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General Membership Meeting: Sept. 10, 2022

Attention Buckeye PVA Members!

The Buckeye PVA Board of Directors and staff will be hosting the Fall General Membership Meeting to discuss upcoming events, offer an opportunity to work with the Cleveland FES Center, and, most importantly, **announce the NEW Board of Directors for 2022-2024**! If you would like to attend this meeting, please RSVP to Maddi at maddis@buckeyepva.org or call the office at (216) 731-1017. Only the first 100 members can attend, so please RSVP by September 9th to attend!

Keep an eye out for an email containing the Zoom link for the meeting. Buckeye PVA members can join the meeting by downloading the Zoom app on their mobile device/computer OR by calling in to 1-312-626-6799 and entering the Meeting ID: 818 6609 4388 and Passcode: 184433.
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.
President’s Report

Hello, Buckeye Members!

We’ve had a few fair weather days here in Northeast Ohio, making it an enjoyable week leading up to the golf outing. The office has been very busy with planning for the outing and the All-You-Can-Eat. Jennifer, the new Chapter Executive Director, has been fitting in nicely and doing a great job keeping us organized and making some much needed changes.

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games has come and gone and our Buckeye Team faired well with the highest medal count of all the teams in attendance! Great work everyone.

Since the last Buckeye Banner, a new Board of Directors has been voted on by the Buckeye PVA Membership. I am pleased to announce the following as your 2022-2024 Board of Directors:

- Holly Koester
- Carl Harris
- Doug Beckley
- Robert Morris
- Milton Young
- Paul Mann
- Lucas Meyer
- Joshua Maley
- Scott Law

I am looking forward to serving another term as a member of the Board of Directors alongside this fine group. I know we can continue to improve the Chapter and keep up on our excellent programs!

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

A note from Jennifer McCarty

Hello, I hope this Buckeye Banner finds everyone having a wonderful summer!

It has been busy here at Buckeye PVA, but we are all having a lot of fun. Last month we met in Columbus for our annual billiards tournament. We had a great turn-out and the competition was intense. Congratulations to all of our winners and to everyone who had fun!

This passed Monday, August 29th, more than 75 golfers had a great day. Our sponsors have been so generous and we are grateful that money raised from this event will directly benefit our Buckeye PVA efforts. Thanks to all of our supporters, we are able to propel our mission of improving the quality of lives of veterans who have spinal cord injuries, dysfunction, or illness.

I also want to congratulate all of our Buckeye PVA athletes on their success at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Arizona last month. Buckeyes lead the medal count, and our very own Paul Mann earned a spot on the NVWG All-Star team.

Something we are focusing on is raising awareness of our brand. Our work results in sustainable, positive impact for our members and we believe everyone should know about it and have the opportunity to support us. That said, please consider engaging with us on social media, following us on Facebook, and sharing our posts. You can also share our website, and of course, direct anyone interested in more information to any of us staff members.

Don’t forget to check out our social media accounts to stay up to date on all upcoming events.

Best,
Jennifer McCarty
Executive Director
E: jenniferm@buckeyepva.org
A Note from Madalynne Snyder

Phew! This has been one hot summer! I hope you are all staying cool and hydrated. I am so excited for the Fall! It is my absolute favorite time of year and I love heading over to Patterson’s Fruit Farm for some fresh apple cider and warm donuts. If you have the opportunity to check it out, I highly recommend!

The Office has been ever busy, gearing up for the Caregiver Retreat and All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser! Please note the date change with a new date of Friday, October 21st! We are so thrilled to join the Colonial PVA Chapter in Ocean City, MD at the end of September to shower our members and caregivers with some much needed TLC! Not only will the caregivers have some fun activities, but our members will have the opportunity to compete in a Boccia tournament and hear from an incredible para-Olympic athlete.

The Annual Buckeye PVA Golf Outing went very well and we are so thankful to all of our attendees, volunteers, and sponsors for making the day an absolute success!

Don’t forget to RSVP for the General Membership Meeting, coming up on Saturday, September 10th at 1pm! We are excited to announce the new Board of Directors here to serve our Chapter for the next two years.

As always, should you need anything, you can always call, email, or stop by and we will be here for you! I hope to see you all again very soon.

Warmly,

Madalynne Snyder
Assistant Executive Director
E: maddis@buckeyepva.org

A Note from Maria Bynum

After working here in the office for almost 6 months now, I have to say I absolutely love it! I honestly couldn’t have hand-picked a better group of women to work with! Over these past few months, I have been getting to know all of you and have gotten to meet some of you at recent events! It’s been so nice to put some names to faces and get to know you all better.

Here is the office we have been getting ready and planning for the annual golf outing! We have put so much thought and love into it and I’m excited to watch it unfold! I hope everyone has an amazing time and I wish all golfers the best of luck! We also have been getting ready for the Caregiver Retreat that’s happening next month and I hope you enjoy all that it has to offer! It is well deserved!

I hope you get the chance to enjoy the last bit of summer as fall is quickly approaching! I look forward to meeting more of you at the All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser on October 15th.

Please let us know if you need anything, we are always here to help!

Best,

Maria Bynum
Administrative Assistant
E: mariab@buckeyepva.org
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.

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

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.
Hello fellow members,

Recently, I was selected to play on an All-Star team of softball players from the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. I learned of my selection during the games while in Tempe, Arizona, and that I would play in Chicago in a few weeks for the World Series of wheelchair softball. Fifteen athletes gathered together on the fields in Chicago and, while we had played together at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, we had never played together on one team. As the week came to an end, we had become a team and friends. We were exhausted from all the travel, so we lost our first few games. However, our next four games were very close! We won 1 game and lost two by one run. We even took the last game to extra innings!

It was an honor to be selected for this team and I hope more members will get to enjoy this experience in the future. This selection is an ongoing process, so I look forward to seeing who will be chosen next year!

Sincerely,

Paul Mann
Co-Sports Director
E: paulm@buckeyepva.org
National Director’s Message

by Doug Beckley
National Director

EXPAND ACCESS TO VA LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Home and Community-Based Services and Caregiver Supports
Veterans with catastrophic disabilities must have access to a full range of supports and services that allow them to remain independent in their homes and communities. VA must expand access to its Veteran Directed Care program and ensure its Homemaker and Home Health Aide program provides the level of support veterans require to live full, productive lives.

VA must work with other federal agencies and Congress to ensure veterans have access to home care workers by increasing pay and providing incentives for workers to provide these important services. Veterans with catastrophic disabilities must also receive payment for their caregivers even when the veteran is hospitalized due to the type of assistance these veterans need, even in acute care settings, and to make sure they have assistance following discharge.


IMPROVE VA HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND BENEFITS FOR CATASTROPHICALLY DISABLED VETERANS AND THEIR SURVIVORS

Assisted Reproductive Technologies
Congress must repeal VA’s ban on IVF and authorize VA to provide assisted reproductive technology, including IVF and gamete donation at VA for any veterans enrolled in VA healthcare.


Adapted Automobile Benefits
Congress must increase the number of times eligible veterans can access the Automobile Allowance Grant and enact statutory protections to ensure veterans who have non-service-connected catastrophic disabilities receive adaptations to enter and exist their vehicles.


Home Modification Grants
Congress must raise the rate of funding available through VA’s Home Improvements and Structural Alterations grant program to improve access to housing adaptations for all catastrophically disabled veterans.


PROTECT THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Improve Access to Air Travel
Congress must make systemic changes to improve air travel for people with disabilities, particularly wheelchair users, by reforming the Air Carrier Access Act to add standards for aircraft accessibility and improve enforcement of the law.


Increase Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance
Congress must support increased compliance with the ADA by improving tax incentives that help businesses remove access barriers and increasing funding for the Department of Justice’s ADA mediation program.


STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Improve Social Security Benefits
Congress must strengthen and enhance the Social Security system without harming beneficiaries by improving benefits for low- and middle-income beneficiaries; eliminating the five-month waiting period for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI); replacing the abrupt termination of SSDI benefits with a phased reduction as earnings rise; offering caregivers credits under Social Security; and ending pension penalties for public servants.

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.

Indego® Gets Paralyzed Veterans Walking Again

NEW VA Program offers eligible veterans an Indego® exoskeleton at NO COST!

What’s the Indego exoskeleton?
It’s an FDA-approved robotic device that enables spinal cord injury patients (level T3-L5) to walk again.

✓ Regain your independence
✓ Enjoy eye-level conversations
✓ Improve your cardio & bone density

Scan with your mobile phone to receive information or schedule a demonstration.

Contact us today to find out if you are eligible to receive an Indego exoskeleton at no cost.
Phone: 844-846-3346
Email: support.indego@parker.com
Veterans of the United States Armed Forces have a few different paths to receive education benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Recently, the VA has instituted a new program called the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP). This new program offers education and training for high demand jobs to veterans who are specifically unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

VRRAP covers education and training programs approved under the GI Bill and Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) that can lead to high demand jobs. These include associate degrees, non-college degrees, and certificate programs.

The following is a list of categories a veteran can look to seek employment under:

- Administrative Support
- Architecture and Engineering
- Arts, Entertainment, and Media
- Business and Finance
- Community and Social Services
- Computer and Math
- Construction and Extraction
- Education and Training
- Health Care Practice and Support
- Installation, Maintenance, and Repair
- Law
- Life, Physical, and Social Sciences
- Management
- Personal Care Services
- Production
- Protective Services
- Sales
- Transportation Services

To be eligible for this program, all of the following requirements must be true:

- You must be at least 22 years old, but not older than 66 years old, and
- You are unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- You are not rated as totally disabled because you cannot work, and
- You are not enrolled in a federal or state jobs program

If you are eligible for the VRRAP program, you can receive up to 12 months of tuition and fees, and a monthly housing allowance based on post-9/11 GI Bill rates.

You may wonder if you are still eligible for the VRRAP program if you are eligible for other education benefits through the VA. Unfortunately, the answer is no. If you are eligible for any of the following education benefits, you will be precluded from entering the VRRAP program.

- Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Montgomery GI Bill
- Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)
- Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance (DEA)
- Veterans’ Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

The VRRAP program will stop accepting new enrollments on December 11, 2022, or when they reach the $386 million funding limit, or the 17,250-participant limit.

To enroll in the program, you will need to visit the VA Website address: https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/apply-for-vrrap-form-22-1990s/introduction.

If you have any other questions that were not covered here, you can call 888-442-4551 (TTY: 711). VA Staff are taking phone calls Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET.
Hello members!

I recently went to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games with the Buckeye sports team July 6th-12th in Tempe, AZ. It was a very hot week, with an average temperature of 106. Thankfully, all events took place inside with air conditioning! I participated in rugby, softball, weightlifting, and field events. My team won Gold in rugby! In softball, I was selected to be on the All-Star team that will play in Chicago next month. I was able to watch other members compete in Slalom, Basketball, ping pong, curling, and many other events. The competition and camaraderie of the games is incredible but exploring the cities that host the games is part of the fun!

I got to explore the Tempe/Phoenix area bit and I took a train down to the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball stadium twice. Not only was the train air conditioned, but when the Stadium roof was closed, I felt the air conditioning then too!

The 2023 National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be in Portland, Oregon from July 3rd until the 8th. I encourage all members to come to make new friends and become an athlete again.

Hope to see you there,

Paul Mann
Co-Sports Director
E: paulm@buckeyepva.org
BUCKEYE BRAWN

OVERALL MEDALS
Top 5 PVA Chapters (via NVWG App)

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<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
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<td>5. Minnesota Chapter</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>16</td>
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Great Job, Team Buckeye!
On August 6th & 7th, Holly Koester, the Koester Family, and the VA Rec Therapists joined together to take on the MS150 Buckeye Breakaway, adorning their Buckeye PVA shirts to raise awareness and funding for individuals with Multiple Sclerosis. Buckeye PVA currently has 105 members with MS, making up over 65% of the Chapter’s membership. The Buckeye PVA team, called Glory’s Riders, joined 300 bikers on a fun, 2-day ride, beginning at the Berea Library and traveling all the way to Cedar Point! With 150 miles, the route was broken up into rest areas every 7 to 10 miles. The “SAG Wagon” provided transport to any riders who needed an assist. 2022 made this the 4th year that the Koester Family and friends enjoyed this ride.

Holly would like to invite any bikers or Buckeye PVA Members who would like to join in 2023 to please contact her via email at hollyk@buckeyepva.org.

Great job, Holly, the Koester Family, and the VA Rec Therapists!
WE'VE MOVED!

COME FIND US AT OUR NEW ADDRESS:

2775 BISHOP RD
SUITE B
WILLOUGHBY HILLS, OH. 44092
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.

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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
440-305-8995

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
Washington Update

Check out the PVAction Force page to view our latest alerts and a list of key legislation and its status.

On August 2, the Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act passed the Senate and the bill was signed into law by the President on August 10 at a White House ceremony. The PACT Act is the most comprehensive toxic exposure bill for veterans in history. Ultimately, the PACT Act will expand VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act impacts both the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration. It adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions related to burn pits and broadens coverage for Vietnam-era veterans exposed to Agent Orange, radiation exposure, and other toxins. Presumptive conditions are medical conditions that VA presumes to be related to military service. Some of the new presumptive conditions under the PACT Act are brain cancer, glioblastoma, gastrointestinal, lymphatic cancer, as well as several respiratory cancers. Illnesses such as chronic bronchitis, chronic rhinitis, constrictive bronchiolitis, and pulmonary fibrosis have also been added to the list. You can go to this website to determine if you have a condition that is now considered to be related to military service. Additionally, the PACT Act requires VA to provide toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care.

For veterans who have not enrolled in VA health care that separated from the military before October 1, 2013, VA is offering a special enrollment period from October 1, 2022, until October 1, 2023. To be eligible for this enrollment period you must have served in a theater of combat operations on active-duty after the Persian Gulf War or during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, and were discharged or released between September 11, 2002, and October 1, 2012.

If you have a claim pending with VA that concerns a condition that is now considered to be a presumptive, you do not have to do any additional paperwork but you should receive a letter from VA recognizing the presumptive status of your claim. If you need help filing a VA claim or have questions about a presumptive condition, reach out to a PVA national service officer (NSO) to assist you.

Other provisions within the PACT Act will help VA bolster its workforce and enable the department to treat newly eligible veterans. These include requiring the VA to establish standard qualifications and performance metrics for HR positions as well as developing a plan to improve hiring for those positions; expedite the hiring of recent college graduates for certain positions; enhance or create a number of special pay, incentive, bonus, award, and student loan repayment authorities department-wide; and raise pay caps on certain medical positions. Others require training for VA and civilian providers to better understand or treat veterans’ exposure concerns and authorize 31 new, major medical health clinics and research facilities in 19 states.

In the coming weeks, VA will be hiring health professionals, including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who will specialize in conducting patient assessments regarding the health effects of military exposures. Also, by January 2023, the department expects to have a fully operational call center and network of experts to help veterans concerned about environmental exposure and provide consultative services to veterans in primary care clinics.

Legislation Introduced in the Senate to Improve HISA

In early August, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) introduced legislation which aims to make much needed updates to VA’s Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant program. The HISA grant provides financial assistance to veterans and servicemembers to allow them to make medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to their primary residences. Updating this important grant program is a top legislative priority for PVA because its outdated rates are failing to provide veterans the level of financial assistance needed to modify their homes.
S. 4721, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, would increase the amount available under the HISA program from the current ceiling of $6,800 to $10,000 for veterans with service-connected conditions and $5,000 for those with conditions unrelated to military service. It also ties these amounts to a formulation so future rates remain current. The new bill is the companion measure to H.R. 5819 which Representative Al Lawson (D-FL) introduced last November. This is one of several issues that may receive attention by Congress in the fall. Please send this updated letter to your members of Congress urging them to increase HISA grant rates.

AAPD Issues Progress Report on Automobile Accessibility Scorecard

At the end of July, the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) issued its third progress report on its Automobile Accessibility Scorecard. The scorecard tracks progress by auto manufacturing companies toward the design and production of an accessible vehicle that can accommodate people with a wide range of disabilities, including power wheelchair users. Currently, no manufacturer offers a fully accessible vehicle that does not require expensive aftermarket modifications for wheelchair users. Although autonomous vehicles (AV) potential to remove barriers is frequently touted, as automakers pave the way with new concepts for these vehicles, it is crucial that people with disabilities are not left behind.

The report highlights significant progress on new vehicle design and development. It also shows disclosures by automakers that next-generation vehicles will include a wide range of accessibility features, including wheelchair securement. It further notes the development of new partnerships to provide Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant accessible vehicle options in AV company fleets.

Uber Wins Case Despite Failure to Provide WAV Services in New Orleans and Jackson, MS

On July 25, a California federal judge ruled that Uber is not required to provide wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) in New Orleans, LA, and Jackson, MS. In the consolidated case of Crawford v. Uber and Namisnak v. Uber, three power wheelchair users sued Uber alleging that the company violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by failing to provide WAV services in their home cities and for effectively banning WAVs under their vehicle eligibility criteria. Although Uber offers WAV services in 11 other cities, it does not have WAVs in New Orleans or Jackson.

The judge held that offering WAV services in these cities would be unreasonable and, thus, not required under the ADA. Under the ADA, companies must make reasonable modifications to their policies, practices, or procedures when necessary to provide services to individuals with disabilities, unless it would fundamentally alter the service. The judge determined that although WAVs do not fundamentally alter Uber’s rideshare service, the cost and inability to provide the service at all hours would require an unreasonable modification.

In addition, Uber has vehicle eligibility criteria for drivers, including a ban on aftermarket seating modifications. The judge found that although the ban did effectively screen out WAVs, the policy alone did not screen out all power wheelchair users since Uber could not guarantee that a WAV would even be available for the plaintiff’s rides. The judge did clarify that just because a reasonable modification may result in more than a minimal cost, it was not necessarily unreasonable, and that complying with the ADA was not a punishment to companies, but rather, the law. Furthermore, the opinion explained that this ruling does not mean that all lawsuits against rideshare companies demanding WAV services would never succeed.

Circuit Court Dismisses Marriott Case Finding Hotel Met ADA Requirements for Describing Accessibility Features

In Love v. Marriott Hotel Services, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the dismissal of a case against Marriott. The plaintiff alleged that the hotel failed to provide sufficient accessibility details on its website. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires places of lodging, such as hotels, motels, and inns, to identify and describe accessibility features in enough detail for an individual to decide if the facility will meet
their needs.

The plaintiff, Samuel Love, has paraplegia and uses a wheelchair for mobility. He alleged that when he tried to book a room at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis, the website lacked sufficient information about the hotel’s accessibility features. The website did list accessible features in some guestrooms, including the type of room, size and number of beds, type of accessible bathing facility, accessible communication features, and more. In addition, the website had a phone number for prospective guests to call. Love argued that the information was insufficient for him to determine whether the hotel would meet his accessibility needs. He argued that more detailed descriptions would be appropriate. The Northern District of California District Court dismissed the case finding that the hotel listed details beyond what the ADA required. Love appealed the case to the Ninth Circuit.

The Ninth Circuit looked to the Department of Justice’s guidance for interpretation of the ADA’s requirements. The guidance states that older hotels can simply say, “features do not comply with the 1991 Standards.” Newer hotels only need to specify that the hotel is accessible, and describe the type of room (e.g., deluxe suite), size and number of beds (e.g., two queen beds), type of accessible bathing facility (e.g., roll-in shower), and the accessible communication features. The hotel should also train staff to answer questions about accessibility features and provide more detailed information. Finding that the hotel met these requirements, the Ninth Circuit affirmed dismissal of the case.

**Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Improving Access for People with Disabilities**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed late last year allocates funding for a variety of grant programs that will improve transportation access for people with disabilities. For example, between fiscal years (FY) 2022 and 2026, a total of $5 billion will be available to provide competitive grants for airport terminal development projects that address the aging infrastructure of the nation’s airports. In early July, the Federal Aviation Administration announced grant awards of $1 billion for FY 2022. Of the grants awarded, 73 include projects that will improve airport access for people with disabilities.

The BIL also includes funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the PVA-supported All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP). On July 26, FTA announced the opportunity to apply for approximately $343 million in ASAP grants that will be available for FY 2022.

The main purpose of the program is to provide funding to states, territories, the District of Columbia, and local governmental authorities to help finance capital projects to upgrade the accessibility of legacy fixed guideway public transportation systems (e.g., subway, commuter rail, light rail) for persons with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs, by increasing the number of existing stations or facilities, such as outdoor light-rail boarding and alighting areas, that are fully accessible.

**Inflation Reduction Act Passes Congress**

On August 12, Congress finalized passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – a significantly reduced version of the Build Back Better bill that had been promoted as one of the signature domestic initiatives of the Biden Administration. The President signed the legislation on August 16. Although it did not include a number of measures prioritized by the disability community, it nevertheless contains several provisions that will aid people with disabilities and older Americans. Overall, the legislation raises approximately $472 billion for clean energy and climate investments, improvements to Medicare and Affordable Care Act health coverage, and addresses deficit reduction by closing several tax loopholes targeted at large corporations and very high-income individuals. The non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation determined that taxes on families making less than $400,000 a year could actually be reduced under the IRA.

Energy efficiencies for low income communities - The legislation contains $60 billion in grants, tax credits, and other subsidies to help lower-income families by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, cars, and communities. The bill would also specifically address air pollution, greenhouse gas
emissions, and other long-standing pollution issues that have disproportionally impacted low-income communities, tribes, and territories, including Puerto Rico.

Accessible, affordable transportation - In addition, the IRA’s $3.2 billion investment in a Neighborhood Access and Grant Equity Program provides necessary support for accessible, affordable and safe transportation. Funding can be used towards accessible sidewalk improvements, curb ramps, audible pedestrian signals, safety improvements for vulnerable road users, assessing transportation equity and expanding public participation in transportation planning by individuals and organizations in disadvantaged or underserved communities.

Health care provisions - The IRA extends for three years the American Rescue Plan’s temporary enhancements to premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Without the extension, an estimated 3.1 million people could have lost their ACA coverage due to a predicted spike in their insurance premiums. The agreement also takes steps to lower the cost of prescription drugs for both the federal government and consumers, including a $35-per-month cap on the out-of-pocket cost of insulin.

For those on Medicare, the IRA allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to begin negotiating on the price of certain prescription drugs beginning in 2023. This is expected to result in savings for many who depend on Part D for critical pharmaceuticals. Starting in 2025, it will also cap Medicare patients’ out of pocket costs at $2,000 per year, with the option to break that amount into more affordable monthly payments. The proposal holds annual premium growth to existing levels to keep insurers and manufacturers from passing the costs of any new financial responsibilities on to beneficiaries. Finally, it makes all COVID vaccines free in Medicare, whose population was the only one required to pay for such vaccines.

The IRA also expands premium and co-pay assistance on prescription drugs for low-income individuals. Currently, the low-income subsidy program under Medicare Part D is fully available to all seniors earning less than 135 percent of the federal poverty level, and partially available to seniors earning less than 150 percent of the federal policy level. The IRA eliminates the partial subsidy status, giving those seniors the full low-income subsidy under Medicare Part D.

Finally, the IRA includes language addressing a key disability concern about the use of Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs). It would ban the use of evidence or findings from comparative effectiveness research that treats extending the life of a person with a disability as of lower value than extending the life of an individual without a disability.

**Veterans Education Provision Headed to the President**

The Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022 (S. 5548) passed the House last week by unanimous consent. The bill will improve access to high-quality educational programs for student veterans using the Post 9/11 GI Bill. It previously passed the Senate and will be headed to the President’s desk for signature.

After the creation of the Montgomery GI Bill, the VA discovered several educational facilities that were filling their classes with veterans receiving educational benefits, but not providing a quality education. The 85/15 rule was established to require that for a school to collect VA education benefits, the student body could not be comprised of more than 85 percent of student veterans receiving education benefits.

The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans’ Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 updated scrutiny of the 85/15 rule and several institutions of higher learning were running into certification issues, many based on smaller programs offered within larger campus structures. The Ensuring the Best Schools for Veterans Act of 2022 will address some reporting barriers, allow college campuses to apply for a waiver for programs with smaller enrollment numbers, and hopefully ensure a smooth enrollment period for student veterans in the upcoming academic year.
**NEWS OF NOTE**

**KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATION**

The Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington was first dedicated on July 27, 1995. Construction on a long-planned addition to the Memorial began in March of last year and the new extension was officially unveiled recently. Added to the Memorial is a Wall of Remembrance listing the names of 36,000 service members and 7,174 Korean augmentees to the U.S. Army (KATUSA) who lost their lives defending South Korea from the North. The names are arranged in order of rank and branch of service to demonstrate how the toll fell unevenly across the military. Military.com has coverage of the rededication ceremony at https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/07/27/more-43000-names-us-and-korean-new-wall-of-remembrance-korea-war-memorial.html.

**GI BILL COMPARISON TOOL UPDATED**

As part of the Digital GI Bill modernization, the VA is simplifying and modernizing the GI Bill education benefits experience. With the latest enhancements to the GI Bill Comparison Tool, you can now compare schools side-by-side, search by location using a map feature, and even search on the go with a mobile-friendly design.

**SHOULD VETERANS SIGN UP FOR MEDICARE PART D?**

Do veterans who have VA health care, TRICARE, and other forms of health care coverage need to sign-up for Medicare Part D? In this episode of the SITREP, learn about Medicare Part D policy and who to reach out to for help.

**DOJ ANNOUNCES INTENT TO START RULE-MAKING PROCESS FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY**

The Department of Justice has announced its intent to begin the rulemaking process to establish accessibility regulations for state and local government websites. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities by state and local government programs, activities, and services. However, many of these public entities fail to incorporate accessibility features in their online content. Currently, there are no enforceable technical standards on Title II website accessibility. The rulemaking, which is expected to be released in April 2023, will provide technical standards to assist state and local governments in complying with ADA anti-discrimination requirements and making their websites accessible.

**HEARINGS, WEBINARS, & EVENTS**

On September 9 at 4:00 p.m. ET, the Patient Rights Action Fund (PRAF) will sponsor a webinar focusing on assisted suicide from the viewpoint of the disability community. Featured presenters include Lydia X. Z. Brown, Esq. with the Autistic Women and Non-Binary Network, John Kelly from Not Dead Yet, Vincenzo Piscopo with United Spinal Association, and Ian McIntosh with PRAF. To register, click here.

**VA CAREGIVER MONTHLY EDUCATION CALL**

The VA is inviting veterans’ caregivers to join the August Caregiver Support Line (CSL) call, “Good Grief: Finding Hope in the Necessary Losses of Being a Caregiver,” on August 17 at 3:00 p.m. ET. Caregivers must register to join the call by calling 1-855-260-3274. Caregivers that are unable to attend these calls can access presentations on the CSL’s webpage.

**UPCOMING VETERANS’ AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ACTION**

Please visit the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee webpage and the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee webpage for information on upcoming hearings and markups.
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?

CONTACT US
Buckeye Banner

Research Study:

Craig Caregiver Assessment of Rewards and Effort (C2ARE) Validation

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center is currently recruiting family members of Veterans with spinal cord injury as participants for a research study funded by the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation. The purpose of this study is to further understand issues faced by family members through the use of a questionnaire tool. We aim to better address family members needs overall, and in turn, improve the quality of life for individuals with SCI. Participants will answer a brief questionnaire that can be done in person or over the phone. Participants will be compensated $30 for their time.

If you are interested in hearing more about the study, please contact:
Emily Johnson at 216-262-2452
or Martin Kilbane at 216-280-3347
or email
Emily.Johnson17@va.gov

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Institutional Review Board (IRB)
Effective Date: March 22, 2022
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 more information please visit: [https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non-VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_Fill.pdf](https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10143g_Non-VA_Hospital_Emergency_Notification_Fill.pdf)

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

Table: Veteran Information vs. Treating Facility Information

<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>Note: POC will receive VA authorization decision info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Complaint/Admission DX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and/or Discharge DX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please cut around the dotted line to keep this important information with you at all times.
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
Advertise with Buckeye PVA!

Looking to get your information out to the Paralyzed Veteran Community? Look no further than advertising with Buckeye PVA in the Buckeye Banner! The Buckeye Banner is published quarterly and is filled with event updates, special offers for our Paralyzed Veterans, and even ads for companies and products built to improve the lives of our members! If you would like to advertise in the Buckeye Banner, ads must be purchased by September 30, 2022! Artwork for ads must be submitted to the Buckeye Banner Editor, Maddi Snyder, 1 month prior to publish date of each newsletter. If you do not have artwork for your ad, artwork can be created by Editor for an additional charge.

Advertising Rates for the Buckeye Banner:

1 Full Page Color for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues) ................................................................. $3,500
1 Full Page B/W for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues) ................................................................. $3,000
1 Half Page Color for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues) ............................................................... $2,000
1 Half Page B/W for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues) ................................................................. $1,500
1 Quarter Page Color for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues) ......................................................... $1,000
1 Quarter Page B/W for 1 fiscal year* (4 issues) ............................................................ $750

***

1 Full page Color for 1 quarterly issue** ................................................................. $1,000
1 Full page B/W for 1 quarterly issue** ........................................................................ $850
1 Half page Color for 1 quarterly issue** ................................................................. $600
1 Half page B/W for 1 quarterly issue** ........................................................................ $475
1 Quarter page Color for 1 quarterly issue** ............................................................ $400
1 Quarter page B/W for 1 quarterly issue** ................................................................. $300

*Ads purchased for an entire fiscal year are up for renewal on September 30th. Ads can be updated throughout the year and issues are released the first week of December, March, June and November

**Ads purchased for 1 quarterly issue must be submitted 30 days prior to release dates

Please contact Maddi at maddis@buckeyepva.org or by telephone at (216) 731-1017 to advertise with Buckeye PVA today!
AYCE Update: DATE CHANGE

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, BUCKEYE CHAPTER PRESENTS...

Friday, October 21st
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

TONY K’S BAR AND GRILL
841 W Bagley Rd
BEREA, OH 44017

**All proceeds to benefit Ohio's Paralyzed Veterans**

$55.00 per ticket includes all-you-can-eat buffet, all-you-can-drink domestic draft beer, wine, & soda, & 1 raffle ticket
(*raffle & 50/50 tickets sold separately).

RSVP by Friday, September 23rd

Make checks payable to:
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Buckeye Chapter
2775 Bishop Road, Suite B
Willoughby Hills, OH 44092

To make reservations by credit card, please call the Chapter Office at: (216) 731-1017 / (800) 248-2548
or by email at maddis@buckeyepva.org.
RESEARCH STUDY:

Assistive Technology and Functional Outcomes following Spinal Cord Injury

Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center is currently recruiting participants with spinal cord injury for a research study funded by the Department of Defense looking at the impact of assistive technology on productivity and participation. Participants will complete a survey lasting approximately half an hour and can be done online, over the phone, or at the Cleveland VA Medical Center. Participants will be asked how access or lack of availability to assistive technology has had an impact on their functional and psychosocial outcomes, including employment, community integration, self-efficacy, health, and quality of life. Eligible participants will have C1-C7 level injuries, be at least one-year post-injury, be 18-65 years old, and AIS A-D. Participants will receive compensation for their time.

If you are interested in hearing more about the study, please contact:
Emily Johnson at 216-262-2452
or Martin Kilbane at 216-280-3347
or email
Emily.Johnson17@va.gov

(Please refer to the SCI AT study in your message)
## Member Birthdays

### September
- Edward Daso
- James Letizio
- George Tehan
- Stephen Brandt
- Terry Blackstone
- Ricky Olson
- Paul Sonye
- Mark Waite
- Robert Lucas
- David Wood
- Chris Fritts
- Gary Wallace
- William Fry
- Kenneth Elick
- Thomas Schmitt
- Vernon Monroe
- Tracy Neu
- Merlin Markland
- David Hopson
- Paul Mann
- Thomas Hornecker
- Julie Charette
- David Prestegaard
- Robert Young
- Walter Pruitt
- Bryan Hibinger
- Claude Owens
- Joseph Kerns
- Robert Redden
- Timothy Osborne
- Dwight Adams
- Luther Preston
- Paul Cook
- William Larson
- William Dailey
- Emmett Pyle
- Robert Bush
- Patrick Sullivan
- Chadwick Watiker

### October
- James Brown
- Kenneth Melesky
- Bobby Click
- Ronald Zasowski
- David Yocom
- Brian Moore
- Patrick Harris
- Narciso Amesquita
- Michael Wolfe
- Robert Morris
- Shawn Ritchhart
- Lorenzo Perdue
- William Drake
- Charles Jennings
- Ronald Hudson
- James Amis
- Robert Sanders
- Stella Thomas Corlew
- Wandlyn Handy
- Daniel Crawford
- Michael Gackstetter
- Melvin Appell
- Sarah Holley
- Donald Roberts
- Glenn Miller
- Scott Trapp
- Charles Hake
- Rodney Osborne
- Lucas Meyer
- Wondle Dinguss
- Eddie Dixon
- Terry Smeal
- Eric Jones
- John Sarosy
- James Agin
- John Davis
- William Hammock
- Douglas Knopp
- Joel Smith

### November
- James Robinson
- Mark Forsyth
- Joseph Shrader
- William Phillips
- Daniel Marzullo
- Miller Mangham
- Edward Keating
- Patti Pleasant-Ross
- Charles Blubaugh
- Charles McGugan
- James O'Harra
- Gregory Weaver
- Deborah McCreath
- Clifford Wilson
- Terry Rock
- Richard Migh
- Frank Sears
- Richard Lindsay
- Kevin Samuels
- Michael Reynolds
- Jeffery Roseman
- Barry Steinnecker
- Martin Bobal
- Sean Couch
- Richard Hofmeister
- James Bartholomew
- Joseph Wrightsel
- Warren Spaulding
- Vincent Gebhardt
- John Green
- Michael Fumarola
- Lee Blake
- Joel Reese
- Budd Walker
- Randy Hendricks
- Sunny Yang
- Kendall Gill
- Darrell Bogan
- Ashley Buschur
- Daniel Wittcop
- Matthew Cornett
- Stanley Wrotniewski
- David Tyler
- Larry Bostic
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