What’s Inside...

President’s Report.........................................................3
Executive Director’s Message........................................3
Marketing & Communication Manager’s Message........4
Hand Controls Program Information...............................5
2021 VBWG Update..........................................................6
75th Annual National PVA Convention............................7
Cleveland FES Center SCI Article.....................................9
Senior Benefits Advocate Message.................................11
Patricia Harris Caregiver Event......................................12
Sports Report.................................................................12
Member Birthdays..........................................................15
Government Relations Report.......................................16
Washington Update.........................................................18
All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser.............................................21
Billiards Tournament.....................................................24
North Royalton: Purple Heart City..................................24

10th BPVA Annual Golf Outing

The 10th annual Buckeye PVA Golf Outing registration is in full swing! Bring your clubs and your a-game to Mallard Creek Golf Club, located at 34500 Royalton Road, Columbia Station, OH, 44028 on Monday, August 2nd, 2021 at 9:00 am.

The annual golf outing is a great opportunity for members, sponsors, supporters, and friends alike to gather together for a day filled with prizes, great food, and good spirits. With 350 acres of rolling and lush Northeastern Ohio terrain, Mallard Creek Golf Club is sure to satisfy the golfer of any experience level. This course offers a challenging, yet forgiving, layout designed to keep the pace of play and provide an enjoyable round for all!

Registration for the annual golf outing begins NOW and will conclude Friday, July 2nd, 2021. To register for this exciting event, please rsvp to the office by telephone at (216) 731-1017, our website at www.buckeyepva.org, or return your included registration brochure to 26250 Euclid Avenue, Suite #115, Euclid, OH, 44132. This mailing must be postmarked by July 2nd to be registered for the golf outing! Registration fees for individual golfers are $110 or $400 for a foursome.
BPVA Officers
Carl Harris, President carlh@buckeyepva.org
Douglas Beckley, Vice President dogb@buckeyepva.org
Holly Koester, Secretary hollyk@buckeyepva.org
Robert Morris, Treasurer robertm@buckeyepva.org

Board of Directors
Scott Law, Board Member scottl@buckeyepva.org
Paul Mann, Board Member paulm@buckeyepva.org
Lucas Meyer, Board Member lucasm@buckeyepva.org
Joey Myers, Board Member joeym@buckeyepva.org
Milton Young, Board Member miltony@buckeyepva.org

National Director
Douglas Beckley dougb@buckeyepva.org

Government Relations Director
Joey Myers joeym@buckeyepva.org

Membership Director
Carl Harris carlh@buckeyepva.org

Sports Director
Scott Law scottl@buckeyepva.org

Executive Director
Ellen Schwartz ellens@buckeyepva.org

Marketing & Communications Manager
Madalynne Snyder maddis@buckeyepva.org

Senior Benefits Advocates
Aaron Stevens, Cleveland aarons@pva.org
Mike Yaskowiak, Cleveland micaely@pva.org.

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.

Revised 2/21
**President’s Report**

Welcome to Spring everyone! It’s a great day for ducks today but it is sure better than snow!

Joey Meyers (Government Relations Director), Doug Beckley (National Director) Ellen Schwartz (Executive Director), and I participated in PVA’s 2021 Advocacy/Legislation Virtual Training Seminar, the PVA national government relations staff updated attendees on bills and issues on the federal level before doing our virtual visits, on Capitol Hill. We met with our Ohio senators and sixteen representatives and/or their staff to discuss important issues that could affect veterans, as well as others with disabilities.

You will find these issues posted on the chapter’s website, www.buckeyepva.org, under the Advocacy/Legislation tab and titled, 2021 Point Papers. Take the time to read over these issues, they may affect you.

Your chapter has been quite busy with a lot of annual events starting back up now that COVID 19 is less of a problem. There is more information, about the annual “Good Food, Great Cause” All-You-Can-Eat fundraiser, the 8 Ball Tournament being held in Columbus this year and the Annual Golf Outing, throughout this newsletter. Keep checking the chapters website for updates and other events.

As always, your concerns, issues, or ideas of how we can make our chapter better are always welcome. Please contact the chapter office at (216) 731-1017 or email me at carlh@buckeyepva.org.

Sincerely,
Carl Harris
BPVA President
E: carlh@buckeyepva.org

---

**A Note From Ellen Schwartz**

Happy Spring! The warm weather is finally here, and we are so happy about it here in the Chapter office. My daughters love the warmer weather, too, and constantly want to be outside!

Not only is it getting warmer, but it also is getting a little safer out there as everyone is getting vaccinated for COVID-19 in Ohio and surrounding areas. With that in mind, our Chapter is thrilled to announce our plans for our upcoming Billiards Tournament in Columbus set for 7/17 – 7/18, our 10th Annual Golf Outing set for 8/2, AND our All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser set for 10/2. So many exciting things on the horizon. Flip through this newsletter to check out some of our upcoming events. Speaking of events, shout-out to all athletes who competed in the first-ever Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games in May! We truly loved putting on the event and hope all our athletes enjoyed it as much as we did!

You will also get to read about the 75th Annual PVA Convention BPVA Board VP Doug Beckley, BPVA Board Government Relations Director Joey Myers, and I had the opportunity to attend in Las Vegas the week of 5/17. It was a wonderful experience for all involved as we had the chance to network, share ideas, and discuss the future of PVA.

As a side note, as I approach my first anniversary of working at Buckeye PVA, I want to thank our members, donors, board, and staff for making it such an unbelievable year. I am so thankful to be a part of the organization and could not imagine being anywhere else. Thank you all for welcoming me into the Buckeye PVA family!

Finally, remember, if you ever need anything, even if it is just someone to talk to, please do not hesitate to call the office to speak to Maddi or me! We love hearing from you and are always here for you. I am looking forward to (hopefully) seeing you all soon!

Best,
Ellen S. Schwartz
Executive Director
E: ellens@buckeyepva.org
A Note from Madalynne Snyder

Spring has sprung! We are busier than ever here in the office, and along with all of the things we are planning, I recently moved to Lakewood, OH, where I can be a little closer to the office! It makes for a nice drive to work every day, and I have loved immersing myself in all Downtown Cleveland has to offer!

As the 2021 Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games has concluded, we are so excited to get the ball rolling on many of our summer events, including the annual Golf Outing and the Dayton Caregiver Event. Make sure to check out each article in this banner regarding dates, times, and registration information for the upcoming events.

I am personally looking forward to our Golf Outing, as it is sure to be a day to remember, filled with friendly competition and awesome prizes!

As always, I am available to you for any questions, concerns, or if you just want to talk. These last eight months with Buckeye PVA have been so rewarding, and I am grateful that I can slowly start meeting all of you face-to-face. Best to you all!

Sincerely,

Madalynne Snyder
Marketing & Communications Manager
E: maddis@buckeyepva.org

Mileage Reimbursement

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 well-being 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 $0.20 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.

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.

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

What locations are included in the program? Reimbursement will be for Ohio VA hospitals only.

For more information contact the Chapter Office at 216-731-1017 or toll free at 800-248-2548.
BPVA Program for Vehicle Hand Controls

Beginning October 1, 2020, the Buckeye PVA will offer members in good standing of at least 90 days funding for assistance with the cost of hand controls and other adaptive driving controls in their personal automobile.

Chapter funding may be provided through application by any full voting BPVA member after all other funding is exhausted (i.e. VA). Member will be required to provide a written estimate and proof of any and all other funding.

For the Chapter to pay for installation of driving controls, there must be an understanding between the member and BPVA. The BPVA’s role is to only provide charitable funding. BPVA member must agree in writing that BPVA is only a funding source and carries no liability or obligation of any kind except for payment to the vendor for the controls. The vendor must be a NMEDA certified dealer.

At the time of application, and prior to BPVA making payment to the vendor pursuant to invoice, the member must provide the following:
1. Certificate of Insurance
2. Certification of driving evaluation on a case by case basis (done by the V.A.)
3. Current driver’s license front and back
4. Invoice from the vendor

Payment limits after all other sources have been applied is: up to $2,500 for para adaptation; up to $5,000 for quad adaptation. Payment will be made directly to the vendor.

If a member wants the Chapter to pay up to $2,500 to install the controls with self pay handling the rest, that is permissible. However, all funds would have to be paid to the dealer before the Chapter would provide funding.

This grant is available every 5 years.

Give us a call at (216) 731-1017, send us an email at info@buckeyepva.org, or head to our website at buckeyepva.org to get an application.

Greater Cincinnati including Dayton, Donate Today

Greater Cincinnati and 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
This year’s Buckeye Wheelchair Games were a little different than in the past. With the COVID-19 restrictions in place, we here in the office had to get creative with our annual BWG.

Thanks to the help of modern technology, our board members, and wonderful sponsors, we were able to offer a virtual event unlike any other! With nearly 50 participants, the Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games went off without a hitch!

With familiar events such as air rifle and bowling, and new events such as brain games and frisbee throw, the Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games brought a new twist to our beloved event. Every athlete who registered received a box of supplies needed to participate in the games—including a BPVA frisbee, ropeless jump rope, and a BPVA water bottle!

BPVA offered four different time slots for athletes to complete their air rifle event in person. Athletes could shoot in Parma, Columbus, and Cincinnati at local armories alongside other participants and BPVA’s board/staff. The other events (such as bowling) were to be completed in the athletes’ free time. We loved seeing our members participating in the various events!

Check out our social media (as well as our updated YouTube Channel) for all the videos and photo coverage of our 10-day Virtual Event. Take a peek at some event photos on this page!

Thank you again to all our sponsors of this year’s 2021 VBWG!
The National Board of Directors convened in Las Vegas, Nevada to attend to the business of the National organization May 18 - 22, 2021. Several resolutions and the annual budget were discussed. There was also a presentation by Mary Wissemann regarding Strategic Planning. Lastly elections were held for the Executive Committee.

The following resolutions were Passed under the Consent Agenda:

- Resolution 21-M-2 Rules for BOD Meetings via Video Conference
- Resolution 21-M-3 Anita Bloom Women Veterans Healthcare Committee Refined Name and Description
- Resolution 21-M-7 Processing Publicly Traded Securities
- Resolution 21-M-9 Eliminating Disaster Relief Verbiage

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

- Resolution 21-M-1 Future Requirements to Change PVA Logo. Passed as amended
- Resolution 21-M-4 PVA Legislative and Disability Policy. Failed
- Resolution 21-M-5 Guidelines for Chapters Receiving Gifts. Failed
- Resolution 21-M-6(S) PVA Operating Reserve Fund. Passes as amended
- Resolution 21-M-8 Reconstituting PVA Main Investment Reserve. Passed as amended
- Resolution 21-M-10 PVA Research Foundation Account. Passed
- Resolution 21-M-11 Chapter Grant and Chapter Program Expenses. Passed as amended
- Resolution 21-M-12 Chapter Accumulation of Net Assets. Passed as amended
- Resolution 21-M-13(S) Peer Mentoring Program to Replace CHL. Passed as amended
- Resolution 21-M-14 Advocacy/Legislation Policy.
- Resolution 21-M-15 VA’s Attendant Care While an Inpatient. Pulled

The following individuals were elected to the Executive committee:

**President:**
Charlie Brown, Florida Chapter

**Sr. Vice President:**
Robert Thomas, Buckeye Chapter

**Vice President:**
Hack Albertson, Kentucky/Indiana Chapter

**Vice President:**
Tammy Jones, Texas Chapter

**Vice President:**
Michael Negrete, New England Chapter

**Vice President:**
Josue Cordova, Vaughn Chapter

**Treasurer:**
Tom Wheaton, Mountain States Chapter

**Secretary:**
Marcus Murray, Kentucky/Indiana Chapter

![Image: Seen above: Buckeye PVA’s own Robert Thomas, elected as the new National Senior Vice President.](image-url)
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
When Dennis Bourbeau, PhD, contemplated what issues he would like to focus on with his training in neural and electrical engineering, he had one overarching goal – to make a difference in people’s lives. “I was compelled in my career to go into something where I would have a big impact,” says Bourbeau, an investigator at the FES Center. His research focuses on developing approaches using electrical stimulation to restore pelvic autonomic functions – such as bladder, bowel and sexual function – lost to spinal cord injury (SCI) and other neurological disorders. “Reading anecdotes and literature reports on the consequences of bladder, bowel and sexual dysfunction was very motivating and inspiring,” recalls Bourbeau. “I realized that there was not a lot of work in that area, but at the same time it was a top priority for people with SCI. It became a natural call to action for me.”

Moving the Needle of Pelvic Autonomic Functions

While many researchers are making important scientific discoveries in the area of pelvic dysfunction, such as understanding what happens to the bladder after SCI, Bourbeau hopes to make a clinical impact through translational research. Working predominantly with electrical stimulation devices, Bourbeau’s aim is to improve the quality of life, independence and dignity of patients with SCI and other neurological disorders. Bourbeau’s team currently has four active studies related to bladder and bowel function.

Project One – Improving Bladder Incontinence

After SCI, patients have neurogenic detrusor overactivity: The bladder muscle involuntarily contracts, which increases bladder pressure and decreases the amount of urine the bladder can hold. This, in turn, leads to feelings of bladder urgency and urinary incontinence. In this study, the researchers are stimulating the genital nerve branch of the pudendal nerve to inhibit bladder activity and improve urinary incontinence. “If you hit the right nerve with the right electrical pattern, you can modulate an inhibitory reflex to turn the muscle off,” says Bourbeau. Using automated closed loop stimulation with a sophisticated algorithm developed by a collaborator, Bourbeau’s team is examining bladder pressure to answer several key questions: Do they need to use one sensor or two? Can the system determine in real-time if there is a bladder contraction to inhibit before incontinence occurs? If the system works, what would an implanted sensor look like?

Project Two – Improving Bladder Emptying

Patients with SCI may also experience detrusor-sphincter dyssynergia – essentially mixed signals between the bladder and urethral sphincters. This causes pressure to build in the bladder, leading to urine backup in the kidneys. The team is researching whether they can turn off the signal going to the urethral sphincters so patients don’t require catheters, while simultaneously activating the bladder. In a new study, Bourbeau’s group is implanting electrodes at the sacral spinal cord to inhibit bladder activity. “If there is an action potential coming down that neuron and we apply the right electrical pattern in a certain spot, the action potential will be blocked,” says Bourbeau. “We think of it as an electrical version of a chemical block, like dental anesthetic injections. With electrical stimulation, the block is only there as needed, then it goes away.” The team is currently working on approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to test the pattern to inhibit or block nerve activity.

Project Three – Improving Bowel Function

A third study involves testing functional electrical stimulation to increase colonic motility and improve control of bowel function. The movement of stool within the colon is significantly slowed after SCI, which can cause constipation and a host of complications associated with constipation. The aim of Bourbeau’s research in this area is to understand where to apply electrical stimulation to achieve bowel motility, what nerves to target, what electrical patterns work best, and why this approach to improve bowel function is effective or not. The team is currently testing a minimally invasive approach in human subjects, inserting an electrode into the rectum to ascertain whether or not it stimulates the bowels to move. “It’s a safe way to see if the system has potential, and, if so, what would an implanted version look like?” says Bourbeau. “This project is getting us onto the map with bowel function.”
Improving….continued

Study Four—Developing Wireless Systems

Partnering with Dr. Margot Damaser and her team, Bourbeau’s team is developing wireless bladder and pressure sensors to understand what’s happening in the bladder and bowel. “Right now, we are developing them as research tools, but the logical next step once they are working is to then develop them to the point of clinical translation,” says Bourbeau.

Getting Input from the Real Stakeholders

Although Bourbeau breaks down his research projects into different functions – bladder and bowel – he frames his work around the whole person and what would improve overall quality of life. “The hard work at this point is not the scientific discovery; it’s the translation,” says Bourbeau. “What’s actually going to work for a person with SCI? What is feasible and effective?”

Bourbeau partners with a host of researchers and clinicians to answer these questions, including fellow FES investigator Ken Gustafson, PhD; MetroHealth physicians Robert Geertman, MD, PhD, and Carvell Nyugen, MD; and Margot Damaser, PhD from Cleveland Clinic. He also teams with several members of the Veteran’s Administration across the country, including Steven Brose, DO, Graham Creasey, MD, Steve Majerus, PhD, and James Wilson, DO. While clinical and research expertise are critical, input from the patients themselves is equally important to Bourbeau’s endeavors. “One of the things we are trying to improve in our lab – and in the field in general – is bringing in these other stakeholders and being smart about how we conduct translational research,” he says. “We want good relationships between the PhDs and the MDs, but we also want to hear from people with SCI.”

For instance, if a research project shows that stimulation causes increased bladder pressure during contractions, what does that mean to the patient? “If I’m living with SCI, I probably don’t care about that. I care about whether I still need a catheter and if I’m still having incontinence,” says Bourbeau. “What is the lived experience going to be?”

During the summer of 2018, Bourbeau and his peers conducted a survey of people with SCI asking about how they currently manage bladder and bowel functions and what their priorities are for regaining function. They also asked about attitudes toward nerve stimulation devices. “We want to make sure that if we’re developing a host of devices, pharmalogics and biologics for improving function that they will be acceptable,” says Bourbeau. “I can tell you if they are effective, but people with SCI need to tell me if they are willing to use them.”

In the end, he says, it’s all about the patient’s lifestyle and values. That’s what propelled Bourbeau into the field years ago and what continues to motivate his research today.

“I can tell you if they are effective, but people with SCI need to tell me if they are willing to use them.” - Bourbeau
The Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) has recently unveiled the new name of their employment program. Veterans Career Program, which is formerly referred to as Paving Access for Veterans Employment or PAVE, will continue offering one-on-one support to members of the veteran community. The Veterans Career Program focuses on those with catastrophic injuries or other barriers, to help them find meaningful employment, education, and volunteer opportunities.

“There is no better time than today to celebrate our rich history and formally announce the new name of our employment program,” said David Zurfluh, PVA national president. “Year after year, PVA strives to better serve our nation’s veterans, their families and caregivers by helping them live more independently and easing the challenges of everyday life. Together, with our partners and supporters, we are making a difference and improving lives through invaluable programs, like our Veterans Career Program. While the name may be different, rest assured, the quality, services, and assistance it provides remain untouched. As we enter our 75th year, we look forward to continuing to be a partner for life through our Veterans Career Program.”

PVA initiated the PAVE Program in 2007 to ensure PVA members, veterans with catastrophic disabilities, their spouses, and caregivers have access to employment and educational and volunteer opportunities.

The program consists of a team of vocational rehabilitation counselors and employment analysts that will help you:

1. Set goals to achieve your career objective
2. Learn how to craft an effective resume
3. Develop effective interview and communication skills
4. Identify networking opportunities
5. Receive one-on-one support from an expert vocational rehabilitation counselor

Since the program began, it has guided nearly 5,000 members of the veteran community to meaningful careers. One of the goals of this newly named program is to remain a partner for life. The counselors will be there for you to assist in reaching your next career goal.

The program extended its reach with the launch of PVA Veterans Career Live, (formerly known as PAVE Connect), an online engagement initiative for veterans with disabilities that prevent them from fully participating in traditional hiring events. Through a series of informal virtual sessions, program participants learn directly from career experts, and network with employers and industry experts.

If you would like additional information about the Veterans Career Program, please visit PVA.org/VeteransCareerProgram or contact your local National Service Officer.

Sincerely,

Aaron Stevens
Senior Benefits Advocate
E: Aarons@pva.org
Patricia Harris Caregiver Event

The Dayton-Area Caregiver Event is approaching! We are so excited to meet all of the wonderful Caregivers who care for our members every single day.

This year's Caregiver Event will be unlike any other! The day will begin with painting and wine tasting at Raise Your Brush Paint Studio located at 169 N. Main Street, Centerville, OH. Raise Your Brush is a great place for you to relax and unleash your creative side, all while taking part in a no-pressure class while sipping wine with your friends!

After you paint, you will then head to Meadowlark Restaurant, located at 5531 Far Hills Avenue, Dayton, OH. Where we will enjoy a luncheon and some time to get to know fellow caregivers. Menu items include sandwiches, soups, salads, and more!

We are so excited to host this year’s Caregiver event in Dayton, and hope you or your caregiver are registered and will be attending!

See you there!

Sports & Recreation Report

Greetings, members! As you know, things are slowly getting back to normal, thank goodness! Summer is here, and we are getting ready for our regular Sports and Recreation Programs. We had a remarkably successful Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games. The Chapter hopes you all had both a good experience and a fun time. Congratulations to all the competitors, and a special thanks go out to all the volunteers and venues that helped make it a great event! We have a few upcoming events in the coming months:

- The Annual Billiards Tournament to be held July 17th-18th at 8-Ball Sports Bar in Columbus, Ohio.
  ⇒ Registration packets will be sent out soon.
- The 10th Annual Golf Outing to be held on Monday, August 2nd at Mallard Creek Golf Club in Columbia Station, Ohio (start time 9:00 am).
  ⇒ Brochures will be available soon.
- Plans for our Annual All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser in October are moving forward with more information to follow.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Game in New York City is just around the corner. I am sure you all are aware of the many changes for this year’s games, including scheduling different competitions and travel dates. If you need more information, please feel free to contact me at scottl@buckeyepva.org. Please keep in mind there will be many new requirements due to New York City’s COVID-19 restrictions. I suggest you contact your local Coaches to get all of that information.

The VA and PVA are still offering a calendar full of Zoom activities such as cooking, gaming, fitness, air rifle, book club, and online yoga. Please visit their respective websites for registration and more information.

We wish you all luck in your competitions and stay safe! Hope to see you soon at many of the upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Scott Law
Sports Director
E: scottl@buckeyepva.org
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 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. Veteran 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 90 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:

- Converted minivans and full-size vans, and SUVs — Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, Honda and Toyota
- Pre-owned accessible vehicles
- The latest in adaptive technology including transfer and turning seats, scooter lifts and hand controls
- Complete maintenance and service on adaptive driving equipment, lifts and conversions
- Daily, weekly and long term rental vans
- Financing options to fit your personal needs
- 24-hour roadside assistance with wheelchair transportation

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

Akron
810 Moe Dr.
Akron, OH 44310
330-247-6295

Dayton
214 Valley St.
Dayton, OH 45404
937-998-1716
www.mobilityworks.com

Bedford Heights
5040 Richmond Rd.
Bedford Heights, OH 44146
440-365-8995

Sharonville
11755 Mosteller Rd.
Sharonville, OH 45241
513-686-1151

Columbus / Plain City
7233 Industrial Pkwy
Plain City, OH 43064
614-289-8138

Toledo
1020 Laskey Rd.
Toledo, OH 43612
419-476-4166
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Vehicle Donation Program

Turn Your Used Vehicle
Into Support for Paralyzed Veterans of America

We’ll use the proceeds from the sale of your car, truck, RV or boat to change lives and build brighter futures for our seriously injured heroes.

Donating your car is easy,
and your gift is tax-deductible

Vehicle donations to PVA are tax-deductible! Most vehicles are sold through local used car markets. Our vehicle donation program works to get the highest return per vehicle and handles all the paperwork too! Whether your vehicle sells for $500 or less, more than $500, or more than $5000, you will be provided with the proper donation tax receipt(s).

Call 877-900-VETS or donate online at pva.careasy.org
Member Birthdays

**June**

Richard Ackerman
Jerry Bortner
Larry Bostic
Kimberly Byers
Brett Clingan
Christopher Connelly
Jerry Corn
Don Crago
Robert Damron
Edward Dragon
James Ford
Carl Griggs
Glenn Grismere
Joseph Guffy
Khadijah Hakeem
Eric Hall
Rodney Hissong
Franklin Jordan
Steven Lake
Leonard Lemmo
Robert Love
Curt Lucas
Terrence Menefee
David Miller
John Miller
Thomas Patterson
John (Jack) Richards
Houston Safford
Jennifer Steele
Michael Stikeleather
John Streets
Philip Sulak
David Swenson
John Trimbath
Clyde Triplett
Richard Utley
Kenneth Yoakum

**July**

William Anderson
John Arnesen
Herman Benson
Kenneth Berts
Robert Burtin
Timothy Calvin
Terry Clark
William Cornwell
Robert Davis
Blaine Denious
Carol Eaves
Bennie Foggin
Robert Gobble
Lawrence Grieshop
Robert Hagara
Jaime Heverly
Robert Hewitt
Steven Holder
Samuel Johnson
Larry Kelly
James Keltz
Charles Kershaw
William King
John Kiss
Timothy Lacour
Johnny Maddox
Joshua Maley
James Markham
Jerry Martin
Michael McQuillen
Todd Mix
John Myers
Robert Newland
William Nolte
Donald Paige
Michael Payne
Gary Schweikert
Andrew Shienkaruk
William Shorts
Howard Snyder
Roger Stonebraker
Cynthia Strong
Rick Takacs
Alton Taylor
Robert Thomas
Charles Thompson
Louis Vernon
Robert Weber
Kevin Weilacher
Ralph Wellendorf
William Wheeler
Anthony Zampino

**August**

Gayle-Jayne Allyson
Ronald Baltes
Terry Beasley
William Beekman
Stephen Bell
Larry Benner
Michael Brooks
Harry Clay
Sylvester Cooper
Dale Dalrymple
Allen Frye
Brian Fyffe
Terrence Graves
Robert Hill
Timothy Houston
Stanley Kolby
Dale Lomax
Robert Mace
Philip Nechvatal
Paul Neville
Fefiloi Noa
Ralph Owens
Kenneth Parker
William Patterson
Harold Pittaway
John Robertson
Dannie Shelton
Larry Shifferly
Thomas Shipp
Dean Sidick
Steve Sigourney
Michael Snyder
Government Relations Report

Becoming an Advocate

What is an Advocate and are you one? By definition an advocate is “a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.” Everyone within Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) should strive to become an Advocate for yourself and for other members and veterans. By now you are probably asking yourself what is this all about. The reason I picked advocacy as my first topic to focus on is because there is disparity in the level of care women veterans receive compared to their counterparts.

“Currently, about nine-in-ten veterans (89%) are men, while about one-in-ten (11%) are women, according to the VA’s 2021 population model estimates.” The above percentage breakdown mirrors that of our current national PVA membership as a whole. “By 2046, the share of women veterans is expected to increase to about 18%.” We can infer by the above statistics that female PVA membership will most likely see an increase. As a small percentage in a largely male populated organization women are often treated the same as their male counterparts. We must realize that our woman veteran population deserve specialized care based on their unique needs.

PVA has taken a stance and decided to make a difference. The “Anita Bloom Women Veterans Health Committee, named for a paralyzed woman veteran, and has been advocating on Capitol Hill to highlight the unique health care needs of women veterans with spinal cord injuries and diseases.” At the 2021 convention I had the privilege of meeting two amazing women who sit on this committee. National Vice President Tammy Jones and Texas National Director Anne Robinson are beacons of hope for the treatment of all women veterans. They let me know that our very own Holly Koester also sits on the committee with them.

Women veterans do not just face challenges with healthcare but also employment. “Paralyzed Veterans of America’s employment program, the Veteran’s Career Program, also specializes in helping minority women veterans and other constituencies who have historically faced higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.” We must become advocates for our fellow veterans. I can’t stress that enough.

The below legislation is supported by PVA and if passed will have an impact on the lives of both active duty personnel and the veteran community. This legislation will help to move the ball in the right direction and provide an immediate impact on the lives of our women veterans.

Please review the below issues and “join us on VoterVoice and support the fight for accessibility for all.” https://www.votervoice.net/PVA/home

“H.Res.50

Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the naming of new or undedicated facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs after women veterans and minority veterans in order to reflect the diversity of all who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.”
Gov’t Relations Cont...

“H.R. 239 Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act

Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act. This bill prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs from requiring payment from a veteran for any contraceptive item that is required to be covered by health insurance plans without a cost-sharing requirement.”

“H.R. 1957 Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2021

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide coverage for infertility treatment and standard fertility preservation services, and for other purposes.”

“US H.R. 2734/S. 1280 Veterans Families Health Services Act

A bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.”

Please consider becoming an advocate. If you need assistance please reach out to myself, Ellen, Maddi or any board member. Together we can change the world. Join me in saying,

I AM AN ADVOCATE.

Sincerely,

Joey Myers

Government Relations Director

E: joeym@buckeyepva.org

Citations:


From left to right: Texas National Director, Anne Robinson; Buckeye PVA Government Relations Director, Joey Myers; National Vice President, Tammy Jones.
The rollout of the expansion of VA’s Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) began on October 1, 2020. As of April 2021, VA reports having received over 70,000 applications. VA has acted on over 40,000 of those applications and 30,000 were pending further action. Of those reviewed, VA has approved 5,000 applicants and denied 38,000.

VA has provided several reasons for the denials. Some of the reasons given for denials at the time of intake are listed below:

- 7,500 applications or 19 percent were denied because they did not have a singular or combined VA disability rating of 70 percent or greater.
- 5,800 applications or 15 percent were denied because their serious injury was not within the current eligibility dates (on or before May 7, 1975, and on or after September 11, 2001).
- 400 applications or one percent were denied because the individual does not receive care at home or will not do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.

VA provided some of the following reasons for denying applications based on assessment of the veteran by VA’s Centralized Eligibility and Appeals Team (CEAT):

- 12,100 applications or 31 percent were denied because the veteran did not require personal services for six months due to activities of daily living or supervision, protection or instruction needs.
- 2,900 applications or seven percent were denied because participation in the PCAFC was deemed not in the veteran’s best interest.
- 1,800 applications or four percent were denied because the veteran did not require personal care services that would be provided by the Family Caregiver or such services would be simultaneously and regularly provided by or through others.
- 60 applications or one percent were denied because the caregiver was assessed to be not capable nor willing to provide the personal care services.

If you have specific questions about your application, please contact your National Service Officer for assistance.
Caregiver Expansion Cont.

**ADDITIONAL AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED**

On May 19, Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX) and HVAC Chairman Mark Takano (D-CA) introduced the Care Access Resources (CARS) for Vets Act (H.R. 3304). This legislation would allow eligible service-connected veterans to receive an additional automobile grant if ten years have lapsed since their last grant. This legislation would also codify the provision of certain vehicle modification for veterans with non-service-connected qualifying conditions. More information about the CARS legislation is available at [https://fletcher.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=3159](https://fletcher.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=3159). PVA supports both the CARS for Vets Act and the previously introduced AUTO for Veterans Act (H.R. 1361/S. 444)

**SVAC HEARING REVIEWS GROWING BACKLOG OF VA CLAIMS AND EXAMS**

The pandemic’s impact on the VA claims process has been unfortunate and significant. Prior to COVID-19, there were roughly 140,000 pending VA exam requests with an average of 21 days to completion and about 70,000 claims pending over 125 days. As of May 8, there were over 350,000 pending compensation and pension (C&P) exam requests with an average 90 days to completion and 191,647 of 526,616 pending claims over 125 days.

**SENATOR DUCKWORTH INTRODUCES BILL TO MAKE LEGACY TRANSIT ACCESSIBLE**

On May 18, Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) introduced the All Stations Accessibility Program Act of 2021 or the ASAP Act (S.1680) with cosponsors Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Bob Casey (D-PA). This measure would provide competitive grants to assist state and local governmental authorities in addressing the disability access needs of legacy rail fixed guideway public transportation systems. PVA supports this legislation because it would improve access to public transportation options for people with disabilities, including those who use assistive devices for mobility.
Getting Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again with Indego®

New VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® Exoskeleton at no cost.

What is Indego?

A robotic device that enables veterans to walk again.

Indego is an FDA-approved exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.

Indego can currently be used with spinal cord injury levels of T3 to L5 in community or home settings.

Free Indego Webinars

During the first Thursday of every month you can join a free live webinar to learn more about the Indego and hear from a veteran who owns a device already.

Contact us today to reserve your spot or find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton at no cost.

Email: support.indego@parker.com
Phone: 844-846-3346

Watch Marine Veteran Steve Holbert’s story at www.indego.com/veterans
All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser

Do you enjoy an evening with delicious food and entertainment while supporting Ohio Paralyzed Veterans? Well, come on out to Tony K’s Bar and Grille on Saturday, October 2, 2021, for the 2021 All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser Event!

Tony K’s Bar and Grille is home to tender, juicy steaks, burgers, pizza, wings, and more! Along with an assortment of All-You-Can-Eat meal choices, enjoy some live entertainment as well as participate in our silent auction to win some awesome prizes or even a flat-screen tv!

Tickets for the All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser will be available for purchase later this summer. Keep an eye out for more information to come!

Do not miss out on your chance to enjoy some food, friends, and entertainment, all while supporting Ohio’s paralyzed vets.

VA Emergency Care

In most instances, Veterans are eligible to receive VA authorized emergency care at an in-work facility if the VA is notified of the emergency event within 72 hrs. Veterans do not need to check with the VA before going to an emergency department in the community or calling an ambulance and, during an emergency, veterans are encouraged to seek medical attention without delay.

To simplify and streamline this emergency care notification process, VA established a national emergency care contact center. This center allows community providers to report instances of a Veteran presenting to a community emergency department and offers simplified access to VA for care coordination, eligibility determination, and payment authorization information.

The person notifying the VA should be prepared to supply case-specific information, as seen below.

For more information please visit: https://www.va.gov/communitycare/providers/info_EmergencyCare.asp

For information about care coordination, documentation submission, eligibility, claims and payments visit: https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non-VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_Fill.pdf

Please cut around the dotted line to keep this important information with you at all times.
News from the VA

VA schedules stakeholder listening sessions to guide future of VA health care

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs continues this June to seek feedback from Veterans and communities to help shape the future of VA health care policy.

VA has been hosting public virtual listening sessions across the country since March to hear from Veterans on their thoughts about how to improve the care they receive from VA.

The goal is to design a health care system of the future and grow services available to Veterans, reinforcing VA’s role as a leader in the U.S. health care system.

“Hearing the voices of Veterans throughout this process is integral to designing a health care system that will best serve them now and, in the future,” said Acting VA Under Secretary for Health Richard Stone, M.D. “We appreciate the Veterans and stakeholders who have taken the time to attend a listening session to provide feedback and we encourage others to attend future sessions to share their perspective.”

The schedule for upcoming listening sessions is as follows:

Evening session in varying time zones
· 7 p.m. ET, June 14.
· 8 p.m. PT and 5 p.m. HT, June 14.
· 6:30 p.m. CT, June 15.
· 5 p.m. MT, June 17.

Feedback from the listening sessions will be used to develop the recommendations that VA will submit to the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission in January 2022. The AIR Commission is responsible for developing recommendations for the president and Congress on how to modernize VA care and realign VA facilities across the country. The commission will also conduct public hearings as part of their review of VA’s recommendations before submitting its recommendations for review and approval in 2023.

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 or (216) 731-1017.
NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES
40th Anniversary

NYC.

AUG 8-13 2021

WheelchairGames.org
North Royalton: Purple Heart City

The Purple Heart is one of the most recognized (and respected) medals awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces. Thanks to the work of Buckeye PVA board member Joey Myers of North Royalton, Ohio, held an event to honor the Military Order of the Purple Heart and became a part of the Purple Heart Trail.

Held on May 29, 2021, at Memorial Park in North Royalton, residents gathered to honor those injured or killed while serving under any of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Purple Heart Trail was established in 1992 by the Military Order of the Purple Heart as a “symbolic trail that commemorates and honors all men and women who have been wounded or killed in combat while serving the U.S. armed forces.” The Purple Heart Trail originates in Mount Vernon, VA, and traverses across the United States and overseas as far as Puerto Rico and Guam.

Joey Myers serves on our Board of Directors as the Government Relations Director. He is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and joined because he felt that it was unifying. “When you get out of the military, you lose some of that camaraderie. With these different Veteran Organizations, you can regain that camaraderie.

Buckeye PVA is very proud of the work that Joey has done with the MOPH. Great Job, Joey!

Columbus Billiards Tournament

The Annual Wheelchair Billiards Tournament is back and better than ever! **July 17th & 18th**, the tournament will be held at 8 Ball Sports Bar & Billiards, located at 2100 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio.

Players’ meeting will take place on **July 17th at 10:00 am**, followed promptly by the 2–day tournament and will be an 8-Ball, Double Elimination.

This tournament is a non-sanctioned event and is free to Buckeye PVA Members. All other participants will be required a $25.00 entry fee. BPVA members are eligible for transportation and housing reimbursement if traveling outside of a 50-mile range from the tournament location.

If you need accommodations, please contact our office staff, as they will be happy to supply these reservations for you. DO NOT place your hotel reservations yourself.

To register, please call the office at (216) 731-1017, email madis@buckeyepva.org OR register online at the link below by June 25th.

https://mhmiqhry3p.typeform.com/to/AJj6k76z
More Billiards Tournament Information

Please note: This is a non-sanctioned event, free to Buckeye PVA members. All other participants will be required a $25.00 entry fee.

Members who live outside of a 50-mile radius are eligible for a hotel to stay overnight for their travels. Please contact the office if you are in need of a hotel and our staff will assist you: maddis@buckeyepva.org or (216) 731-1017.

Wheelchair
BILLIARDS
Tournament
CASH PRIZES!
FOOD & DRINK
VOUCHERS!
JULY 17TH & 18TH, 2021

ANNUAL BUCKEYE PVA WHEELCHAIR 8-BALL CLASSIC

IT IS EACH PLAYER’S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONFIRM HIS/HER ENTRY

NAME: ___________________________ PHONE: [ ] ___________________________ EMAIL: ___________________________

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP: ___________________________ BIRTHDATE: ______/____/____

INJURY/DISEASE TYPE: ___________________________ PVA MEMBER (CIRCLE ONE): YES NO

MILITARY BRANCH: ___________________________ ACTIVE DUTY (CIRCLE ONE): YES NO Mailing List (CIRCLE ONE): YES NO

SIGNATURE: ___________________________ DATE: ___________________________

SHIRT SIZE (CIRCLE ONE): S M L XL 2XL 3XL
STROKE REHABILITATION STUDY

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center

If you had a stroke more than 6 months ago, you may be a candidate for a research study assessing the effects of innovative training techniques to *improve walking ability*.

Study participants receive treatments that include Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation therapy and Virtual Reality Gait Training therapy. Study participants include veterans, non-veterans, men and women.

For further information please contact:

**Brain Rehab Research Programs**

216-791-3800 ext. 63830
More Annual Golf Outing Information

Head to our website [www.buckeyepva.org](http://www.buckeyepva.org) to learn more about sponsorship opportunities for our Annual Golf Outing on 8/2!

### Registration

**Individual Registration**

Name: ____________________________
Company: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
State: ______ Zip Code: ____________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

**Foursome Registration**

Team Captain: ____________________________
Company: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________
State: ______ Zip Code: ____________
Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________

Sponsorship Level (if applicable): ______________________________________

☐ Please charge $ ________ to this card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Credit Card #: ____________________________
Expiration Date: ____________________________
Three-digit Security Code: ____________________________

☐ Check Enclosed
☐ I would like to donate a door prize
☐ I cannot participate in the golf outing, but I would like to donate

**Registration form and payment should be received by July 2nd.**

Make payments to Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
26250 Euclid Avenue
Suite #115
Euclid, OH 44132

---

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter presents

10th Annual Golf Outing

Monday, August 2, 2021
9:00 AM
Mallard Creek Golf Club
34500 Royalton Road
Columbia Station, OH. 44028
Help Us Serve America’s Veterans

Health Care, Benefits, Advocacy, Sports, Recreation, Education are just a few of the programs your tax-deductible contributions help support.

For more information, call (800) 248-2548 or visit www.buckeyepva.org