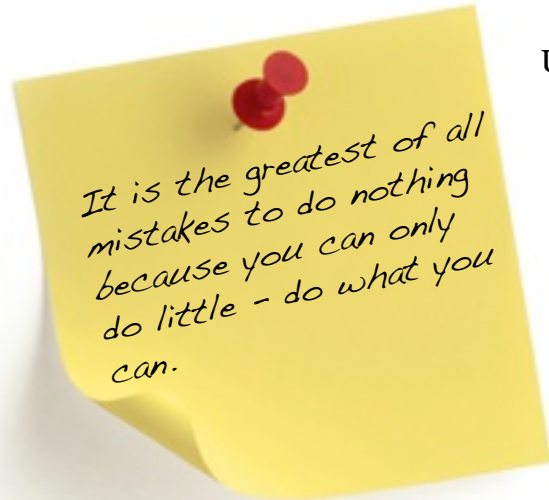


Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America

2311 South 108th Street
West Allis, WI 53227-1901

(414) 328-8910
(414) 328-8948 Fax
info@wisconsinpva.org
wisconsinpva.org



Non-profit organization

US postage paid Milwaukee, WI

Permit No. 1092

SPINAL CORD INJURY SERVICE INFORMATION

This is a statewide resource that is available to all qualified state residents

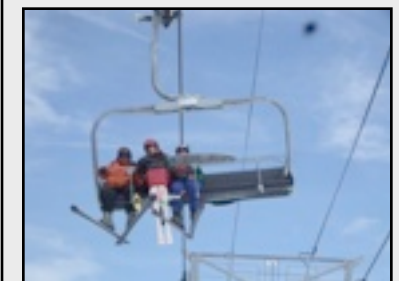
Please call 414-384-2000 or 888-469-6614 (toll free) and appropriate extension for services needed.

Department/Office	Ext	Department/Office	Ext
General Information	41288	Prosthetics	42607
SCI Clinical appointments	41230	Recreational Therapy	42156 & 41245
Physical Therapy	41126/41128	VA van travel	42057
Occupational Therapy	41142/41886	Patient Advocate	42064
Admissions ER	41885/41886	National Service	414-902-5655
Out of State supplies & med. refill	47229	Officer-PVA	or 800-795-3580
In State supplies & med. refill	41236	In state social worker	42244
Out of state social worker	41841	SCI Center	41236

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June - July 2010
wisconsinpva.org
info@wisconsinpva.org



“Winter Sports Clinic 2010”

Paul Lehman

What is the winter sports clinic?
Is it free or is there a cost? When and where is it?

The clinic consists of skiing, Nordic skiing, sledding and tours just to name a few activities. The event is sponsored by the VA and Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America.

The only requirement is that as a member of WPVA you need to pay an annual \$100 sports fee. Not a member? - no problem. First timers are exempt from the fee. The clinic is held in Aspen, Colorado in early March.

For more information call 414-384-2000 and ask for Joyce (ext 41256) or Sarah (ext 41245).

Inside This Issue

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- 7 Contributions



WHO WE ARE

OFFICERS

PresidentPhillip Rosenberg
 Vice PresKen Matthews
 SecretaryJames Rutledge
 TreasurerHarlyn Gerritsen
 Govt RelationsGus Sorenson

DIRECTORS

August KrieserManitowoc
 Lawrence Ramirez.....Milwaukee
 Russell WorthBrown Deer
 Al RevolinskiWest Allis
 Michael ThomasMilwaukee
 Jack StonePoynette

STAFF

Paul LehmanOfc EC Liaison
 Sarah Garcia..Chapter Secretary

SUPPORT

Wayne DakeIT Support
 David Ellsworth..Webmaster &
 Newsletter Design & Production

RECREATIONAL THERAPY

Joyce CaseyC.T.R.S.
 Sarah GrenzowMS/RT

NAT'L SVC OFFICE

Keith SorensonNS Officer
 Linda Roberts.....Office Sec'y
 Call: (414) 902-5655 or Toll
 Free: 800-795-3580



Survey Snip

2008 WPVA Survey
 260 Respondents

Use Web Site	90%
Not at Member Mtg	92%
Likely to Contribute	57%
Likely to Volunteer	47%
Educate the Public	39%
Keep Up The Good Work	22%



WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

The Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America [WPVA] will improve the quality of life of United States military veterans and others who have spinal cord dysfunction through the use of education, communication, advocacy, legislation, research, and sports & recreation.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America [PVA], a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members - veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.

PVA will use that expertise to be the leading advocate for:

- Quality health care for our members,
- Research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction,
- Benefits available as a result of our members' military service,
- Civil rights and opportunities which maximize the independence of our members.

To enable PVA to continue to honor this commitment, we must recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for PVA to achieve its mission.

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 (414) 328-8948 (Fax)
 800-875-WPVA
 wisconsinpva.org

NUMBERS

Members at Large

289

Associate Members

286

Officers & Staff

13

14th Annual PVA Trap Shoot Circuit

July 23-25, 2010
 Location: Green Bay Sportsman Club
 Contact: Paul Lehman, 800-875-9782
 email: info@wisconsinpva.org

PVA and WPVA are hosting the annual trap shoot in Green Bay; we invite the public besides our membership nationwide to attend. Last year we had 96 shooters, which included 24 youth shooters.

WPVA and The NRA sponsor a youth trap team. If you are between the ages of 11-17 interested in trying the sport or an avid shooter call our office at 1-800-875-9782

WPVA Annual Election for 2010-2011

After the July, 2010 Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America (WPVA) Membership Meeting, nominations for the 4 [four] open seats on the WPVA Board of Directors will be closed. In early August, the election ballots will be mailed to the WPVA voting membership for their selections. Ballots will be counted and the results will be announced and the winners sworn in at the Annual Banquet on September 25, 2010, and at the September 28, 2010 WPVA Membership Meeting. Here is a list of the current WPVA BOD Members and the expiration dates of their terms of office.

(4 slots) Expires 09/30/2010	(4 slots) Expires 09/30/2011	(4 slots) Expires 09/30/2012
Phil Rosenberg Augie Krieser Larry Ramirez Harlyn Gerritsen	Jack Stone Michael Thomas (vacant) (vacant)	Jim Rutledge Ken Matthews Russell Worth Al Revolinski

Nominations are now being accepted. If you are considering running for one of these open positions, you must successfully complete the Paralyzed Veterans of America Certification Process. If you have not been certified by the National Secretary (Mr. Frank Rigo), your name can be placed on the ballot, but you cannot assume an elected position until you are certified. The certification process is very simple, and the forms are available at the Chapter Office.

- Certification requires three items of proof: (here are samples of items in each category)
- Citizenship: Birth Certificate, Passport, Immigration and Naturalization Form Number
- Active Duty service in the armed forces and character of discharge other than dishonorable: DD-214, Other (specify)
- Medical proof of spinal cord injury or disease:
 Medical Records, Physician's statement,
 Other (specify)

This process does take a little time, so please get the ball rolling as soon as possible. Questions? Please call Gus Sorenson at (414-328-8910 or 414-322-6672).

Your Contributions

Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America and its members would like to thank the following contributors:

All the individuals who donated in the memory of Genevieve Talatzko, Associate member	\$110.00
All the individuals who donated in the memory of Norman Catalano, Veteran	\$845.00
The estate of Daniel Kluth, Jr, Member	\$3,000.00
The Combined Federal Campaign	\$384.05
Dorothy Tann	\$100.00

Trap Shoot Contributions:

Blackhawk Sportsman Club	\$100.00
DAV post 99	\$250.00
Ms. Barbra Woods	\$15.00
Monroe Moose Lodge	\$25.00
Whitetails Unlimited	\$300.00

Events

You can register online for major events on our web site at [wisconsinpva.org/events.html](http://www.wisconsinpva.org/events.html)

Also check out the SCI Department Calendar Online:

<http://www.wisconsinpva.org/SCIcalendar/>

June	July	August
<p>6 Ride For The Arts, (30 Years), 7:00am</p> <p>8 WPVA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting, 1:00pm Chapter Office</p> <p>12 Benefit Golf Outing for the 30th National Wheelchair Games, Rivermoor Golf Club, Waterford, WI</p> <p>Motorcycle Ride For the Wheelchair Games, Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners</p> <p>22 WPVA Membership Meeting, 4:00pm, Zablocki VAMC</p>	<p>13 WPVA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting, 1:00pm Chapter Office</p> <p>14-18 State Shoot, Waukesha Gun Club</p> <p>23-26 14th Annual Trap Shoot</p> <p>27 WPVA Membership Meeting, 4:00pm, Zablocki VAMC</p>	<p>10 WPVA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting, 1:00pm Chapter Office</p> <p>14 Casting Club Benefit Shoot</p> <p>20 Annual tailgate/Brewers game 5-10pm, Miller Park</p> <p>24 WPVA Membership Meeting, 4:00pm, Zablocki VAMC</p>



Recent construction progress pictures of the project underway on the new SCI Center

What's a monthly WPVA Membership Meeting like? Special speakers, opportunity for YOUR input, sharing ideas and hearing progress of ongoing projects that affect all members. One special thing that is done that you might want to know about in advance is the "Incentive Program." A name is chosen at random from the entire WPVA Regular Member roster. If that individual is present when his or her name is selected, they win that month's prize money. There are two chances to win this award. Check the calendar, come to the meetings, and make your voice heard!

"Packer Backer Platoon"



Phillip Rosenberg, President

May 21st - 23rd was Wisconsin's welcome home for its Vietnam Veterans. This event was titled LZ Lambeau and I attended all three days of the event. The Green Bay Packers donated the use of Lambeau field and sponsored much of the event. All the money raised will go back to the veterans through various veterans' organizations and veterans programs. I really enjoyed the event. It brought back a lot of memories, some good, some bad, but it was well worth it. On Saturday morning, the 22nd, I attended a reunion of what was known as the Packer Backer Platoon. In late 1968, the Army recruiter, SGT. Grimes, put to-

gether a special recruiting package where 60 recruits would be sent to Fort Ord, CA for basic training and would be going through basic training together as the Packer Backer Platoon, and carry a Packers flag during that time. Of the 60 of us that went, 7 are deceased, and 7 could not be located. About 25 of us attended the reunion. The recruiter, SGT Grimes even attended, as he now lives in Green Bay and knows several of us. It was good to see these guys as we basically lost touch with each other after completing basic training in 1969 and went our separate ways. We did a lot of reminiscing, and had a good time. More of these reunions are being planned. My favorite part of LZ Lambeau was the large map of Vietnam that was made of some type of canvas material that was about 100 feet square, and was laid out in the south parking lot. I spent most of my time there. You were encouraged to find your area of operation on the map and sign in on the map. I met

many of my friends from High School at the map and we spent a lot of time showing each other where we were. I do not know if this was a welcome home or not. It felt more like a reunion for Vietnam Veterans, and I hope to see more events like this in the future as it has a great healing affect for those of us who fought in this War.

During the Memorial Day weekend I attended the Mid America PVA Trapshoot. This event was held just outside Wichita, KS. I drove down to get a little sightseeing in and see this great country of ours now that I have a lot of free time. We had great weather during the shoot and a lot of good food to go along with it. We will not discuss my scores as I did much better in practice than I did during the competition. I remember Earl Renz always had a reason why he shot poorly so all I can say is (#%^&*!@) shells. Special thanks to the Mid America for putting on a well run event.

While at the Trapshoot it was good to see a lot of old friends, many of which I went through my Rehabilitation with at the VA in 1974. We had a lot of good memories to discuss, and as I thought about it later, wondered to myself, damn, how did I get so old so fast. On my next birthday which is on our June BOD meeting, I will be sixty years old. I may be getting older, but most of the other BOD members are older than me. I am bringing this up to make a point. As a chapter we need to get some younger members involved to be able to take over the chapter's operations as some of our senior members become unable to do WPVA duties. If this does not happen WPVA will cease to exist. With that being said, we need involvement from our younger members, and now is the time to get involved. We have several openings on the BOD. Our hope is that interested members will submit their names as candidates for the BOD for this year's elections. I encourage your involvement. Please call the office for more information.

Please have a safe summer, and as always please call me if you have any questions.

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*Includes mobility rebate

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“More Intense”



Gus Sorensen, Govt. Relations Dir.
gsorensen@wisconsinpva.org

As the weather warms up, so does the construction on our new SCI Center. Discussions concerning the design, equipment, and who is responsible for what become more intense. I cannot overemphasize how lucky we are to have Frank Menendez and Mark Lichter keeping a close eye on the proceedings and our own Ken Matthews for his expertise and vigilance on the process as well. I certainly appreciate their efforts because these topics, guidelines, and regulations must be monitored by people who understand the construction and design business and all of the behind the scenes manipulations involved in a government project of this size and scope.

Ken Matthews and I traveled to Minneapolis to tour their new SCI Center Tuesday, May 11th and returned home Wednesday, May 12th. We didn't think it would be worth the cost to stay an extra day for the "Hub & Spoke Training" although Dr. Ken Lee's power point presentation Tuesday afternoon was extremely interesting and informative.

My thanks to Ric Jost, MNPVA Executive Director and Tom Fjerstad, MNPVA National Director for being such gracious and accommodating hosts during our brief visit. Also, Tom's tour of the MNPVA Chapter's office in the State Capital Building in St. Paul made me quite jealous of our Golden Gopher brethren.

Apparently a group of people working on the Denver SCI Center took several pictures of this SCI Center and put together an excellent DVD detailing this building. Ric said he would send us a copy of it and we plan to show it at a membership meeting and put it on our website. We sat down with Ric and Tom and discussed several topics such as what they like and don't like about their new Unit, what they would do differently if they could, and what suggestions they could offer us. As soon as we can, Ken and I will put "pen to paper" and have a report for you.

April 11-17, 2010 was PVA's Public Awareness Week. Augie Krieser and I made our annual pilgrimage to

Jackson Elementary School in Manitowoc, Wisconsin to talk to a large group of 1st Graders. As always, Stacy Jaeger made our visit fun for us and informative for the children. In addition, Augie arranged to have the Mayor of Manitowoc, the Honorable Justin Nichols, present WPVA with a Proclamation thanking our organization for still serving the community.

Dec 11, 2011



Jack Stone, National Director
sweetjack@prodigy.net

WDVA meetings in Green Bay, April 14-15th highlights:

The State veterans homes report indicated 623 members at King (capacity 749) and 207 members at Union Grove. King has RN position shortage but expecting to fill with June graduates. Both homes have experienced a loss of a total of 12 members recently due to increased costs by members to stay at the homes. Union Grove has had a 37% increase in members in 2009 due to increased specialty beds.

The Federal VA has approved a request for remodeling several buildings at King with a grant of \$1.2 million (65% of the total cost with state providing the rest)

The VISN 12 (Illinois & Wisconsin) report stated the VISN has received \$16.2 million from the federal stimulus bill (VISN 23 - Minnesota, rec'd \$23.4 million). There are 8 major construction projects in the VISN scheduled to be completed this year. The Green Bay CBOC is searching for a facility that will increase the number of veterans it serves to 10 to 20 thousand.

The date of "Opening Ceremony" for the Zablocki SCI Center" is scheduled for December 11, 2011.

The Council on Veterans Programs discussed several items, including:

A recommendation to the WDVA Board to consider preference in hiring new veteran employees in the future. Of the 426 hires in WDVA in the last 4 years, only 44 were veterans (11 Iraqi & Afghanistan vets). Discussed and encouraged each SVO to advocate for AB 781 - Wisconsin

G.I. Bill Tuition Remission and AB 228 - Preferences for Disabled Veteran owned Businesses.

The next WDVA meetings are scheduled for June 17-18th at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, WI.

On the PVA National level:

The employee statistics breakdown is 149 female employees, 130 male; 116 veteran; 81 disabled; 30 members; 190 Caucasian; 60 African-American; 6 Asian; 19 Latino; 4 American Indian Natives for a total of 279 employees. Three (3) new hires & one (1) termination were not included.

NVWGs registrants are 600 for the Denver games.

NASCAR: \$40 thousand was raised at the D.C. Poker Tournament. The King's Club go-cart event is sold out expecting \$100 thousand w/ \$300 thousand in-kind. The car was auctioned off at \$130 thousand and the raffle for the restored jeep continues to move ahead until the drawing.

An unexpected situation is developing as Kasey Kane is quitting the RPM to join Hendrick Racing at the end of the year.

Overall revenue is up \$ million at this point, however, difficult discussions are taking place with our direct-mail primary company (PEP).

The National golf tournament, may 24th, is budgeted for \$287 and expected to bring in \$300-350 thousand

“http://
thomas.loc.gov”



August Krieser, L/A Chairman
adkrieser@att.net

The passage of the health reform legislation was signed into law on March 23rd of this year (P.L. 111-148). A great amount of misinformation appeared in all forms of the media with the focus on the possible harm it would do to veterans, military personnel, and their families.

PVA's Government Relations staff kept in contact with congressional leaders and the Administration throughout the debate of this legislation and received assurances that all veterans enrolled in the VA health-

care system, their dependents and survivors under CHAMPVA, military families, military retirees and their dependents enrolled in TRICARE and TRICARE for Life are considered to have the essential coverage which satisfies the individual requirements as set by the new health reform law.

One problematic area did arise. This involves the several hundred children with spina bifida of Vietnam and Korean Conflict veterans. At this writing, Congress is addressing this issue. The Senate has already passed S 3162, a bill that amends the healthcare reform bill affirming that the VA's healthcare for these children will be considered minimum essential coverage. The House has yet to act on this issue.

S.1963, a bill that is proactive for all PVA members who use the VA healthcare system has been passed by the Senate and sent to the House on April 21st. On a roll call vote requested by Congressman Filner to suspend the rules and accepted by the House Speaker pro tempore, the amended S. 1963 was passed by a vote of 419-0 with 11 members not voting.

This bill eliminates a large number of co-payments that were a financial hardship for many members of PVA and SCI/D veterans who use the VA healthcare system.

All of this information is available on the Thomas Legislative website. It is strongly urged that you, as PVA members, access this website often to check out any legislation that pertains to veterans' or advocacy issues. The website is easy to navigate once one learns how to navigate it. Much of this report is "old" news and the Thomas website will keep you current with any legislation that is of interest to you. The website is <http://thomas.loc.gov> Please make use of it.

Other information that pertains to federal legislation will be posted on the (WPVA) website as it becomes available. There are a number of bills that pertain to veterans in Congress at this time; however, it is difficult to write about them on a daily basis until they have come out of conference committee and ready to be signed into law or vetoed by the President. This is another good reason to use the Thomas site on a regular basis.

The Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) has a number of informative webinars on independent living, resources, federal and state law applicability and other aspects to assist individuals with disabilities to live independently as possible. Their website link is <http://www.ilru.org> All aspects of independent living, resources to assist you to return to work, and other amenities to make independent living more palatable are available at this site. The webinars and webcasts are interactive (you can ask a question via e-mail and you will get an answer.) and the presenters are very knowledgeable on the specific subject of each webinar/webcast. The best aspect of any of these presentations is that no fee is charged. All it takes is a few hours of your time...time that may well enrich your life.

The 2nd quarterly meeting of the Independent Living Council-Wisconsin was held in Brookfield April 16-17. The primary issues were public hearings at Independence First and the final draft of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Other hearings were conducted at the other 7 IL Centers in the state. The state legislature adjourned for this session on April 22nd. A number of WDVA issues were on the table during the twilight session of this session. Please take the time to read Mr. Jack Stone's article or contact him on state veteran's issues. He is on a state veteran's board and will keep you up on any legislative outcomes on veterans' legislation in Wisconsin.

Another excellent resource is your county veteran's service officer. It is advised to check with them on a regular basis if you have any concern in regard to your benefits that are available to Wisconsin veterans. They are knowledgeable in federal benefits as well as state benefits. Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Week was held April 11-17 this year. National PVA encouraged all 34 chapters to become actively involved in this venture to demonstrate that our members are a viable and untapped resource in our society. This year's theme is "Empowering Lives". A number of presentations were made in various areas of the state and proclamations affirming the aforementioned week as Paralyzed Veterans of America Awareness Week were presented by

local, regional, and state governments.

Locally, accessibility to a city owned historic structure had a setback. The building inspector has taken a stand to redouble his efforts to get this project moving. It is apparent that several individuals who serve on the BOD of this Title II entity feel they are exempt from the ADA and other laws that pertain to accessibility.

Return & Recovery Program for Combat Veterans

A Program of

Artists for the Humanities

Invitation



June 17, 2010 1:00-4:00pm
St. Norbert's Abbey Center for Spirituality

1016 N Broadway
DePere, WI 54115

The Return and Recovery Program for Combat Veterans provides help to veterans and family members struggling with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Our programs use expressive art and counseling to veterans and family members of all eras. Our programs are free of charge.

Volunteer!

The chapter is always looking for individuals who want to volunteer their time in the following areas: general office, fund raising event and general building maintenance. Call Paul or Sarah the office at 1-(800) 875-9782