of VA’s specialized services and rehabilitation programs such as those for post-traumatic stress and other post-deployment behavioral health conditions, traumatic brain injury and polytrauma, amputation, spinal cord injury, and blindness. VA has struggled to keep pace with the growth in women veterans’ utilization of health care. The number of women veterans who relied on VA specialized services increased by 175 percent between 2000 and 2015 and last year VA treated more than a half million women (517,241).

After announcing the new Task Force, HVAC’s Subcommittee on Health held a hearing focusing on women veterans’ access to health care. Patricia M. Hayes, Ph.D. Chief Consultant, Women’s Health Services, Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration represented VA at the hearing, speaking after a panel of select veterans organizations.
Dr. Hayes acknowledged that the increasing number of women veterans seeking VA care is placing ever-increasing demands on VA, noting they represent nearly 30 percent of new veterans enrolled in VA in recent years. According to Dr. Hayes, every VHA health care system across the United States has at least one full-time Women Veteran’s Program Manager. She also spoke about a number of programs and services that VA offers and highlighted two where she believes the Committee could help. Specifically, the need for ongoing help with military sexual trauma and in vitro fertilization (IVF) for married veterans whose inability to conceive is due to a service-connected issue.

PVA was invited to submit a statement for the record and we called on Congress to improve VA’s current IVF program, and most important, make it a permanent benefit. We also discussed the lack of mammography services, prosthetics, and peer-to-peer counselors for women veterans as well as the need for larger exam rooms in women health clinics and the provision of installed ceiling lifts to facilitate transfers.

This was the first of what we expect will be many hearings examining the current state of women’s health care in VA. The Task Force and Subcommittee intend to work together to identify women health care needs and craft a comprehensive bill which committee leadership hopes will receive bipartisan support in the House and Senate.

**NEW TEXT FEATURE AVAILABLE THROUGH VA’S WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER**

VA added a text messaging feature to the Women Veterans Call Center last month. Women veterans can now send text message to 855-829-6636 to receive answers and guidance about VA services. The Women Veterans Call Center is staffed by trained, women VA employees, who can link callers to available resources, such as health care, benefits and cemetery information via phone, chat, and now text.

Since April 2013, the call center has received nearly 83,000 inbound calls and has initiated almost 1.3 million outbound calls. As the number of women veterans continues to grow, VA is expanding its outreach to ensure they receive enrollment and benefits information through means that are user-friendly and responsive. For more information about the Women Veterans Call Center, please visit: [https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/programoverview/wvcc.asp](https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/programoverview/wvcc.asp)
Please join us!

Benefit for
Paralyzed Veterans of America,
Buckeye Chapter

2019
Golf Outing

9 am Registration
10 am Shotgun Start
12 noon Lunch at The Turn
3 pm Dinner & Awards

Door prizes!
Prizes for closest to the pin
and longest drive

Monday, Aug 5th, 2019
Windmill Lakes Golf Course
6544 State Route 14
Ravenna, OH

For additional information:
(216) 731-1017

Paralyzed Veterans
of America
BUCKEYE CHAPTER