In June 2016, Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America received their accreditation from the Better Business Bureau. This three-year accreditation is an honor and a privilege bestowed only upon organizations that prove to be transparent in their finances and policies. Program vs. Administrative cost ratios also must be met. The Iowa Chapter boasts a program percentage of over 86% ($0.86 of every dollar donated to PVA - Iowa Chapter goes directly back to programs that serve our members).
A Message From The President
Jon R. Schneider

Thoughts on Future Leadership of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

As members of a vital group (the Paralyzed Veterans of America), I wanted to share with you some viewpoints and information regarding our new Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David Shulkin.

Many of the following comments come from the new released statement by National PVA leadership.

“America’s veterans deserve the very best advocates at the VA, conscientious civil servants who have veterans’ best interests at heart, and those who are above political posturing and strong enough to withstand political pressure. The confirmation of Dr. David Shulkin places the first non-veteran to lead the very lifeline to veterans’ healthcare and benefits—particularly within VA spinal cord injury/disease (SCI/D) centers. But it also places a doctor who is intimately familiar with the value and challenges of the VA healthcare system as it stands at the crossroad of private health care for veterans and veteran-centric care with Congressional oversight. Paralyzed Veterans of America is hopeful that Dr. Shulkin’s collaboration with our leadership over the last two years, conducted on behalf of our 18,000 members and the 60,000 veterans living with some form of SCI/D, will inform decisions that are truly a matter of choice for all veterans. We look forward to working with Dr. Shulkin on the future of veterans’ healthcare, and ensuring the voices of the most catastrophically injured veterans are heard above the political din.”

In remarks during the confirmation hearing, Dr. Shulkin assured Congress and stakeholders that VA “would not be privatized on [his] watch,” and that an integrated approach to healthcare is in veterans’ best interests.

Dr. Shulkin was confirmed as the VA Under Secretary of Health in June 2015, and has oversight of more than 1,700 VA healthcare sites across the United States. In this position, he has worked with Paralyzed Veterans’ leadership, and has been a guest speaker at numerous events to open the lines of communication about the priorities and needs of veterans receiving specialized care in the VA’s spinal cord injury centers.

As of March 6, 2017, Congress is trying again—this time with support from the Department of Veterans Affairs—to give the VA Secretary more power to fire, demote or suspend poor-performing employees and recoup their bonuses. Proposed legislation would also shorten the timeline VA employees have to appeal any disciplinary action against them and require quicker determination from the Merit System Protection Board.

If you have additional questions regarding this article, please check out the link below.

http://www.pva.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=ajIRK9NJLcJ2E&b=6350111&ct=14982899&notoc=1

JRS
From the Desk of the National Director
Kenny Lloyd

2017 Legislative Advocacy Seminar

This year I was selected to go to Washington DC again to attend the Legislative Seminar. For a change, the weather was perfect in Washington, as opposed to prior years when the weather sometimes did not allow us to even visit our legislators at the Capitol. I was able to see three of our legislators and three members of their staff who deal with veteran concerns. The staffers are well informed with the current veterans issues and what is happening.

The first two days were spent talking over points with our Government Relations Department and guest speakers. Dr I. Manosha Wickremasinghe, who is the VA SCI/D Executive Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, was one of those speakers. PVA’s Medical Director kept calling her Dr W and you can certainly understand why.

Since one of our talking points that week was the Air Access Act, we had guest speakers there from some of the airlines. We got the opportunity to give our opinions on some problems that we have with being in wheelchairs dealing with the airlines.

My wife and I had extra time on the first day before meeting with some of our Senators at the Capitol, so we decided to take the tour since we had never taken one before. The tour takes about two hours and it is well worth every bit of that time. The second day we met with the Congressmen. We had three points we wanted to get across to our legislators and that was to keep specialized care in the VA, the Caregivers Program, and the Air Access Act.

Veterans who use the VA as their health provider know how important it is to use the SCI centers and clinics. We need to make sure that they are funded enough money and are provided enough staff to handle the patients they need to care for. For those that don’t know, the Caregivers Program was created to assist those caregivers that may need help health wise. After 911 our caregivers were granted that help for their health care. If you were injured or had MS before 911, you were not allowed to utilize this care. That means all our Viet Nam veteran caregivers were not eligible for assistance. The Air Access Act was brought up because we continue having problems with our members that are still not getting handled correctly when they are getting transferred from their wheelchairs to the aisle or their airplane seats. There needs to be continuous education with the airline staff on how to assist people with disabilities. I hope the legislators listened and I believe they did but better yet let’s hope they do something for us.

2017 IPVA Turkey Hunt

The IPVA Turkey Hunt will be held April 22nd & 23rd 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. Also, our new Action Track chairs will again be on site for use by wheelchair hunters! If you are interested in participating in the April Turkey Hunt, please contact Kenny Lloyd at 515-570-1402. Deadline for signup is Wednesday, April 5th!
*Please call our office (515-277-4782) for more ticket details.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Paralyzed Veterans of America is the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for the benefit and representation of veterans with spinal cord injury or disease. For 70 years, we have ensured that veterans have received the benefits earned through their service to our nation; monitored their care in VA spinal cord injury units; and funded research and education in the search for a cure and improved care for individuals with paralysis.

As a partner for life, Paralyzed Veterans also develops training and career services, works to ensure accessibility in public buildings and spaces, provides health and rehabilitation opportunities through sports and recreation and advocates for veterans and all people with disabilities. With more than 70 offices and 34 chapters, Paralyzed Veterans serves veterans, their families and their caregivers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico (pva.org).
From the Desk of the Executive Director

Kim Gould

I am rerunning a portion of my article from the July/August newsletter last year because I felt this was an important reminder of a memorable ceremony coming up on April 29th. Please come and participate in Cally’s special event and the presentation of her honorary induction into the 2016 IVMA Hall of Fame.

Cally Lloyd - 2016 Iowa Veterinary Medical Association Hall of Fame Winner - Hero Category

Cally came into Kenny and Pauline Lloyd’s lives 8 years ago. I had the pleasure of meeting her very shortly after. The Lloyd’s still had service dog extraordinaire, Jake (pictured below) and they had a trip planned that would keep them away for almost three weeks. Jake was still able to provide services for Kenny and Cally was just a baby, so I kept her with me while they were on their trip. At that point she was just a puppy, but I knew she was truly something special and we fell for each other right away.

She performs the regular service dog tasks. She picks things up off the floor for Kenny when he drops them. She can open and close doors, shut lights on and off and is even able to get a soda out of the refrigerator. Her real contribution to Kenny and his life go far beyond these physical tasks. She is an ambassador for Kenny, his causes and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). She represents Kenny and PVA at meetings, diversity day, at the VA and in all of his activities and business events. She sits in on all of the meetings for hours on end and is always wonderful. She just lies quietly and you don't even know she is there. She is very patient and very well behaved.

She is a shining example of the benefits of having a service dog. Other veterans and individuals who could use a service dog can readily see how Cally enhances Kenny’s life and how she helps him with daily activities. She is not just an animal or a pet, but an extension of Kenny that makes things possible that would not be possible without her.

She does the little things that not everyone notices. She goes first when he needs her to and follows behind when that is what is required. Even when she lost sight in her eye, she still did her best to do her job. Her job ALWAYS comes first. She knows what he needs and where he is every minute. Kenny is her job and her purpose in life. There is never a minutes doubt of that in her mind or in anyone's mind that knows the two of them. Her job and Kenny are obviously her calling. She had that dedication from the beginning even before any training. She is a natural! She is funny and sweet. Everyone loves her (especially me).

These are just a few of the reasons Cally has been chosen as the winner in the Hero category of the 2016 IVMA Hall of Fame. She was nominated by Dr. Rachel Allbaugh from the Iowa State University small animal hospital who provided Cally’s care during a recent medical issue involving her eyesight. Cally will be presented with an award at a ceremony at the Animal Rescue League’s Raise Your Paw Auction on April 29, 2017 at the Iowa Event Center in Des Moines. (I will provide the actual nomination as soon as it is made available.) This award could not be more deserved and we are all SO proud of her!

Kim

Hero Animal Hall of Fame Recipient

Winner: Cally
Owner: Kenneth & Pauline Lloyd
Nominating Veterinarian: Dr. Rachel Allbaugh, ISU Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center
Paralyzed Veterans of America Applauds Congressional Action that Enables VA to Provide Procreative Services

Federal Registry publishes rule that approves funding through September 30, 2018

WASHINGTON, DC— On January 19, 2017, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued an interim final rule amending its regulation regarding fertility counseling and treatment available to qualifying veterans and their spouses. Today, services finally became available to veterans, and Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) National President Al Kovach, Jr. issued the following statement:

“When a member of the U.S. Armed Services returns home with catastrophic loss or injury, it is incumbent on this country to do everything possible to make him or her whole again, with every opportunity for a fulfilling civilian life. The ability to have a family isn’t and shouldn’t be an exception to that commitment. Paralyzed Veterans celebrates this momentous day, and envisions a future for our veterans that recognizes all sacrifices equally.

We applaud Senator Murray for leading the way on this legislation, and for her steadfast commitment to our nation’s veterans. Paralyzed Veterans will continue to work with our partners to repeal the existing ban on reproductive services, and ensure they are a permanent part of VA medical services.”

VA coverage currently allows for veterans and their spouses with a service-connected reproductive injury to pursue assisted reproductive technologies that include in vitro fertilization (IVF). Mirroring Department of Defense services, VA will fund a maximum of three cycles of IVF. The funding is authorized through September 30, 2018.
VA Central Iowa Health Care System
Spinal Cord Injury and Dysfunction Primary Care Clinic

The clinic is for any veteran with a spinal cord injury or dysfunction to promote health, independence, quality of life, and productivity. Your spinal cord injury or disorder does not need to have occurred as a result of your military service in order to be eligible for spinal cord injury and disorder care from VA. The clinic consists of a provider, nurse, social work, occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech therapist, dietitian, recreational therapist, and respiratory therapist. The provider will review your records to verify if you qualify for the clinic and if appropriate, an appointment will be scheduled for you. For further questions regarding the clinic and eligibility for the clinic, you may contact a social worker at 515-699-5999 ext 4946 (Sarah Greazel) or 2138 (Katie Baker).
Effective February 27, 2017, the Department of Veterans Affairs will amend its regulations concerning copayments for outpatient medications used to treat non-service connected conditions. This change aligns with VA’s goals to reduce out-of-pocket costs, encourage greater adherence to prescribed outpatient medications and reduce the risk of fragmented care that results when Veterans use multiple pharmacies fill prescription.

Check out: http://www.centralliowa.va.gov/features/Pharmacy Copay changes Reducing Out of Pocket Cost.asp for more information.

Some highlights include:

Each tier will have a fixed copayment amounts and will only vary depending upon the class of outpatient medication in the tier.

Tier 1—Preferred Generics will cost $5 for a 30-day or less supply.
Tier 2—Non-Preferred Generics will cost $8 for a 30-day or less supply.
Tier 3—Brand Name—$11 for a 30-day or less supply.

Veterans will see a decrease in the current copayment cap of $960 to $700 per year.

Kristi Catrenich
Public Affairs Officer
VA Central Iowa Health Care System
Office: 515-699-5588
Cell: 515-423-4122

To see the full Tiered Medication List, please check out the bottom right-hand side on the following link: https://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/cost/copay_rates.asp.

SUPPORT THE IOWA PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter 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:
Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter
7025 Hickman Rd, Suite #1
Urbandale, IA 50322

Have you considered including Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter in your will or trust?

“It takes a notable person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade for someone he may never meet”

This type of donation will serve as an investment in our organization that will reap our members benefits for many years to come.

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Darl Kaldenberg, Manager
Phone: 515-962-0701
Fax: 515-962-9251
We wanted to share this announcement with you as this is a very critical role at our facility. Dr. Jensen has done an outstanding job in her acting capacity and we couldn’t be more thrilled that she signed on for this leadership role.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Lisa Jensen as the Chief of Primary and Specialty Care at VA Central Iowa Health Care System!

Dr. Jensen has been at VA Central Iowa Health care system since 2015. She has outstanding leadership qualities and was a strong asset to the Primary and Specialty Care service line since taking on the role of Acting Chief in September 2016. She plays an integral role in many change initiatives in Central Iowa and can be relied on to provide insight and direction from over 15 years of internal medicine and leadership experience in the Des Moines community.

She is a valuable member of our team and to the Veterans we are honored to serve.

Please join me in welcoming her as the Chief of Primary and Specialty Care at VA Central Iowa Health Care System.

Kristi Catrenich
Public Affairs Officer
VA Central Iowa Health Care System
Office: 515-699-5588
Cell: 515-423-4122

Easter Seals Iowa provides exceptional services to ensure all people with disabilities or special needs, and their families, have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play in our community.

Please join us April 29 from 7:30am to 12:00pm and even if you can’t make it to the Walk, please consider supporting Easter Seals Iowa with a monetary donation. All donations from Walk for Independence support Iowans with disabilities and are tax deductible.

DONATE TO WALK FOR INDEPENDENCE NOW!
www.eastersealsiowawalk.com
PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS CIRCUIT

WISCONSIN
July 29–31, 2016
Rifle & Pistol Shoot
July 29, 2016
Green Bay, WI

NEVADA
March 17–19, 2017
Las Vegas, NV
Pistol Shoot
March 17, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

OREGON
August 19–21, 2016
Hillsboro, OR

NORTH CENTRAL
Sept. 9–11, 2016
Sioux Falls, SD

KEYSTONE
Sept. 23–25, 2016
Clairton, PA

CAL-DIEGO
March 24–26, 2017
Rifle & Pistol Shoot
March 24, 2017
Lytle Creek, CA

VAUGHAN
April 21–23, 2017
Edwardsville, IL

MINNESOTA
April 28–30, 2017
Minneapolis, MN

NEAREST
June 2–4, 2017
Baltimore, MD

YEAR-END
June 16–18, 2017
Cedar Rapids, IA

BOCCIA TOURNAMENTS

NEVADA
January 27–28, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

PUERTO RICO
March 16–19, 2017
TBD

NEW ENGLAND* 
April 7–9, 2017
Brockton, MA

*New England will hold a combined Air Rifle/Pistol and Bocce Tournament.

ANNUAL AIR RIFLE & PISTOL PROGRAM

WISCONSIN
August 18–20, 2016
Milwaukee, WI

ARIZONA
August 27–28, 2016
Phoenix, AZ

CAMP PENDLETON
Sept. 8–9, 2016
Camp Pendleton, CA

CAL-DIEGO
January 30–31, 2017
San Diego, CA

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

TBD

ANNUAL PVA/NWPA BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT SERIES

MID-ATLANTIC
March 22–23, 2017
Richmond, VA

NEW ENGLAND
April 7–9, 2017
Brockton, MA

BUCKEYE
April 28–29, 2017
Geneva, OH

PARALYZED VETERANS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

TBD

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

MOUNTAIN STATES
April 21–23, 2017
Fountain, CO

MID-SOUTH
October 14–15, 2016
Memphis, TN

KENTUCKY-INDIANA*
Midlothian, VA

MID-AMERICA
April 7–9, 2017
Oklahoma City, OK

* A non-sanctioned event

PARALYZED VETERANS HANDCYCLING

TOP END EURO-AMERICAN HC CHAMPIONSHIPS
Feb. 3–4, 2017
Clermont, FL

VALLEY OF THE SUN
Feb. 11–12, 2017
Phoenix, AZ

ONE CITY MARATHON
March 12, 2017
Newport News, VA

ANNUAL PVA/AWBA BOWLING TOURNAMENT SERIES

MOUNTAIN STATES
August 18–21, 2016
Colorado Springs, CO

FLORIDA GULF COAST
Feb. 24–26, 2017
Orange Beach, FL

MID-ATLANTIC
Sept. 23–25, 2016
Richmond, VA

KENTUCKY-INDIANA*
TBD

* A non-sanctioned event

PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR

MID-AMERICA
Sept. 23–25, 2016
Eufaula, OK

SOUTHEASTERN
October 14–16, 2016
Evans, GA

VAUGHAN
October 28–30, 2016
Mt. Vernon, IL

FL. GULF COAST
March 31–April 2, 2017
Kissimmee, FL

KENTUCKY-INDIANA
May 5–7, 2017
Gilbertsville, KY

NORTH CENTRAL* 
May 25–26, 2017
Chamberlain, SD

NATIONAL
June 2–4, 2017
LaPlata, MD

NEVADA* 
June 3, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

NEVADA
December 1–4, 2016
Las Vegas, NV

KENTUCKY-INDIANA*
TBD

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Sat., March 25, 2017

Photos courtesy of Prime Wings Media Productions, LLC

and then at (319) 394-7270.

For additional information, call Megan Anderson
the day of the event.

Registration is recommended in order to

Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m.
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Child Care, J. Craig Recreation Center
Ritukwood Community College

Please mail completed registration form to:

Kirkwood Community College
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- Refunds will be issued up to 14 days prior to the event. After this date, refunds will not be issued.
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4312 Sand Rd. SE Iowa City, IA 52240

When: Sunday April 9th, 2017 check-in from 12:30-1 pm, race begins at 1:00 pm

Cost: $25 entrance fee (t-shirt guaranteed with registration prior March 24th, 2017)

Additional Information:

Register online at:
http://www.signmeup.com/4J2VDH7#.WLRqabNPeVM.gmail

Please arrive at 12:30 pm for same day registration.

All proceeds will go to Wheels for the World and the University of Iowa Physical Therapy Department.

If you have any questions about the event please email us at rehbrun@gmail.com

Cost includes race, food & drink refreshments, and race t-shirt (with registration prior to March 24th)

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the University of Iowa Center for Student Involvement & Leadership at (319) 335-3059.
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

3/6 - 3/9  ADVOCACY LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
3/7  DIVERSITY DAY AT SE POLK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
3/9  BINGO AT THE DSM VA CLC - 6:30 P.M.
3/14  IOWA VETERANS COUNCIL MEETING AT THE IVH IN MARSHALLTOWN
3/22  BOARD OF DIRECTORS / MEMBERSHIP / CAREGIVER SUPPORT
MEETING AT THE IPVA OFFICE - 11:00 A.M.
3/25 - 4/1  WINTER SPORTS CLINIC IN SNOW MASS, CO

4/7  GRAND OPENING OF THE KNOXVILLE CBOC
4/13  BINGO AT THE DSM VA CLC - 6:30 P.M.
4/19  PVA AWARENESS AT THE DES MOINES VA 9:00 - NOON
4/19  BOARD OF DIRECTORS / MEMBERSHIP / CAREGIVER SUPPORT
MEETING AT THE IPVA OFFICE - 1:00 P.M.

4/22  IVH SPRING CARNIVAL - MARSHALLTOWN, IA
4/29  CALLY LLOYD INDUCTED INTO THE IOWA ANIMAL HALL OF FAME

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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.

Service Matters: Help Serve Those Who Have Served

Penske Automotive Group has proudly teamed up with Paralyzed Veterans of America’s Mission: ABLE campaign. With one donation, you can help support Paralyzed Veterans of America’s Mission: ABLE campaign and ensure that veterans with disabilities get the care, benefits and job opportunities they’ve earned and deserve.

Service your vehicle at any Penske Automotive Group dealership now through December 31, 2015, and consider making a $1 or more donation to ParalyzedVeterans’ Mission: ABLE campaign. Your donation will be matched by Penske Automotive Group up to $500,000.

Thank you for considering a donation to Paralyzed Veterans of America and joining our commitment to serve those who have served. With your help, we can continue to change the lives of our American heroes.

Learn more about Paralyzed Veterans of America by visiting PVA.org/PAGServes or connect and share items marked #PAGServes on social media.
Dear Member:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Paralyzed Veterans of America about the executive order signed by President Donald Trump that imposed a hiring freeze across the federal government. Given pre-existing understaffing across the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Spinal Cord Injury & Disorder (SCI/D) system of care, Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) was initially concerned that a hiring freeze would further exacerbate issues with access to care and staff turnover. We are relieved to tell you that senior VA officials have stated the hiring freeze, as it turns out, will not affect clinical staff hiring.

To ensure our members continue to receive quality health care throughout the transition at VA, the Medical Services Team at the Paralyzed Veterans’ National office remains available to assist our members with any access to care or other barriers to receiving the appropriate level of care. We also strive to ensure our members have accurate and current information to make informed choices about their health care, beginning with these two questions:

When is the last time you had a comprehensive annual evaluation at a VA SCI/D Center?

Have you faced any challenges to gaining timely admittance to an SCI/D Center for acute care, an annual exam, inpatient rehabilitation, respite care, or surgery?

We realize that some of our members are inconvenienced by having to travel great distances for an annual exam or acute care, but here is what you need to know:

- SCI/D Primary Care Teams located at outpatient clinics (also referred to as “spokes”) are established to provide routine health care services that do not require the complex level of care offered at a SCI/D Center.

- For more serious, non-routine, or highly SCI/D-specific care or treatment, an SCI/D center is the best option. It is the only facility equipped to handle the complete gamut of care you will need.

As health care experts, we highly encourage you to seek medical treatment at a SCI/D Center for the following:

- Comprehensive Annual Examination
- Colonoscopy
- Surgical and post-surgical care
- Pressure/Seat mapping
- Pressure Ulcer

- Renal (kidney stones/reoccurring UTI)
- Urodynamic studies
- Wheelchair assessments
- Chronic pain (unresolved)
As mentioned earlier, we do realize that not every member lives within close proximity of an SCI/D center, and the temptation will be to do what is most convenient rather than what is clinically recommended. That convenience can have severe consequences.

For instance, long-term irritation of the bladder wall increases the risk of bladder cancer. SCI/D veterans who experience frequent urinary tract infections, bladder stones, and irritation of the bladder brought on by catheterization are at an increased risk of bladder cancer. Screening (cystoscopy, CT scan of bladder and abdomen) must take place by experts within SCI/D Centers who are trained in the specialty care needs of SCI/D veterans.

The lack of specialized care can result in deterioration of an individual’s health, and lead to death. This is just one example among many where the choice you make largely determines the risk you are willing to take.

Contact a member of Paralyzed Veterans of America’s national health care team at MedicalServices@pva.org or 1-800-232-1782 for guidance. You can also contact your local Veterans Health and Benefits Specialists (NSO) to inform them of any barriers you are experiencing to health care at a SCI/D Center.

Regards,

Lana M. McKenzie, RN, BSN, MBA, CCM, MHA
Associate Executive Director
Medical Services
Paralyzed Veterans of America
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.