Buckeye PVA at The Cleveland Cavaliers

The Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter has teamed up with the Cleveland Cavaliers to bring the first ever Buckeye PVA Night at the Cleveland Cavaliers on March 18th, 2022 vs the Denver Nuggets.

Attendees of the 2021 All-You-Can-Eat (AYCE) Fundraiser and Raffle are entitled to 1 Cavs ticket per every AYCE ticket purchased. All Buckeye PVA members and their immediate family or caregivers are entitled to complimentary tickets! If you are interested in attending this event, please call the office at (216) 731-1017 or email maddis@buckeyePVA.org with the number of tickets you will need, as well as your mobile phone number, as the tickets will be all virtual and will need to be accessed on a mobile device. This is a first-come-first-serve event.

See YOU at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse!
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BUCKEYE CHAPTER
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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.

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.

We’re on Social Media!
BPVA is trying to increase our followers on Social Media.
Please follow us and spread the word!
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
@PVABuckeye
Paralyzed Veterans of America—Buckeye Chapter
@BuckeyePVA
President’s Report

Greetings, and Happy Winter!

I hope everyone is staying warm. We have been busy in the office. On February 17th, the chapter celebrated its 50th Anniversary, and on February 26th, we hosted a 50th Anniversary Gala in honor of this momentous occasion.

It’s hard to believe that it has been 50 years since our chapter was started. We were the 17th chapter established out of the 33 chapters we have today in PVA. I can remember the first chapter office that was a mop closet at the VA was that a fun place. Now just last December, we closed the deal on our own building. As lovely as it is to have our own building, a building does not make a chapter; members make a chapter—and we have some of the best.

The Board and Staff also announced a new program at the gala – which you can read about on page 11. We encourage any eligible member to consider applying.

Thank you to everyone who attended the gala and for everyone who has helped our organization get to where we are today. I knew some of the founders of our chapter, and I think the founders of the chapter would be very proud and happy to see what has been accomplished.

Stay safe and warm, and as usual, do not hesitate to reach out to the office if you need anything.

Sincerely,

Carl Harris
BPVA President
E: carlh@buckeyepva.org

A Note From Ellen Schwartz

Hello, everyone!

Wow! The office has been BUSY since we last sent out a Banner. From finalizing the purchase of our new building, executing our 50th Anniversary Gala, to putting together the Buckeye Wheelchair Games, it has been nonstop—just the way we like it. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate 50 years with us on February 26th at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. There are no words to express just how special the event was! Shout-out to Colonial PVA for all of their help, and to the Board/Staff for making the event a reality. We have lots of pictures for you to take a look at in this edition of the Banner.

Also, the Board and Staff are excited to officially announce the Accessible Home Modification Grant—which is now live for our members to apply for. Check-out page 11 for more information! On a personal note, I wanted to share with everyone that my husband and I are expecting our third baby! I am due in early August. We are excited to welcome a baby boy into the family—he has two big sisters that are very anxious about his arrival.

Finally, please remember that you can always reach out to the office to speak to someone, ask a question, etc. We are here for you! Our physical office may be moving, but our phone numbers will stay the same. Please be sure we have your most up-to-date email address so we can keep you updated on all the happenings in the Chapter. Thank you for being a part of Buckeye PVA!

Best,

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

This past weekend was our 50th Anniversary Gala, held at the Hilton Downtown Cleveland, where nearly 200 attendees came to celebrate the accomplishments of Buckeye PVA over the last 50 years. I can honestly say I am proud and so honored to be a part of some of these accomplishments. Being a part of this organization has brought me a new outlook on the importance of accessibility as well as many, many members that I am thankful and lucky enough to call my dear friends.

A HUGE thank you to our dear friends at the Colonial Chapter of PVA for all their support and help during this event. We could not have done it without them!

Seeing you all dressed to the nines this passed weekend was quite the memorable night, and I want to thank each and every one of you for making this evening a very special one.

Now that the Gala has officially wrapped, we can get back to normal Buckeye PVA business! With the Cleveland Cavaliers + Buckeye PVA night coming up on March 18th, the 2022 Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games in May, and the Annual Billiards Tournament planning underway, there are many things to look forward to during Buckeye PVA’s 50th year. I am looking forward to seeing you all again very soon!

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 .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

Since October 1, 2020, the Buckeye PVA has offered 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.
50th Anniversary Gala: February 26th, 2022

The 50th Anniversary Gala of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter was a night to remember! With nearly 200 in attendance, Buckeye PVA celebrated its accomplishments alongside donors, members, supporters, family, and friends alike. An evening filled with great food and even better company, this was an evening we will not soon forget. Thank you to all who attended and thank you to all who have been along for the ride with us these last 50 years! Check out a sneak peak of the photos we received from ClearChoice PhotoBooths!
Deli Days: Coming to a Location Near You!

The 2nd Deli Days event has come and gone and boy, was it a good one! Board member, Paul Mann, met with members at Old Canal Smokehouse in Chillicothe, Ohio for some savory BBQ and scrumptious desserts!

If you missed this one, don’t worry! Deli Days will be a series of dates through 2022-2023, where members and staff can meet to enjoy some delicious food and good conversation all over the Buckeye State. The schedule for the next Deli Days outings are as follows:

1. Parma – March 2022
2. Dayton – May 2022
3. Youngstown – July 2022
4. Cincinnati – September 2022
5. Toledo/Sandusky – November 2022
7. Mansfield – March 2023
8. Columbus – May 2023
9. Cleveland – July 2023

The next Deli Days event will be held in Parma, Ohio this March 2022!

If you would like to attend the upcoming Deli Days outings, keep an eye out in your email or mailbox for more information on when we might be in your area! If you have questions about these events, please call the office at (216) 731-1017.

We hope to see you next time!
National Director’s Report

From the National Director:
The National Board of Directors held the Third BOD Meeting virtually in January 2022. The topics of discussion were few and no resolutions were brought forward.

At the 2021 Convention, the BOD authorized the hiring of an outside consultant group to help develop a Strategic Plan for PVA moving forward. This has involved interviews with Staff and all members of the BOD, as well as independent research looking at other VSO’s. We heard a preliminary report on the findings to date. While nothing has been decided the findings interesting to say the least.

We heard a report on the DRTV Fundraising efforts. While the program is still getting going and shows promise to date it has not quite met expectations. The BOD will be keeping a close eye on this program.

The sale of the National Headquarters Building at 801 18th St, Washington, DC has been completed. The hope is that by early 2023 the office will move into the new office space just a half block up the street. This was done as the National Office was not utilizing half of the square footage that our old building had and there were many improvements that needed to be made. The new space will be leased and the owner is in the process of building out the space to meet the needs of the National Office.

We are looking forward to Convention May 17-21, 2022 in Atlanta, GA.

Sincerely,

Douglas Beckley
BPVA Vice President & National Director
E: dougb@buckeyepva.org

Advocacy & Legislation Seminar

On March 9th–11th, 2022, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter will meet with all 18 Ohio State Representatives to discuss the legislative priorities of the 2022 PVA Advocacy and Legislation Seminar. Usually hosted on Capitol Hill, this week-long, virtual seminar will include 3 days of visits with Representatives to discuss important issues in the lives of Paralyzed Veterans, including better access to air travel, improved grants for home accessibility modifications, and even updates to grants for accessible vehicle modification.

During this time, Executive Director, Ellen Schwartz, Chapter President, Carl Harris, Chapter Vice President, Doug Beckley, and Board Member, Milton Young, will meet with these representatives in hopes of gaining their support of these very important issues. If you would like to learn more about the 2022 PVA legislative Priorities, you can visit the PVA Government Relations website at:

https://pva.org/research-resources/legislative-priorities/.

Want to know how YOU can help? Join PVAction Force! PVAction Force is a national grassroots advocacy network, led by PVA, that actively takes action on vital issues affecting Veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders, and diseases, like MS and ALS, as well as people with disabilities. Free and open to all Americans, the group takes part in petitions, receives important legislative alerts, and more! You can join PVAction Force at https://www.votervoice.net/PVA/home.
The VA has several programs providing financial, medical, and other assistance to veterans such as disability compensation, veteran’s pension programs, free or low-cost medical care through VA hospitals and medical facilities, education programs, housing and home loan guarantees, job training, small businesses and business loans, and burials and memorials. However, the one which I find most often under used and misunderstood is Individual Total Disability Unemployability benefits (TDIU). It can be a challenge to explain in plain language exactly how TDIU works and when and how a veteran may be found eligible because of the different components of the benefit and how it takes employment into account.

TDIU benefits are for veterans that cannot keep or obtain gainful employment because of mental and physical impairments that are deemed service connected by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) (marginal employment, such as odd jobs, is not considered substantial gainful employment for VA purposes). You must also meet the following minimum requirements under 38 CFR § 4.16:

- You must be a veteran
- You must have service-connected disabilities
- You must not have been dishonorably discharged
- You must have at least one service-connected disability rated at least at 60%, OR two or more service-connected disabilities at least one disability ratable at 40% or more with a combined rating of 70% or more.

When a veteran satisfies these two conditions, then he/she will be entitled to a 100% disability rating, even though he does not satisfy that 100% disability rating under the schedule.

If you feel you meet the above criteria and requirements, and wish to pursue a claim for TDIU, I will first suggest speaking with your appointed Veteran Service Officer for a thorough review of your individual case and situation. If your representative finds you do meet the above qualifications, he/she will then submit an initial application (VAF 21-526EZ) to the Veterans Administration along with VAF 21-8940 (Veterans Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployability). Depending on the whether you already have qualifying disabilities or if the record already supports you are unemployable primarily because of your service-connected disabilities, VA may schedule you for a VA examination with a provider to determine if you are unemployed primarily because of your service-connected disabilities. If you recently left a job, VA would request information about your employment and the reasons you left your employment by sending your last employer VAF 21-4192 (Request for Employment Information in Connection with Claim for Disability Benefits). A final decision will be dependent on your service-connected disabilities and whether they meet the minimum criteria for entitlement to TDIU, the results of the VA exam (are you unemployed primarily because of your service-connected disabilities, and or the information returned to VA by your last employer, if there is/was one. As you can see, TDIU can be a complicated benefit to pursue, but beneficial and a life changing benefit to a person who is unemployable primarily because of their service-connected disabilities.

It is also important to remember that even if a person fails to meet the minimum criteria described above yet finds him/herself unemployable because of a service-connected benefit rated less than 60 percent or a combined 70 percent rate, the VA must still consider your claim under extra schedular criteria. This simply means It is the established policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs that all veterans who are unable to secure and follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of service-connected disabilities shall be rated totally disabled. Therefore, rating boards should submit to the Director, Compensation Service, for extraschedular consideration all cases of veterans who are unemployable by reason of service-connected disabilities, but who fail to meet the percentage standards set forth under 38 CFR § 4.16. The rating board will include a full statement as to the veteran’s service-connected disabilities, employment history, educational and vocational attainment and all other factors having a bearing on the issue. Again, if you think this is a benefit you may be eligible for and would like to apply for the benefit, please contact your local Veteran Service Officer to schedule and in person or phone appointment to review and discuss your case.
New! Accessible Home Modification Grant

Over the past 50 years, Buckeye PVA has been dedicated to improving the quality of life of honorably discharged veterans who have spinal cord injury, dysfunction, or illness, in accordance with our mission statement. Because of this, the Chapter has numerous grants available to our members, from the Holiday Food Coupon Program to the Emergency Assistance Program, and much, much more.

The office of Buckeye PVA has received countless requests for assistance in funding home modifications related to accessibility over the years. A few examples of various requests we have received are funding for accessible windows, doors, flooring, etc. Basic needs to improve the accessibility of our veterans’ homes and, therefore, their quality of life. Because of this, we are excited to announce our newest program: The Accessible Home Modification Grant.

The Accessible Home Modification Grant will be available to all Buckeye PVA members. This program will fund up to $10,000.00 for non-service-connected members and $7,500.00 for service-connected members’ accessible home modification needs. Each member will have access to the total dollar amount of the grant to use over ten years. Once the ten years are up, the grant amount will reset, and members will have the full funding available again. Buckeye PVA will issue a maximum of $100,000.00 for this program per fiscal year. Members must have exhausted all alternative VA funding efforts to qualify for this grant.

This program was spurred by feedback that has been received in the Buckeye PVA office and was inspired by the Gateway Chapter of PVA. We have learned over the years just how important it is to be united as an organization in making a difference in the lives of our veterans. As it stands, it can cost $30,000 or more to make a home wheelchair accessible. This program is revolutionary for our members, as grants offered through the VA for accessible home modifications are limited for non-service-connected veterans and veterans residing in rentals. In addition, these VA grants have numerous stipulations and often leave room for additional assistance needed by all.

If you are a Buckeye PVA member and are interested in learning more or applying for this grant, please reach out to the Buckeye PVA office at (216) 731-1017.
Hello Members,
We have had a very interesting 2021, and I for one am looking forward to a more “Normal” 2022. Lets hope the snowfall will taper off for the rest of the Winter. For those going to the Winter Sports Clinic March 26, 2022 - April 1, 2022 in Snowmass, Colorado we wish you lots of snow! There is a limited number of participants this year due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. Maybe next year we will be back to normal.

We are excited about this years Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games being held May 9th through May 19th. Registration is free for all BPVA members and only $25 for nonmembers. You should have either received a hard copy of the registration or you can register online at our chapter website at: www.buckeyepva.org. The deadline for registration is April 8th. We look forward to “Seeing” you.

Registration for the 2022 National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Tempe, AZ July 7-12, 2022 is now OPEN. Registration period is Feb 1—April 4, 2022. Get your online registration completed and medical/waiver forms sent in as soon as possible. Important - if attendance is limited, priority will be given based on the order in which completed registrations are received. AND - Event Caps, such as Air Guns, Archery, Softball will also be determined by the order that completed registrations are received. More information is available online at: https://wheelchairgames.org/about/tempe-2022/ . Join us in hoping SPRING will be coming soon! We wish you all good luck in your events and safe travels.

See you all soon,

Scotty Law
Sports Director
E: scottl@buckeyepva.org

Oscar Mike Militia Rugby Tournaments

Hello Buckeye PVA members, I’ve recently had a couple of Rugby tournaments. My team, the Oscar Mike Militia, had a tournament in Kansas City in early January. And another in Chicago last week. We played well in both tournaments. As a result, we are becoming more cohesive and have broken into the top 20 in the USAWR (Wheelchair rugby’s governing body) rankings. And will be going back to KC for sectionals on March 10th, where we hope to qualify for the National Championship in April. Wish us luck, and we hope to put in a good showing.

Paul Mann
Co-Sports Director
E: paulm@buckeyepva.org
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.
BIPARTISAN BILL TO IMPROVE AVAILABILITY OF VA HCBS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

For several months, PVA’s Government Relations team has been working with House Veterans’ Affairs Committee (HVAC) staff on legislation that would greatly improve the availability of VA’s Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) for our members. That bill, H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022, was introduced on February 25 and it would make urgently needed improvements to VA HCBS.

If passed, H.R. 6823 would raise existing caps on noninstitutional care from 65 percent of the cost of nursing home care to 100 percent. It also requires VA to establish a Veteran Directed Care (VDC) program at each VA medical center and ensure the program is available in the U.S. territories as well. It would also allow catastrophically disabled veterans to continue to use funds under the VDC program during a period of hospitalization to hire an attendant to assist with their non-medical needs during hospitalization.

Other provisions in the bill help pave the way for greater veteran participation in critical support programs such as Homemaker and Home Health Aide, Home-Based Primary Care, and Skilled Home Care. Additional language ensures careful consideration is given to the health care needs of any veteran who is removed from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), ensuring they receive a smooth and personalized transition from the PCAFC to an appropriate program within VA that meets their needs for noninstitutional extended care services. The bill also includes a pilot program to address direct care worker shortages.

PVA thanks HVAC, Subcommittee on Health Chairwoman Julia Brownley (D-CA) and Ranking Member Jack Bergman (R-MI) for introducing this extremely important legislation that targets so many of our concerns about current VA HCBS program shortfalls. We call on Congress to quickly pass this desperately needed legislation.

DOJ ISSUES GUIDANCE ON BALLOT DROP BOX ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ADA

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued guidance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on how to ensure that ballot drop boxes are accessible to voters with disabilities. The publication, “Ballot Drop Box Accessibility, the Americans with Disabilities Act,” is intended to help election officials understand the ADA’s requirements, including the physical accessibility standards applicable to ballot drop boxes, and for voters with disabilities to understand their rights under federal law.

The publication covers the elements and features of a ballot drop box that election officials should consider to meet the ADA’s accessibility requirements. Specifically, it discusses accessibility features of a ballot drop box such as a handle or lever that can be operated with one hand and without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. It also covers the requirements for an accessible route to a ballot drop box, such as a level walkway without gaps and steps. Finally, the guidance includes a checklist of the accessibility standards used to assess a ballot drop box.

DOJ intends the guidance to be used with the
“ADA Checklist for Polling Places,” a guidance document that discusses local governments’ obligations under the ADA to provide polling places that are physically accessible to voters with disabilities. The ADA Checklist for Polling Places covers the accessibility requirements for features that may be present at a ballot drop box location, such as parking, passenger drop off areas, and building entrances.

Those interested in learning more about the ADA may call DOJ’s toll-free information line at 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TDD), or access its ADA website at www.ada.gov. ADA complaints may be filed online. Information about the department’s enforcement of federal civil and criminal laws related to voting may be found at https://www.justice.gov/voting.

Federal Funding Update

The President recently signed a temporary funding bill that finances the federal government through March 11. The measure is the third continuing resolution for fiscal year 2022 but Congress is reportedly nearing a deal on an omnibus appropriation measure to fund the government through September 30. In mid-February, House and Senate leaders told reporters they reached agreement on a spending framework that included top-line funding levels, but those numbers have not yet been made public. Also, the two chambers have not settled on spending amounts for individual federal programs and offices.

VA Secretary Provides Status Update for the Department

On February 16, VA Secretary Denis McDonough held a press conference providing information regarding the status of various VA initiatives. He reported that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) conducted three million in-person health care appointments in January, an increase of 11 percent compared to the same time last year. VHA also provided 827,000 telehealth appointments (three percent increase) and approved 543,000 Community Care authorizations (20 percent increase). Part of these increases can be attributed to veterans seeking services that were previously unavailable or delayed due to the pandemic.

The Secretary also said VA is currently experiencing its highest turnover of nurses in many years. He noted that nurses can make upwards of $200,000 working in the private sector whereas VA’s compensation rates are less and limited by statute. The Secretary has spoken with numerous lawmakers about the problem, and they recognize the nursing shortage is not just a VA problem, but rather a national one. He urged Congress to move quickly on H.R. 5575, the VA Nurse and Physician Assistant RAISE Act, (PVA-supported legislation) to make VA salaries more competitive by allowing the department to raise existing pay caps for many of its providers and nurses. He also stressed the importance of Congress providing VA with its full fiscal year 2022 budget allocation verses another continuing resolution, noting that doing so would allow the department to absorb the cost of the higher salaries.

Secretary McDonough also talked about the upcoming Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission. He expects VA’s recommendations will be released in mid-March even though the members of the AIR Commission itself have not yet been named and confirmed. VA does not expect to leave any market, but he indicated they may not maintain a full VA facility at some of its existing locations. Instead, VA plans to use outpatient care coupled with strategic collaboration and increased use of local providers and hospital systems to ensure veterans receive the care they need. Once it is posted, you can view the Secretary’s press conference on VA’s YouTube page.

More on the RAISE Act

As indicated in the previous article, H.R.5575, the VA Nurse and Physician Assistant RAISE Act, would increase the pay limitation on salaries for nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants employed by VA so the department can attract, and most importantly, retain top health care talent to ensure veterans receive timely, high-quality care. VA’s mission is to honor America’s veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. The department’s ability to fulfill that mission has been impaired in recent years due to insufficient numbers of health care providers. Many of VA’s key personnel shortages can be traced to pay caps established more than a decade ago which limit the department’s ability to provide competitive salaries or the flexibility to recruit and retain valuable staff.
Washington Update Cont.

PVA endorsed the RAISE Act at an October 13, 2021, House Veterans’ Affairs, Health Subcommittee legislative hearing. On February 2, the full Committee approved an amended measure which now awaits consideration by the full House.

**SENATE HELP COMMITTEE EXAMINES BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

On February 8, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing on barriers to employment for workers with disabilities and ways to overcome them, focusing on innovative practices adopted in the wake of COVID-19 such as the widespread use of flexible schedules and remote work options. Witnesses included the Chief Accessibility Officer for Microsoft, Jenny Lay-Flurrie, who highlighted the importance of digital accessibility and Workforce Program Coordinator for Iowa Workforce Development, Brian Dennis, who described the state’s involvement with the federal government’s Disability Employment Initiative in which they placed benefits planners in several Iowa jobs centers to aid Social Security disability beneficiaries in navigating return to work. Dr. Lisa Schur, Professor for Labor Studies and Employment Relations at Rutgers University, outlined several of the challenges in the labor market faced by individuals with disabilities. Disability advocate Francis Kineavy described his own experiences as a sports writer with the Rutgers athletic department. The video and testimony from the hearing can be found [here](#).

**NEWS OF NOTE**

**PVA Wants to Hear from You!**

PVA is always interested in hearing your experiences. We want to hear from you if you have a compelling story about engaging with VA programs and benefits that you believe would help move our legislative priorities. Specifically, we would like to hear if you have had issues with the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations or Auto Allowance grants or if you have experienced barriers to accessing mammography services at VA or in your community. If you feel comfortable sharing them, please contact Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, at JulieH@pva.org.

**ACL Resources for Older Americans Month**

May is Older Americans Month and the theme for 2022 is “Age My Way” with a focus on ways to enable seniors to remain in their communities and age in place. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has a variety of [resource and information materials on its website](#) to support local observances.

**VA Proposes Updates to Rating Schedules for Respiratory, Auditory, and Mental Disorders**

VA is planning to make [changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities related to respiratory, auditory, and mental disorders](#). VA believes the changes will allow the department to use current data to offer veterans with these conditions more consistent decisions. The proposed changes would not impact veterans’ current ratings, but if finalized, those rated for one or more of these conditions may apply for an increase. The decision is open for public comment until April 18.

**HEARINGS & WEBINARS**

**Social Security Disability Benefits and Work Incentives**

The National Disability Institute and American Dream Employment Network will host a [webinar](#) on Thursday, March 17 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET on Social Security disability benefits and work incentives. The webinar will cover key questions concerning the impact of work on benefits. Registration is required but there is no cost to attend.
We’re Moving!: March 7, 2022

HELLO THERE

WE’RE MOVING!

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BUCKEYE CHAPTER

2775 BISHOP RD
SUITE B
WILLoughby Hills, OH. 44092
Community Emergency Treatment Reporting and Care Coordination Information for Veterans

During a medical or mental health emergency, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) encourages Veterans to seek immediate medical attention without delay. Veterans do not need to check with VA before calling for an ambulance or going to an emergency department. In most instances eligible Veterans are able to receive VA-authorized emergency care at an in-network facility if VA is notified of the emergent event within 72 hours of the start of care.

It is important that your visit to a community emergency room be reported to VA as soon as possible because it allows VA to assist in coordinating your care or transfer, and it helps ensure that administrative and clinical requirements for VA to pay for the care are met.

Inform your Emergency Provider to Report Your Emergency Treatment to VA


- They also need to contact the local VA medical center (VAMC) to coordinate follow-on care and transfer activities, if necessary.

   - Phone numbers and email addresses to local VAMCs are available at https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/docs/providers/Care-Coordination_Facility-Contacts.pdf.

Veterans, someone acting on the covered Veteran's behalf, or the eligible entity or provider can also report episodes of emergency care to the appropriate VA official at the nearest VA facility. However, VA should only be notified once and ideally that notification is from community facility staff where the Veteran is being treated.

For more information, visit https://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/emergency_care.asp.

VA Facility Name

POC Name

POC Phone/FAX

POC Email
About George Music Company

Welcome to Akron's finest entertainment company. We are a locally owned family operated company serving the Northeast Ohio area since 1933. We offer the absolute finest, most up-to-date equipment available along with providing a strong dedication to the success of our customers. Our State of the art entertainment solutions are specifically tailored to meet our customers' individual needs.

George Music Company provides the latest in digital internet jukeboxes, NGX Jukeboxes, Touch Tunes Jukeboxes, skill games and amusement machines to bars, taverns, pubs, restaurants, bowling alleys, universities, and social clubs. We install and service Internet jukeboxes in Bars, Taverns, Fraternal Organizations, anywhere. Delivery and setup is also available (call for details). George Music Company only provides service on what we sell. We also sell used coin-operated machines for the home.

As you can see, we are the premier amusement supplier in the Akron and surrounding area. To increase revenue and keep your customers entertained and satisfied, call George Music Company and find out how you can add excellent entertainment equipment to your establishment.

Want to enhance the atmosphere of your tavern or bar?

Call (330) 923-9868 or toll free at 1-800-492-9507
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
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.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE NOT ALONE... WE ARE ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU.

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 information about care coordination, documentation submission, eligibility, claims and payments visit: https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/providers/info_EmergencyCare.asp

For more information please 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veteran Information</th>
<th>Treating Facility Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>National Provider Identifier (NPI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security Number</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth</td>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Point of Contact (POC) Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Presenting to Facility</td>
<td>POC Phone#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Discharge</td>
<td>POC Email Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted? (YES/NO)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Complaint/Admission DX and/or Discharge DX</td>
<td>Note: POC will receive VA authorization decision info</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You Deserve These Benefits as a Veteran with ALS

You have selflessly dedicated yourself to our country and bettering the lives of others. Now it’s time to let others care for you. As a service member affected by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), you may be able to access valuable treatment through service connection at your local VA Medical Center.

The development of ALS, manifested at any time after discharge or release from active military service, is sufficient to establish service connection with at least 90 days of continuous service. Service connection entitles you to treatment at a VA Medical Center for ALS at no additional cost, along with other healthcare benefits such as in-home care and facility placement that consistently exceed those benefits offered through other health plans.

The VA’s benefits for service connected veterans afford you and your loved one valuable benefits to allow your caregiver to maintain their own care, as well as yours. It is vital that they have the ability to work, have hobbies and provide self care in support of your wellbeing. Caregiver burnout can be avoided when both you and your caregiver are taken care of.

**BENEFITS OVERVIEW**

**Inpatient care***
- **Community Living Center (CLC)** is a VA nursing home that offers short or long-term stays with various levels of care from light assistance to skilled care.
- **Community Residential Care (CRC)** program is geared toward veterans who do not need hospital or nursing home care but cannot live alone due to medical or psychiatric conditions.
- **Community Nursing Home (CNH)** is a full-time live in community where veterans can receive skilled nursing care day or night.

**Home Based Services***
- **Homemaker/Home Health Aide** is a trained caregiver who assists with the veteran’s daily activities in the home. Homemakers and home health aides are not nurses, but they are supervised by a registered nurse.
- **Expanded Care/Private Duty Nursing** is for veterans needing up to 24 hour skilled nursing care in the home.
- **Skilled Home Health Care** is for veterans needing short-term care as they are transitioning from a hospital or nursing home back to their home. It can also be used to provide continuing care to those with ongoing needs. The program offers skilled services such as: skilled nursing, case management, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, wound care, and intravenous (IV) antibiotics.

*To find out how to access these services, contact your VA social worker or call the VA’s toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET.

**WHAT VETERANS ARE SAYING**

“When we were notified that Maxim Healthcare Services would be able to provide skilled nursing services our world changed for the better. I am now able to focus on tasks, sleep at night, and start to take care of myself again. Our new normal looks bright and Damon is happy and comfortable exactly where he wants to be, at home.”

– Sarah, Damon’s caregiver
Veterans and ALS Service Connection

HOME HEALTHCARE SERVICES
Below is an overview of the in-home services coverage provided by various insurers compared to what your veterans may be entitled to through their service connection with the VHA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In-Home Services</th>
<th>Veterans Health Administration</th>
<th>Medicaid</th>
<th>Medicare</th>
<th>Commercial Insurance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homemaker Home Health Aide</td>
<td>3 - 168 hours/week</td>
<td>Optional Benefit – Varies by State</td>
<td>Not covered when this is the only care you need</td>
<td>Varies by Insurer but not typically a covered benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanded Care/Private Duty Nursing</td>
<td>Covered Benefit</td>
<td>Optional Benefit – Varies by State</td>
<td>Not A Covered Benefit</td>
<td>Varies by Insurer and sometimes covered with benefit limits and varying qualifications for coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled Home Health Care</td>
<td>Covered Benefit</td>
<td>Mandatory Benefit</td>
<td>Covered Benefit</td>
<td>Varies by Insurer and typically covered with benefit limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled Home Health Care Therapies</td>
<td>Covered Benefit</td>
<td>Optional Benefit – Varies by State</td>
<td>Covered Benefit</td>
<td>Varies by Insurer and typically covered with benefit limits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPLYING FOR YOUR VA BENEFITS**
Register for the Benefits You Deserve Today

Check your eligibility
You can check your eligible benefits here:
https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/

Gather required documents
You’ll need to provide:
• Social Security Card
• Military Discharge Papers (DD214 or other separation documents)
• Insurance Card information

Apply for benefits
Online:
https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/id-form

By phone:
877-222-8387, M-F, 8a.m.- 8p.m. EST

By mail:
Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Rd. Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329

In person:
At your nearest VA medical center or clinic. Find your nearest VA medical center at:
https://www.va.gov/find-locations/

**Consider appointing an individual or a Veterans Service Organization to assist with your VA benefits using VA Form 21-22 at https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-21-22/
Scientific Peer Review

Scientific Peer Review of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs’ Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health Research Program for the Department of Defense

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs’ (CDMRP), Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health Research Program (TBIPHRP) consumer advocate, Milton Young, recently participated in the evaluation of research applications submitted to the TBIPHRP. Milton was nominated for participation in the program by Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter located in Euclid, Ohio. As a consumer reviewer, he was a full voting member, (along with prominent scientists) at meetings to help determine how the $175 million appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Year 2021 will be spent on Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health research.

Consumer reviewers are asked to represent the collective view of patients by preparing comments on the impact of the research on issues such as diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life. When commenting on serving as a consumer reviewer, Milton said that, “I have found my time as a consumer advocate reviewer to be educational and a great experience. I feel that the scientific community he’s working hard defined a cure for traumatic brain injuries and psychological health research. Is serving as a reviewer, I can come back the patients that are living with traumatic brain injuries and let them know that there is hope for research that will help them live more of a normal life, with dignity and respect.”

Consumer advocates and scientists have worked together in this unique partnership to evaluate the merit of research applications since FY21. COL Sarah B. Goldman, Director of the CDMRP, expressed her appreciation for the consumer advocates’ hard work. “Integrating consumer perspectives into our decision-making process brings energy and focus to our research programs. Patients, caregivers, family members, and advocates help us keep our efforts centered around what is truly important to those impacted. We very much value this critical input from our consumers who help ensure that CDMRP’s work remains critical and relevant,” she said.

Researchers applying to the TBIPHRP propose to fund research to understand, prevent and treat traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions that accelerates solutions to improve health and healthcare of Service Members, DOD beneficiaries, Veterans, and the American public. The TBIPHRP fills important gaps by supporting groundbreaking research while encouraging out-of-the-box thinking.

More information about the CDMRP’s TBIPHRP is available at the website: https://cdmrp.army.mil/tbiphrp/default

Media Contact:
Kate Poindexter
Public Affairs Specialist
Ripple Effect
Supporting the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs,
USAMRDC
301-619-7783
Kathleen.poindexter.ctr@mail.mil
Did you know you could be free of your student loan because you’re a disabled veteran? A total and permanent disability (TPD) discharge relieves you from having to repay a William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loan, a Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program loan, and/or a Federal Perkins Loan or to complete a TEACH Grant service obligation.

If you're a veteran, you can qualify for a TPD discharge if you have received a VA disability determination because you (1) have a service-connected disability that is 100% disabling, or (2) are totally disabled based on an individual unemployability rating.

A new regulation allows the Department of Education to provide automatic TPD discharges for borrowers who are identified through administrative data matching by removing the requirement for these borrowers to fill out an application before receiving relief. The Department of Education removed this application barrier in 2019 for borrowers identified as eligible for a TPD discharge through the match with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). However, it had not yet done so for those identified through the data match with the Social Security Administration (SSA). This started in September 2021.

The Department of Education will work with VA and SSA to identify those eligible for discharge. If you qualify for a TPD discharge based on this data match, the Department of Education will send you a letter. You then have to opt out of the discharge (if you do not want the loan discharged), or your loan will automatically be discharged.

If you do not receive a letter from the Department of Education but believe you qualify for a TPD discharge, you can always submit an application and attach your documentation, such as your VA Award Letter or Rating Decision. If you are going this route or want more information, visit https://disabilitydischarge.com/

As always, if you have additional inquiries, please contact your PVA National Service Officer.

Sincerely,

Michael Yaskowiak
Senior Benefits Advocate
michaely@pva.org
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 $5000, 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

**March**

John Brooks
Scott Currie
Gregory Baugh
James Dunbar
Adam Maynard
Jeffrey Fisher
Michael Menhart
David North
Frank Helenberger
Alo Konsen
William Menefield
Bernard Pugh
Robert Brown
Michael Shaw
Jerome Casey
David Conner
Peter Murphy
Ralph Wischer
Jack Collins
Robert Dilallo
Michael Stutler
Christopher Powers
Karla McKinney
Randal Walker
Terry Dear
Jay Hefferson
Bernard Smith
Jerome Lee
Dwayne Ezell
Patrick Griffis
Michael Zatchok
Harold Wheeler
Michael Murphy

**April**

Darrel McCauley
Herbert McKinley
Chauncey Downs
Clifford Medred
Christopher Wynn
Curtis Pender
Sherman Hartley
Jason Broz
Michael Weinman
Brent Persinger
George Iwaniok
Richard Bell
Leo Kelly
Annette’ Harris
Robert Hyatt
Adam Harmon
Joseph Gibson
Brandon Starkey
Robb Goe
Mark Brozak
Marvin Dryer
James Kranak
Wayne Hamner
Roger Linder
Richard Sesso
Christina McKellop
Otto Schutze
Joshua Davis
Cory Anderson
David Clark
Dennis Goens
Bernard Wegford
Richard Tuttle

**May**

David Jacobsen
Teresa Cahill
Larry Engle
Michael Dexter
Stephen Hammarlund
Angela McBride
Samuel Zachariah
Paul Singer
Donald Wallace
Jacqueline Tyler
Charles Schretzman
John Schmoll
David Hudson
James Mulroy
Jared McClung
Jerome Perry
Michael Wood
Marc Boyes
George Pasipanki
Diego Lugo
Thomas Durbin
Jacob Bernecker
Douglas Mcpherson
John Suru
Dean Byers
David Lowe
Phillip Osborn
Timothy Herubin
John Wright
Fred Layfield
Thurman Trowbridge
Mark Dunford
Mark Hasson
Scott Law
Marie Ann Bohusch
La Vonn Scott
David Soeder
Geary Burke
James Hard
Nathan Collins
Curtis Fatyol
Kevin Sullivan
Andrew Adams
Murl Muenchau
Ronald Kohus
John Rothermel
Welcome to the 2022 Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games!

The 2022 Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games are finally underway, and we are excited to offer revamped events to meet all of your mental and physical fitness needs!

The purpose of the Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games (VBWG) is to provide veterans, like you, an introductory experience to a variety of wheelchair sports and recreation activities! In doing so, the games encourage all to become aware of their abilities and potential while promoting a spirit of healthy camaraderie and the therapeutic value of sports competition.

Join fellow wheelchair athletes at the 2nd VBWG from May 9th through May 19th, 2022 and experience the fun and fitness for yourself. Participation is open to all wheelchair athletes with spinal cord injuries and other disabilities who require a wheelchair for athletic competition. Registration is FREE of charge for all Buckeye PVA members and only $25 for nonmembers.

In the past, the games have been held at the Spire Institute in Geneva, OH. Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have decided to host virtual games to continue our tradition and offer our members an opportunity to keep up their physical and mental fitness. Each athlete will receive a new “goodie” box filled with the equipment and spirit-wear needed to make this year’s VBWG exciting and fresh (see photos above from the 2021 Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games)! This year, we’ve bumped up the quality and quantity of events, equipment, and swag for all of our VBWG athletes.

We are excited to offer this year’s VBWG and hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to compete and have some fun along the way!
Our 2022 Sponsors

Over the years, Paralyzed Veterans of America Buckeye Chapter (Buckeye PVA) has continued to thrive. Our successes and triumphs are due greatly in part to our loyal and generous donors and supporters. This year, Buckeye PVA was absolutely overwhelmed by the support received for the 2022 Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games (VBWG). Because of this outstanding sponsorship contribution, we can to provide a more extensive and better equipment boxes for our members to enjoy while participating in the 2022 VBWG. On top of an increase in the quality of the boxes this year, we were also able to provide more events and make positive updates to previous ones.

Buckeye PVA would like to thank this year’s Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games donors:

- Avery Dennison
- Mobility Works
- Joseph Ross
- Robert Ruff
- Mark Holz
- Paul Ladikos
- Knights of Columbus, Council #14551
- Mark & Mary Regula

Buckeye PVA is wholeheartedly grateful for the generous support of these donors, as well as the continued support from friends of Buckeye PVA through shared social media posts, volunteer outreach, and kind words. Thank you for your unending support and dedication to the Mission of Buckeye PVA!

Thank you!

Get Social!

Use hashtags #VBWG & #BuckeyeMoonShoot to show us your athletic adventure during the 2022 Virtual Buckeye Wheelchair Games!

### Buckeye Wheelchair Games Tentative Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 11th</td>
<td>Registration Packets distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 8th</td>
<td>Registration Packets due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9th</td>
<td>Buckeye Wheelchair Games BEGIN!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19th</td>
<td>Conclusion of Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3rd</td>
<td>Winners Announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3rd</td>
<td>Zoom Afterparty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TENTATIVE Social Media Schedule

Keep an eye on Buckeye PVA’s social media platforms for updates and special features during the games! Each update will include information about the featured event, such as instructional videos, pictures from previous years, and/or words of encouragement from our sponsors and followers.

**May 2nd**

**Countdown to the 2021 Virtual Games**

**May 9th**

**2022 VBWG Launch**

**May 10th**

**OUT OF THIS WORLD:** Joseph Ross Bowling Event

**May 11th**

**SHOOT FOR THE STARS:** Avery Dennison Air Rifle Event

**May 12th**

**BLASTIN’ OFF TO MARS:** Robert Ruff Track Event

**May 13th**

**SCIENCE OF THE STARS:** Mark Holz Brain Games Challenge

**May 16th**

**A NEW DISCOVERY!**: Paul Ladikos Adaptive Fitness Adventure

**May 17th**

**A NEW PLANET!**: Knights of Columbus Council #14551 Swimming Event

**May 18th**

**GRAVITY DEFYING:** Mark & Mary Regula Jump Rope Challenge

**May 19th**

**BLAST OFF!**: Mobility Works Ball Activities

**May 20th**

**A Thank You to Our Sponsors**
VBWG REGISTRATION FORM

POSTMARK DEADLINE IS APRIL 8TH, 2022

Incomplete forms will be returned and must be resubmitted by the registration deadline

CHECK ONE PLEASE:  o ATHLETE  o COACH

_____ Quad  _____Para  _____Amputee  _____ TBI

LAST NAME: ___________________________  FIRST NAME: ___________________________

o Male  o Female  BIRTHDATE: _____/_____/

STREET ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________

CITY, STATE, ZIP: ________________________________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER: ________________________________________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________

This is NOT a sanctioned event but in order to be fair to all athletes put your NVWG classification if known. If not known, what is your injury level?

Class 1A  Class 1B  Class 1C  II  III  IV  V

Injury level ______________________________

Power Chair _____  Manual Chair _____

Circle T-Shirt Size:  S  M  L  XL  2XL  3XL

Buckeye PVA Member*:  YES  NO

* Note: if NOT a member, a $25 registration fee must be sent to the office with your registration forms. Call the office at (216) 731 1017 with any questions.

Release of Liability:
In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I hereby waive, for myself, my heirs, my administrators and assigns, any and all claims of damages which I might have against Buckeye Wheelchair Games or any organization or sponsor for any and all injuries and/or expenses incurred by me in this event. I hereby attest and verify that I am physically qualified and sufficiently prepared for this event. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event. I also consent to medical treatment in case of emergency. I agree to full responsibility for payment of any fees incurred as a result of necessary medical treatment.

Signature of Participant: ___________________________  Date: __________________________

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if Athlete is a minor): _____________________________

We will not accept any registrations after April 8th, 2022**
**EVENT SELECTION**

Athlete’s Name: (Please print) _____________________________________________

Note: there is no minimum or maximum amount of events that 1 competitor can select.

**OUT OF THIS WORLD!: JOSEPH ROSS BOWLING EVENT**

☐ Competitors are encouraged to call ahead and reserve a lane for their bowling event participation. Each competitor will play 3 games and will document the score of those games on scoresheets provided. Kindly submit your best scoring game for scoring and participation credit. **optional meetup will be offered**

**RAMP □ PUSH STICK □ HANDLE BALL □ MANUAL □**

**SHOOT FOR THE STARS: AVERY DENNISON AIR RIFLE EVENT**

☐ Shooters will travel to their local gun range (locations will be offered in the VBWG equipment box). All targets will be provided to those who register and should be submitted for scoring. Shooters are responsible for securing their own equipment (rifle, pellets, jacket, sling, and glove if used). Please select one category below:

☐ **SH-1**: Shooters who have the ability to safely hold and fire the rifle with both hands. Shooters are permitted to place both elbows on the table for support.

☐ **SH-2**: Shooters who only have the ability to safely hold the rifle with one hand. Shooters are permitted the use of an approved spring stand for support. When in use, one elbow is permitted to be on the table for support. The second hand may be placed on the rifle, but behind the spring stand and may not make contact with the stand. Shooters are also permitted to have a loader. The loader may only take directions from the shooter as far as adjusting the sights, and is not permitted to provide coaching/assistance/recommendations. **optional meetup will be offered**

**BLASTIN’ OFF TO MARS: ROBERT RUFF TRACK EVENT**

☐ Competitors should download the JustMove application on their mobile device. Details and directions will be outlined in the VBWG equipment box. **optional meetup will be offered**

Sprints □ 5K □ 10K □ Cumulative Distance □

Manual □ Motorized □ Combination □

**SCIENCE OF THE STARS: MARK HOLTZ BRAIN GAMES CHALLENGE**

☐ Each competitor will receive NEW puzzles to be done on separate days of the VBWG. Using the timer provided, competitors will record how long it takes to complete the puzzle, mark it on their score sheet, and submit the time for judging. Possible brain games will include: Crosswords, Sudoku, Word Search, Brain Teasers, or Jigsaw Puzzles.

*Buckeye PVA members are eligible for reimbursement for expenses related to participating in the VBWG. Please be prepared to submit receipts as needed for your competition expenses.*
EVENT SELECTION CONTINUED

Athlete’s Name: (Please print): 

Note: there is no minimum or maximum amount of events that 1 competitor can select.

A NEW DISCOVERY: PAUL LADIKOS ADAPTIVE FITNESS ADVENTURE

☐ Adapted fitness involves workouts that empower everyone to come as they are. It’s fitness in whatever way works best for each athlete's body. The Adapted Fitness Adventure is a non-medaling event, but each athlete who completes 30 minutes a day of Adapted Fitness workouts for 6 out of the 10 days of the games will receive a special Buckeye PVA swag item. Equipment for the event will be provided to all athletes in the VBWG equipment box.

A NEW PLANET!: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #14551 SWIMMING EVENT

☐ Athletes will be eligible to compete in the distances listed below. Competitors must submit their times on designated timesheet. All swimming events start in the water. No body suits, assisted devices, or buoyant foot protection are allowed. Socks and mesh water shoes are acceptable.

☐ Class 1A, 1B, 1C: 25 YD Backstroke
☐ Class II, III, IV, or V: 50 YD Backstroke

☐ Class 1A, 1B, 1C: 25 YD Breaststroke
☑ Class II, III, IV, or V: 50 YD Breaststroke

☐ Class 1A, 1B, 1C: 25 YD Freestyle
☐ Class II, III, IV, or V: 50 YD Freestyle

GRAVITY-DEFYING: MIKE & MARY REGULA JUMP ROPE CHALLENGE

☐ Competitors will receive a rope-less jump rope in the VBWG equipment box. Each competitor will count the number of jump rope swings competed in 1 minute, record the results, and submit it for scoring. Competitors will also have the option to count and record how many swings are completed in 2 minutes, and submit them for additional scoring.

BLAST-OFF!: MOBILITY WORKS BALL ACTIVITIES

☐ Competitors will be provided a ball in the VBWG equipment box. Each competitor will complete the activity with the description provided from the box, record the time it took to complete it, and submit the time for scoring.

Buckeye PVA members are eligible for reimbursement for expenses related to participating in the VBWG. Please be prepared to submit receipts as needed for your competition expenses.
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