April is PVA Awareness Month. National PVA and the Iowa Chapter will be promoting the mission of Paralyzed Veterans of America through several events scheduled throughout the month. As part of PVA awareness, we would like to present our new chapter logo (above).

Membership and Associate Membership is key to our success. Included in this issue you will find both a Membership and Associate Membership application. As always, Membership is free for those veterans who qualify. Associate Membership is only $75.00 for a lifetime membership. Associate Membership will provide you a copy of our bi-monthly newsletter, volunteer opportunities, include you in our family times and activities, and for a limited time a free copy of our new cookbook and a gift card from Village Inn for a free pie.

Join IPVA and enjoy all of the benefits that Paralyzed Veterans of America has to offer,
A Message From The President
Jon R. Schneider

Please review the following News Release from National PVA regarding PVA Awareness month.

APRIL IS PARALYZED VETERANS AWARENESS MONTH
Theme: The Big Push for Progress. Action: Take a Stand for Veterans and their Families

WASHINGTON, DC — This April, Paralyzed Veterans of America is marking the 67th anniversary of its founding by urging all Americans to take a stand for veterans.

With the theme The Big Push for Progress and events across the country, Paralyzed Veterans Awareness Month highlights the unique challenges facing veterans with spinal cord injury/dysfunction. It spotlights the work of Paralyzed Veterans to empower seriously wounded heroes and their families with everything they need to thrive.

“Paralyzed Veterans of America has pushed hard for progress over our 67 years and we’ve delivered results. But we have much more progress to make in the cause of veterans and their families. Look at the challenges we face today: government funding cuts that could impact veterans and a disabled veterans unemployment rate three to eight times higher than average, to name just two issues,” said Bill Lawson, U.S. Army veteran and national president of Paralyzed Veterans. “That’s why I’m asking my fellow Americans to help me this April, Paralyzed Veterans Awareness Month, in redoubling our efforts for positive change. We need you to be part of our big push for progress.”

Lawson will be traveling across America during this very special month to raise awareness for Mission: ABLE, Paralyzed Veterans’ campaign to help veterans with disabilities fully live the lives they deserve and to receive what they need most: care, benefits and jobs. The campaign aims to enlist all Americans — citizens, communities and companies — in an effort to help paralyzed veterans and their families live full, independent and productive lives.

Paralyzed Veterans and its 34 chapters:
Fight for quality VA health care and veterans benefits.
Promote and provide wheelchair sports and recreational activities.
Lead the charge to make America more accessible.
Empower paralyzed veterans with the tools and support they need to secure good careers.
Invest in research to find new treatments and a cure for paralysis.
Provide our services to all veterans and their families free of charge thanks to the generous support of the public.

Paralyzed Veterans of America was founded in the mid-1940s by a group of spinal cord injured American heroes of World War II. They created a non-profit organization to meet the challenges they faced then — from a medical community not ready to treat them to an environment with many barriers for people who use wheelchairs. Today, Paralyzed Veterans’ national office and our 34 chapters continue the fight to make America a better place for all veterans and people with disabilities. www.pva.org

JRS

ATTENTION

1. Please check out our new and improved web page! Many items of interest will be posted frequently. This will bring you news about the chapter between newsletters. It is a work in progress, but you will find it very interesting and informative. www.iowapva.org.

2. Please provide us with your email address. We would like to provide you your newsletter and other information electronically. This will make it easier for you and less expensive for us.
A little over seventeen years ago I had my accident that left me paralyzed. I did not know at the time about the services of Easter Seals or veterans benefits. At that time I thought my life was over and I would be stuck in my home in a wheelchair or worse yet a nursing home. I started my physical therapy after my injury and the first organization to show up and offer me help was Easter Seals.

Easter Seals was there to offer help to get me back in my home and to go back to my job. At first I wondered how they were going to do all this, but Easter Seals showed me what they had been doing for farmers getting back into their tractors to do their farm work. Easter Seals came to my house and laid out the plans for a ramp into the house and provided me with designs for my accessible bathroom.

When I had my accident I was working for the secondary road department for Hardin County. My job was running a back hoe and road grater. When I got out of the hospital, Easter Seals sent an engineer to evaluate options for my ability to get back into the equipment I needed to run and return to work. The county was agreeable at first to my returning to work and they let Easter Seals show their designs of how I was going to get in and out of the equipment. I am not sure what changed the County’s decision to put me back to work but one day before I was scheduled to go back to work they terminated my job. My Doctor and Easter Seals both told me to fight my termination and try to get my job back. Easter Seals was always there trying to help, but in the end after several years in the courts I was not able to get my job back.

I recently ran into the woman that I had first met from Easter Seals at the capitol on Veterans Day on the Hill in January. She wanted to meet with us and see if there was a way we could work together. Kim Gould and I met with her and agreed to open the lines of communication and let each other know about events and activities going on in each of the organizations.

Easter Seals was there for me and has been for all people in the rural communities. I have known several farmers in my area alone that the have helped to get back to their daily lives. They have offered prosthetics equipment when people needed it immediately if they had it available. They have Peer Support Group Gatherings all the time. I know the VA has been there for a lot of you for most prosthetics but there are some items and issues the VA does not want to help with or is unable to provide help with. I urge you to come and see what Easter Seals is about when we post their events. I am sure if we go and see what they are about, they will come and be at our events as well. Please see the notice below of an upcoming Easter Seals event scheduled for March 16.

**IPVA Turkey Hunt**

The IPVA Turkey Hunt will be held April 27th-28th in the Hardin County area. Lunches will be provided and there will be coffee and donuts to start the day. There will be a volunteer for each hunter. If you are interested in participating in the April Turkey Hunt, please contact Kenny Lloyd at 515-570-1402 or call the Iowa PVA office at 515-277-4782 or 1-888-909-4782.
Completing On-Line Job Applications

Do Your Homework:
Before starting your on-line job application get your homework completed. You will want to have all your application information ready when you start the application process. This information should include:

- Complete employment information for all your past work experience including; job titles and descriptions
- Supervisor names and titles, employer addresses and phone numbers
- Complete education information
- Military experience
- Award and honors

Many on-line applications may “time out” if the process exceeds time limits. By having your information ready, you will only need to copy your information.

Follow the Instructions:
Please take the time to read and review any instructions listed on the on-line application. Some of the instructions can be long and complicated. Be sure to complete all the information required. Take the time to review your information before submitting.

Complete the Entire Application:
You want to make sure that you complete all the sections that the employers are asking for. Competition can be fierce for a lot of positions and an employer may disqualify your application if you have not fully completed your work.

Helpful Hints:
- Give yourself the proper time to complete your application. It may take over an hour to complete. Schedule your time accordingly so you do not have to rush.
- Pick the best time of day to complete your application. Some people work better in the morning or afternoons. You can avoid additional stress while filling out the information.

You want to be able to send a strong message to the employer about your qualifications. Study the job description to be able to use similar terminology from your own experience.

Veterans with Spinal Cord Injury or Spinal Cord Disease who may be receiving SSDI or SSI and wish to work might consider calling a Paralyzed Veterans of America Certified Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

Contact information:

Jim Arndt
1 Veterans Drive, Building 76, Room SC139
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417
Office:
612-629-7021
Email:
jamesa@pva.org
www.OperationPAVE.org

DISCLAIMER

Back Talk and the Iowa Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America neither endorses nor guarantees any of the products or services advertised. We are pleased that we can offer you information about products and services that are available, but we strongly urge you to investigate any company or product yourself prior to using such services or products.

Back Talk is a publication of the Iowa PVA and is meant to inform its readers of Chapter activities, legislation, and other matters of concern to veterans and/or members of the disability community. Any opinions expressed in any article is that of the author and may not reflect the beliefs or policies of the Iowa Chapter.

Thank you.
From the Desk of the Executive Director

Kim Gould

Marian Patricia “Pat” Carlson, was born January 21, 1927 in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of Morgan Lewis and Marian Ringer Fitch. Pat attended Chicago’s Morgan Park High School, graduating in 1944. She left Chicago to attend Drake University where she received a BS degree in Political Science in 1948. While at Drake, she met Russell Edgar Carlson II in the halls of Old Main. Russ was a WWII veteran, serving in the Air Corp as a B-17 bomber pilot. He had earned the rank of 1st Lieutenant. They were married on September 4, 1948 in Chicago and honeymooned on Mackinaw Island in Michigan. They settled in Des Moines, and in September 1949, their first child, Susan Jane, was born. Their first home was built on Clark Street, now Forest Court, and life was good. Russ was working in insurance and Pat had been working as a legislative secretary at the capitol building, but decided to stay at home with her daughter. In 1951, a second daughter, Catherine Ann was born, and in 1955 Russell Edgar Carlson III joined the family. Russ, Sr. was now working as a land developer, creating building lots in the area southeast of 86th and Hickman. He was beginning to have some health issues with his legs. Doctors weren’t able to determine what the problem was for a long time, but eventually the diagnosis was Multiple Sclerosis which developed during his years in the military. Working was becoming more difficult and it was decided that Pat would go back to Drake and get a Master’s degree in Elementary Education. During her student teaching, a fourth child, Christine Louise, was added to the family in 1960. Pat taught school for 23 years, teaching at Hillis, Monroe, Kirkwood and Greenwood Elementary Schools, and at Meredith Junior High School, retiring in 1985. Her retirement was premature. Russ was totally disabled by this time and her daughter, Cathy, was diagnosed with cancer in 1985. After Cathy’s death, Pat didn’t return to teaching, but became Russell’s care giver. It was during this time that Russ and Pat both became involved with the Iowa Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. They had received a great deal of guidance and support from the organization and wanted to help. For many years Pat was recording secretary for the organization, which she continued after Russ’ death in 1996. PVA wasn’t the only organization that benefited from Pat’s involvement. She always maintained an active community service life with organizations whose priority was giving help to those in need.

Pat suffered a massive stroke and died on October 21, 2012 at the age of 85. She is buried in the Masonic Cemetery at Waveland Cemetery between her husband and her daughter. She left behind her three surviving children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, two brothers, many nieces and nephews, and a multitude of friends. She was small but mighty and will be missed by all.

Pat Carlson was a dear friend to Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America. Her contribution to Iowa PVA has lived on past her death. Mrs. Carlson established a memorial fund to Iowa PVA which will be utilized to sponsor our web page for several years. As a teacher and educator, it only seems fitting to have her sponsor a source of information and education to our members. Please visit our web site at iowapva.org to read Pat Carlson’s complete story.

On-The Job Training and Employment Information

Did you know … Veterans can use their VA Benefits to pursue “on-the-job training” (“OJT”) or apprenticeship training with a private sector employer? This option is a win/win for the employer and the Veteran. The employer has an opportunity to bring a Veteran on as a trainee while he or she pursues the employer prescribed training program towards the journeyman position. The Veteran is provided monthly benefits from VA to supplement their trainee wages. At the end of the training—the employer has a fully trained journeyman employee. This program needs to be approved by their local State Approving Agency (SAA).

The Special Employer Incentive (SEI) program is an employment program for our Wounded Warriors and Disabled Veterans ... but more. It can pay up to half of a Veteran’s salary for 6 months and other work related tools.

Spread the word, these programs provide a wonderful benefit to the Veteran and any employer. Businesses need a skilled workforce and are often willing to pay to train their employees...these programs make hiring a Veteran a good business proposition.

Additional information about the OJT and apprenticeship program is available at http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/education_resources/programs/on_the_job_apprenticeship_training.html.

Additional information about the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program for Veterans with service-connected disabilities can be found at http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm.
PVA EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2013-2014 PVA Educational Scholarship Program,
April 1 - June 17

Purpose

The Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) primary goal has been to assist its members and their families in improving the quality of their lives.

This goal has been addressed through a variety of activities, including the establishment of the Educational Scholarship Program. This program assists PVA members and their immediate family members by providing scholarship funds to help with a post-secondary education.

PVA will award scholarships in the amount of $1,000 to full-time students and $500 to part-time students for an academic year.

Eligibility

Applicant must be either a PVA member, the spouse of a PVA member, or an unmarried child (under 24 years of age) who is dependent (as defined by the IRS) on the member for principal support.

Applicant must be a citizen of the United States.

Applicant must be accepted and enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited US college or university.

Previous award recipients may apply.

Submission Process

Individuals who wish to apply for the scholarship program can download the application at www.pva.org or request an application be mailed to them via phone (800) 424-8200 Ext. 776, or via e-mail christih@pva.org. Completed applications MUST be returned to PVA NO LATER THAN June 17, 2013. Late applications will not be accepted, no exceptions. In addition, any incomplete applications will not be considered.

For more details, please visit www.pva.org

SUPPORT THE IOWA PVA

The Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America relies solely on private donations and receives NO government funding! Your contribution is 100% tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) corporation. Support by individual donors and businesses enable us to make our services FREE to members. Please support our mission through a direct donation to:

Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America (Iowa PVA)
3703 1/2 Douglas Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310

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- Toll-Free: (877) 543 - 8826
- Email: rods@iowamobility.com
- Website: www.iowamobility.com
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

An individual is eligible for membership by meeting the following criteria: (1) is a citizen of the United States; (2) was regularly enlisted, inducted, or commissioned, and was accepted for or on active duty, in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard of the United States or an ally of the United States; (3A) was separated from the service in the Armed Forces under conditions other than dishonorable; or (3B) is on active duty or must continue to serve after the cessation of hostilities; and (4) has suffered a spinal cord injury or disease (such as MS, ALS), whether or not service connected in origin. Membership is free. Complete and mail the application to: PVA Membership Department, 801 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 or to the chapter of choice. Providing the requested information is entirely voluntary but required for membership with PVA.
800-424-8200 • www.pva.org

Chapter Name: ________________________________

First Name: _____________________________ Middle Initial: ______ Last Name: ____________________________

Date of Birth: ______ / ______ / ______ Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number: ____________________________

☐ Male ☐ Female Are you a United States citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address: __________________________________________

City: _____________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Home Phone: ___________________________ Other Phone: ___________________________

Email: ________________________________

VETERAN STATUS INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE(S) OF MILITARY SERVICE</th>
<th>TYPE OF SEPARATION</th>
<th>BRANCH OF SERVICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start Date month/date/year</td>
<td>Discharge (D) or Retirement (R)</td>
<td>Copy of DD214 showing type of discharge or VA Medical Services Card Required (attach a copy to application)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Date month/date/year</td>
<td>D or R</td>
<td>Still on Active Duty Copy of Military ID Required (DD214 Not Required)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Army ☐ Air Force ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Coast Guard

☐ Army ☐ Air Force ☐ Navy ☐ Marine Corps ☐ Coast Guard

Have you ever been discharged under conditions that are less than honorable? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Is your spinal cord injury or spinal cord disease service connected? ☐ Yes ☐ No

DISABILITY CLASSIFICATION

SPINAL CORD INJURY
(Complete ONLY if you have a traumatic spinal cord injury)

Date of Injury: ______ / ______ / ______

Injury Level: ☐ C1-C8 Cervical ☐ T01-T12 Thoracic ☐ L01-L05 Lumbar ☐ S01-S05 Sacral

Cause of SCI:
☐ Vehicular (auto, motorcycle, aircraft, bicycle, etc.)
☐ Violence (gunshot, stabbing, explosion, etc.)
☐ Pedestrian (hit by car, etc.)
☐ Sport or recreation (swimming, diving, etc.)
☐ Flying or falling object
☐ Medical-surgical complications
☐ Other traumatic injury ________________
☐ Unknown

SPINAL CORD DISORDER
(Complete ONLY if you have non-traumatic spinal cord disorder)

Date of diagnosis/onset of condition: ______ / ______ / ______

Specific disease:
☐ Multiple Sclerosis (involving spinal cord)
☐ Poliomyelitis
☐ Amyotrophic diseases (lateral sclerosis, transverse myelitis)
☐ Syringomyelia
☐ Other (specify) __________________________
LEVEL OF FUNCTION

Indicate your level of function:

☐ Paraplegia    ☐ Tetraplegia (Quad)    ☐ Hemiplegia    ☐ No paralysis at this time

GENERAL INFORMATION (Optional, not required)

Please check the appropriate box or fill in the blank of each of the categories that best describes your present status. This important information enables the PVA to compile data for the effective implementation and support of our programs.

EDUCATION (highest level)

☐ Less than high school graduate
☐ High school graduate/GED
☐ Some college or trade school
☐ Associate’s degree
☐ Bachelor’s degree
☐ Attended graduate school
☐ Graduate degree
☐ Other

MARITAL STATUS

☐ Divorced
☐ Married
☐ Never Married
☐ Separated
☐ Widowed

TYPE OF RESIDENCE

☐ Apartment
☐ Assisted living facility
☐ Single-family home/condominium
☐ State/veterans retirement home
☐ Nursing home
☐ VA hospital
☐ VA nursing home
☐ Other ______________________

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

☐ Employed full time
☐ Employed part time
☐ Self-employed
☐ Unemployed
☐ Unemployed due to disability
☐ Retired
☐ Other ______________________

RACE/ETHNICITY

☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
☐ Black, not Hispanic/Latino origin
☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ Native American or Alaskan Native
☐ White, not Hispanic/Latino origin
☐ Other ______________________

SOURCE(S) OF INCOME

(check all that apply)

☐ Employment
☐ Gifts/Other
☐ Private pension
☐ Social Security
☐ VA compensation
☐ VA pension
☐ Worker’s compensation

The Veterans Benefits Department advocates for quality health care for our members and can assist you to obtain the appropriate benefits available as a result of your military service. Is PVA presently your benefits representative? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, I have no objection and hereby permit PVA Service Officers to provide information to the PVA National Membership Department that pertains to my qualifications for membership.

I declare that I have read and meet the qualifications. I understand that my membership could be revoked if any information provided is inaccurate.

Office Use Only

Date Received: __________________________

Applicant’s Signature

Member ID#: ____________________________

Processed Date: ________________________

Date: ____________________________

8/16/12
PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
IOWA CHAPTER

LIFE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE:________________
NAME:_________________________________________________________
ADDRESS:_______________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP:________________________________________________
HOME PHONE:_________________________ WORK PHONE:_________________________
CELL PHONE:____________________________ EMAIL ADDRESS:_________________________

Please check any of the following volunteer activities that you may be interested in:

_______ Sports Programs
_______ Family Time Activities
_______ VAMC Programs
_______ Fund Raising Activities
_______ Public Relations Events
_______ Other (please detail in comments section)

COMMENTS:_______________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Lifetime Associate Membership Fee: $75.00

Please return this application and payment to the Iowa PVA at the following address:

Iowa PVA
3703 1/2 Douglas Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50310-5347
(515-277-4782)

Associate Member Signature:______________________________________________________________
News From Adaptive Sports Iowa

Adaptive Sports Iowa is affiliated with the Iowa Sports Foundation (who among other things, puts on the Iowa Games). Mark Houseman is the Veteran Outreach Coordinator for Adaptive Sports Iowa (ASI). The goal at ASI is to help Veteran athletes with physical disabilities enjoy the activities they are passionate about.

ASI is looking for veterans with physical disabilities to encourage and provide venues to participate in regular sport and recreational activities. With your help and referrals, ASI can be an exceptional and free venue for veterans to improve their physical, emotional, and mental health.

Mark Houseman’s goal is to identify and contact Veterans with ambulatory or visual impairments and to create opportunities for participation in free sports and recreational activities. If you know any Veterans with physical disabilities that would benefit from our program, please help Mark get into contact with them

Mark’s contact information is:

Mark Houseman  
Veteran Outreach  
Adaptive Sports Iowa  
1421 Bell Avenue #104  
http://www.adaptivesportsiowa.org/Veterans.aspx  
Ames, Iowa 50010  
Cell (515) 707-3082  
mark@adaptivesportsiowa.org

Upcoming Events

- The 6th Annual Adaptive Sports Clinic and Paralympic Experience will be held on Saturday, April 13, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Michael J. Gould Recreation Center on the campus of Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. Our featured activity will be wheelchair tennis, with our guest, Nick Taylor, 3-time Paralympic Gold Medalist in Wheelchair Tennis, providing demonstrations and instructions for all participants. Other activities throughout the day will include archery, wheelchair basketball, cycling, bowling, and golf. The event is free to all participants, and lunch will be provided. Registration is appreciated but not required, and will be available on our website (http://www.sportabilityofiowa.org/camps-clinics/paralympic-experience.php) and on our Facebook page (http://www.sportabilityofiowa.org/programs/cycling.php) beginning February 20.

- You are invited to join us every other Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Iowa City Bike Library (408 E. College Street, Iowa City) beginning Saturday, February 23rd for our new cycling program for Iowa veterans and their families and friends with or without a disability. The cycling program is free to all participants and includes information about bike safety and maintenance, cycling adaptations, and riding fun. Bicycles/handcycles/trikes/recumbents will be available for you to use, or you can bring your own. NOTE: Each rider is required to have a helmet to participate. A limited number of helmets will be available for use. Preregistration is appreciated, but not required. Registration will be available on our website (http://www.sportabilityofiowa.org/programs/cycling.php) and on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/sportabilityofiowa) beginning February 16 for the Saturday, February 23rd ride (weather permitting).
### CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4–3/9</td>
<td>Advocacy Legislative Seminar/Mid Winter Board of Directors Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Washington D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Iowa Veterans Council Meeting at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>Bingo at the Des Moines VA CLC 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Easter Seals Event (See page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>Foreign Food Fair at the Iowa Veterans Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>IPVA Board of Directors Meeting at the IPVA Office 1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>Diversity Day at SE Polk Junior High</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### APRIL IS PVA AWARENESS MONTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>Bingo at the Des Moines VA CLC 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>IPVA Board of Directors Meeting at the IPVA Office 1:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>Spring Carnival at the Iowa Veterans Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27-4/28</td>
<td>IPVA Turkey Hunt (See page 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Contact Us:**

Iowa PVA  
3703 1/2 Douglas Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50310  

515-277-4782  
888-909-4782  
515-277-8165—Fax  

iowapva1@yahoo.com  
iowapvakim@yahoo.com  
iowapvajaz@yahoo.com

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On The Brink by Steven Brinkmeyer

It is finally March and the only thing I know for sure about this month is, “If you’ve got cows you’d better have half of your hay left.” Also, this is the kite flying month. The truth of that myth is, it’s usually too cold and muddy for us kids to play outside. In the normal course of events, when our family gathers for Easter, we fight great kite wars. This year one of our nephews proposed that we have a combination kite war and clay pigeon shoot. I was all for the idea. I think combination sports are the most exciting of all. You’ve got your coon hunting off the back of a jumping mule, your figure-eight stock car racing, your open drug class weight lifting and now there’s kite flying and trap shooting on the same lawn. Sounds like fun to me. Most women probably wouldn’t go for the idea. I think my wife has already put the kibosh on the plan. When I told her of the grand scheme she asked, “Would this idea happen to come from the same nephew who thinks night crawler hunting and window peeking is good clean fun?”

The discussion question at last week’s meeting of my Thursday Afternoon Grey Book Reading Club was: If a man walks into a deep, dark forest where no woman can hear him, is he still wrong?

Cookbooks

The cookbooks will arrive any day now!!!!! With every donation of at least $20.00, you will receive a free cookbook. Please send your donation directly to our office at:

Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America
3703 1/2 Douglas Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50310

Associate Membership Drive

Please consider becoming an Associate Member of Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America. Simply fill out the Associate Membership Application found on Page 10 of this issue and mail it with a check for $75.00 to our office. Applicants for Associate Membership will receive a free cookbook and a gift card to be redeemed for one pie at Village Inn.

Be sure to include the address you would like your gifts sent to.

Wheelchair Basketball

Adaptive Sports Iowa continues to host weekly wheelchair Basketball pickup games in Ankeny. The games are held at the First Family Church located at 317 SE Magazine Road. The facility is reserved from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday night. Adaptive Sports Iowa will have six sports chairs on site. There is no cost to participate. Come out and enjoy the fun.
# Iowa Veterans Trust Fund

The Veterans Trust Fund was established to provide state help to veterans and their families. Veterans must meet specific income and asset guidelines to qualify for Trust Fund assistance. Initially, the veteran and their family must have less than $15,000 in liquid assets and have a household income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). Some areas of assistance have a lower qualifying asset level. This is to prevent over utilization of the fund and to ensure that the veteran has either contributed some of their assets to their situation, or are truly in need.

Some veterans are only eligible for one category of assistance, such as unemployment assistance, while other applicants apply for and are eligible for multiple areas of assistance based on their needs. For example, a veteran requesting housing repair could also qualify for dental assistance. Applications for assistance may be deferred because the veteran has not provided sufficient evidence to warrant approval or denial, but have indicated they will provide the needed eligibility evidence. The Iowa General Assembly has determined areas of eligible expenditures for Iowa veterans:

- Travel expenses for service-related medical care
- Unemployment or underemployment assistance due to service-related causes
- Job training or tuition assistance
- Assistance with vision, hearing, dental care, durable medical equipment, and prescription drugs
- Counseling and substance abuse services
- Emergency vehicle and housing repair
- Transitional housing in an emergency
- Emergency room and ambulance transportation assistance
- Funding to determine whether a deceased veteran is the father or mother of a child
- Funding for family support groups
- Grants for providing honor guard services at veteran’s funerals
- Matching funds to veterans service organizations to provide for accredited veteran service officers

Those interested in applying for assistance through the fund can contact their County Veterans Office or the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. Here is the department’s contact information:

Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs  
7105 NW 70th Ave.  
Camp Dodge, Bldg. 3663  
Johnston, IA 50131-1824  
phone: 515-242-5331 or 800-838-4692  
email: idva.info@iowa.gov  
website: va.iowa.gov
Lottery Proceeds to Veterans Trust Fund Top $12 Million

More than $12 million has been raised to help our state’s veterans and their families through the sale of Iowa Lottery tickets since legislation authorizing the initiative was signed into law in 2008. Lottery tickets dedicated to veterans’ causes debuted in July 2008 and have continued to be released each year since. Legislation approved during the 2008 session had authorized the Iowa Lottery to create two new instant-scratch games and two additional pull-tab games each year, with all proceeds from the games dedicated to the Iowa Veterans Trust Fund.

“We’re incredibly proud of the consistent revenues we’ve been able to achieve for veterans’ causes,” Lottery CEO Terry Rich said. “We think the public has a clear understanding of who is helped by the proceeds raised and we’ll continue to do our best to spread that word.”

The lottery continues to concentrate on varying the theme and look of the veterans-benefit tickets to keep a fresh mix of games in the marketplace and spur customer interest. Lottery officials had predicted when the concept was initially discussed that veterans-benefit games could raise between $2 million and $3 million annually, and the proceeds total from the games has met or exceeded that goal each year.

The newest scratch and pull-tab games dedicated to veterans’ causes will be released in January 2013. “A 10 Hut” and “Veterans Amazing 8s” will both be $1 games. All tickets that benefit veterans’ causes feature the Veterans Trust Fund logo in their design. The Iowa Lottery has released a total of nine scratch and pull-tab games dedicated to the Veterans Trust Fund since the program began in 2008.

Lottery funds are deposited in the Veterans Trust Fund on a quarterly basis. Here are the lottery proceeds raised for the Trust Fund up to and including the most recent quarterly deposit in October 2012, along with the list of games released thus far to benefit the Trust Fund:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Proceeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2009</td>
<td>$2,783,376.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2010</td>
<td>$2,661,553.94</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2011</td>
<td>$3,105,370.61</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2012</td>
<td>$2,719,493.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2013 (through Oct 2012):</td>
<td>$820,591.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$12,090,386.42</td>
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ARE YOU MOVING???
Don’t forget to notify the office of your new address. If you are a PVA member, we will let National PVA and PN PARAPLEGIA NEWS know where you are moving to, so you won’t miss a single issue.
Call us at 888-909-4782.