Back Talk September / October 2014

The Iowa Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America

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Paralyzed Veterans of America—Iowa Chapter
Veterans Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair
A Message From The President
Jon R. Schneider

Why Veterans Need VA, Benefits and More Americans

As someone who had the opportunity to serve under a former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, I thought the following remarks may be helpful. With all of the recent news regarding the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Veterans, some comments are needed on the subject of why VA is critical to medicine and veterans.

As I stated above, veterans need VA. Nearly 9 million veterans are enrolled in the fully integrated VA health care system making it the largest in the nation. The VA stands atop in three specific areas of support: 1) Holistic health care for VA patients 2) Research leading to advances in medical care 3) Training that is essential to build and maintain proficiency of care and delivery of clinical care to those in need.

It should be said that no single institution trains more doctors and nurses than the VA. More than 70% of all U.S. doctors have received training at a VA facility. Each year VA trains, educates and provides practical experience for 62,000 medical students and residents, 23000 nurses, and some 33,000 trainees in other health fields. These people go on to provide health care to not only veterans but to most Americans.

The 278,000 employees of the Veterans Health Administration work in a system spanning all 50 states and beyond providing a high volume of quality clinical care. Our VA Medical Centers are connected to some 800 Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), appx. 300 Vet Centers providing readjustment counseling, 135 Community Living Centers (CLCs), 104 Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Centers. Additionally, the VA health care system provides care through mobile medical clinics, mobile Vet Centers and telehealth programs to the most remote veterans unable to travel to facilities.

Finally, the VA is uniquely positioned to contribute to the care of veterans with traumatic brain injury (TBI, prosthetics, PTSD (and other mental health conditions), and treatment of chronic diseases such as diabetes and hepatitis. The work the VA does in these areas, as well as many others including SCI/D, produces results and life changing improvements in care for not only veterans but for all Americans and people around the world that may suffer from these conditions.

Fixing access to VA care is important. The VA has a plan to do just that and is dedicated to implementing that plan. Please note that this process will take time. The VA will be successful. Those who fully understand the value of the VA in the areas of research, training, and clinical care also fully understand that veterans and all Americans need and deserve the VA to continue providing exceptional care to all those who have served this great nation.

JRS
2014 Fall Board of Directors Meeting
by Kenny Lloyd
National Director

This year we met in Dallas, Texas for our National Board of Directors meeting September 29 through October 1st. Because of the change in National PVA’s fiscal year, the mid-year board meeting will be held in the fall and convention will be held in the spring.

The day before the Board meeting started, the audit committee (which I chair) met with the auditors of PVA. This is a very important committee. I have chaired this committee since 2006 and the people on this committee have done a great job. Since the fiscal year change, this was the first full fiscal year and we could not compare figures from last year since it was not a full year. I can tell you that PVA has done very well this year and I commend the staff on a good job.

The first day, keynote speaker, Dr. Carolyn M. Clancy, VA Interim Under Secretary for Health, spoke to the Board of Directors. Dr. Clancy oversees the health care for millions of veterans across our nation and assured us all that the recent issues regarding the state of the VA Health Care System are being addressed. There are new programs and regulations in place to ensure that our veterans will receive the quality health care they deserve.

As in the past, the staff and Executive Committee reports are sent out before the meeting for the Board of Directors. This makes the meeting go faster and gives the Directors a chance to ask questions beforehand and allows us to prepare discussion questions prior to the actual meeting. After the reports, we held elections for the Judicial Committee. Congratulations to Ken Ness for being elected to another one of PVA’s important committees. This committee oversees all complaints made against an individual in PVA if they have compromised PVA in any way.

We had thirteen resolutions to consider. Four of those were moved to the consent agenda and passed. (The resolution committee reviews all of the submitted resolutions. Any they determine should pass unanimously and be passed without debate are moved to the consent agenda. Of course the Board has a chance to pull a resolution from the consent agenda if they wish to debate it.) Below are the results of the resolutions.

14-S-1 By law change-Judicial Committee Passed
14-S-2 Judicial Committee term Dates Passed
14-S-3 Bylaw Change-Judicial Committee Passed
14-S-4 Amendment of Judicial Committee Rules of Practice & Procedures for Complaint Proceedings Passed
14-S-5 Judicial Committee Complaint Response Time Passed
14-S-6 Judicial Committee Impartial Counsel Postponed Indefinitely
14-S-7 Bob Webb Excellence in Newsletter Award Refer to Committee
14-S-8 Chapter Bylaws Passed
14-S-9 Submission of Chapter Budgets Withdrawn
14-S-10 Chapter Hospital Liaison Guidelines Passed
14-S-11 Site Visit Team Members Withdrawn
14-S-12 Site Visit Recommendations Withdrawn
14-S-13 Limit the Number of Trapshoots on PVA Circuit Passed

If anybody has any questions, you can call me at 641-486-2564.
I would like to explain who the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) considers a legal dependent of a veteran.

**Spouse:** Means a person who is legally married to a veteran.

**Surviving Spouse:** Means a person who was legally married to the veteran at the time of the veteran’s death. This person must have lived with the veteran continuously from the date of marriage to the date of the veteran’s death except where there was a separation which was due to the misconduct of, or procured by, the veteran without fault of the spouse; and has not remarried or has not since the death of the veteran and after September 19, 1962, lived with another person and held himself or herself out openly to the public to be the spouse of such person. Remarriage of a surviving spouse terminated by death, divorce, or annulment, will not bar the furnishing of benefits relating to the surviving spouse.

**Child:** Means an unmarried person who is a legitimate child, a child legally adopted before the age of 18 years, a stepchild who acquired that status before the age of 18 years and who is a member of the veteran’s household or was a member of the veteran’s household at the time of the veteran’s death. An illegitimate child; who is under the age of 18 years is a legal child. One who became permanently incapable of self-support before reaching the age of 18 years is also considered a legal child of the veteran. A child that after reaching the age of 18 years and until completion of education or training (but not after reaching the age of 23 years) is pursuing a course of instruction at an educational institution approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Parent:** Means a natural mother or father (including the mother of an illegitimate child or the father of a illegitimate child if the usual family relationship existed), mother or father through adoption, or a person who for a period of not less than 1 year stood in the relationship of a parent to the veteran at any time before his or her entry into active duty service. Foster relationship must have begun prior to the veteran’s 21st birthday. Not more than two parents will be recognized. If two persons stood in the relationship of father or mother for 1 year or more, the person who stood in such a relationship before the veteran’s last entry into service will be recognized as the parent.

Any change in your dependent status should be reported to the PVA Service Office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding dependents or any VA issues, please contact our office at (515) 323.7544 or your local PVA Service Office.

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**iGive Shopping Donation Program**

Iowa PVA recently became part of the iGive online shopping program. As friends and supporters of Iowa PVA, this is an easy and inexpensive (free) way to support our programs and causes.

1. Log in to iGive.com and create a free iGive account. You simply create a login in and password and designate Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter as your cause. By simply creating this account, $5 is donated to us automatically.

2. After your account is created, any online shopping you do from over 1000 participating stores generates a donation to our organization (%). The only catch is that you must log in to iGive and then choose the store you wish to order from.

Please visit the iGive website. You will see that almost every store you can think of is listed as options for your on line shopping needs.

Thank you for your continued support.
Iowa PVA held our Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet on October 10 at the Ramada Tropics Resort in Des Moines (See pictures on pages 12 & 13). It was great turnout that included 19 residents and four staff from the Iowa Veterans Home, Michael Olson and Judy Hauck, (Michael is the President of the PVA North Central Chapter, a PVA National Director, and a member of PVA’s Judicial Committee), Don Gerdom’s wife and daughter Patsy and Ann Gerdom, members of the Des Moines VA SCI/D team, and several members and new faces were also in attendance. We played some bingo, listened to some music, conducted our program and handed out awards. This years award recipients were:

The Ladies of IPVA received the Donald H. Gerdom Executive Director’s Award which reads:
“In recognition and appreciation for your support and dedication to the Iowa Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America. Your commitment to our members and our mission is vital to the success of this organization.”

Kimberly Hawkins received the Alfred H. Blumanhourst Volunteer Appreciation Award which reads:
“Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America is grateful to you for the excellent and extensive volunteer support you provided to the 2014 year-end event of the PVA National Trapshoot Circuit hosted by the Iowa Chapter.”

Vivian Mogensen received the Keith M. Griggs Chapter Service Award which reads:
“In recognition of your years of sensitive and committed service to the members of Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America and all veterans served through the Des Moines VA SCI/D clinic. Your efforts have greatly improved the quality of life for these veterans and their caretakers.”

Dr. Susan Espeland received the Jon R. Schneider Chapter President’s Award which reads:
“With the greatest appreciation for the dedicated and superb care you provide to the SCI/D patients of the Des Moines VA Medical Center. Your expertise and thorough attention to these veteran heroes not only ensures the best possible medical treatment but instills confidence in the system as a whole”

In other news, NSO Andrew Berstrom is no longer working in the Des Moines NSO office. Until this vacancy is filled, please continue to contact NSO secretary Judy Keeling at the Des Moines, NSO office 515-323-7544. She will continue to process your claims and take very good care of you. Join me in wishing Andrew good luck. We will miss him.

Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America is now enrolled as a charity for consideration in the Combined Federal Campaign. The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is a program hosted through the United Way which enables federal employees to make tax exempt charitable contributions to participating organizations of their choice through payroll deduction. This is our first year of involvement in the three separate CFCs which cover the State of Iowa. We have been very fortunate so far to have had the opportunity to present information on our programs and mission to almost 1000 people! These employees have been Postal employees, employees at the Rock Island Arsenal, and the Iowa Air Guard in Des Moines. If you are a federal employee or have friends or family who are, please put in a good word for Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America. We hope to be very successful in the venture.

Lastly, please review the revised Sports and Recreation Funding Policy on pages 10&11. This is a great opportunity to participate in sporting and recreational events at little or no expense. If you have any questions, please call me at 515-669-8746.

Kim
IVH Pool Tournament

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 15, 2014  
**TIME:** 9:00AM  
**Location:** Iowa Veterans Home  
*Malloy Building*  
*LRC Room*

This event is free and open to anyone who is shooting pool from a wheelchair.  
Please RSVP by November 11th by calling the IPVA office at 888-909-4782 or 515-277-4782.  
Kim or Jazz will be happy to sign you up!  
Come have some fun with us!!

**SHOTGUN DEER HUNT  12/13 - 12/14**

THE ANNUAL IPVA DEER HUNT WILL BE HELD 12/13 - 12/14 AT THE LLOYD FAMILY FARM IN UNION, IA. THIS EVENT IS ALWAYS A GOOD TIME, WITH GOOD HUNTING AND LUNCHES PROVIDED BY PAULINE LLOYD.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US, PLEASE CALL KENNY LLOYD AT 515-570-1402 BY 11/28/14 TO REGISTER.

**Social Security Information**

Did you know that many disabled veterans and wounded warriors may qualify for Social Security disability benefits, in addition to their Veterans Affairs benefits? To assist veterans and members of the public to better understand the Social Security disability process, we have created a seven-part YouTube video.

Earlier this year, we also launched a disability education and awareness campaign -- The Faces and Facts of Disability -- to share information about our disability program and the people it helps. Through this campaign, we hope to educate the public about the Social Security Disability Insurance program and dispel common misconceptions.

Sharing information about and increasing understanding of this program is vital because it touches the lives of thousands of American veterans, often during times of personal hardship, transition, and uncertainty. Contact your local Social Security Office for details.
The Veterans History Project - November 7, 2014

**Background:** The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

**Mission:** The VPH is part of a national initiative to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

**What:** DMACC and the Iowa Court Reports association will host the Veterans History Project at the DMACC Newton Campus. At this time, we are taking the names of those interested and will interview 15 veterans on November 7th about their military service. Preference will be given to WWII vets. If you don’t have the opportunity to share your story/memories this November, we do plan to make this an annual event and will keep your name on the list. The interviews will be written and transcribed by court reporters. Transcripts will become an official record in the Library of Congress and the Iowa Gold Star Museum in Johnston, Iowa as well as the DMACC library will receive a copy. Copies of the transcripts, a DVD of the interview, and a framed certificate will be presented to the veteran and his family.

The veteran will get a packet, a set of questions to help prep for the interview, a bio form and a release form. The day of the event, the veteran may bring a family member or other guest(s) with him. The veteran will be provided with a host for the morning. The interview will be a minimum of 30 minutes with an interviewer, court reporter and a videographer attending. We will have a waiting area with refreshments for guests. Following the interviews, the veteran and his guest(s) will be honored at a luncheon ceremony. Photos will be taken and certificates handed out.

A confirmation letter, detailed agenda, map, etc. will be mailed to the veteran the end of October.

If you’d like more information, you can visit www.ncra.org and go to Oral Histories - The Veterans History Project.

*Julie Van Cleave*
Administrative Assistant
DMACC Newton Campus
600 N 2nd Ave W
Newton, IA 50208
641-791-1720
Fax: 641-791-1728

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**Inspection of VA Regional Office Des Moines, Iowa**

*08/06/2014 08:00 PM EDT*

An evaluation was conducted at the Des Moines VA Regional Office (VARO) to see how well it accomplishes its mission. It was found the VARO staff did not accurately process 13 (23 percent) of 57 disability claims reviewed. (The claims reviewed were considered at increased risk of processing errors, thus these results do not represent the overall accuracy of disability claims processing at this VARO.) Specifically, 7 of 30 temporary 100 percent disability evaluations reviewed were inaccurate, primarily because management did not prioritize processing claims requiring reduced evaluations. Generally, VARO staff demonstrated experience and knowledge in correctly processing complex traumatic brain injury claims. VARO staff incorrectly processed three of nine special monthly compensation (SMC) and ancillary benefits claims because specialized staff did not complete these claims as required and the VARO had no second level review policy. Management generally ensured Systematic Analyses of Operations were complete and timely. However, VARO staff did not timely or accurately complete 20 of 30 proposed benefits reduction cases due to the Veterans Benefits Administration addressing other higher workload priorities.

It is recommended the VARO Director review the 131 temporary 100 percent disability evaluations remaining from this inspection universe and take appropriate action. The Director should establish a second-level review policy and ensure that specialized staff process complex SMC claims. The Director also should develop and implement a plan to ensure staff timely process benefits reductions. The Director of the Des Moines VARO concurred with all recommendations. A follow up on these actions will take place as deemed necessary.
At some time in your life, you will be directly or indirectly affected by a permanent or temporary disability...

In July 1964, that statement became fact for me. How I dealt with it, living and working with my disability for the next 50 years, is the basis for my recently-published book. I truly think that some of your members would be interested in my book. Ordering information is near the bottom of the synopsis.

**A Dive Too Deep**

One reader said, "Your story is meant to be shared. It provides encouragement and options of outlooks when facing struggles sometimes heaped upon us..."

How deep is a dive too deep? Deep enough to make a large splash? Or deep enough to completely and permanently paralyze a 24-year-old, newly-married young man? On July 25, 1964, my dive too deep turned my life and my wife’s upside down. My neurosurgeon was brutally honest and put it this way: “You broke your neck and crushed your spinal cord. You’ve lost movement and sensation in both arms and both legs. You’re totally and permanently paralyzed from your shoulders down. “You’ll probably never get out bed. If you do, you’ll never walk, and it’s not likely you’ll live much past forty.”

Hearing these crushing words, my mind screamed... Why me? Opportunity often comes after a “Why Me” life-altering experience! I survived and I thrived. Read how...

To place a book order or for more information, visit [www.adivetoodeep.com](http://www.adivetoodeep.com), if you don’t have a PayPal account, contact rpeters540@aol.com.

What other readers have said...

"A Dive Too Deep" is exquisitely written. The carefully chosen words, tidbits of inner terror, popups here- there of the memorable moments that so needed their own humor, all resulted in a most moving read..."

"Your book touches on everything; fear, sadness, anger, humor, hope, and inspiration. I found myself laughing out loud in parts of it..."

**VA Community Resource and Referral Center**

VETERANS OUTREACH CENTER: Effective immediately the homeless Veterans walk in center more recently referred to as the “Veterans Outreach Center” will change its name to the VA Community Resource and Referral Center.

The center is located at 1223 Center St. Suite 17 in downtown Des Moines. The main office is open Monday-Thursday 7:30 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. This site provides to VA eligible Veterans free walk-in showers, laundry, internet, phone and full range of service for homeless Veterans on site. We have remodeled our current space to provide a day/group room for Veterans during business hours.

From this expanded space Day/Group room activities will be increased so that Veterans can spend time on site receiving all the services necessary for them to recover from homelessness. There will also be some local agencies participating on site to provide services to homeless Veterans. This will essentially be a one stop walk-in center.

To contact the VA Community Resource and Referral Center please call 699-5637 or visit: [http://www.endveteranhomelessness.org/programs/community-resource-referral-centers](http://www.endveteranhomelessness.org/programs/community-resource-referral-centers) for more information.
Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America is a participating charity in each of the three Combined Federal Campaigns (CFC’s) covering the State of Iowa.

Please consider choosing IPVA for a tax deductible payroll deduction donation through your local CFC. Thank you.
Iowa Chapter Sports and Recreation Funding Policy
Revised August 21, 2014

A. Individual Participation:

1. Any event a member wishes to participate in must be PVA sponsored, and/or approved by the Iowa Chapter Board of Directors.
2. The Chapter will assist in funding for members in lodging, registration fees and transportation only in accordance with the following schedule. Members will be responsible for all other expenses.

   100% - for Wheelchair Games and four (4) other PVA sponsored events. Any additional events will need additional Board of Director’s approval.
   70% - Maximum of two (2) additional PVA sponsored events.
   100% - Local events (local is defined as within 250 miles of the Chapter office and/or state of Iowa). Maximum of three events.

Member must be certified for attendant funding in accordance with National guidelines. Attendant will be reimbursed at one hundred percent (100%) of travel (if by air) and lodging. However, extenuating circumstances will be given consideration.

B. Team Participation:

1. With approval by the Iowa Chapter Board of Directors and if funding is available, the Chapter may fund Chapter Teams for various sporting events.
2. The Chapter may fund the minimum number of events for a team to qualify for team awards.
3. The Chapter will provide funding assist for the team members to include lodging, registration fees and transportation only.

Team Participation: When physically possible, a team is to ride together to the approved events. If an individual does not want to ride with anyone, their reason needs to be in writing and brought to the Board of Directors 60 days prior to the event for approval.

C. General Terms and Conditions:

1. Travel:

   A. If traveling by air, reimbursement will be based on the amount of the most economical, round-trip, coach fare available at least thirty (30) days prior to departure.
   B. If traveling by automobile, Chapter will allow amount equal to the amount of the most economical, round-trip coach air fare available thirty (30) days prior to departure, or at .25 per mile, whichever amount is the lesser. However, extenuating circumstances will be given consideration.
2. Mileage: For events within the State of Iowa a rate of $.30 per mile will be paid. For events outside the State of Iowa reimbursement will be paid upon receipt of gas receipts.

3. Lodging: Lodging will be reimbursed at the rate of double occupancy (night before first day of event and nights of event). However, extenuating circumstances will be given consideration.

4. Registration Fees: The basic cost for a member to participate in a recreational activity or event.

5. Receipts will be required to substantiate all expenditures of Chapter Funds.

6. All expenditures must be documented on an official Chapter Business Expense Report.

7. For a member to be considered for future assistance, all Business Expense Reports must be submitted to the Chapter for payment within fifteen (15) working days following the last day of the activity.

8. Must be a Member in Good Standing. Regular members have preference.

In order to request financial aid a member must be:

- an active member;
- a registered PVA volunteer;
- If residing within a radius of 100 miles of the Chapter office, member must attend one half Chapter Membership Meetings (i.e. Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet, Christmas Party, etc.) during each Chapter Fiscal Year. (Excused absence will count as attendance.) Member must notify Chapter Office for each meeting from which they wish to be excused. Excused absence will be allowed due to illness, death in the family, or working in veterans activities).
- Any member requesting funds from Iowa Chapter and living within a 150 mile radius of the Chapter office, must participate in one half (1/2) of the fundraising activities sponsored by the Chapter.

9. For a member to request funding to participate in any event, a member must complete and provide a Funding Approval Form to the Iowa Chapter Board of Directors at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled event. Extenuating circumstances will be given consideration.

10. A member may not solicit funds for any event on behalf of the Iowa Chapter or Paralyzed Veterans of America name. All fundraising will be done through the chapter office.

11. All appeals must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP CONDUCT

Any member of the Chapter, who attends PVA events, will act, dress and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. If funding is provided to any Member to attend any event, a Business Expense Report, including any unused funds, must be submitted to the Chapter within fifteen business days following the last day of the event. Any member who does not follow these guidelines will be barred from attending any event in the future and in accordance with Chapter Bylaws, Article III Section 5, may have their membership suspended or be expelled.
2014 IPVA Annual Dinner …..
..... And Awards Banquet
Indianola Home Medical Supply L.L.C.
207 South Howard St.
Indianola, IA  50125

Wheelchairs, Scooters, Bathroom Safety and Daily Living Products

Full Service and Parts Department

Home Modifications, Patient Lifts, Entry Ramps, Stair Lifts, Porch Lifts, Scooter Lifts and Elevators

Darl Kaldenberg, Manager
Phone:  515-962-0701
Fax:  515-962-9251

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

Thank you!

Have you considered including Iowa Paralyzed Veterans 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.
Siebert Mobility of Iowa LLC

Veteran Owned and Operated

Iowa’s Leader In Mobility Vans

** $1000 Veteran Discount Available **

- Convienent Locations Serving Iowa, Nebraska, & Illinois
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- Hundreds Of Vans Available
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- Wheelchair Lifts & Driving Controls
- VA Funding & Financing Available
- Buy-Back Program
- Stairlifts & Other Equipment
- 24 Hour Emergency Service

- Toll-Free: (877) 543 - 8826
- Email: rods@iowamobility.com
- Website: www.iowamobility.com
WHEREAS, every year, Veterans Day is a time to reflect on the service and sacrifice of all generations of veterans; these men and women have given selflessly of themselves to defend our freedoms, and we are constantly humbled by their strength and courage;

WHEREAS, the history of Veterans Day goes back to the Armistice, also known as the Treaty of Versailles, that ended the hostilities of World War I; the treaty was signed in the Palace of Versailles, outside of the town of Versailles, France, on November 11, 1918, and

WHEREAS, the fighting had ceased seven months earlier when a temporary cessation of hostilities between the Allies and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month;

WHEREAS, in 1938, November 11 was dedicated as Armistice Day to honor the veterans of this conflict and in 1954 was expanded to honor American veterans of all wars;

WHEREAS, our men and women in uniform have been the bearers of a proud military tradition that has been deftly passed down from generation to generation for more than two centuries;

WHEREAS, in times of war and peace alike, our veterans have served with courage and distinction in the face of tremendous adversity, demonstrating an unflinching commitment to America and its people; many have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the country they loved; and

WHEREAS, the sacrifice of our service members has always been, and continues to be, unremarked, and they remind us that there are few things more profoundly American than being an American trying to make a difference in the lives of others;

WHEREAS, on Veterans Day, we pay tribute to our veterans, to the fallen, and to their families; to honor their contributions to our nation, let us resolve with renewed determination to keep the promises we have made to all who have answered our country’s call; as we fulfill our obligations to them, we keep faith with the patriots who have risked their lives to preserve our Union, and with the ideals of service and sacrifice upon which our Republic was founded.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2016 as VETERANS DAY

and ask all Iowans to make Veterans Day 2016 a special “Welcome Home” for all who have served our nation, regardless of which war or conflict, including our newest generation of veterans who have served in the post-9/11 era. Let us shine a light on all of them and say ‘thank you’ for the sacrifices and the lives they have given while serving our country.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREunto subscribed my name and caused the great seal of the State of Iowa to be affixed, done at Des Moines this 11th day of September in the year of our Lord twenty-thousand fourteen.

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

MATT SCHULTZ
SECRETARY OF STATE
To: PVA Executive Committee  
PVA National Directors  
PVA Chapter Presidents  
PVA Past Presidents  
PVA Chapters  
PVA Staff  

From: Karen Davis-Moore  
     Director of Human Resources  

Subject: Deputy Executive Director  

Date: October 14, 2014  

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Homer Townsend, PVA’s Executive Director, has selected Sherman Gillums as the new Deputy Executive Director, effective October 13, 2014.

Mr. Gillums was previously employed with PVA as a National Service Officer in San Diego from 2004-2007. Mr. Gillums went on to serve as Chapter President for PVA’s Cal-Diego Chapter and member of the PVA Field Advisory Committee. Mr. Gillums was re-hired with PVA on January 4, 2010 as a National Appellate Representative and has most recently been serving as the Associate Executive Director for Veterans Benefits.

Mr. Gillums is a veteran who served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Post-911 Era. He has a Master’s Degree in Global Leadership from the University of San Diego.

Please join me in congratulating him. In the interim, Mr. Gillums will continue to serve as the Associate Executive Director for Veterans Benefits.

We look forward to his expertise and guidance as PVA continues to serve the needs of its members. Mr. Gillums can be reached via telephone at (202) 872-1300 X.721 or via email at ShermanG@pva.org.
## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Caregiver Resource Fair - Main Lobby of DSM VA - 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>Prosthetics Fair—Main Lobby of DSM VA - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>11/6</td>
<td>Sports Directors Conference Call - 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>Government Relations Conference Call - 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>11/11</td>
<td>IPVA Office Closed in Observance of Veterans Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Bingo at the DSM VA CLC - 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>11/15</td>
<td>IVH Pool Tournament (See Page 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>IPVA Board of Directors Meeting at the IPVA Office - 11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>11/27 -11/28</td>
<td>IPVA Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>IVH Christmas Visit Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>Bingo at the DSM VA CLC - 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/13 - 12/14</td>
<td>IPVA Deer Hunt (See Page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>IPVA Board of Directors Meeting at the IPVA Office - 3:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/17</td>
<td>IPVA Christmas Party at the IPVA Office (See Page 24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>Quarterly SCI/D Team Meeting at Iowa City VA - 9:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/24 - 12/25</td>
<td>IPVA Office Closed in Observance of the Christmas Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/31—1/1/15</td>
<td>IPVA Office Closed in Observance of the New Years Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Our Family Helping Your Family With All Your Mobility Needs...

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<tbody>
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<td>• Stair Chairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Full Size Vans with Lifts</td>
<td>• Porch Lifts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Inside and Outside Scooter Lifts</td>
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<td>• Standard and Electronic Driving Controls</td>
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Phone: 515-951-0375 • Toll Free: 800-896-0375
go-totalmobility.com

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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
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Annual PVA/AWBA Bowling Tournament Series Schedule

- **Mountain States PVA Tournament**
  - August 21–24, 2014
  - Colorado Springs, CO

- **Cal-Diego PVA Tournament**
  - September 12–14, 2014
  - Fountain Valley, CA

- **Nevada PVA Tournament**
  - December 4–7, 2014
  - Las Vegas, NV

- **Florida Gulf Coast**
  - PVA Tournament
  - April 24–26, 2015
  - Tampa, FL

- **AWBA National Event**
  - National Event
  - June 15–20, 2015
  - Tampa, FL

- **New England PVA Tournament**
  - Date TBD
  - Location TBD

- **Southwest PVA Tournament**
  - September 27–28, 2014
  - Deland, FL

PVA Handcycling Schedule

- **Pensacola Classic**
  - September 13–14, 2014
  - Pensacola, FL

- **Air Force Marathon**
  - September 20, 2014
  - Dayton, OH

- **Blims on the Run**
  - September 27–28, 2014
  - Deland, FL

- **Army Ten Mile**
  - October 12, 2014
  - Washington, D.C.

- **Marine Corps Marathon**
  - October 26, 2014
  - Washington, D.C.

Annual PVA/NWPA Billiards Tournament Series Schedule

- **Mid-South PVA Tournament**
  - October 17–19, 2014
  - Memphis, TN

- **Mid-Atlantic PVA Tournament**
  - March 20–22, 2015
  - Midlothian, VA

- **Mid-America PVA Tournament**
  - April 10–12, 2015
  - Oklahoma City, OK

- **Mountain States PVA Tournament**
  - May 16–18, 2015
  - Fountain, CO

- **Buckeye PVA Tournament**
  - June 19–20, 2015
  - (Not a NWPA event)
  - Independence, OH

National Veterans Wheelchair Games

- **35th NVWG**
  - June 21–26, 2015
  - Dallas, TX

PVA National Shooting Sports Circuit

- **Keystone PVA Tournament**
  - August 29–31, 2014
  - Jefferson Hills, PA

- **North Central PVA Tournament**
  - September 6–7, 2014
  - Sioux Falls, SD

- **Lone Star PVA Tournament**
  - October 17–19, 2014
  - Fort Worth, TX

- **Arizona PVA Tournament**
  - October 25–26, 2014
  - Tucson, AZ

- **Mid-Atlantic PVA Tournament**
  - November 7–9, 2014
  - Richmond, VA

- **Florida Gulf Coast PVA Tournament**
  - March 12–14, 2015
  - Odessa, FL

- **Nevada PVA Tournament**
  - March 20–22, 2015
  - Las Vegas, NV

- **Cali-Diego PVA Tournament**
  - March 27–29, 2015
  - Redlands, CA

- **Pistol & Rifle Shoot**
  - March 27, 2015
  - Lytle Creek, CA

- **Iowa PVA Tournament**
  - May 15–17, 2015
  - Cedar Rapids, IA

- **Mid-America PVA Tournament**
  - May 22–24, 2015
  - Sedgwick, KS

- **Colonial PVA Tournament**
  - June 5–7, 2015
  - Baltimore, MD

- **New England PVA Tournament**
  - Date TBD
  - Location TBD

- **Vaughn/National PVA Tournament**
  - Circuit Year-End
  - July 10–12, 2015
  - Edwardsville, IL

Annual PVA Air Rifle & Air Pistol Program Schedule

- **Cali-Diego PVA Tournament**
  - January 26–27, 2015
  - Point Loma, CA

- **Buckeye PVA Tournament**
  - May 15–16, 2015
  - Gahanna, OH

- **Mid-Atlantic PVA Tournament**
  - March 12, 2015
  - Richmond, VA

- **Camp Pendleton**
  - Date TBD
  - Camp Pendleton, CA

2014–15 Paralyzed Veterans of America Bass Tour

- **Mid-America PVA Tournament**
  - September 26–28, 2014
  - Eufaula, OK – Lake Eufaula

- **Southeastern PVA Tournament**
  - October 10–12, 2014
  - Appling, GA – Clark Hill Lake

- **Mid-Atlantic PVA Tournament**
  - May 20–21, 2015
  - Richmond, VA – James River

- ** Vaughan/National PVA Tournament**
  - October 24–26, 2014
  - Mt. Vernon, IL – Bond Lake

- **Florida Gulf Coast PVA Tournament**
  - March 27–29, 2015
  - Kissimmee, FL – Lake Toho

- **Kentucky-Indiana PVA Tournament**
  - April 17–19, 2015
  - Gilbertsville, KY – Kentucky Lake

- **National PVA Tournament**
  - June 5–7, 2015
  - LaPlata, MD – Potomac River

- **Lone Star PVA Tournament**
  - June 26–28, 2015
  - Garland, TX – Lake Ray Hubbard
Weekly and Ongoing Programs Sponsored by Adaptive Sports Iowa

Adaptive Sports Iowa is built around the concept of providing consistent opportunities to be active. We are able to achieve this by organizing a number of weekly and monthly program throughout the year.

Wheelchair Basketball
We host wheelchair basketball every Thursday evening at First Family Church in Ankeny, IA. The games are not officiated and are relaxed, giving players a chance to improve and enjoy themselves while getting some exercise. We also have 12 Top End Transformer All Sport wheelchairs on site for use.

- Thursday Evening
- 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
First Family Church, 317 SE Magazine Rd. Ankeny, IA

Youth Sports Club
Organized in collaboration with our friends at Courage League Sports, this youth program is designed to fun, social, and active. Similar to a “PE style” class we play games and have fun.

- Thursday Evenings
- 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Courage League Sports, 4405 121st St. Urbandale, IA

Power Soccer
Power Soccer is the first competitive team sport designed and developed specifically for power wheelchair users. These participants include persons with quadriplegia, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, head trauma, stroke, spinal cord injury and other disabilities.

Power Soccer combines the skill of the wheelchair user with the speed and power of the chair itself, to participate in an extremely challenging game similar to soccer.

- Tuesday Evenings
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Valley Community Center, 4444 Fuller Rd. West Des Moines, IA

Group Cycling Riders
An opportunity for the novice to seasoned cyclists our weekly group rides take place on the popular Raccoon River Trail.

- Tuesday Evenings
- Depart trailhead at 5:30 pm
Waukee Trailhead located at the intersection of Hickman Rd. and 10th street on the west side of Waukee.

Bowling Night
The second Tuesday of every month we host an evening of bowling with your friends and family. Warrior Lanes in Waukee has graciously provided their facility to us for this event.

- Second Tuesday of every month
- 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Warrior Lanes, 190 SE Laurel. Waukee, IA

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.
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.
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.

Cookbooks

The cookbooks have arrived and are going like hotcakes!!!!!! 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 contact our office and request an Associate Membership Application. Complete it and mail it with a check for $75.00 back to our office. Applicants for Associate Membership will receive a free cookbook.

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

Thank you!!!!!!!!
CHRISTMAS PARTY 2014

CALL TODAY, OUR PARTY IS COMING UP VERY SOON!!!!

Please join us for our special Holiday celebration on **Wednesday, December 17th**, at our office. The evening will begin at **5:30 p.m.**, with a catered dinner being served at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be followed by a visit from Santa with presents for the little ones.

If you have children/grandchildren twelve and under, PLEASE LET US KNOW so that we can notify Santa. We would appreciate a suggestion for a gift! Please understand we would love to satisfy all requests but can only spend up to approximately $20.00 per gift. (Possible ideas are Barbie dolls, CD with title, Legos, etc.) Our feeling is THE MORE THE MERRIER-- ESPECIALLY CHILDREN!!!! After all, what is a Christmas party without children ripping open their presents?!!!

**PLEASE CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SANTA, KIM, AND JAZZ NEED TO HAVE YOUR RSVP BY 12/1** so they may complete the shopping and be prepared for a wonderful evening of holiday spirit, food and gift giving.

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.