



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

New England Chapter

CORDWORD

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

National Veterans Wheelchair Games



INSIDE THIS EDITION

LOUISVILLE 2019

DR. KOIS KILLED



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OFFICES

VA FACILITIES GO SMOKE FREE	4
INTENT TO FILE CLAIM INFO	5
10TH ANNUAL CURLING TOURNY	14
WASHINGTON UPDATES	17
INTERESTED IN OCEAN FISHING?	18
INDIVIDUAL ALLOTMENT POLICY	27



2019 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Louisville Tennessee.

This year I was able to attend my 22nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games from July 11-16th, I've been able to go every year since my first Games in Pittsburgh and wow how things have changed through the years. I can say the one thing that's always constant is the wonderful volunteers and hospitality of the host city, we may mob their cities with wheelchairs; yet, we are always made very welcome and local businesses do all they ..*continued on page 6.*



Dr. William Kois, Whistleblower Who Exposed Poor Treatment at Manchester VA, Killed in Car Crash.

One day two summers ago, under a broiling sun outside the Manchester VA Medical Center, Dr. William 'Ed' Kois displayed his rebellious-yet-noble personality.

Kois died in a single-car wreck – cause unknown – Tuesday on Interstate 95 in Hampton at the age of 62, but not before the Granite State, as well as the rest of the*continued on page 12.*

ADVERTISING RATES

SIZE	ISSUES					DIMENSIONS Width x Height
	Jan/Feb/Mar	Apr/May/June	Jul/Aug/Sep	Oct/Nov/Dec	Annual	
Full page	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$2400	7.5" x 9.875"
1/2 page	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$1200	7.5" x 4.937"
1/4 page	\$188	\$188	\$188	\$188	\$600	3.75" x 4.937"

SPECIAL POSITIONS -NEW FOR 2018-

All special positions are Full page only, and filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

Inside Front Cover	\$750
Inside Back Cover	\$650
Center Spread	\$1500

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Press-Quality Acrobat-distilled PDF files are the preferred digital file format. Please ensure all fonts are embedded, high-resolution images are used and in CMYK color format. TIF and JPG files are acceptable, if resolution is at least 300 dpi.

File types not accepted are files created in Microsoft Word (or similar Microsoft word-processing programs), Microsoft Publisher, CorelDraw, or Pagemaker.

HOW TO SUBMIT FILES

Email files to media@newenglandpva.org. Publisher reserves the right to use previous ad materials if new materials are not received by submission deadline.

MEDIA KIT



MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TODAY!

Mail your check of any amount to:

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

Please write "CordWord" in the memo section of your check.



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

pva.org

ParalyzedVeterans

PVA1946

New England PVA Contact Information

1208 VFW Parkway, Suite 301
West Roxbury, MA 02132
Phone: (800) 660-1181
Fax: (857) 203-9685

www.newenglandpva.org
info@newenglandpva.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00am-4:30pm

CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

NEW ENGLAND PVA OFFICERS

President	Michael G. Negrete
Vice President	Mike Guilbault
Treasurer	Peter Moore
Secretary	Mike Moran

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Brad Carlson	Mark Sanders
Peter Falcione	Dan Shaul
Wayne Ross	

STAFF

Executive Director	Vacant
Jerry Cole	Admin/Bookkeeper

NATIONAL DIRECTOR TO PVA

Neal Williams

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

ADA Coordinator	Neal Williams
Bass Trail Liaison	Jim Wallack
Community Outreach	Mike Guilbault
CordWord Editor	Michael Negrete
Communications Director	Michael Negrete
Membership Officer	Mike Guilbault
MS/ALS Liaison	Vacant
Peer Mentor Representative	Mike Guilbault
Sports Director	Mike Guilbault
Assistant Sports Director	Michael Moran
Volunteer Coordinator	Jerry Cole
Women Veterans' Liaison	Vacant

CHAPTER HOSPITAL LIAISONS

VAMC

Brockton SCI Bldg 8
Providence
Manchester
Togus
West Haven
West Roxbury
White River Junction
Northampton

CHL

Dan Shaul
Vacant
Mike Moran
Neal Williams
Peter Falcione
Mike Guilbault
Mike Moran
Tim Kelly

NEW ENGLAND PVA NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

BOSTON VA REGIONAL OFFICE

J.F.K. Federal Bldg. - Room - 1575 C
Boston, MA 02203
Phone: (617) 303-1395 or 1-800-795-3607
Fax: (617) 303-1396
Joseph E. Badzmirowski
Director of Field Services

WEST ROXBURY/BROCKTON VAMC

1400 VFW Parkway, Room AG 60
West Roxbury, MA 02132
Phone: (857) 203-6091
Serving Massachusetts, Rhode Island

TOGUS, VARO, 1 VA CENTER

Bldg. 248, Room 112
Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: (207) 621-7394 or 866-795-1911
Fax: (207) 621-4829
Michael Snaps, National Service Officer II
Serving Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont

SYRACUSE VAMC

800 Irving Ave, Room C419
Syracuse, NY 13210
Phone: 315-425-4400 Ext. 53317
Fax: 315-425-2940
Charlie Tocci, East-North Area Manager
Serving New York and Western Massachusetts

MANHATTAN

245 W. Houston Street, Room 212A
New York, NY 10014
Phone: 212-807-3114
Fax: 212-807-4047
Bruce Weston, National Service Officer
Serving Connecticut and New York

BUFFALO PVA

130 South Elmwood Ave, Suite 621
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: (800) 795-3619
Fax: (716) 857-3486
Nona Nixon, National Service Officer
Serving Western and up state New York

BRONX SCI/JAMES J. PETERS VAMC

130 West Kingsbridge Road, Room 1D-52A
Bronx, NY 10468
Phone: 718-584-9000 Ext: 6272
Toll Free: 866-297-1319
Fax: 718-741-4237
Amauris Polanco
Veterans Health & Benefits Specialist II

CordWord is the New England Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America's (New England PVA) monthly magazine that covers news, health, research, lifestyle and issues of interest and concern to Veterans and others with spinal cord injury and disease. Anyone interested in submitting an article to *CordWord* should email media@newenglandpva.org. The assertions and opinions expressed in articles and announcements in *CordWord* reflect the views of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the New England PVA. New England PVA can in no way whatsoever be held responsible for the content of such views nor can it be held liable for any direct or indirect damage that may arise from such views.

Products and services advertised in the *CordWord* are for general informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement, recommendation, or guarantee of any kind by New England PVA.

PVA Responds to DOT's Continued Unlawful Delay to Address Airline Restroom Accessibility

PVA Website - Liz Deakin, Director of Communications



DOT Backtracked on Promises and Offered Excuses in Effort to Deny Protections for Air Travelers with Disabilities

DENVER (August 29, 2019) — Denver, CO — Today, Democracy Forward on behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America responded to the Department of Transportation's latest attempt to shirk its legal obligation to fully address airline restroom access for veterans and travelers with mobility impairments. Today's filing in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit advances PVA's ongoing lawsuit against the agency for ignoring a Congressional mandate to issue the much-needed accessibility rule. DOT's continued delay has left travelers with disabilities subject to severe discomfort and potential medical complications.

After revealing in July 2019 that DOT's plans for airline restroom accessibility would fall "short of increasing the size of the lavatories," DOT now argues that it should be enough for disabled travelers that the agency propose new "accessibility features within lavatories." But according to DOT's own regulations, full restroom accessibility requires a person in a

wheelchair to be able to enter, maneuver inside the restroom to use the facilities and exit. DOT's latest suggestion is meaningless if travelers with disabilities are unable to enter the restroom in order to take advantage of the accessibility features within the restroom.

"The administration continues to turn its back on America's paralyzed veterans by reaching far and wide for any excuse to unlawfully deny travelers the relief they've spent years fighting for," said Democracy Forward Counsel Karianne Jones.

"PVA members continue to be denied a basic dignity afforded to airline passengers—the ability to use a restroom on an airplane," said David Zurfluh, national president of Paralyzed Veterans of America. "After fighting for access for over 30 years so that our members and all people with disabilities can use an airplane restroom, enough is enough. We will keep on fighting until DOT issues an access rule that ensures that catastrophically disabled veterans and all travelers have equal access, which is a basic fundamental right that is long overdue."

Congress gave DOT until 2017 to propose new rules addressing lavatory accessibility on commercial single-aisle aircraft. Paralyzed Veterans of America was part of a group of disability advocates and airline industry representatives that presented the agency with a negotiated consensus rule to issue for public comment, which DOT Secretary Elaine Chao then failed to release, providing no justification for this failure.

On May 20, 2019, after DOT stated it would issue a proposed rule addressing lavatory accessibility by December 2019, the 10th Circuit put a hold on the lawsuit led by PVA and required DOT to provide ongoing status reports. On August 5, PVA and Democracy Forward petitioned the court to lift the stay because the proposed rule DOT plans to issue in December 2019 does not meet its legal obligation to fully address lavatory accessibility.

VA Health Care Facilities to Go Smoke-Free

VA Public Affairs Office via www.va.gov



WASHINGTON — As part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) commitment to provide excellent health care for Veterans, the department will implement a new policy restricting smoking by patients, visitors, volunteers, contractors and vendors at its health care facilities by October.

Although VA has historically permitted smoking in designated areas, there is growing evidence that smoking and exposure to secondhand and thirdhand smoke creates significant medical risks, and risks to safety and direct patient care that are inconsistent with medical requirements and limitations. Accordingly, VA's Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has collaborated with key stakeholders to update and recertify the policy to be consistent with the department's commitment to Veterans and the community.

A recent VA survey revealed that approximately 85% of responding facility leadership support smoke-free campuses, and this new policy for patients, visitors, volunteers, contractors and vendors allows VA to ensure the health and well-being of VA staff, patients and the public.

"We are not alone in recognizing the importance of creating a smoke-free campus," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "As of 2014, 4,000 health care facilities and four national health care systems in the U.S. have implemented smoke-free grounds. This policy change coincides with additional VHA efforts to help us become the provider of choice for Veterans and the reason why Veterans will ChooseVA."

VHA's new smoke-free policy applies to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, any other combustion of tobacco and non-Federal Drug Administration approved electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), including but not limited to electronic or e-cigarettes, vape pens or e-cigars.

PVA Issues Statement on House Passage of Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Bill

PVA Website - Liz Deakin, Director of Communications



You've probably seen news about the MISSION Act, which expands same-day services in primary care and mental health, as well as expanded telehealth to Veterans in their homes. Under the MISSION Act, urgent care is now a supplemental benefit for eligible Veterans. Urgent care in VA or the community (i.e., non-VA) is for those minor injuries and illnesses that do not require emergency room care. This support for urgent care does not replace the important relationship that you have with your VA health care team.

If you need to use the new urgent care benefit, it is important that you go to an urgent care location in your community that is within the newly established VA contracted network.

It is also important to know the following details about the prescription component of the benefit:

- If the urgent care provider gives you a prescription, you can fill a 14-day supply of that medication at the VA or in a pharmacy within the VA contracted network.
- If you choose to fill an urgent care prescription at a pharmacy outside of the VA network, you will be required to pay for the prescription at the time of pick up and then file a claim for reimbursement at your local VA medical facility.

If you arrive at an urgent care network location and have any difficulty receiving care, you can call 866-620-2071 to receive assistance.

You can also call your local VA facility 24/7 for advice, or logon to My HealtheVet and send a Secure Message (login required) to your health care team. Any Secure Message should get a response within 3 business days (usually fewer).



Intent to File Claim Information

Contributed By Mitchell Hinkle, Senior National Service Officer

With the everchanging Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims system, the VA is always trying to assist the veterans with new and improved ways to file claims.

In the past, the VA used what was call an informal claim. An informal claim was in general any communication or action that may have showed an intent to apply for benefits VA laws. The VA recognized the informal claims that were received prior to March 24, 2015. The type of claims was in general claims for service connection or increase of service-connected conditions, claims for non-service-connected pension, if a veteran was of war time periods or claims for widows or survivors of veterans for Death Indemnity Compensation (DIC) or widows' pension.

If a veteran or survivor filed a VA claim by application and the application was not completed properly, the VA may have considered this also an informal claim. The informal claim must have identified the benefit being sought, like example compensation, pension or increases.

The new system is now called INTENT TO FILE. There is also a VA form 21-0966 that is used for this process. The Intent to File must contain:

(1) enough personal information to identify the Veteran or claimant if not the veteran.

(2) An election of the general type of benefit(s) that is being sought, example: compensation, pension, or survivors' benefits

(3) Application must have a signature

A veteran or survivor can notify the VA of their intent to file by written correspondence, electronically by eBenefits or by visiting the local VA Regional Office in person.

The VA will only recognized one intent to file claim per general benefit at any given time. Once you have filed an intent claim, the official application such as a VA form 21-526ez, application for compensation, VA form 21-527, application for non-service-connected pension or VA form 21P-534 application for DIC or widows' pension must be received within one year. This is needed to protect the effective date of claim if the benefit sought, is approved. Once the official application is received, the intent to file claim will no longer be active.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this information or any other VA entitlements, please contact your local PVA Service Office for assistance.

2019 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

By Mike Guilbault, Chapter Vice President and Sports Director

This year I was able to attend my 22nd National Veterans Wheelchair Games from July 11-16th, I've been able to go every year since my first Games in Pittsburgh and wow how things have changed through the years. I can say the one thing that's always constant is the wonderful volunteers and hospitality of the host city, we may mob their cities with wheelchairs; yet, we are always made very welcome and local businesses do all they can to insure we can get into and enjoy their establishments.



Louisville was quite hot and humid but just as welcoming as every other host city I've been to. This year we held quite a few events out in the community and many who would've never seen any competitions were able to watch just as they were heading out for dinner or dancing and drinks. 4th Street Live an area of restaurants and clubs was a short push from the Convention Center and we went there for our meal after the Opening Ceremonies which was one of this year's changes. Each athlete was given vouchers worth \$20.00 in order to eat at certain restaurants there after the Ceremonies. I did enjoy my first mint julep while there! When in Kentucky right? So close to Churchill Downs why not? This year's Motor Rally was held at Churchill Downs which I thought was quite cool.

Certain competitions were also held there at 4th Street Live during the Games. I was able to attend both; the Weightlifting competition was held there as well as the Super G on Championship Day morning. Getting around the locals to be able to view from my wheelchair was a bit tricky since quite a few gathered to observe both events. Once they saw an athlete in a wheelchair, they were happy to move and make sure we could watch our fellow veterans compete. I thought it was a nice change since so many people from the community were able to observe the competition who would not have ventured into the Convention Center in order to watch us. Every event is inspirational so them seeing anything raises awareness and lets them know being in a wheelchair don't slow us down any and they'll always see wheelchair users with a new respect in the future.

In addition to the events held at 4th Street Live the Team Challenge was also held out in a local park along the banks of the Ohio River which again brought more awareness to our competitions since people saw everything going on and would stop and observe there as well. The Team Challenge was quite different this year as well with a bunch of new events very different from the past ones. Since every team needed to include a Quadriplegic I was drafted by the Albany, NY team since they didn't have a quad. Their captain was a big Red Sox fan and has seen me play softball

so asked one of our coaches if I could be on their team. Our New England team was already complete, so I was able to join the competing NY team and even able to wear Red Sox colors while playing on a NY team, kind of a dream!! While my New England teammates teased me as a traitor it was all in good fun, I said y'all didn't want me, so I was able to help them complete their team. There was a big push to get more teams into the event so quite a few teams were made up of competitors from different chapters. I believe the only events that remained from past Team Challenges were weightlifting and shooting. It was quite an interesting competition, there was the weightlifting, a grenade toss (shot put), shooting, a sled pull where a different point value was given for 3 different weights one could choose that was attached to the chair and they had to pull it up an incline where on top of the hill the anchor leg was a climbing wall and yes they had me climb the wall. Points were given depending on how fast one climbed the wall and I'm proud to say I did get max points for my team by beating the shortest time allowed and we managed to finish in 10th place. Not bad considering I had no idea I was going to be doing it and was up there climbing with amputees and paras, yay quad power. We did beat my own chapter team even, oops!! Tina also got max points climbing for New England so it was a wash, no traitor here beating up my own team! Texas Roadhouse then hosted a great BBQ right there after the event and all the athletes were able to enjoy the great feast, not just those on a team. It was a way to get more veterans out cheering on the Team Event. Turned out to be a beautiful evening along the banks of the River, the nice breeze there was a welcome change to help one stay a bit cooler and made the park smell very good spreading around the nice BBQ smell.



I was able to visit the Louisville Slugger factory just prior to the Team Challenge with a bunch my Chapter teammates and volunteers. The tour was impressive and besides seeing how MLB bats are made we were able to buy nice souvenirs, there were 2018 Red Sox World Series Champion bats and you could also have your own personalized bat made in multiple sizes. Another local business had a great promotion, Jim Beam was engraving bottles with the Games logo and dates which you could then add a few lines to personalize the bottle. Louisville was very good to us all. Looking forward to Portland next year, I've never been to a NVWG's where the city wasn't amazing hosts welcoming all the Veterans. I don't expect that to ever change.

The highlight of my week was being a Mentor on Kids Day. My roommate Mark Sanders and I have been doing the 'What's it Like' program in local

2019 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Continued from page 6.



elementary schools for years so I've been trying to get involved in the NVWG Kids Day for years and was invited this year. What a fun time and very beneficial to the youth and their families that attend, all ages and abilities!! I had conflicts so thought I was going to miss multiple medal events to participate and was OK with that; I believe the value of Kids Day and being honored to be a part of it was worth more than any medals. I have collected plenty in the last 22 years!! I had to skip Field events, or I'd have not been back in time plus I was scheduled for Trap Shooting at 1:00 PM and Kids Day was scheduled to last well past that so figured no Shooting either. I arrived early so was able to register then meet and play around with multiple children and chat with parents while waiting for the event to start. A very young Louisville girl was there early too and with all that open floor to run around in she was having a ball racing around. I saw her and told her she moved well in her chair then challenged her to race to that square and back, we had lots of fun before the event ever started. I met a few young boys in ball chairs and found out a few of them played wheelchair basketball together. Some of the kids have been involved with some adaptive programs already while others never have. I saw one wearing a batting helmet so figured there was a future softball player, turns out he was one of those who also played basketball, but he was very much into baseball.



After waiting for everyone to show up so they could get on with all the pomp and circumstance the children were introduced and a Mentor assigned to them. I luckily was assigned to my little buddy Ian with the batting helmet who'd come all the way from Indianapolis for the event. Being a wheelchair softball player myself I was thrilled to be paired with

him. That youngster wanted no part of hitting from a tee which they had there. Some needed it while others didn't and he was anxious to hit, I asked him to wait and let a few hit off the tee, then he would have some base runners to move around when he hit. He liked that idea and after a few batters we went up for our turn and I moved the tee away and asked they pitch to him and I'd be his catcher. Well when they threw him a nice one, he proceeded to smack it over everyone to the fence in the left center gap and got the 1st of his 4 home runs chasing two other base runners' home! Nobody was going to make him hit off the tee after that. We also had a small Slalom course set up and us Mentors were told that each child had to do all three, hit, field and run the obstacle course. Ian really wanted no part of the Slalom he wanted to play ball. It is supposed to be their day! After a few at bats I asked him to come play in the field which we did. I then asked him to go over to try going through the course which didn't thrill him; upon arriving I was talking to him about it and some others spoke up



and said we were behind them. Well I looked at an almost empty ball field and said Ian want to go play some more ball and we'll come back and I barely could keep up with him as he headed back to bat. I said let's play in the field first and let them bat and he was cool with that and went right to shortstop, he was a great lil ball player. Watching the line at Slalom still a good wait and more fielders I said want to bat again and had to sprint to catch him going to get his bat. He smacked a bunch more and I tired of chasing him all around each hit; I'd look and see were he had to stop if he had others in front of him and said go 2, 3, or all the way then went back behind the plate for the high five when he scored. Saw one person in the line for Slalom and said look let's go now and he sped over there. After going through the obstacles one time I asked if he wanted to go again? He was not even interested in going around high fiving the crowd after getting through the obstacles like others were. Can we go back and play more ball now is all he had in mind. It was his day and he came to play ball and that he did, what a great young player he was and a fun, pleasant boy who got along well with everyone. My day playing one of my favorite games with an amazing young boy with a passion for the game beat any Gold medal I've ever won hands down!! I watch the Kids Day video and just smile watching him smack that ball and run the bases. I knew if I stayed near him I'd be in the video, the cameras loved him and were chasing him around to so I was just photo-bombing him.

When I told them at registration that I couldn't go Trapshooting at 1:00 PM make sure they gave my spot to somebody since there was a wait list for Trap Shooting again this year, they said they would and there was an

2019 National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Continued from page 7.



opening at 6:00 PM I like to shoot then which I quickly accepted. I'm a decent shooter and now still had a chance to shoot. I had very gratifying Kids Day with Ian, then I still got to go Trap Shooting and won a Gold medal that night, that's why Kids Day was the highlight of my week!! My Beam bottle 2 lines are Kids Day Mentor Trap Gold.

I was a cheerleader for most of the rest of the week as my softball team was 2 and done and I was lucky to get through my Slalom so no Championship Day events for me other than watch my teammates and friends play for medals and the see who took the Hayes Cup in the Super G!





The Power of Freedom

Our priority is safety and independence

With over 40 years as a family owned small business we can provide assurance that any individual will receive exceptional customer service when looking for a mobility vehicle or adaptive driving equipment.

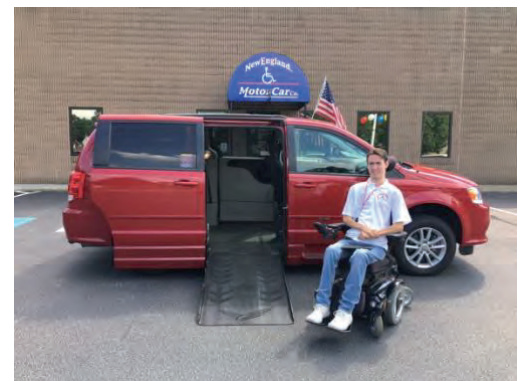
We will work with each veteran to fulfill their freedom of returning to the community. Our goal is to provide a veteran with the necessary equipment needed to make independence possible. We take pride in New England and thank the veterans who proudly serve!



New England's largest indoor showroom!

We are a full service dealership providing quality repairs and installations. As well as minivans, cars, and full size vehicles we also provide installation and maintenance for products such as:

- Hand controls
- Automatic wheelchair securement
- Secondary controls
- Transfer seats
- Much more!!



Feel free to reach out to Jack, a mobility specialist on our sales team. Pictured above, Jack has overcome many obstacles after a spinal cord injury 5 years ago. He now advocates for those with disabilities looking for mobility vehicles and equipment.



www.newenglandmotorcar.com

(603) 888-1207

Elizabeth Tammaro, RN, CCRN Recognized with Nurse Clinician of Excellence Award

Elizabeth (Beth) Tammaro, RN was recognized at the 2019 Annual PVA Summit with the Nurse Clinician of Excellence Award. Ms. Tammaro is a dedicated and compassionate lead nurse in the outpatient SCI clinic at VA Boston's West Roxbury SCI/D Outpatient Clinic.

Beth has specialized in Spinal Cord Injury rehabilitative nursing since 1985. She worked 14 years as an inpatient nurse at VA Boston and has been an SCI outpatient clinic nurse since 1999. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse and a member of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses. As an SCI subject matter expert, she loves to teach patients and staff alike at local, national and international levels. This letter will detail her extraordinary accomplishments in clinical care, leadership, service and education.

Beth has formed long-term relationships with the over 400 patients that are seen for annual evaluations, medical appointments, injections and general SCI care. Often she is the first person our patients contact with medical questions, concerns and good news like family weddings and births. One of our patients summed it up best in his clinic visit evaluation, "Everyone I worked with for sure had my health as first priority and I feel that they had my best interest at the fore. Thank you for everything. Beth is the best x10!"

In addition to her SCI outpatient clinic responsibilities, Beth is the clinical leader for the VISN1 Intrathecal Baclofen pump program and is a core member of the interdisciplinary SCI spasticity clinic. In this role, she coordinates intrathecal baclofen trials, educates patients about care and maintenance requirements, and coordinates management of the pump.

She is also a clinical education specialist taking the lead on education to patients, families and other providers. For example, she initiates conversations about sexual health and functioning, family planning, self-catheterizing, chronic pain, spasticity, as well as signs and symptoms of

autonomic dysreflexia (AD). She champions education about SCI-related care to medical staff in departments outside of SCI, specifically teaching Radiology, MRI and CT staff about AD when working with our patients. She has presented extensively at local, national and international medical forums on a wide variety of SCI related topics.

Outside of the SCI Clinic, Beth has two related passions: adaptive sports and international medical relief missions. For 10 years she has been dedicating her time to adaptive sports in New England, Snow Mass, CO and San Diego, CA. She uses motivational interviewing and whole health coaching styles of communication to individualize patient needs and support their goals for healthy living at the stage of their readiness.

In 2013 she founded a non-profit organization that grew out of a grassroots effort to treat displaced Syrians with SCI, who were living in Jordanian refugee camps. Over the years, Atlantic Humanitarian Relief, Inc. has provided free preventative and interventional medical care, including SCI-specific care for pressure relief, wound care, bowel and bladder management to thousands. Her focus consists of providing direct patient care, establishing nursing policies and protocols for paralyzed and wounded Syrian refugees and training caregivers within the country. Beth has been presented with two awards of distinction from the Kingdom of Jordan for her comprehensive relief efforts that impacted more than 10,000 refugees.

In summary, Beth provides exceptional care to veterans with spinal cord injuries/diseases which profoundly impacts their physical functioning and quality of life. She is well respected by Clinic's multidisciplinary team, and is often sought out to help engage, educate and motivate patients throughout their recovery and lifespan. We are so fortunate to have her as a member of the SCI/D team.

Summertime Fun!

By Mike Guilbault, Chapter Vice President and 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, boccia, 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 boccia 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.

39th National Veterans Wheelchair Games

By Debra Freed, New England PVA Chapter Member



The 39th National Veterans Wheelchair Games were truly outstanding. The Games were held July 10th through the 17th. Louisville, Kentucky did very well in accommodating over 600 wheelchair athletes. To the best of my knowledge, that is a fete all its own. I don't know for sure but I don't believe any Games had that many athletes before.

The NEPVA Coasters Team did really well. Well enough to rank in the top five of over fifty groups that were registered and attended the Games. We had a total of 64 medals: 37 Gold; 19 Silver; and 8 Bronze. The Chapter even presented a Team – Team Chowdah for the long- anticipated Team event. While we didn't do well in the Team event, both Chapter novices either maxed out on their particular event or came very close. This year's team event had five events: four of which were very different than the year before.

- Debra did the Bench Press
- Tina Lavalley (Novice), maxed out on the Climbing wall; did the wall in 45 seconds or less
- Roland Filion: did the laser shoot
- John Melvin (Novice) did the sled pull pulling the sled and an additional 55 pounds
- and we borrowed Todd Kemery from Minnesota to round out the group who did the Grenade Toss.

Congrats to the Mid-Atlantic Team for taking The Butler Cup (1st Place), the Pacific Coasters for Silver, and the Mountain States 2 for Bronze. Trust me, if we do this next year, we will all work harder to make the podium.

For those who may not know, Delta was the airline of record for this year's Vet Games. I don't usually have to deal with the airline portion of the Games but this year was different. There were no direct flights from anywhere in New England. In researching the various airlines, I found one flight that might work from Providence but it had a "lay-over" in Atlanta. Many thanks to David Tostenrude and Jennifer Purser for hooking us up with Ms. Patty Spanjers, Amy Olson and the many other Delta employees who not only came together on the conference call but at Providence's TF Green airport, Atlanta Airport, and Louisville Airport. Along with the three just listed, Minnesota, Logan, were also on the phone working with

Joanie Lynch and I.

All Delta had to do was be responsible for the athletes that were travelling, their wheelchairs, and carry-ons as well as the Coaches, nursing staff and any family members who went with them. During this call and after a good discussion, one fellow had to ask: Md. Freed, you haven't said anything about the equipment, or luggage. How are we to deal with that? You aren't. That is my responsibility. The Chapter and Brockton worked it out so the only things folks that were flying had be responsible for would be themselves, the athletes, the athletes' chairs, and carry-ons. Luggage, medical equipment, medical supplies, and sporting equipment went on the truck. Even those who didn't fly with the group brought their stuff to the truck.

From April until the Games, Delta worked tirelessly to get everything they could as right as possible. Gotta tell you, they nailed it! Instead of requiring our group to get off in Atlanta, (on the trip down) they did what is termed a "through" flight - no one of our group had to get off the plane. However, Delta truly did one better on the ride home. Earlier in the article I stated there were no direct flights anywhere from New England to Louisville, Kentucky. Guess What Delta Did? You got it! The folks who flew with the NEPVA Coasters group got a direct flight home.

Another note that needs to be made here is the truck. A huge shout out needs to go Ryder in Braintree for their support. They gave us a fairly new truck (less than 20,000 miles). The folks gave us a reduced daily/weekly rate and finally a reduced mileage rate. At close to a 1000 miles one way, that was pretty decent of them.

Finally, I still say the New England Chapter is one of the very few that supports our long term care veterans from the Brockton VA to attend the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. We may be one of the few that pay for the rooms. This was an issue several years ago when Congress was trying to reduce costs and insisted VA only allow one VA employee to go. Well, we worked that out then and since. The Chapter sponsored 22 rooms this year.

These events cannot happen without the outstanding support of the VA Boston Healthcare System, the Recreational Therapists, the nurses, family members, because they all give up a week of their lives, and especially all those that remain behind to care for the veterans who cannot go. In order to keep the funding for these events, we have to convince Congress and the American public why these events are important. The PVA New England Chapter Board approved the number of rooms, the truck, and this year, the Chapter had five volunteers: Ms. Denise Harvey, Ms. Eileen Craffey, Mr. Jim Clark, Ms. Holly Warshaw, and Mr. Bill Whitten. Without Bill and Holly, there would have been no truck. I had to give up driving two years ago.

I want to add a final note. I know my first Games in '04 made a huge, huge difference in my life. The Games next year will celebrate its 40th Anniversary and will be in Portland, Oregon. Hope to see you there!

Dr. William Kois, Whistleblower Who Exposed Poor Treatment at Manchester VA, Killed in Car Crash

Published 7/24/2019 by By RAY DUCKLER, Concord Monitor



One day two summers ago, under a broiling sun outside the Manchester VA Medical Center, Dr. William 'Ed' Kois displayed his rebellious-yet-noble personality.

Kois died in a single-car wreck – cause unknown – Tuesday on Interstate 95 in Hampton at the age of 62, but not before the Granite State, as well as the rest of the country, owed him a debt of gratitude.

His leak to the press exposed his employer's substandard care of veterans. He had served as the central source among 11 whistle-blowers during the Boston Globe's damning 2017 expose about dirty conditions and misdiagnosed cases at the Manchester facility.

Kois, who lived in Newburyport, Mass., said this incompetency had led to wheelchair-bound veterans, unnecessary pain, even death. So now it was my turn to speak with the good doctor, about a topic with ever-growing legs. National legs.

We met at the Manchester VA, Kois's employer, but on this day, with a columnist and photo editor looking to advance the story, officials at the VA turned paranoid and pushy.

We were followed down to Kois's office by a media-relations official, there to soften my line of questioning and shape the narrative. When Kois protested, we were asked to leave the building. Then, after finding a shady spot at a picnic table on the grounds, another official brought her sandwich outside and sat with us, with several open tables nearby, hoping, I guess, that we wouldn't notice her eating.

We did. She was a plant for the hospital, prompting us to squeeze into my car, pouring sweat while waiting for the air conditioner to cool us off and talk about Kois's decision to turn informant in the most public way possible.

"This is the biggest issue we can have, and that is the patients not being properly taken care of," Kois told me as we cruised to nowhere down Manchester city streets.

Then he added, "Can you believe that woman just came over and sat down? What the (bleep)?"

Kois cursed a lot, and it quickly became clear that this doctor was unique in many respects. In fact, his look and fashion statements suggested this even before we met.

He wore mutton chops, a goatee and a ponytail, swore freely, attended medical school after being raised by a coal-miner-turned-boxer, and, I suspect, never met a necktie he liked.

He went by Ed, not William, certainly a stuffy name for someone as loosey-goosey as Kois. He spoke softly and gently, yet his laugh sounded like a sea lion's bark.

He didn't golf or belong to a country club. He was building a home in Littleton, off the beaten track, when I met him, and he restored a 1956 wooden boat, 37 feet long. He was an inventor, too, and had secured several patents.

And, like a counterculture figure questioning authority, Kois couldn't take the incompetence of the VA brass and the disrespect aimed at those who had served. He had to say something.



Dr. Stewart Levenson once served as the Manchester VA's Medicine Department chairman. More than anyone else, he was viewed as Kois's main ally in this whistle-blowing operation. The two were close.

"Ed's contribution to the improved care at the VA is beyond measure," Levenson said Wednesday by phone. "His concern was for not only patients but veterans in general, and he regularly improved the lives of countless vets. He ignored the consequences and did the right thing."

Kois shouted from the rooftops, desperate to expose this injustice. He granted interviews to anyone and everyone, forever trying to improve conditions. There were flies in operating rooms, dirty, blood-stained instruments, and diagnoses and treatments that were just plain wrong.

Record keeping between the Boston and Manchester VA programs failed to clearly show who needed surgery. A doctor named Muhammad Huq was found to be cutting and pasting notes in medical charts, meaning information remained unchanged for years.

Dr. William Kois, Whistleblower Who Exposed Poor Treatment at Manchester VA, Killed in Car Crash

Continued from page 12.

Kois was the head of the VA's Spinal Cord Clinic, and that spelled trouble for doctors treating patients with myelopathy, or severe compressing of the spinal cord.

While driving around steamy Manchester that summer day, Kois mentioned a veteran suffering from myelopathy who had had part of a tumor removed from his spine at a VA near Boston. Then he relied on the Manchester VA for subsequent checkups.

His pain returned, suggesting the tumor had returned as well. Yet visit after visit, year after year, complaint after complaint, the patient received vague responses with no sense of urgency and no imaging performed to see what was going on.



By the time Kois, who joined the Manchester VA in 2012, saw the man's medical records and ordered the imaging process, the one that should have been ordered years ago, it was too late, reducing the veteran to a wheelchair and diapers.

That's what Kois wanted people here to know. In fact, he wanted the nation to know, figuring that these problems occurred in other states as well. And once the story spread, two top Manchester officials were fired by federal investigators.

And now this, more shocking news, about the lead whistleblower, killed in one-car crash, who had seen enough injustice to reveal wrongdoing by the organization that paid his salary.

State police say Kois rammed his 2013 Porsche Cayenne into a metal guardrail while driving south on Interstate 95 on Monday at about 4:30 p.m. He was pronounced dead at Portsmouth Regional Hospital, and the authorities believe he may have suffered a medical emergency, causing the crash.

State Trooper James Powers was unavailable for comment.

Thankfully, Kois got the word out about what he had seen while working in Manchester, and I found a local example of the damage caused by this scandal.

His name was Jeff Sweeney and he lives in Concord. His truck, leading a convoy in Iraq, was destroyed by an IED, causing him severe back pain.

The Manchester VA recommended physical therapy and steroids. No relief there. Surgery in Boston didn't help either, and Sweeney never learned what the real problem was, eventually losing his job with the Department of Transportation for missing eight months.

Enter Kois. He ordered imaging. He showed Sweeney a picture of his spine, with a screw penetrating a nerve, caused by the surgery in Boston and missed during checkups in Manchester.

Kois recommended more surgery. After a 14-hour operation to remove the screw, Sweeney walked with a nurse and felt great for the first time in years. He's now part of a documentary called *The Care They've Earned*, an unflinching look at flaws in the VA system.

Meanwhile, Sweeney's pain, while not gone, has been greatly reduced.

"I was shocked that I was walking," Sweeney told me last September. "I'll have contact with Dr. Kois for the rest of my life, if I can.

"Dr. Kois saved my life."



10th Annual International Wheelchair Curling Tournament

By Debra Freed, New England PVA Chapter Member

This past summer's international wheelchair tournament was the 10th annual and held a special meaning for all those involved, both on the ice and off. A few months ago, the Cape Cod Curling Club Community lost a very special person in Tony Colacchio. It was only fitting that the tournament's name was changed to honor our great friend and family member. The 10th Annual Tony Colacchio Wheelchair Summerspiel was held at the Cape Cod Curling Club from July 25th to July 28th with wheelchair curlers competing against each other from the United States and Canada. The four-day event is held each year and this year it was changed to memorialize Anthony "Tony" Colacchio who was extremely instrumental in developing and overseeing the growth of wheelchair curling in the United States. Tony's enthusiasm for the love of the game and, more importantly, the love of humanity was evident on the ice throughout the tournament as wheelchair curlers demonstrated the athletic abilities, sportsmanship and camaraderie that Tony fostered within every wheelchair curler he came into contact with.

The Cape Cod Curling Club is located in Falmouth, MA and is one of the largest adaptive curling clubs in the United States. The adaptive curling program was started by Tony and his wife Mary but since his passing has not missed a beat as Mary and others in the club have stepped up to ensure the program continued on and continues to produce elite, world class level curlers. At least two members of the wheelchair curling team at the past two Paralympic Games have been from the Cape Cod Curling Club. This past world championship in Stirling, Scotland saw the same

with Megan Lino and Steve Emt representing Team USA and the Cape club.

Curling requires an extreme sense of tactical knowledge which was present throughout the tournament. Throughout the week, all ten teams demonstrated the sportsmanship and competitiveness you typically find in world class curling. Although only four teams made it to the medal round, every team that competed displayed what adaptive athletes can do. In the semi-final game, the US National Team finished with a 7-2 record as they defeated the US HPA to capture the bronze medal. US HPA finished the week at 5-4. The gold medal game saw some redemption as Team Quebont (Quebec and Ontario) rebounded from their only defeat of the week to outlast the US Devels team to bring home the gold medal. Team Quebont finished the week with an 8-1 record while the US Devels finished at 7-2.

All the teams at the tournament demonstrated the sportsmanship and family atmosphere that makes the sport of curling such a wonderful event. We would all like to thank the Cape Cod Curling Club, Mary Colacchio, Nanci Pacheco and Kathy Maloney, as well as the countless volunteers, kitchen staff and ice staff that made this event possible. The Tony Colacchio Wheelchair Summerspiel is the largest wheelchair curling bonspiel in the country and it is all made possible every year by the wonderful people at the Cape Cod Curling Club.



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

WHEELS HELPING
WARRIORS

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans. Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too!



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548
Paid for by the Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation

Indego Exoskeleton Available for Veterans
Thanks to New VA Policy



Powering Veterans Forward



"I most enjoy using Indego in my neighborhood, walking around, going outside, talking to my neighbors"

- Jim Dahlin, US Army Veteran, first veteran to receive Indego through VA policy

- Injury Level T3 and below
- Lightweight (26 lbs) with modular design that breaks into 5 components for easy transportation
- Slim design can be worn in most wheelchairs
- Ability to transfer in/out of car while wearing Indego
- Rapid self set up (average 5 minutes)
- Extended battery life (4 hours continuous walking)
- Wireless control via iPod allowing for real time software adjustments
- Designed and assembled in the USA



Contact National Sales Manager, Brian Schultz, for more information or to try Indego at a screening day near you.

1.217.343.7506
brian.schultz@parker.com
www.indego.com



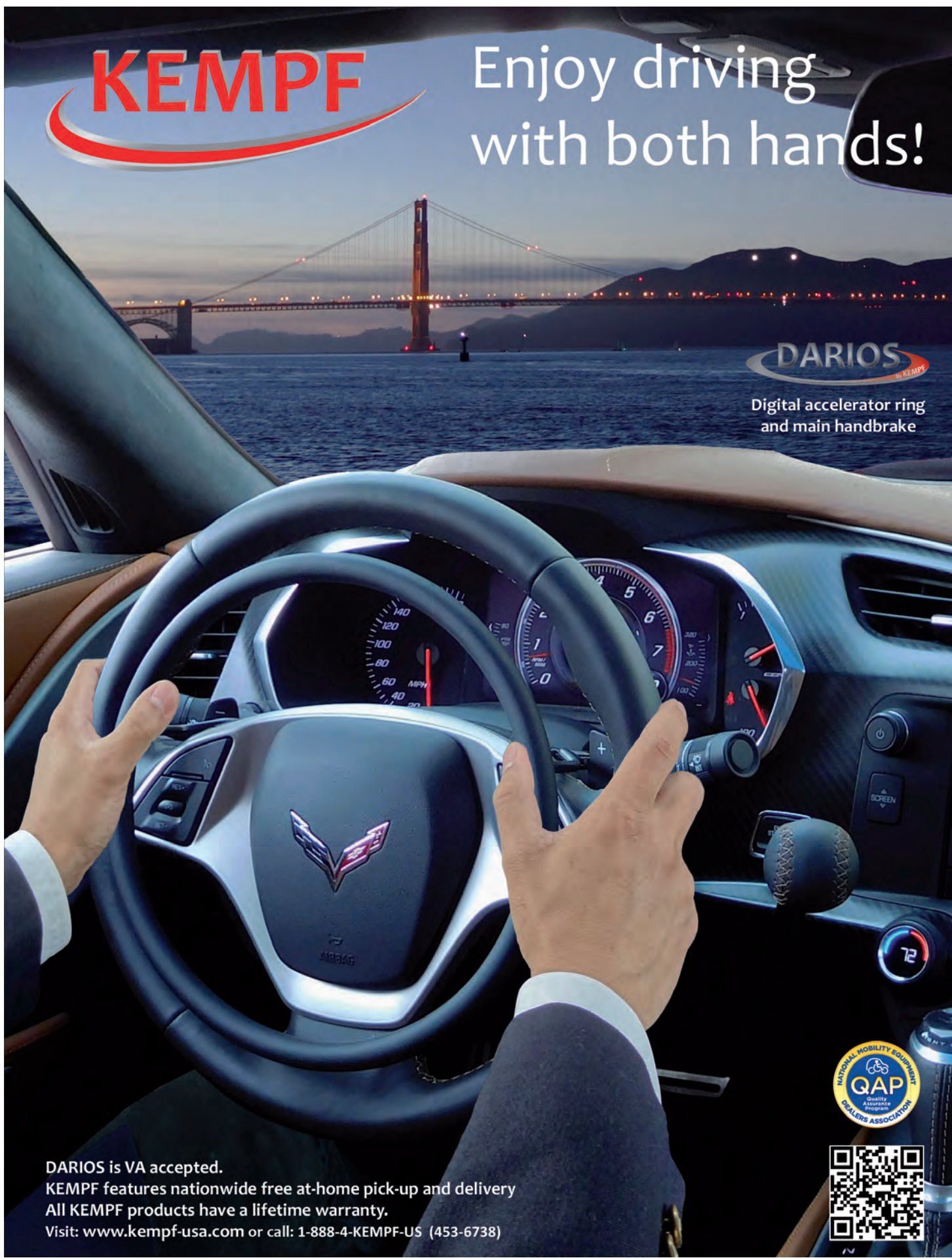
Indego® is a registered trademark of Parker Hannifin Corporation

KEMPF

Enjoy driving with both hands!

DARIOS

Digital accelerator ring
and main handbrake



DARIOS is VA accepted.
KEMPF features nationwide free at-home pick-up and delivery
All KEMPF products have a lifetime warranty.
Visit: www.kempf-usa.com or call: 1-888-4-KEMPF-US (453-6738)



PVA Testifies in Support of Social Security 2100 ACT

via PVA Washington Update

On July 25, PVA Deputy Executive Director Shaun Castle testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in support of the Social Security 2100 Act (H.R. 860). Earlier in the year, Castle appeared before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security to speak in favor of this legislation introduced by Rep. John Larson (D-CT) and cosponsored by over 210 members of the House. H.R. 860 contains a number of provisions aimed at strengthening the Social Security system, improving benefits, and ensuring its solvency well into this century without harming beneficiaries.

Castle's testimony centered largely on his own experiences with Social Security disability benefits as a member of the millennial generation and the importance of Social Security's survivor, retirement, and disability programs to members of his age cohort. He also highlighted provisions in the bill that would establish a more realistic cost-of-living-adjustment for beneficiaries, strengthen protections for low-income workers and for all beneficiaries, cut taxes on benefits for nearly twelve million beneficiaries, and make long overdue adjustments in the financing mechanisms for the system. He also noted that Social Security actuaries have determined that this bill will ensure the long-term solvency of the Social Security trust funds without cutting benefits or raising the retirement age, as have been proposed by some Social Security reform proponents. PVA's full hearing statement can be found on the Ways and Means Committee website along with other witness statements and information about the hearing at https://waysandmeans.house.gov/sites/democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov/files/documents/Shawn%20Castle%20Testimony_0.pdf.

SSA Inspector General Report Examines Handling of Veteran Disability Claims

via PVA Washington Update

The Social Security Administration's (SSA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) released an audit report in July examining the agency's expedited handling of Military Casualty/Wounded Warrior (MC/WW) and Veterans Affairs 100 Percent Permanent and Total (VAPT) claims. The objective of the audit was to determine whether SSA followed its policy to identify and expeditiously process veteran and military casualty disability claims.

Several years ago, SSA established a program to expedite claims for Social Security disability benefits filed by current and former military service members. Military service has been covered under Social Security since 1957 and PVA and many other veterans service organizations had long advocated for changes to SSA's policies governing disability claims by veterans rated 100 percent permanently and totally disabled by VA. Many veterans with disability ratings of 100 percent found it difficult to understand why they should have to go through the entire Social Security disability process and PVA was pleased when SSA adopted this streamlined process for these veterans' claims.

However, the OIG found that SSA does not define "expeditious handling" of these veterans' claims, and as a result, processing times vary greatly from state to state. Nor could SSA provide evidence that it had followed its policies and procedures to ensure that these claims were properly tracked and monitored. In its response to the OIG, SSA reported that it had recently developed refresher training for SSA technicians to reinforce existing procedures to expedite MC/WW and VAPT cases and will act to better define the term "expeditious" for processing MC/WW and VAPT claims. SSA also committed to measuring processing time pursuant to the definition and to implementing controls to monitor, track, and measure the processing of MC/WW and VAPT claims. The full OIG report can be found at <https://www.oversight.gov/sites/default/files/oig-reports/A-15-17-50227.pdf>.

CAP Releases Report on Economic Security for People with Disabilities

via PVA Washington Update

On the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Center for American Progress (CAP) held a briefing on a newly released report titled, "Advancing Economic Security for People with Disabilities." The report discusses some of the most entrenched and under-explored barriers to economic security facing people with disabilities, and outlines several practical steps that policymakers can take to help level the playing field and provide economic security for these Americans. Barriers mentioned in the report include access to long-term services and supports, waiting lists for vocational rehabilitation, inadequate availability of accessible transportation and housing, and limited family and medical leave policies. Among the recommendations in the report, CAP proposes phasing out a program that allows people with disabilities to be paid below minimum wage, creation of a partial or temporary disability program within Social Security, and enhancing the earned income tax credit. The report urges the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to mandate that all federally-assisted housing units meet accessibility standards that allow aging in place and address the shortage of available units for low-income people with disabilities. In addition, the report recommends increased funding for Federal Transit Administration programs such as paratransit, the Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program, and the United We Ride interagency initiative. The full report can be found at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/disability/reports/2019/07/26/472686/advancing-economic-security-people-disabilities/>.

Interested in Some Ocean Fishing?

By Mike Guilbault, Chapter Vice President and Sports Director



For those of you like I who love saltwater fishing there is great news. Fire Escape Charters who's been providing free fishing trips for veterans quite a few years now has upgraded to a new, bigger boat. Captain Mark Petit has informed me he now can take two wheelchairs per trip now. He's been taking groups of 6 veterans out and was limited to only one of them being in a wheelchair until this year. Now you if you can get together a group of 6 veterans you can call him to try and book a date. The new boat has a transom door the chairs can wheel through which will make it much easier to load and I was happy to hear 2 can be in wheelchairs. I'm looking forward to some striper fishing with some of my rolling buddies. We do not need to have a complete group to get out fishing with Mark. You can give him a call and speak with him and if you have only a few people or even can't get anyone else to join you he will try and fill the boat with other veterans so you can have a day on the ocean fishing for some tasty Striped Bass and other species depending on conditions and preference. You do have to get yourselves transportation to the boat in Plymouth and then his crew is always great helping us get from the parking lot down to the docks and into the boat.



Fire Escape Charters can be found on Facebook and has a website so you can review either for more info and photos of recent catches. Many thanks to Captain Mark Petit for all he's done for us veterans and best wishes with the new boat. For those who don't use computers much I'll add his number along with the link to his website. Do consider he rises very early in order to drive the many miles from his home to the boat and then bring it to the Plymouth Town Docks to pick up his anglers so be courteous and don't call him late!! I left a message during the day while he was out fishing and he returned my call quickly.

Here's to tight lines and big fish, I know I'm looking forward to spending time with him on the new boat and wanted to spread the word of the opportunities available to get out on the seas.

Check out the website at <http://www.fireescapecharters.com> or on FB Fire Escape Charters.

For the non-computer users Mark can be called at 508-326-3185.



July could not get here fast enough!

By Brad Carson, Chapter Board of Directors

July could not get here fast enough!

Every year we are in a new location and seeing the same crew from previous years. Of course I'm talking about The National Veterans Wheelchair Games!

This year held in Louisville, Kentucky. I had never been before, so I was excited! Going into my 18th Games, I knew what to expect and as always a great time. For those who haven't been, you don't know what your missing! One thing that is wonderful is having UPS as our Gold Medal Sponsor. Reason being, is when you drop your luggage off the Airport, the next time you will see it will be in your room!

Another bonus to traveling with NEPVA is the fact that we rent a truck to carry all of the heavy equipment (Handcycles, Racing chairs, hoysliffs etc..). I travel with my wife, who is a volunteer for the Chapter and also enjoys the Games. You can never thank your wife or caregivers enough when traveling! Especially our first night there! When we arrived at the Hotel it was late due to flight problems. Well upon check in they did not have a room for us? Several hours later they gave us a temporary room for the night. We had no luggage, toiletries or anything! They gave us all they could and said see you in the Morning!

Well, morning came pretty quick because someone came knocking at the door at 0700 telling us that we were in a community room for that floor!

Well, we got cleaned up and went down stairs to the front desk and they told us they would call us when they had a room! For all of my years traveling in a chair, that was a first. On a good note it did not ruin the pending Games.

Well, that day it's time for registration and the expo at the Convention Center adjoining the hotel. It can be a long process but the expo is great! So many vendors and so many new products.

Well come 1500 our room was finally ready and the luggage arrived about an hour later. For those who haven't been to the Games, opening ceremonies are exciting. Veterans from each state line up and parade into the convention center hall to a welcoming crowd. After the speeches we were treated to a night on Fourth Street, all sorts of Restaurants and entertainment.

It was real special this year, they had the weight lifting & the Super G on Fourth Street for the public to watch, it was fun to see so many people watching these events!

As for my events, I do all of the Track events (100, 200, 400 & 800 meters) every year along with 9 Ball, I also signed up for Golf but it conflicted with 9 Ball, maybe next year in Portland,OR.

The Track was extremely HOT this year, not just the competition but the Temperature @ 1800 was 100 degrees+! I raced in the Open Division and had some great races, it came down to 2 of us at the finish line

Every race! Old vs. Young!

Unfortunately @ 53 years old he won 3 out of 4 races but we gave the crowd a great show! My last event was 9 ball which is also a lot of fun if you love pool the way I do. I made it to the Bronze Medal round & won the Bronze. My total medal count: 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze.

As for Team NEPVA, get this one 37 Gold, 18 Silver and 9 Bronze!

We came in 5th out of 57 Teams, most teams being much larger than ours!

In closing, there are Winter Games in Snowmass, CO & Our 40th Summer Games in Portland, OR next Summer.

NEPVA supports & has so many Sports programs designed for everyone! Please support your Chapter, Come out & PLAY!!!





**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**

**WHEELS HELPING
WARRIORS**

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans. Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too! Schedule your free, easy pickup today.



WheelsHelpingWarriors.org / 866-204-4548

Paid for by the Jeffrey Carlton Charitable Foundation

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.



SUVs



Trucks



Lifts and stowage products



Electronic control systems

USA's largest accessible van dealer!

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


mobilityworks®
www.mobilityworks.com



100 MILES IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

September 7, 2019

FRANCONIA NOTCH · CRAWFORD NOTCH · KANCOMAGUS HIGHWAY



Northeast Passage is gearing up for our three day, 100 mile cycling ride in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

We hope you'll join us September 6-8, 2019 for this unique, all-inclusive event!

This annual event started in 2005. It has morphed over the years to include several options for participation and has raised critical funds for Northeast Passage's adaptive sports and recreation programs. It has ebbed and flowed and we've gone along for the wild ride. We've had a loyal following for almost 15 years and this is consistently one of our favorite events of the year.

It's time, though, for the sun to set on this experience. 2019 will be our last year offering this event in this format. If you've ever wanted to be a part of this adventure, now is the time! You will get:

- 100-miles of cycling including challenging uphills and thrilling downhills.
- World-class views of the White Mountains
- Top-notch lodging at the AMC Highland Center and North Conway Grand Hotel.
- All meals & snacks
- A nifty event t-shirt to commemorate your ride
- Northeast Passage provided on-road support (includes luggage transport) and riding with our friendly, knowledgeable and motivating staff.
- The opportunity to ride with a diverse group of cyclists.
- New friends in the form of other riders and above mentioned staff.
- Good feelings to include accomplishment, exhilaration, pride, inspiration, satisfaction.

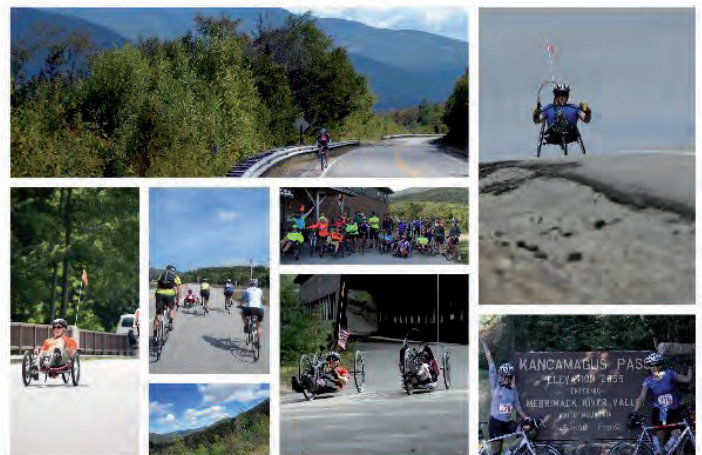
We are so grateful to those that have taken the ride with us and we can't wait to get on the road this fall!

We hope you'll come too.

This is a beautiful ride on a challenging route for a great cause.

All proceeds from this event directly benefit Northeast Passage's Adaptive Sports opportunities for individuals with disabilities in New England. We hope you'll consider fundraising for Northeast Passage and click here to set up an online page through Firstgiving.

Is this event right for you? If you are riding consistently over the summer – including varied terrain, especially hills, and weather conditions, you should be able to complete the ride. As a gauge, interested riders should be able to complete 20 miles (in one day) with hills. This is not a beginner ride.



2019 Veterans Kayaking on the Charles River

Hosted by VA Boston Adaptive Sports, NEHSA and
Charles River Canoe & Kayak



Dates:

Wednesday June 26th (Deadline to register Monday June 24th)

Wednesday August 7th (Deadline to register Monday August 5th)

Wednesday August 28th (Deadline to register Monday August 26th)

Wednesday September 11th (Deadline to register Monday September 9th)

Time:

2:00pm-5:00pm (end time is approximate)

This event is Rain or Shine

All Veterans and Volunteers must pre-register

****Space Is Limited****

To register for this event contact:

Jenny L. Vulpis, CTRS
Adaptive Sports Case Manager
VA Boston Healthcare System
774-826-1955

jenny.vulpis@va.gov

Brockton SCI Building 8 September Activities

SCIU September 2019

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1 10:00 AM Mass chapel 11:00 AM Protestant Service 4:07 Red Sox @ LAA	9 LABOR DAY See flyer 9am Coffee 11 Trivia with CWT 2pm Bedside friendly visits 6:15 pm Bingo	3 12:30 9 am Coffee social 6pm Telephone Pioneers 6pm Cards with Liz /Mike 7:10 Sox vs Min	4 9 Coffee 9:15 team meeting Sh 7:10 Sox vs Min	5 9:30 Bedside visits/coffee 10-2 WII educational games 11:30 Chowder and sandwich's Wareham Emblems Club 1:00 Bingo 2:00 cooking group 7:10 Sox vs Min	6 9am Coffee /Bedside visits 10am Current events/newspaper reading 10 Trip Bellingham Shoot 7:10 Sox vs NYY	7 8 9am Coffee /Bedside visits 11:30 Cookout sponsored by the Sallaway's 4:05 Sox vs NYY
--	--	---	---	---	---	--

8 OFF Grandparents DAY 10:00 AM Mass chapel 11:00 AM Protestant Service 1:30pm Bocce 8:05 SOX vs NYY	9 OFF 9am Coffee 11 Trivia with CWT 2pm Bedside friendly visits 6:15 pm Bingo 7:10 Sox vs NYY	10 12:30 9 am Coffee social 1p Bedside Reading/visits 4pm Avon Ladies VFW cookout?? 6pm Cards with Liz /Mike 7:07 Sox @ TOR	11 8 9 Coffee 9:15 team meeting 10:30 trip to Castle Island/Fishing 7:07 Sox @ TOR	12 8 9:30 Bedside visits/coffee 10-2 WII educational games 11:30 Cookout Rockland Am Legion 1:00 Bingo 7:07 Sox @ TOR	13 8 9am Coffee /Bedside visits 10am Current events/newspaper reading 3:45 Wareham Elks Trip	14 8 9am Coffee/bedside visits Rockland DAV cookout and NE Alumni cheerleaders and Boston Minstrel's music 7:05 Sox @ Phill
---	--	--	--	--	---	--

15 OFF 10:00 AM Mass chapel 11:00 AM Protestant Service 1:05 SOX @ PHI 1pm Patriots vs Houston	16 OFF 9am Coffee 11 Trivia with CWT 2pm Bedside Friendly visits 6:15 pm Bingo	17 12:30pm 18 9am coffee social 1p Bedside Reading /visits 5 pm Randolph Elks cookout 5pm SCI gym open 7:10 SOX vs SF	18 8 9 Coffee 9:15 team meeting 10 Fishing trip Canal 6:00 Healing Waters Building 4 7:10 SOX vs SF	19 7:30 9:30 Bedside visits/coffee 10-2 WII educational games 1:00 Bingo 2pm cooking group 1:05 Sox vs SF	20 8 9am Coffee /Bedside visits 10 Shawme Fish and Game club 10am Current events/newspaper reading 7:10 Sox @TB	21 OFF 9am coffee /bedside visits 10 Pet therapy visit with TILLY Noon Jarheads luncheon 6:10 Sox @TB
--	--	--	--	--	---	---

22 OFF Autumn begins 10:00 AM Mass chapel 11:00 AM Protestant Service W/c softball game in oval 1:10 SOX @ TB	23 OFF 9am Coffee 11 Trivia with CWT 2pm Bedside friendly visits 6:15 pm Bingo Autumn begins 7:10 Red Sox @ TB	24 12:30pm 9am coffee social 1p Bedside Reading /visits 1pm SEEKONK Red and gun club ??? 6pm Hyanitis Elks cookout 8:05 SOX @ TEX	25 8 9 Coffee 9:15 team meeting 10am Pembroke Old Colony sports club shoot Noon PVA PIZZA 1:30pm Bingo Pembroke Unit 143 8:05 SOX vs TEX	26 7:30 pool 9:30 Bedside visits/coffee 10-2WII educational games 12:30 ICE CREAM TRIP MIKES PLACE IN PEMBROKE ?7or Truck coming to the VA?? 1:30 Bingo 2:05 SOX vs TEX	27 3:30 9am Coffee /Bedside visits 9am Bass river Shoot 10am Current events/newspaper reading 7:10 SOX vs BAL	28 8 9am coffee /bedside visits 1:05 Sox vs BAL
--	--	--	--	--	---	---

29 OFF 10:00 AM Mass chapel 11:00 AM Protestant Service 3:05 Sox vs BAL 8:20 Patriots @ Detroit	30 OFF 9am Coffee 11 Trivia with CWT 2pm Bedside friendly visits 6:15 pm Bingo
---	--



Paul P 9/8



Channel 79 and 93
movies 24/7
Any request see Joanie

For Sale

2005 Chev V-6 Astro LT AWD

The 2005 Chev V-6 Astro LT AWD still runs great and 112,678 miles is mostly highway travel. Has 27 inch wide lift, hand controls, 6 way power seat, wheelchair lockdown, motorized emergency break, automatic door, dual batteries and all the usual required adaptive accessories. Needs new tires. \$7,000.00 or best reasonable offer. Call Mike Guilbault at 508-222-0669.





Paralyzed Veterans of America

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & AIR PISTOL PROGRAM

Cal-Diego Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

January 27-28, 2020
San Diego Naval Base
San Diego, CA

Mid-Atlantic Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 4-5, 2020
Colonial Shooting Academy
Richmond, VA

Wisconsin Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament

March 21-22, 2020
Milwaukee Area Tech College
Milwaukee, WI

Buckeye Air Rifle and Pistol Tournament*

April 16-18, 2020
Spire Institute
Geneva, OH

*Buckeye Wheelchair Games

PARALYZED VETERANS BOATING/FISHING TOUR

Mid-America Bass Tournament

September 20-22, 2019
Lake Eufaula
Eufaula, OK

Vaughan Bass Tournament

October 4-6, 2019
Rend Lake
Mount Vernon, IL

Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament

April 3-5, 2020
Lake Harris
Tavares, FL

Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament

April 24-26, 2020
Lake Barkley
Kuttawa, KY

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament

June 5-7, 2020
James River
Richmond, VA

Capital Clash Bass Tournament*

June 12-14, 2020
Potomac River
Marbury, MD

*Year-end Tournament

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

Mid-South Billiards Tournament

October 11-12, 2019
Clicks Billiards
Memphis, TN

Mid-Atlantic Billiards Tournament Chuck Willis Mem

March 20-22, 2020
Diamond Billiards
Midlothian, VA

Mid-America Billiards Tournament

April 3-5, 2020
Slick Willies Pool Hall
Oklahoma City, OK

Buckeye Billiards Tournament

June 5-6, 2020
Wickliffe Lanes
Wickliffe, OH

Mountain States Billiards Tournament

June 20-21, 2020
Widefield Corner Pocket Billiards
Fountain, CO

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

Great Plains Bowling Tournament

August 1-4, 2019
Thunderbowl
Council Bluffs, IA

Mid-Atlantic Bowling Tournament

September 13-15, 2019
Bowl America
Glen Allen, VA

Nevada Bowling Tournament

December 5-8, 2019
Sunset Station Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

Mid-America Bowling Tournament

April 9-12, 2020
Firelake Bowling Center
Shawnee, OK

Vaughan Bowling Tournament

May 21-24, 2020
Bowlero
Romeoville, IL

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

North Central Shooting Sports Tournament

September 6-8, 2019
Crooks Gun Club
Sioux Falls, SD

Mid-Atlantic Shooting Sports Tournament

October 25-27, 2019
Conservation Park of Virginia
Charles City, VA

Nevada Shooting Sports Tournament

March 13-15, 2020
Clark County Shooting Park
Las Vegas, NV

Cal-Diego Shooting Sports Tournament

Redlands Shooting Park
March 27-29, 2020
Redlands, CA

Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament

Desoto Gun Club
Dates TBD
Waxahachie, TX

Vaughan Shooting Sports Tournament

June 5-7, 2020
St. Charles Sportsman Club
Elburn, IL

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament

June 12-14, 2020
Otter Creek Sportsman Club
Cedar Rapids, IA

Wisconsin Shooting Sports Tournament*

June 26-28, 2020
Brown County Sportsman Club
Green Bay, WI

*Year-end Tournament

BOCCIA

PVA National Boccia Tournament

October 22-26, 2019
The Pavilion at Lamay
St. Louis, MO

Bayou Boccia Tournament

November 8-9, 2019
Harrison County Shelter
Gulfport, MS

Buckeye Boccia Tournament*

April 16-18, 2020
Spire Institute
Geneva, OH

Mid-Atlantic Boccia Tournament

May 6-8, 2020
Fort Monroe at
Community Center
Hampton, VA

Vaughan Boccia Tournament

June 26-28, 2020
Fountain View Recreation Center
Carol Stream, IL

*Buckeye Wheelchair Games

HANDCYCLING RACING

PVAR Hi Performance Off Road Camp

August 17-26, 2019
Crested Butte, CO

Off Road Handcycling Championships

August 23-25, 2019
Crested Butte, CO

Off-Road Fall Expo

October 4-6, 2019
Chesterfield, VA

Army Ten Miler

October 13, 2019
Washington, D.C.

CODE OF HONOR QUAD RUGBY INVITATIONAL

Dates TBD
Location TBD

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.

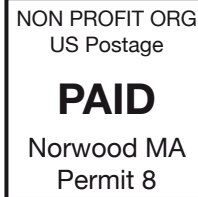
IA Program's usage for Sports Clinics - As long as funding is available, the Chapter will continue to cover the expense of one half the room rate for members participating in the New England Winter Sports Clinic, New England Summer Sports Clinic, and the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Since the 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

- Sep 6: Bellingham Shoot
- Sep 6-8: Winnepesaukee Fishing - Camp Robindel, Moltonborough, NH
- Sep 15: LOF Open Ski Clinic, River Road, Southbury, CT
- Sep 20: Shawmee Fish & Game shoot
- Sep 25: Pembroke Old Colony Sports Club shoot
- Sep 27: Bass River shoot
- 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