



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

New England Chapter

CORDWORD

The Monthly News Magazine of the New England Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America



Memorial Day

INSIDE THIS EDITION

73RD ANNUAL PVA CONV

COMMUNITY CARE



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Paralyzed Veterans from Across the Country gather in Denver Area to Further Their Mission.

Leaders and members from one of the "Big 6" veterans' service organization, Paralyzed Veterans of America, will gathered in Aurora, CO for the organization's 73rd Annual Convention on May 14-18. Throughout the week, the delegation discussed the organization's priorities and set the coming year's agenda as they continue their mission of helping veterans *..continued on page 4.*



Community Care Program on Track for a June 6 Launch

On June 6th, the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP) will go into effect. The VCCP is the result of the VA MISSION Act that streamlined VA's seven community care programs into one. Through the VCCP, more veterans will be eligible for community care. VA is also promising that scheduling appointments will be easier and the care coordination between VA and community....*continued on page 5.*



Out Front

Michael G. Negrete, President

I first want to say, as we all prepare to enjoy a long Memorial Day weekend of get togethers with family and friends, I hope each of you will take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of this holiday: to remember the brave men and women who selflessly gave their lives in service to the United States as members of the armed forces. These courageous men and women live on in stories and histories, and should always inspire us to follow the right path for a prosperous and free Nation.

I recently returned from PVA's Annual Convention in Denver, CO. They have some new and exciting ways of communicating PVA's mission, as well as, partnering with corporations to fund that mission. There is great potential to work with National to benefit the Chapter in both of these areas. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page in the coming months for more details. Also more importantly, PVA passed a balanced budget this year with a small liquidation of its equity portfolio. This means our Chapter grant will continue to be funded at the same rate as last year. Also, since our program to expense ratio is now above 65%, we'll not receive any penalty/reduction to our grant as well.

As our summer finally get started, please continue to read through the Cord Word, check our website and follow the Chapter's Facebook page to keep up on all the activities available throughout New England. There are several activities and events listed in this issue, as well as, always on the back cover. If you have any questions on activities or what might be available in your area please feel free to call the office and select option four for the Chapter sports and recreation director Mike Guilbault.

Finally, the annual banquet is now June 28. You can register and order your tickets online at nepva1947.eventbrite.com. Please register early to ensure your meal selection of choice, either a New York strip sirloin for big stuffed chicken.

Michael G. Negrete
President and Paralyzed Veteran

From the Director's Desk

Debra A. Freed, Executive Director



Yes, yours truly is leaving paid employment of the New England Chapter by the end of July or unless a suitable replacement is hired.

Most of you all know my history. I have never stayed in a position for more than 6 1/2 years. I can honestly say any reason for leaving was based on my wanting to do something else. I was never fired from a job but I was laid off a time or two.

I am very proud and honored to have worked with so many great veterans, PVA staff, and VA staff since 2005. It was an opportunity to give back some of what I had been given. And again, this is only leaving employment of the Chapter not the Chapter itself. I plan to remain an active volunteer for both the VA and the Chapter.

So, please consider coming out to the Chapter banquet (June 28th) for an informal farewell. It will be a good time and I do guarantee a grand prize of \$250 gift card.

Debra A. Freed
Executive Director

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PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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Paralyzed Veterans from Across the Country Gather in Denver Area to Further Their Mission

PVA Website - Liz Deakin, Director of Communications



Leaders and members from one of the “Big 6” veterans’ service organization, Paralyzed Veterans of America, will gathered in Aurora, CO for the organization’s 73rd Annual Convention on May 14-18. Throughout the week, the delegation discussed the organization’s priorities and set the coming year’s agenda as they continue their mission of helping veterans with spinal cord injury, disorders and related diseases like MS and ALS.

“It’s a critical time for our organization right now. We’ve had some big legislative wins over this past year, including helping to get the VA MISSION Act passed, and now we’re working to ensure it is implemented fully and effectively,” said David Zurfluh, a disabled Air Force veteran and National President of Paralyzed Veterans of America. “PVA has been able to continue its support for all people with disabilities and because of our advocacy efforts, we have seen major steps to improve air travel

for individuals with disabilities. We are proud to be celebrating nearly 75 years of working to help increase the quality of life for veterans with spinal cord injury, disorders, and related diseases like MS and ALS, as well as all people with disabilities, through the services and programs we provide.”

Some of PVA’s accomplishments from the past year include:

- Securing more than \$289 million in annual and retroactive benefits for clients.
- Awarding more than \$1 million in grants to help find a cure for spinal cord injury.
- Championing the passage of the VA MISSION Act.
- Placing 319 individuals in meaningful employment opportunities through PVA’s employment program, PAVE.
- Supporting 69 adaptive sports events throughout the country.

Members of the organization will also attend a celebration on Saturday of the new Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Center at the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center.

PVA’s Partnership with Women Veterans Interactive to Empower Heroes who Served through Education and Employment

PVA Website - Liz Deakin, Director of Communications



Paralyzed Veterans of America is thrilled to announce today its new partnership with Women Veterans Interactive that seeks to empower female veterans through employment, education and volunteer support. Currently, there are 2 million women veterans living in the US, and women are the fastest growing demographic in both the military and veteran population.

The partnership will support PVA’s unique, no-cost employment program, PAVE. Through the collaboration, WVI members, participants in their Women Veterans Transition Space program and other women veterans will be able to receive one-on-one guidance from PVA’s employment program staff who can help them identify educational opportunities to achieve their career goals, develop resumes, sharpen interview skills and additional services.

“The education and employment of America’s women veterans is very important to their whole health. We need to ensure these women know that they deserve to have meaningful careers and a wonderful sense of well-being,” said Tammy Jones, National Vice President of Paralyzed

Veterans of America.

“The joining of efforts among Paralyzed Veterans of America and Women Veterans Interactive will advance the message to America’s women veterans that we are here to help them overcome barriers and thrive.”

Transitioning out of the military can be a daunting task especially for women veterans, and because of this, Women Veterans Interactive created the Women Veterans Transition Space program to assist women who have served in the military with becoming workforce ready and employed.

“This landmark partnership with Paralyzed Veterans of America will assist Women Veterans Interactive in delivering much-needed workforce development and career services to women veterans through our Women Veterans Transition Space program. In addition, this joint effort will send a strong message of encouragement, hope and respect to the women who have served and sacrificed for our country,” said Ginger Miller, President and CEO of Women Veterans Interactive.

To learn more about PVA’s employment program, visit www.pva.org/PAVE.

Veterans Community Care Program On Track for June Launch

PVA Washington Update, Volume 25, Number 5



On June 6th, the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP) will go into effect. The VCCP is the result of the VA MISSION Act that streamlined VA's seven community care programs into one. Through

the VCCP, more veterans will be eligible for community care. VA is also promising that scheduling appointments will be easier and the care coordination between VA and community providers will be better. In addition, VA has developed education and training materials to help community providers understand some of the unique challenges veterans may encounter.

Although PVA has expressed concerns about the readiness of VA to roll

out the program, particularly in light of the status of IT solutions that will help facilitate it, VA has asserted that it is ready for the program's rollout. VA has made some information about the program available online. In addition, veterans enrolled in VA health care will receive a letter in the mail providing details on where to go for more information.

On June 4th at 3:00 pm ET, PVA will host a webinar to help members learn more about the VCCP and the status of other VA MISSION Act provisions. To register for the webinar, please visit: <https://zoom.us/webinar/register/5aa0630bf5c5a74a34538d7d4481ef37>. In the meantime, for more information the VCCP, please visit: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/58621/new-eligibility-criteria-a-major-improvement-over-existing-rules>.

Appropriations Committee Approves PVA DOL VETS Proposal Caregiver Program Funding

PVA Washington Update, Volume 25, Number 5



On May 8th, the House Appropriations Committee approved a proposal developed by PVA and its allies in the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Veterans Task Force to establish a Disabled Veteran Program staffer within the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS). In the report accompanying the Labor-HHS-

Education appropriations bill, the committee stated that it was including "\$300,000 within Federal Administration to establish a Disabled Veteran Program (DVP) to address the high unemployment and low labor force participation rate of veterans with service-connected and non-service-connected disabilities."

The committee further stated that, "The DVP will help increase employment and advancement opportunities for veterans with disabilities by working with federal, state, and private partners to promote the hiring of veterans with disabilities, improve coordination of

available employment services and supports, and to identify and share employment best practices for hiring, retaining, and advancing veterans with disabilities in the workforce."

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

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

NEW ENGLAND PVA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Volunteers do invaluable work that makes a real difference to Veterans, their communities and the Chapter. Volunteering can change your life, too! Your talents and time are always welcome.

We are looking for Volunteers to help out in the office, attend local awareness events, and assist with event planning. Everyone can help somehow and in some way, at any place and during any time. If you might be too busy or can't get out, think about a financial donation. Even if it's only \$5 or \$10, every little bit helps. To learn more about Volunteer opportunities and how you can help please contact the Chapter office at 800-660-1181 or email info@newenglandpva.org.

Summertime Fun

By Mike Guilbault, Sports Director

Now the weather is warming up it's time to start enjoying some summer activities. In addition to the Bass Trail Tournaments the Chapter has been offering with the American Eagles Bass Anglers for over 20 years now there is the opportunity for cycling, kayaking, bocchia, air rifle shooting plus fly tying and fly fishing. The Boston VA Recreation Therapy Programs begin in May offering the summertime fun. For those who wish to participate in any of the activities you must get a consult from your Primary Care Physician to Jenny Vulpis the Adaptive Sports Case Manager in order to be allowed to attend. For more info you can reach Jenny at 774-826-1955.

Mondays there will be hand cycling at Brockton VAMC from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Tuesday's bocchia and air rifle shooting is held in the Brockton VAMC gym 2:00-4:00 PM.

Wednesdays there will be kayaking from 5:00-7:00 PM, sometimes in the Brockton VAMC pool and when the weather allows, they go to the 'Nip'. A

lake close by in Bridgewater off 104.

The third Wednesday of each month Healing Waters Fly Fishing comes to Brockton for fly tying at 6:00 PM and hopefully weather permitting getting out for some fly fishing too at some point. Contact Jenny for more detailed info about the Healing Waters Program.

There are also various shooting events at different clubs, one in Seekonk, MA and 3 others at different clubs on Cape Cod in Bourne, Sandwich and Yarmouth.

There are a few clubs offering a day of trout fishing for the veterans also. See the back cover for these and other events such as the shoot with the Bellingham PD and also the cookout fun day on Lake Hiawatha in Bellingham, MA. Many other activities are offered as well from Maine to CT.

I Had a Blast at Bocchia and Air Rifle!

Contributed by Chapter Member Joe Guay



On the weekend of April 26th and 27th, I had the pleasure to see some old friends as well as meet some new ones while attending the Bocchia and Air rifle competition which was held inside at the gym at Brockton VA . The morning started with a Bocchia practice session. Then delicious

sandwiches were served for lunch. After lunch the serious Bocchia competition began. A double round of eliminations took place, it was at that point I was pleasantly surprised when I took first place in the Bocchia competition. If you haven't tried playing Bocchia, I highly recommend the game. It's a game of strategy and it's a lot of fun.

The next day, on Saturday the participants were divided into groups to compete in the air rifle competition. After the morning competitive group shoot, delicious pizza and a fresh garden salad was served for lunch. Right after lunch the afternoon air rifle competition took place. Since this was my first time in a shooting competition as a wheelchair veteran, I was pleasantly surprised once again to find out I took second place. Cash awards were given out to the top 3 finishers.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the PVA , the New England Chapter, PVA, and all the volunteers who worked hard at making the weekend a success.



April's Event Recap

By Debra A. Freed, Chapter Executive Director

April's Events:

I sincerely hope this finds everyone looking forward to a good Spring. Hopefully those who have dealt with rough weather recently can look forward to better weather.

The month of April was PVA's Awareness month. Some of the things we did to celebrate and support our membership started with our attendance at the Celebrate America event at the Leominster Vet Center on April 6th.

April 17th, the Chapter supported its bi-monthly pizza party at the Brockton's Long Term Care facility. I know Northampton also held its monthly MS/SCI meeting. It is always nice when outpatient veterans come to these events. A lot of time and energy go into putting these things together.

April 24th, I participated in the Fitchburg State University's Veterans Appreciation event. While the weather was sunny, it was most definitely breezy. I was very glad to have brought weights for the table. Many thanks to those folks who put this event on. Hopefully, next year, they will have better weather.

April 26th & 27th the Chapter held its Airgun and Boccia Clinic and Competition at Bldg 23, Brockton VA's gym. Many thanks need to go to Jenny Vulpis, Joanie Lynch, the myriad of volunteers whom without these events cannot take place. John Arbino from PVA's Sports Department working with us to set things up, provide instructions to attendees in both Boccia & Airguns and kept excellent scores:

FOR THE BOCCIA WINNERS

Ramp Division:

- 1st place: Richard Raymond
- 2nd place: Patricia Thomas
- 3rd place: Jim Wilcox

Bracketed play pitted 12 players against each other with a losers' bracket,

Overall winners were:

- 1st place: Joe Guay
- 2nd place: Dan Shaul
- 3rd place: Wayne Ross

For The Airgun Competition, there were four categories: SH-1, SH-2, and Able-bodied.

SH1 Shooters:

- 1st place: Pete Moore
- 2nd place: Joe Guay
- 3rd place: John Melvin

SH2 Shooters:

- 1st place: Dan Shaul
- 2nd place: Steve Aylward
- 3rd place: Mike Guilbault

Able-Bodied:

- 1st place: Jim Tynan
- 2nd place: Richard Matton
- 3rd place: Nicole Taylor

We had twelve folks on each day competing. Our sincerest thanks for everyone who assisted, Jenny Vulpis and Joanie Lynch VA Recreation Therapy, the DAV Unit 35 out of Marshfield, Spaulding Rehab and their volunteers. PVA and Chapter volunteers: Holly Warshaw, Denise Pease, Karen, Joe, to name a few. Also a sincere thanks to Bobbie Corcione, a veteran who works at VA Brockton who volunteered his time to line the Boccia Courts. If I have left anyone else out, I sincerely apologize. We cannot put together events like this without the very good working relationships we have.

Many thanks to John Arbino, PVA's Director for Boccia and Airguns. He provided instructions for both events and took care of the brackets for the competitions. For my part, I am very grateful to all who attended and especially who participated. This is the 2nd time in over two years we presented this event and from what I know, we had a great turnout both days.

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Essence Evaluation - 2019 NDV Winter Sports Clinic

Contributed by Chapter Member Paul Nyerick

Sunlight clasped the earth, bathing in its glory, with wide slow-moving tendrils of radiance, filled with the promise of enduring vigor, ready to take advantage of all the beauty this blue globe has to offer. For I t was December 26th, still filled with yesterday's feast, perfect for a hand cycle ride along Florida's pristine Atlantic coastline. I took a moment to gaze at the sights and heard sounds that injected into everything. Fragrant aromas filled my nostrils, while happy birds sang inviting songs, welcoming me to participate in their excitement, inviting me for the ride of a lifetime.

As my left leg hopped onto the seat of my awaiting chariot, I got the strange feeling that something was not quite right. I had trouble lifting my right leg, making my balance tenuous at best. I attempted to lift my unresponsive lower limb, with the hand, needed to hold my balance. This made for a foolhardy, dangerous maneuver. Without warning, the parking brake lost its grip and left me with diminished balance. A feeling of impending doom, sent chills of hopelessness throughout my defenseless shell.

To make things worse; a blue wind, forged in the crucible of danger, blew over what little control I still had over my compromised being. My body listed to the left, while my leg stood fast, like it was stuck in a puddle of super glue. Gravity took over and thrust my body into free-fall, except for that leg, still bolted to the seat. My stuck leg held 200 pounds of girth, falling toward terra firma. This was a receipt for disaster. As my leg couldn't hold any more weight, I heard and felt the audible snap of my breaking tibia. Over the years, I've always been able to get up from any fall, but not this one.

The sum of all my fears flashed over my compromised aura. Lying with my nose burrowed into garden mulch, a rush of pain, radiated over everything. I realized that this was a situation I wouldn't walk away from. Worse than the agony was the fact I was supposed to fly north, to attend the New England Winter Sports Clinic. I'd have to pass up the fun of the past dozen years.

After I regained composure I attempted to stand. It hit me like a sledge hammer between my teary eyes. I had to focus on healing, so Snowmass would still be in my future. After 28 years of suffering the scourge of MS, I was no stranger to pain and never giving up to my disability. I've always looked adversity straight in the eye. I zealously refused to use a wheelchair, but there was no way I could get away from rolling in my nemesis. My pride took a hit with that realization. The fact I needed to call 911 revealed my fragility. I took a big gulp of pride, while waiting for the medics to arrive. At that moment I realized that everything is evolving, and if you keep on a positive course, there still may be eternal hope. There was no way I could fathom throwing in the towel. My path was clear. Snowmass or bust.

While a guest of the JFK emergency room, I had to wait and wait for treatment. After x rays, a full leg brace and the indignity of a wallet biopsy; I was unceremoniously discharged. At that moment I put my resolve in motion. Healing became paramount.

Healing was not my only concern. I had to navigate the tsunami, that was the VA's Veterans Choice Program, and the private sector interface. It seemed the two organizations did not know, or care, what each other was doing. After the initial diagnosis, the VA took an MRI to prove my leg was truly broken. This diagnostic reiterated to me, what needed to be

done. They sent me for treatment in the private sector. I was happy to be going for treatment closer to my house than navigating the dangers of I-95. All went swimmingly until the VA forgot to send an authorization letter. I had to take it on myself to straighten out the mess on my own. I'm glad I still had the grit to smooth the rough edges. All parties concerned, thanked me for my diligence. I still wonder how someone with diminished capacity had the ability to logically wade through that bureaucratic maze. After some anguish, everything progressed at a dignified pace. I plowed through physical therapy with abandon. It felt so, so good to heal. The stronger I became, the reality of Snowmass Colorado, was not just a pipe dream.

When our Canadian airliner dropped down from the clouds into the waiting Aspen canyon, the thrill of this magical experience became real. I couldn't believe how much snow was on every surface. In the twelve years of gratefully being part of the magic, Springtime in the Rockies, lived up to the hype. The weather was so mild, I wore shorts the entire time. Everyone there was so happy to again welcome us to share their mountain. From the moment we landed they accommodated our every desire.

The only problem, was that I did not take my wheelchair or scooter. I needed the use of a device to navigate the mountainous terrain. I wasn't ready to walk without my trusty walking sticks. No one there ever saw me in a wheelchair before. I had to swallow a big gulp of pride that day. I borrowed a chair from medical. After a while, I just blended in with rest of the chairs and dogs.

Skiing was the best I've ever experienced. The snow just held the Diamoneque's edges; carving the fluffy, frozen white powder, with the agility of Cheetah, and the brute force of a charging bull. I skied great, except for one bad crash. They say you need to spill a little blood on the mountain to extenuate the total experience, which I dutifully added to the myth.

Besides careening down the slopes, I enjoyed a relaxing day soaking in 103-degree hot spring water. That liquid magic was just what I needed to relax my still compromised leg. I also tried my hand at archery, where my aim was true. It felt good to experience improvement in that ancient skill.

My annual Marine Corps reunion put my situation in prospective. All the faces there looked to be a little longer in the tooth. As we sang the Marine Corps hymn, I was reminded that my physically aging body, could not take the punishment, from those days of yore; but the fire still burned. After all these years, Semper Fi still had meaning.

Because I was still healing, I took it easy out of necessity. There was no way I could burn any candle at both ends. I slept a good 8 or 9 hours a night. That, dreamy nightly elixir, gave the energy and resolve to take on the challenges the next day had to offer. As this magical week came to a disappointing end, a strong bolt of reality hovered over my essence. I don't have to hang on past glories to go all out. This is the true meaning of wisdom. I can't wait until next year. Maybe I can learn from what happened this year, or maybe not. Oorrah!



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My Experience at the 2019 National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic

Contributed by Chapter Member Wayne Ross

There were 400 or so veteran participants at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic (NDVWSC) this year, if you ask anyone one of them their take on the event you would get 400 different stories for no two experiences were the same, this is my story.

I attended the NDVWSC for the twentieth time this year three trips to Crested Butte and seventeen trips to Snowmass. They have all had their highlights and have always made me want to do it again. This year we had the best weather, that I can remember in relation to the week overall. We have had nicer days but probably not nicer weeks. The snow conditions were great and stayed consistent throughout, it wasn't too cold - it wasn't too hot it was like Goldie Locks and the Three Bears "Just Right".

As usual we had a strong showing from New England with ten participants, eighteen ski instructors, coaches, team leaders, attendants and family members. I don't know exactly how many for not everyone made the group photo but it was a big crowd.

The always popular alternate activities went well for me. I chose my events in December and signed up for snowmobiling for it had been quite a while since the last time I took to the trails on a snow machine. Snowmobiling is best when there is a lot of snow and this year we had a lot of snow (last year they had to move snow onto the roadway to access the trails).

Everything snow covered made the scenery breathtaking. The trails, the trees and the mountains were spectacular. They improved the seating for the more disabled veterans having created a padded rigid structure that mounts to the back of the seat and someone like myself can be easily strapped to it and have an enjoyable ride. A couple of times in the past I have been strapped to the front of the seat so I could actually drive however, this didn't work well for me having zero torso control and no

hand function. To make the vehicle go you must push on a lever with your right hand and this makes it easy for me to turn left but extremely difficult to turn right.

I went SCUBA diving in the Wildwood hotel pool which wasn't very deep but heated to a comfortable level. My personal care attendant happens to be an instructor with Handicapped Scuba Association and spent four days helping out with the first timers. We will be going to Atlanta in May to dive at the Georgia Aquarium the largest aquarium in America which is home to two whale sharks; the largest fish on earth. This year they had the two hotel rooms closest to the pool open and available, so after your dive you could immediately change out your wet clothes and keep from getting cold.

I spent three days skiing and as usual had outstanding ski instructors who kept me entertained on the long chair lift rides. I used two different sit skis a Mountain "Cave" Man, which is an older style bi ski prehistoric compared to sit skis available today, and a Dynamic which was like going from a bed of nails to a waterbed compared to the Mountain Man (much more comfortable). Unfortunately by the end of the week I was suffering from acute mountain syndrome, more commonly known as altitude sickness, and after a sleepless night and muscles that were quite small I wound up in the medical clinic and missed race day.

I was surprised and honored to find out a photo of myself and my ski instructor from last year (2018) was used as the cover shot for the NDVWSC calendar this year.

I had a blast and can't wait to go again!



Six Years and Counting at the Winter Sports Clinic!

Contributed by Chapter Member Roland Fillion



I have been blessed to have been invited back for my sixth year and once again participated in the National Veterans Disabled Winter Sports Clinic (NVDWSC) which was held in Snowmass, Colorado. This year, this event was held the last week of March. Also, this event is co-sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans Administration (VA).

When we arrived at the airport in providence we were greeted at the gate by United personnel. They announced that we were headed to Snowmass for the NDVWSC and handed us a goody bag for our trip. It was very much appreciated. The flight was long so the snacks help curb the hunger.

I enjoyed my first year so much, when I went the second year I got to try out a new ski called the Dynamique. I liked the new ski so much that I asked the VA to help me get one. To my surprise and delight, the new ski was given to me in Snowmass. Because I am a C5-quad), I have to use a sit ski. The third year, prior to attending Snowmass, I was able to test this

sit ski out again at the New England Winter Sports Clinic, held at Mount Sunapee, New Hampshire.

I have been very lucky and every year I get out every chance I get in order to improve my skiing. I start skiing in January to increase my stamina and skills so that I'm ready for the National Winter Sports Clinic which is usually held at the end of March. Thanks to Majic Moments for the great photos. They showcase my abilities to use a sit-ski!

In Snowmass I have skied with instructors from all over the country as well as several from Canada. They are some of the best instructors in the country. I have learned something from each one of them throughout the years and am grateful for their time and dedication to myself and other veterans.

My brother Luke has been skiing with me from the beginning. He too has improved his skiing as well as learning to tether so that we can ski together. He has travelled with me to many ski areas throughout New England and Colorado.

While at the NVDWSC, I have had the opportunity to network with other veterans and instructors and catch up with those I have met over the years as make new acquaintances.

During the non-skiing time, there are other events included in the trip to Aspen. Riding the gondolas to the top and getting on a snow cat to explore the mountain views, which are truly spectacular. I have also tried Curling. Some of the other events I hope to try should I have the opportunity to go again. I would like to try the fly fishing they offer, the archery, and the hot springs are pretty spectacular to relax your muscles after a few days of skiing.



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

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Northeast Passage Summer Veteran Recreation Events



Registration Required: Call (603) 862-0070 or visit www.nepassage.org/calendar to register

Outdoor Archery – Bear Brook State Park

6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25 - Tuesdays 10am-12pm

Fishing – (Location varies)

5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28 – Fresh Water
5/23, 6/7, 6/21, 7/17, 7/23 – Salt Fly Fishing
6/17 – Kayak Fishing

Cycling – Windham, Manchester, Stratham

5/15, 7/10, 8/7 - 11am-1pm
5/29 – Cycle Maintenance Class
6/26, 7/18, 8/1 – Gentle Off road

Paddling - (Location varies)

6/24 – Kayak Tour
6/28, 7/12, 8/19, 8/23 – Paddleboarding
6/17 – Kayak Fishing

Golf – Windham, NH

6/5, 7/24, 8/28



About Our Veteran Events

Northeast Passage holds monthly events for veterans, giving the opportunity to try new recreational activities. If you have never tried the activity before or are an active participant, come join the social setting. Events will range from instruction to active participation. Locations and activity level will vary. All NEP veteran recreation events are open to all veterans of all eras of all abilities free of charge. Please contact us for more information.

Northeast Passage

121 Technology Dr. Durham NH 03824
603-862-0070
northeast.passage@unh.edu

Adaptive equipment available to rent at no cost for many summer recreational activities. Contact us for availability.





OUR MISSION

DCR's **Universal Access Program** is dedicated to providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts State Parks for visitors of all abilities. Accessibility is achieved through site improvements, specialized adaptive recreation equipment, and accessible recreation programs.

Pre-registration is required for all programs. To pre-register, contact the providing organization. Get into the activity sooner by bringing your release form filled out: mass.gov/dcr/universal-access/release

Our structured programs feature adaptive equipment, professional staff, and instruction and support. Friends, family, and companions are welcome to take part in our programs alongside participants with disabilities.

Visit our website to keep up-to-date with our activities! mass.gov/dcr/universal-access

Donations welcome! DCR's Conservation Trust and Urban Parks Trust Fund accepts contributions to support and enhance outdoor recreation in Massachusetts for people of all abilities. Your tax-deductible donation will help provide access to our parks. Ask us about matching funds! To learn more, visit: mass.gov/dcr/universal-access/donate

Checks should be made out to The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, noting that the funds are for the **Universal Access Program (UAP)**, and sent to:

DCR's Universal Access Program
P.O. Box 484
Amherst, MA 01004



Essential Eligibility Criteria for General Participation

The following Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC) help you understand the skills you need to participate in our programs. For safety and risk management considerations, everyone who attends our programs must meet these EEC. You can meet the EEC on your own, or with the help of a caregiver (a family member, friend, or PCA). Many pieces of equipment at our programs offer tandem seating, steering, and braking. Each activity has its own EEC too, so be sure to check with the program leader when registering. For more information, visit www.mass.gov/dcr/universal-access/eec

General Criteria

Everyone who attends our programs must be able to do the following, either independently or with the help of a caregiver (a family member, friend, or PCA):

- Arrive at the program location early enough to be ready and on time for scheduled sessions.
- Come prepared for the weather and conditions of the day. This includes dressing for the elements and bringing your own sun and rain protection. It also includes bringing your own drinks and food.
- Be able to manage personal care. Personal care includes dressing, toileting, eating and drinking.
- Be able to get on and off of equipment either independently or with help. Our staff and volunteers will help you transfer. If you weigh more than 180 pounds, you must bring another person or equipment to help with the transfer.
- Be able to follow verbal or visual directions.
- Be able to tell program staff about your needs or if you are uncomfortable.
- Be able and willing to wear properly-fitted protective equipment, such as helmets and lifejackets.
- Respect the weight limit on equipment. Each piece of equipment has its own weight limit. You can't use equipment if you weigh more than the limit.
- Be able to refrain from behaviors that pose a risk to yourself or others. These behaviors include aggression, an inability to set boundaries, a lack of safety awareness, and drug or alcohol use or influence.
- Be willing and able to obey the risk assessments and decisions of program leaders.
- Not attend a program if you have signs or symptoms of being sick, especially if you have a contagious condition. If you have a cold with coughing and sneezing, or a fever, or the flu, or lice, you have a contagious condition.

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Connect With What Matters



Being there makes a difference

Recently the Ride-Away team joined forces with MobilityWorks so that we could provide our veterans with the largest selection of mobility solutions that best fit their physical capabilities and lifestyle. Veterans have unique needs so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together find the best solution. Collectively, Ride-Away and MobilityWorks will continue to build on our mission to help veterans connect with who and what matters most.

MobilityWorks has more than 50 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:

- Minivans, full-size vans and trucks
- The latest in adaptive technology
- Complete maintenance and service
- Rental vans — veterans receive a 10% discount

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



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Gray

32 Lewiston Road, Unit 2B
Gray, ME 04039
207-747-2064

Londonderry

54 Wentworth Avenue
Londonderry, NH 03053
603-210-4610

Norwood

333 Boston Providence Turnpike
Norwood, MA 02062
781-222-3622

Essex Junction

5C David Drive
Essex Junction, VT 05452
802-222-0265

North Attleboro

57 George Leven Drive
North Attleboro MA 02760
508-859-0940

East Hartford

104 Pitkin Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
860-215-4100


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www.mobilityworks.com



Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Camp Pendleton Air Gun Tournament
December 4-5, 2018
Oceanside, CA

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

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

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

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

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

**indicates combined events*

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

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

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

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

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

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament
May 31-June 2, 2019
Elburn, IL

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament & Pistol Tournament
June 14-16, 2019
Pistol Event - June 14, 2019
Cedar Rapids, IA

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament
June 21-23, 2019
Waxahachie, TX

PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament
September 21-23, 2018
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament
October 5-7, 2018
Whittington, IL

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament
March 29-31, 2019
Tavares, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament
May 3-5, 2019
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament
June 7-9, 2019
Henrico, VA

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

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

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Battle at the Beach
November 16-18, 2018
Virginia Beach, VA

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

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem
April 26-28, 2019
Midlothian, VA

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

Mountain States Billiards Tournament
June 21-22, 2019
Fountain, CO

BOCCIA

Gateway Boccia Tournament
October 18-20, 2018
St. Louis, MO

Bayou Boccia Tournament
February 1-2, 2019
Gulfport, MS

Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament
February 19-20, 2019
San Diego, CA

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

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament
May 3-4, 2019
Hampton, VA

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vaughan Bowling Tournament
May 23-26, 2019
Romeoville, IL

HANDCYCLING RACING

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

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

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

Pittsburgh Marathon
May 5, 2019
Pittsburgh, PA

Wichita Omnium
June 14-16, 2019
Wichita, KS

PVA Para-Triathlon Camp
June, 2019
Colorado Springs, CO

PVA Racing Mini-Camp
June 19-26, 2019
Delafield, WI

Tour of America's Dairylands
June 20-23, 2019
Milwaukee, WI

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES



For more information, visit:
pva.org/sports

Member Individual Allotment Policy

Member Individual Allotment Program

The Individual Allotment (IA) Program's purpose is to improve the quality of life of New England PVA's members by assisting in the expansion of both the quality and quantity of opportunities in sports, recreation, events and entertainment, especially those activities which enhance lifetime health and fitness, both physical and mental.

IA Funding Availability

The Chapter annually budgets for IA requests based on its fiscal funds available. The amount budgeted may vary from year-to-year based on these funds and its availability is not guaranteed. The budgeted amount is drawn down against on a first-come-first-served basis by BOD approved Individual Funding Requests. Once these funds have been depleted, no more Individual Funding Requests will be accepted for the current Fiscal year.

IA Funding Amount(s)

The maximum total amount allowable per individual per fiscal year is \$500. This amount may be drawn against cumulatively, as separate funding requests submitted throughout the year, or entirely through a single funding request. An individual may not request funding above the maximum amount allowable for the fiscal year.

IA Program Minimum Eligibility Participation Requirements

1. Must be a New England Chapter member in Good Standing;
2. Must receive Annual SCI/D physical at the West Roxbury, MA, VAMC SCI Center in accordance with VHA Handbook 1176.01.
3. Must not have any outstanding receipts, funds, materials or equipment due to the Chapter at the time of request.

IA Request Submission Procedure

All (IA) requests shall be submitted in writing a minimum of 30 days prior to the event, function or trip requested for use. The Request should be as detailed as possible, with regard to the activity and intended use of the requested funds. Requests may be either a written letter of request mailed to the Chapter office at 1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301, West Roxbury, MA 02132, Attention: Individual Allotment Request or email to info@newenglandpva.org, with "Individual Allotment Request" in the subject line.

IA requests received after the event, function or trip has occurred will not be accepted or considered for reimbursement.

IA Eligibility Review

Requests will be reviewed by Chapter administration to determine if the applicant is eligible for IA and what level of funding is available to the applicant at the time of request. Those applicants meeting the IA eligibility requirements, with funds available, will have their IA request forwarded to the BOD for review.

IA Funding Approval Process

All IA requests received by the BOD will be individually reviewed and discussed by the BOD for approval consideration. The BOD has sole discretion and authority to approve, deny or modify any IA request, in whole or in part, for any reason they determine to do so.

Receipt of IA Funding

IA Funding is based on the reimbursement of an individual's expenses as detailed in their IA Funding Request. Actual reimbursement(s) will only be provided for expenses submitted with a corresponding receipt. Reimbursement(s) will not exceed the amount initially requested in the Funding Request or the amount approved by the BOD, if the BOD approved an amount less than the initial amount requested.

Under no circumstance will any IA funds be distributed or release to an individual in advance of receiving the required expense receipts or required Newsletter article.

Required Newsletter Article

In addition to submitting the required receipts for reimbursement, the IA recipient is also required to compose and submit a minimum 500 word article, with pictures, about the event or activity the IA funding was use for. This article will be provided to the CordWord Editor for publishing consideration.

IA funding will not be approved for disbursement prior to receiving this required article.

IA Program's usage for Sports Clinics - As long as funding is available, the Chapter will continue to cover the expense of one half the room rate for members participating in the New England Winter Sports Clinic, New England Summer Sports Clinic, and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Since the Chapter is covering the participant's portion of the room cost, participants may not request IA funding for the purpose of applying it to the other half of the room cost.

Paralyzed Veterans of America
New England Chapter
1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301
West Roxbury, MA 02132

T 800-660-1181
F 857-203-9685

info@newenglandpva.org
www.newenglandpva.org

Office Hours
Mon-Fri, 9:00am - 4:30pm



COMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Jun 1: NEPVA/AEBA Bass Trail, Newton Yacht Club, Newton, MA.

Jun 1: Hudson Trout Fishing

Jun 5: Chapter & Membership Board Meeting, Chapter Office

Jun 7-10: Sports and Spirit Cape Cod by Spaulding Rehab Hospital

Jun 19: West Roxbury Pizza Party A2/Rehab Medicine Only, WX VAMC

June 22-23: Sail To Prevail – Disabled Veterans Weekend, Newport, Rhode Island

Jun 28: Chapter Banquet – Moseley's On The Charles, West Roxbury, MA

No Chapter Board meeting in July

Jul 10-17: National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Louisville Kentucky

Jul 26: Worcester Bravehearts Military and Veterans Night, Worcester, MA

Jul 27: Run to Home Base, Fenway Park, Boston, MA

Aug 31: Lake Hiawatha Cookout, Boat Rides and Fishing

Sep 6: Bellingham Shoot

Sep 6-8: Winnepesaukee Fishing - Camp Robindel, Moltonborough, NH

Oct 4-6: Pine Tree Camp Maine Bass Trail

For more information on upcoming sporting events please contact the Chapter office at (800) 660-1181.

Mike Guilbault - Sports Director

Mike Moran - Asst. Sports Director



New England PVA's Official Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/NEPVA1947

Serving Paralyzed Veterans and the Disabled Community Since 1947.