

**Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America**

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

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wisconsinpva.org



Non-profit organization

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**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	41142/41143	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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**February - March 2011**

wisconsinpva.org  
info@wisconsinpva.org



**Spinal Cord Injury and Dysfunction Center Update**

Paul Lehman and Ken Matthews

The wait is almost over. Construction is on schedule and it looks like an early summer opening. Say good bye to the 10th floor SCI/D Unit. You can get a bird's eye view of the construction site look out the windows in the 10AN Day Room. You will see an impressive building that slowly rose since the groundbreaking ceremony the opening-day of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games held in Milwaukee in 2007.

Over the last two years our Chapter President, Government Relations Director and Ken Matthews have been giving us a brief monthly update in their newsletter reports. Look for a special issue of the Dairyland News later this year.

WPVA and Spinal Cord Injury/Disease (SCI/D) patients that are treated at the Milwaukee VA Hospital would like to thank everybody who was part of this project.

**Inside This Issue**

- 3 President's Report
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- 7 Contributions



## WHO WE ARE

### OFFICERS

President .....Phillip Rosenberg  
 Vice Pres .....Ken Matthews  
 Secretary .....Jim Rutledge  
 Treasurer .....Mariette Firecloud  
 Govt Relations .....Gus Sorenson

### DIRECTORS

August Krieser .....Manitowoc  
 Ted Borger .....Verona  
 Russell Worth .....Brown Deer  
 Al Revolinski .....West Allis  
 Michael Thomas .....Milwaukee  
 Jack Stone .....Poynette  
 Harlyn Gerritsen ..Oconomowoc

### STAFF

Paul Lehman...Executive Director  
 Sarah Garcia...Chapter Secretary

### SUPPORT

Wayne Dake .....IT Support  
 David Ellsworth ...Webmaster &  
 Newsletter Design/Production

### RECREATIONAL THERAPY

Joyce Casey .....C.T.R.S.  
 Sara Grenzow .....MS/RT

### NAT'L SVC OFFICE

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



[wisconsinpva.org](http://wisconsinpva.org)

## 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.

### Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America

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 (414) 328-8910  
 (414) 328-8948 (Fax)  
 800-875-WPVA  
[wisconsinpva.org](http://wisconsinpva.org)

## NUMBERS

Members at Large

# 294

Associate Members

# 293

Officers & Staff

# 13

## Free Bowling for New Wheelchair Bowlers Friday Nights

When: Friday Evenings  
 Location: AMF Bowlero, 17117 W. Burleigh St.,  
 Wauwatosa, WI.  
 Contact: Doug Bureta, 414-750-2750



The Wisconsin Wheelchair Sports Association (WWSA) hosts a wheelchair bowling league every Friday night at AMF Bowlero. The WWSA pays bowling fees for the first four weeks for any new wheelchair bowler who comes out to join us. This is an "Up and Down" league with wheelchair and standup bowlers competing as teams. The league is

open to any new bowlers throughout the year. New bowlers will be set up with a team, and bowlers do not need to be there every week. You can bring your family and friends to bowl with us or to just watch. Able bodied and disabled bowlers are welcome. Come out and have some fun with a great group of people and enjoy bowling in Milwaukee. Bowling starts at 7pm, be there by 6:45 to sign up for your free bowling.



### MISCELLANEOUS

**WPVA Merchandise available online**  
 More items to be added soon!  
[www.wisconsinpva.org](http://www.wisconsinpva.org)

The Board of Directors are looking for stories from our members how WPVA has helped you. Send your stories to: WPVA Attn: Paul, 2311 S 108th St. West Allis, WI 53227

**WPVA forms now available online!**  
 Membership, associate membership applications, funding request and membership entertainment forms. Click on the resource tab

Have your name or organization on the wall of the new SCI Center WPVA selling gift tiles we have 3 sizes to choose at [www.wisconsinpva.org](http://www.wisconsinpva.org). Proceeds to benefit our members for non VA treatments.

## Your Contributions

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

Kathryn Mize	\$100.00
Susan Schafer	\$100.00
Joseph Bachman	\$100.00
Loren Strong	\$100.00
Harlan & Yvonne Lewitzke Fund	\$100.00
Beatrice A. Sakowski	\$100.00
J.J. Keller Foundation	\$200.00

### Scholarships Available

Several scholarships are available to individuals pursuing their education in spinal cord injury medicine in the following career fields:

Nursing, Practical Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Recreational Therapy

More Information on the chapter web site under the Resources menu item.

# Events

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

February	March	April
<p><b>8</b> WPVA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting, 1:00pm Chapter Office</p>	<p><b>8</b> WPVA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting, 1:00pm Chapter Office</p>	<p><b>12</b> WPVA Board of Directors Monthly Meeting, 1:00pm Chapter Office</p>
<p><b>21</b> Washington's Birthday Observed, WPVA Chapter Office Closed</p>	<p><b>20-23</b> PVA Advocacy/Legislation Seminar, Washington, D.C.</p>	<p><b>26</b> WPVA Membership Meeting, 3-4pm, Zablocki VAMC</p>
<p><b>22</b> WPVA Membership Meeting, 4:00pm, Zablocki VAMC</p>	<p><b>22</b> WPVA Membership Meeting, 4:00pm, Zablocki VAMC</p> <p><b>24-26</b> PVA Mid Winter Board Meeting, Washington, D.C.</p>	



**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!

## "Dreams come true"



**Phillip Rosenberg, President**

We at WPVA hope you all had a merry Christmas with your families and loved ones. The same holds true for the New Year, and may all your New Year dreams come true. With the holidays over it is time to redirect all our energy to the Chapter business at hand. As usual, we held our annual SCI Christmas party for the patients and staff on December 31st, in the 10AS dayroom at the VAMC. Thanks to Joyce Casey, our Recreation Therapist, and the many volunteers she gathered for helping out at the event. Dr. Lee was one of the volunteers, and was busy working in the

servicing line, and adding the Christmas spirit to the event.

We look forward to next year's Christmas party, which will be held in the new SCI Center. The construction of the new center is going quite well, and at this time it is anticipated that patients will begin to be moved there beginning around the end of June, or beginning of July.

At our last Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, we officially added Mr. Ken Ness to the BOD. I would like to thank him for his willingness to fill this BOD position. He is no stranger to WPVA, as a Lawyer, he has handled many of the chapters 'legal affairs over the years. He will be an excellent asset to the BOD.

Mr. Paul Lehman officially became our new Executive Director, as of January 1, 2011. Congratulations to Paul on this appointment, we know from his past involvement in the

chapter that he will do a good job as our Executive Director.

The Presidents and ED seminar was held in Dallas December 11-12, Paul and I attended as required by National PVA. This was a very productive seminar, as it gave us a lot of information on issues that we need to incorporate into the Chapter. One of those issues involved the ten responsibilities of the BOD, with a letter of commitment signed by each BOD member. We began implementing this with our most recent BOD meeting.

Another very interesting topic regarded an investment advisor, what you should to know before you choose one, and what that person should be doing for the chapter. Other interesting topics included fundraising issues and Chapter advocacy. All of the topics covered provided us with valuable information on how to make our Chapter better. The BOD has already begun to implement much of this information into our daily operations and committee functions.

This week I have received my application for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, which will be held in Pittsburgh PA. August 1st to the 6th. We have been working on this event already with the VAMC Recreational Therapists, and some changes we will need to make to send a team to the games. I can tell you know that due to our financial situation, it is going to cost you more to go to the games this year, so keep that in mind if you looking toward going to the games this year.

The weather is calling for more snow and colder temperatures, but at least we are not in as bad of shape as the East coast. When I get these reports done I can stay in my nice warm house for awhile and not have to venture out to do anything. So I will close my report now, and get ready for a nice warm weekend of watching football. GO PACK! That is my report for this month. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call and we can discuss your issues.

### 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

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# “Brand New Year”



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

PVA's Annual Advocacy/Legislation Seminar is taking place in March in Washington, D.C. Even though Congress is officially in session, many Committee assignments have yet to be filled and Wisconsin's 3 new legislators are finalizing their staff personnel. Later this month I will be developing my appointment schedule to meet with each of our legislators or their staff person who is in charge of veterans issues. It promises to be an interesting time in the Nation's Capitol and in Madison as well. Augie, Jack, and I will do our best to keep you updated on the issues affecting veterans and accessibility.

I spoke recently with Diana Sullivan about some accessibility issues cropping up at Miller Park and we are attempting to revive our previous advocacy group to address these problems. Given the number of our advocates, we develop coalitions whenever possible to try to increase our effectiveness. Are you interested in joining the fight for accessibility? If so, please give me a call at the chapter office.

On Wednesday, January 12th, Chapter President Phil Rosenberg and I traveled to Middleton VA Hospital in Madison to visit with long time member Harold Hack. He is still in Intensive Care but I believe he is on the rebound. I do not know his exact issues but suffice it to say he was in pretty rough condition. He has a long journey ahead of him but for those of you who know the “Wild Squirrel” it is only a matter of time before he is back to being 110% on the go. We wish him well and God Speed during his recovery.

It is a brand new year and our new Executive Director Paul Lehman has laid out an ambitious schedule for WPVA. Paul has the drive and pas-

sion necessary to meet his goals but he still needs the support and assistance of the Board of Directors, Staff, and Members to make it happen. Let us all resolve to take an active role in improving our Chapter. I will talk to you next month.

# “New Ideas”



**Paul Lehman, Executive Director**  
LehmanP@wisconsinpva.org

2010 is over and the Chapter made great strides in the areas of administration to communication. The web site went through a “face-lift” to a much friendlier site to navigate. The Board of Directors approved the hiring of Sarah Garcia as Chapter Administrative Secretary, who has exceeded our expectations. The Board of Directors also approved the hiring of an Executive Director and a Bookkeeper after careful review of our 2011 budget. The search for a Bookkeeper is under way and will be completed by February 15th. The audit shows we were able to save \$32,000 due to heavy cuts in spending. That savings helped improve our financial position so we can look at our programs and see where we can make additional improvements. After years of dealing with the city of West Allis the Chapter finally has a flag pole in front the office.

December 12th Phil Rosenberg and I attended the PVA Chapter President and Executive Director Seminar in Dallas, Texas and we both brought back new ideas about fundraising, programs, media and The Board responsibilities. I met a lot of Chapter Presidents and Executive Directors at the seminar that are willing to brainstorm fundraising ideas in 2011. The Chapters that attended agreed that sharing fundraising ideas will benefit the organization as a whole.

In 2011 I look forward to the challenges to improve on our programs and seek different ways to fundraise for those programs. With the support

of the Board of Directors and staff I hope to achieve these goals. The members of the Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America are our #1 priority. We will do everything possible to make the Chapter more effective and efficient. As your Executive Director I welcome your suggestions and comments. Feel free to contact me during regular business hours.



## Advertise in the Dairyland News and receive free Space on our Web Site for Twelve Months

(Dairyland News published 6 times a year)

	1 issues	3 Issues	6 Issues
Quarter page	\$75	\$225	\$400
Business card	\$50	\$150	\$300

### AD SPACE CONTRACT

We, \_\_\_\_\_, enter into this agreement with the Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America [WPVA] to purchase ad space in their bi-monthly newsletter, the Dairyland News (850 issues are printed) and web site. Dead line is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before the next issue is printed. The Dairyland News is printed Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, Jun/Jul and Aug/Sept. Upon receipt of your payment and artwork, our ad will be published in \_\_\_\_\_ issue(s) of the Dairyland News beginning with the next issue. The web site ad will be added to our web page within 15 days.

Please indicate the size and rate you which to purchase. All ads will be in color, unless specified.

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Please send all correspondence to:

Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Attn: Paul Lehman, Editor  
2311 S. 108<sup>th</sup> Street  
West Allis, WI 53227  
(800) 875-WPVA (9782)  
(414)328-8910

In the event the ad is not published in the newsletter a pro-rated refund of your payment will be issued.