

Paralog

July - August 2009
Volume 13 Issue 4



Oregon Paralyzed Veterans
of America



In This Issue

President's Report
By Anthony Marx

Membership Report
By William "Bill" Blake

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Urgent Legislation Update

Rep. Smith Support Legislation to Ensure Disabled Veterans Receive Benefits They've Earned

Washington D.C. Congressman Adam Smith (WA-09) voted in support of legislation today that will allow disabled military retirees to concurrently receive both their retired pay from the Department of Defense (DoD) and their disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). H.R. 2990, the Disabled Military Retiree Relief Act of 2009, passed the House today by a vote of 404-0.

"Our veterans have dedicated their lives to our country, and they deserve to receive the benefits they have earned," said Congressman Adam Smith. "While this is a step in the right direction, we must go further. Expanding concurrent receipt to all military retirees remains a priority for me in

Congress. In the months ahead, I will continue working with my colleagues to achieve this goal."

This legislation temporarily allows Chapter 61 retirees who are rated 100% disabled, 100% disabled by reason of being unemployable, or 90% disabled to receive full concurrent receipt of their DoD and VA benefits from January 1, 2010 until September 30, 2010.

Due to required budget offsets, finding funds to permanently expand concurrent receipt to all military retirees has been extremely difficult. However, this bill contains the framework to extend the eligibility period and expand eligibility to those Chapter 61 retirees with a disability rating of

less than 90% in the future. Congress will utilize this framework to work toward a permanent solution in the months ahead.

The bill must now be approved by the Senate before it can be signed into law by the President. Michael Amato
Director of Communications
Office of Congressman Adam Smith
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202.225.8901

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans

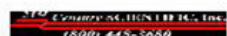
Mission Statement

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (OPVA) is committed to take those actions necessary to improve the quality of life and to protect the rights of spinal cord injured or neurologically impaired veterans through: veterans benefits protection; advocacy; legislation; sports and recreation; hospital liaison and spinal cord research.



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Portland, OR 97204

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Toll Free: 800-795-3627
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Paralog

July - August 2009

Volume 13 - Issue 4

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Oregon PVA

President's Message

By ANTHONY MARX, President

Well, summer officially starts in a couple of weeks but the good weather is already here. This is our busy season with a lot of things to do with the chapter or around in your own community. If you have not been in the chapter office in the last 30 days you are in for a pleasant surprise. We have done some much needed renovations as well as relocate some personnel in different offices. The changes have made the office more wheelchair friendly and brighter. The moving of personnel will make day-to-day operations more efficient and less stressful. We also finished our network updates and wiring, which allows us to reduce computer down-time.

On May 15, 2009 we launched our new web-site. We are still using our old site location: www.oregonpva.org. However, the new site is easier to use and easier to keep updated. The site will have a new monthly video message from me and video clips of the events and programs that Oregon PVA runs. We also have an awesome

web-store that items can be purchased with or without the chapter logo on the merchandise. The clothing items that we sell are high quality and priced very reasonable. If you compare the prices to retailers who sell the same brands, you will save money shopping with us. Check out the store yourself, do a little shopping, and save some money while supporting the chapter. Your purchases are a win win for you and us.

The chapter has also taken on the sale of *Entertainment Books* for the Portland area and the state-wide editions. With an economy that has a lot of people unemployed and people barely getting by on a budget, the chapter took the opportunity to be a distributor for the books so that they can be sold for \$20. The Entertainment books are full of savings that range from vehicle service to shopping at Safeway.

Make sure you read this issue of the Paralog and reserve your place at a chapter sponsored event.

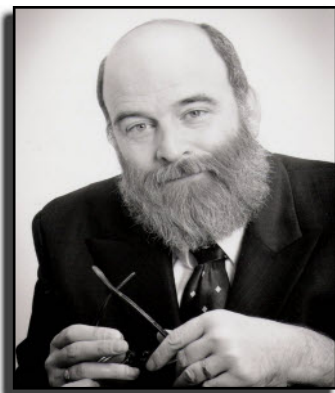
If you like drag racing check out the Woodburn Drags. Oregon PVA and AJS Racing has partnered to bring awareness of our mission to race fans. AJS Racing drags a 1969 Camaro each weekend at the Woodburn Drags. If you would like to enjoy a family activity, interact with drivers and see some cool cars, check out the Woodburn Drags. Starting in July our website will feature videos and stats as well as the races AJS Racing will be participating in.

Also, get out of the house, take in a movie, go to a baseball game and use your recreation fund. Stay active and enjoy life to the fullest.



Mark your calendars!

September 19th, the annual banquet will be held at the Spirit Mountain Casino. This will be an event to remember. Members will be able to spend the night at a discounted rate that is only available through advanced reservations through the chapter office. The chapter is blocking 30 rooms at this special rate. The theme is 'Southwest Barbeque' with all the fixin'. We will start taking reservations May 30th.



Government Relations & Advocacy Report

By KEVIN O'REILLY, GRD/Advocacy Director

This state legislative session is starting to wrap up. In a week or so we'll provide a more comprehensive legislative update. Here we'll give a very brief summary of what we see happening.

As we all are painfully aware this year the economy took a hard hit. This affected the state's ability to expand programs, services or benefits that had any sort of fiscal impact. As such, quite a lot of legislation that would have increased state benefits for veterans never even made it into a committee hearing. However, a few veteran benefits with associated costs did or are expected to pass.

One we feel will have a good impact on some of our members was Senate Bill 595. SB 595 provides for a tuition waiver at state universities for the survivors and dependents of loss of life in line of duty or 100% service disabled. This benefit is for children and a spouse. Currently it is on space available and is last payer. The Community Colleges should each be implementing a like program.

House Bill 2178 will provide that a veteran service officer is assigned to each state university and Community College. They will be tasked with outreach and benefits counseling.

Senate Bill 98 establishes a Task Force to study how to enhance transportation options for veterans to access health care. There will be an emphasis on significantly disabled and rural veterans.

House Bill 2021 would have permitted former prisoners of war, recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, persons awarded the Purple Heart and Gold Star families to register a vehicle by paying a one-time vehicle registration fee. They would be able to have the states veteran plate with an appropriate emblem designating the award or service performed. This did not pass but it is our understanding its provisions will be implemented by administrative rule.

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2011 legislative session. If you have any ideas about how we might improve state provided veteran benefits please contact us and we'll start working on them.

On the Federal scene, we believe that advanced appropriations has a good chance of becoming a reality. Advanced Appropriations is the latest means of ensuring if not adequate VA health care funding, at least timely funding. For quite some time the VA has had to wait along with other discretionary federally funded programs for Congress to pass a budget. This has unfortunately had an adverse effect on the VA being able to allocate funds through out its various programs, including ensuring veterans receive adequate and timely health care. Advanced Appropriations will provide funding for the VA a year in advance; this will hopefully allow the VA to know ahead of time what funding it will have available. The downside is that the VA may not know what its fiscal needs will be a year in advance.

The Administration has submitted its budget for the VA. The request is for \$112.8 billion; health care gets an 11% increase over last year.

A few bills pending on the Federal level are,

- S.801 - The Family Caregiver Program Act of 2009 would establish a permanent program for the caregivers of disabled veterans, providing them with training and certification, access to VA health care and financial support, and new travel benefits.
- H.R.1170 - To establish a grant program for the development of technologies to adapt housing for disabled veterans. It authorizes \$2 million a year for five years (FY10 through FY14) for grants up to \$200,000 a year for innovative housing concepts. This bill is expected to win full House approval.
- H.R.1088 - To provide a one-year period for the training of new disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representatives.

We will keep you updated on these and other legislation that will affect your benefits and entitlements.

VA Reopening Healthcare Enrollment to Thousands of Veterans

WASHINGTON – The Department of veterans Affairs (VA), which now has nearly eight million veterans enrolled in its award-winning healthcare system, is poised to welcome nearly 266,000 more veterans into its medical centers and clinics across the country by expanding access to health care enrollment for certain veterans who had been excluded due to their income.

“This incremental approach to expanding enrollment ensures that access to VA health care for a greater number of beneficiaries does not sacrifice timely access or quality medical care for those Veterans already enrolled in VA’s health care system,” Dr. Gerald Cross, VA’s Acting Under Secretary for Health, said. “Over the next four years, we hope to provide enrollment to more than 500,000 Veterans.”

Under a new regulation effective June 15, VA will enroll veterans whose income exceeds current means-tested thresholds by up to ten percent. These Veterans were excluded from VA health care enrollment when income limits were imposed in 2003 on Veterans with no service-connected disabilities or other special eligibility for care. There is no income limit for Veterans with compensable service-connected disabilities or for

Veterans being seen for their service-connected disabilities.

Veterans who have applied for VA health care but were rejected due to income at any point in 2009 will have their applications reconsidered under the new income threshold formula. Those who applied before 2009, but were rejected due to income, must reapply. VA will contact these Veterans through a direct-mail campaign, Veterans service organizations, and a national and regional marketing campaign.

Information about enrollment and an income and assets calculator are available at www.va.gov/healtheligibility. The calculator provides a format in which Veterans enter their household income, number of dependents, and zip codes to see if they may qualify for VA health care enrollment.

In addition to applying online, Veterans may also contact VA’s Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (1-877-222-8387). Each VA medical center across the country has an enrollment coordinator available to provide Veterans with enrollment and eligibility information.

The Post - 9/11 GI Bill

The Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting and processing applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. You complete and submit the application form available online and will receive a letter explaining VA’s decision regarding your eligibility for the program.

The application form requires that individuals currently eligible for benefits under the Montgomery GI BILL-Active Duty (MGIB-AD), Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) make an irrevocable election from their existing program to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

For individuals eligible for MGIB-AD

Normally, your months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill will be equal to the number of months of entitlement you have remaining under the MGIB-AD.

However, if you use all of your MGIB-AD benefits, then you may be entitled to a maximum of twelve additional months of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

For individuals eligible for MGIB-SR and/or REAP

Normally, individuals who are eligible for more than one benefit may use a maximum combined total of forty eight months of benefits.

For example: If you have used twenty months of benefits under REAP, you may be eligible for twenty eight months of benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Payments for Post-9/11 GI Bill will not be processed until August 1, 2009.

To access the application form, which includes instructions for submitting completed applications, go to <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>



Sports

Program Report

By Jack Howell, Sports Director

Well we're just around the corner from the busiest season for the sports department. I just returned (from the DAV Winter Sports Clinic, this is the second year I've attended) with approximately 500 other disabled veterans and about 130 of them were from the Iraq/Afghanistan war era.



One might think that all you do are snow events at a Winter Clinic but the truth is you can do fly fishing, trapshooting, scuba diving as well as traditional winter sports. If you are interested in participating in the DAV Winter Sports Clinic



next year, please contact me and I will help you work out the details to attend next year.

On June 15th we had our first deep-sea fishing trip with an amazing catch. Usually we go out for bottom fish and return with a few crab. However, this trip was unbelievable. Who would have guessed that a 108 pound halibut would be caught off the coast of Lincoln City? Guess what, it happened! Everyone who attended



was waiting for a shot at the big one and when the halibut was pulled in everybody was fishin' like fools.

By the time you receive this newsletter there will be one final trip out to sea on the 27th of July.

The middle of August we will try to schedule a pontoon boat fishing



trip for those who use electric wheelchairs and are unable to participate on the deep-sea fishing trips. Pontoon trip will be for 2.5 hours and hold three electric wheelchairs and three able-bodied. There will be three trips scheduled on the same day so keep your eye on your mailbox for a letter describing more information at the end of July.

Trapshooting is going well with new interest by members at the clinics. This year we will be sending a trap team to Seattle and Memphis shoots.

We have several members who will be participating their first time at this years Veterans' Wheelchair Games in Spokane, WA. If you're a novice and want to participate in next year's games please contact me because it is one of those events that will change your life by showing you your ability, not your disability.

Enjoy this summer; get out of the house and enjoy what you're able to do and don't focus on what you can't do. There is a new adventure around every corner waiting to be discovered.

Kids' Free Fish Day

Detroit, Oregon June 6, 2009

There is nothing like a day at the lake with a fishing pole and fish biting. For over twelve years Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America (Oregon PVA) has joined with other organizations to make a free fishing day an experience to remember. This year seemed to start out just like every year. When I was leaving



Smokey is my friend!

home Saturday morning, the weather looked like last year at the same time: cool, damp and probably going to be muddy. We just started setting up and people already started coming to fish at eight am. The problem was nothing was open until ten am when registration would start for the kids. This year there were more activities for all the children



Concentration



From left to right: Larry (Dave Parker), Curly (Jack Howell) and Mo (Bill Blake)



Another Big One

so they were issued a four station passport that kept things organized. The passport gave the kids an opportunity to learn about fish anatomy, casting, a little lesson on species of fish, and looking at algae through a microscope. By the end



of the passport adventure each child received a fishing pole and or reel. We also had one of our new members, Bryan Dornon, and his son teaching kids how to tie flies and rods. It's great to get new members involved in a such worthwhile project.

Everyone caught fish and some bruters' from the little kid's pond. Oregon PVA served over 300 meals this year. This event is sponsored by Oregon PVA, Wal-Mart, Division of U.S. Forestry Service and the Oregon Fish and Game. Oregon PVA has sponsored this event. We also had bicycles and other items that were raffled off. The smiles on the children's faces were a testimony to another successful year where everyone seemed to have a good time, even those who were volunteering. Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers in cooperation of the companies and agencies involved; we will continue to bring smiles to little faces for years to come.



Class Time



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Books will be available September 1st

Are your Muscles Sore?

If you are a member of the Oregon PVA, a senior citizen with muscle knots or just a sore body, we have a solution for you! Just recently one of our member's wife began offering a great massage that is affordable. Rui O'Reilly is a licensed massage therapist with Massage Envy of Clackamas, located at 9895 SE Sunnyside Rd, Clackamas, OR off I-205 exit 14.

She is offering a longer massage session for disabled veterans and seniors on Tuesdays. Regular session fees apply but disabled veterans and seniors will receive an extra 10 minutes of massage time.

The massage tables are accessible, there is some assistance with transfers and if needed, dressing is available.

Full body, upper body and foot massages are available; couples massage is also available.

Call (503) 653-0400 to schedule, ask for Rui as your massage therapist.

GOT YOURS YET?

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs has worked with the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles and the Oregon Legislature to bring you new graphic designed veteran license plates for your vehicle. Now you can show your loyalty to your branch of service or show that special medal you earned.

Just visit your local DMV office and ask how you can get one of the new veteran license plates for your automobile.

As an added bonus, a percentage of the money raised on the license plates is returned to the Oregon Veterans' Home. So you are helping others as you adorn your vehicle with new graphic plates.



You Showed Courage On The Battlefield

If you're struggling with thoughts of suicide, please show courage again by calling for help

1-800-273-TALK

1-800-273-8255

(press 1)

You're not alone - your fellow veterans care about you!

Make the call!

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs

Oregon PVA **DEEP SEA** FISHING and **CRAB** TRIPS

Only 1 reservation form will be accepted at a time.
You may make your reservation by using the form below or calling
503-362-7998 or 1-800-333-0782.

Payment must be received by deadline or
reservation will not be made.

\$30.00 per person/ per trip
Please be there by 8:00 a.m.
Boat leaves the dock at 9:00 a.m.

NOTE: We are not able to take
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Fishing Trip Dates
July 27, 2009

Fee/Reservation Deadlines
July 20, 2009

Member Name:

Phone #:

Guest Name:

How many:

Able Bodied:

Disabled:

How many Manual Chairs:

Total Fees Enclosed: \$

Please R.S.V.P. by mailing in this reservation form with fee to:
Oregon PVA , 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305

**CHANGE OF
ADDRESS**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE: ()

EMAIL:

Please mail this form to:

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of
America
3700 Silverton Rd. NE
Salem, OR 97305

Oregon Paralyzed Veterans Annual Picnic 2009

When: Thursday, August 6, 2009

Where: Oaks Park, Portland

Time: 10:00 a.m.

\$5.00 per Voting & Associate Member Families

Free rides for all the youngsters

Food & Beverages for all!!

You may make your reservation by using the form below or calling
503-362-7998 or 1-800-333-0782.

2009 Annual Picnic Registration Form

Member Name:

Phone:

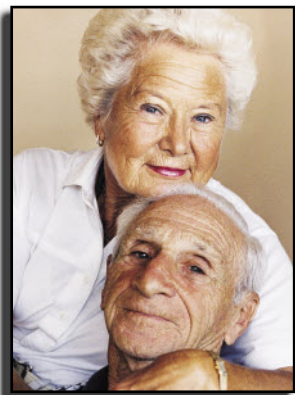
How many adults:

How many children:

How many ride bracelets:

Amount enclosed: \$

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Oregon Paralyzed Veterans , 3700 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305 no later than July 25, 2009.



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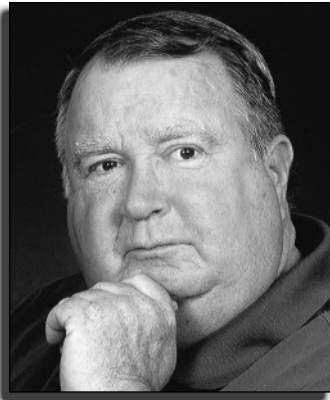
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503-232-7480 (fax)
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www.ilr.org

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www.uvdn.org



Membership

Program Report

By William "Bill" Blake, Membership Director

Some say summer doesn't start until the 5th of July. I have MS and don't like the heat of summer, so these spring days are wonderful.

Hope you are doing well, that your friends and family surround you with love, and that you get to eat some great barbecued chicken. Getting outside can really lift the spirits. Have you ever thought about taking advantage of OPVA's fishing trips out of Depoe Bay? We have three scheduled this year: June 15th, July 6th and July 27th. Manual wheelchairs will be lifted onto the boat, so no electric chairs. The cost is only \$30 per person, and you can use the Recreation Fund to get your money back. There is even enough recreations fund money to pay for a motel room

and a couple of dinners. Give this some serious thought.

It is not too late to plant a raised garden. My tomatoes are 15" tall already, but I had to cover them a few nights. You can plant throughout June, and also plant some broccoli in the Fall. Container gardening is easy, and is a lot of fun.

Mark your calendar for September 19th for our Annual Banquet. This year it will be held at Spirit Mountain Casino. We have reserved thirty rooms at great prices if you want to spend the night. Let us know as reservations started May 30th. The Banquet starts with a social hour at noon. Hope to see you there.

Membership in Oregon PVA is a wonderful opportunity to belong to

an organization that not only cares about its members but actually works to make their lives fuller and hopefully easier. We all need each other. So, come to some of the events if you can; take advantage of the Recreation Fund and begin some friendships to last a lifetime.

USE YOUR RECREATION FUND

Oregon PVA's **\$250** Member Recreation Reimbursement Fund begins Oct. 1st and ends Sept. 30th until the funds have been depleted. Simply send in your receipts to the Oregon PVA office in Salem. Also, include a one to two paragraph description of what you did-maybe a picture.

All receipts **must be dated within this current fiscal year** and received in the Oregon PVA office no later than September 30th for those funds to be used. Oregon PVA's fiscal year ends September 30th each year.

Veterans' Dependent Tuition Waiver Application

The newly revised Veterans' Dependent Tuition Waiver Application has been posted to the Oregon University System (OUS) website and is now available for use. The form has been updated with the latest legislative changes and is formatted so it may be filled out online and is located at:

<http://www.ous.edu/stucoun/prospstu/files/VeteransDepEligApplication.pdf>

If you have any questions or comments regarding the revised form please contact:

Shonna S. Butler
541-737-2922



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.

800-424-8200 • www.pva.org

Chapter Name: Oregon Paralyzed Veterans of America

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ / _____ / _____ Social Security Number: _____
month date year

☐ Male ☐ Female

Are you a United States citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____

DATE(S) OF MILITARY SERVICE		TYPE OF SEPARATION	BRANCH OF SERVICE
Start Date month/date/year	End Date month/date/year	Discharge (D) or Retirement (R)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> D or <input type="checkbox"/> R	<input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard
		<input type="checkbox"/> D or <input type="checkbox"/> R	<input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input type="checkbox"/> 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-C08 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 DISEASE

(Complete ONLY if you have non-traumatic spinal cord disease)

Date of diagnosis/onset of condition:

_____ / _____ / _____

Specific disease:

- ☐ Multiple Sclerosis
☐ Poliomyelitis
☐ Amyotrophic diseases (lateral sclerosis, transverse myelitis)
☐ Syringomyelia
☐ Other (specify) _____

LEVEL OF FUNCTION

Indicate your level of function:

☐ Paraplegia ☐ Quadriplegia ☐ Hemiplegia ☐ No paralysis at this time

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please check the appropriate box or fill in the blank of each of the categorical 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 _____

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

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

MARITAL STATUS

- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Never Married
- ☐ Separated
- ☐ Widowed

RACE/ETHNICITY

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

TYPE OF RESIDENCE

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

SOURCE(S) OF INCOME

- ☒ *(check all that apply)*
- ☐ Employment
 - ☐ Gifts/Other
 - ☐ Private pension
 - ☐ Social Security
 - ☐ VA compensation
 - ☐ VA pension

NEXT OF KIN INFORMATION

Relationship: _____

Name: _____

☐ Same as member address on front of form

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

(someone other than next of kin)

Relationship: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Office Use Only

Date Received:

Member ID#: _____



Members'

Letters and Stories to the Chapter

Dear OPVA,

I am very glad there is a recreation fund to help with members' fun/party times. This year my partner and I are going to Colorado to see my step-daughter's HS graduation and then we'll be heading for Montana for a family reunion in honor of my mother-in-law's 80th birthday.

We are getting our little old RV ready for the trip. She, like many of us, has a few cosmetic problems and some trouble with leakage. Even so, she's got spirit and the inner will to get around, however slowly. With help from Caveman RV here in Grants Pass, we are fixing her up. She will never be young again, but with your help, theirs and our own elbow grease, she will travel with dignity, panache and no leaks.

Again, I am grateful for the assistance provided by the recreation fund; there's always a price for looking perky when you're past your absolute prime. The rec fund will help me defray some of the costs of helping Alice (down the rabbit hole), look as good as her engine is.

Anne

Dear PVA,

My wife and I enjoy spending quality time together, and would enjoy a weekly if not bi-weekly date. However, with the economy the way it is we aren't able to do this very often. We've found that bringing in take-out food and watching TV or a movie is just as good as going out.

Sometimes we'll have family or friends over for dinner and games, so we get some socializing in. Without the recreation fund we wouldn't be able to do this. This program is a real blessing especially during these trying times.

William & Karen

After living in Seattle for many years, we moved to the quieter pace of the central Oregon coast. Recently, we returned to the "old neighborhood" to celebrate our daughter's engagement. We were busy with an itinerary that included several dinners with family and friends as well as a picnic at Volunteer Park and a ferryboat ride across the Sound to visit Hal's mother.

To reduce the cost of gas, we combined the trip with a stop in Portland on the way back for a VA appointment. One more great meal before returning home mean the rich entrees and special desserts would come to an end, but the memories of spending time with loved ones would sustain us.

Thank you for offering the Recreation Fund that we happily shared!

Hal and Kathryn

Dear OPVA,

I've been wanting to put an inviting place to sit outside. I bought an arbor, some birdhouses and flowers to put in my back yard. I'm looking forward to watching the birds and enjoying the outside area and smells this summer.

Thank you,
Brenda

This is Spring break week and I wanted to spend time with my daughter, so on Tuesday it was a trip to Dairy Queen, Wednesday we went for lunch at Red Lobster and Thursday took a road trip to Turner for Enchanted Forest. The log ride was a thrill and wet too. A quick snack and back on the road again, ending our day at the Ram for dinner. Without your recreation funds this week; it would not have been possible, we all thank you.

Steve

Greetings,

We thoroughly enjoyed our Valentines Day weekend when we visited the Skagit Valley Casino and Resort. The wife played the machines while I enjoyed the rest of the resort's offerings.

Michael



Members'

Letters and Stories to the Chapter

Dear Sirs,

We want to thank you again for the recreation fund. It is very appreciated!

We were able to attend a live concert at a local theatre. The band is called "Revolver" and it was awesome. They only perform the "Beatles" music and it was very entertaining. My husband really enjoyed this event.

Dennis & Rozann

I would like to say thanks Rec. Fund. This has given me a chance to enjoy my recreation of shooting and fishing more by allowing me to buy fishing and shooting supplies. This time I bought a case trimmer, which is used to trim the brass shells I use for reloading.

Charles

My husband, who had been sick for many years had recently been getting stronger. So booked a 7 day cruise to Mexico on the Princess. We flew our 1st time on Jet Blue from Portland to California. The airline did a great job helping us with the wheelchair and assisting Gary and the cruise was the very best vacation we have ever had. It was romantic, fun, pleasant and easy. We would encourage anyone in a wheelchair to go enjoy life on a Cruise of your choice. Your really are treated like royalty and the handicap room was the best.

Thank you so much OPVA for the unexpected blessing.

Gary & Sherrie

Dear PVA,

Each year Las Vegas hosts the Professional Bull Riding Finals. Wow what a great show, the best bulls and the best riders, truly a world class championship event. If you like bull riding this is the place to see the best of the best.

Also Zumanity, a show not recommended for those who are easily embarrassed or opposed to nudity. Quite an eye opener for a country boy!

Thank you very much for the opportunity to be reimbursed for some fun entertainment, my wife and I both enjoyed it.

Chuck

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For more information on Veterans' Home Loans,
Contact the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
at 1-888-673-8387 or by email at orvetshomeloans@odva.state.or.us.



Members' Birthdays



June 2009 Birthdays

Neal A. Chamberlain
Neil W. Conant
Phillip W. Copeland
Edward D. Fitch
Michael E. Flood
William C. Gray
Nels W. Hadden
George L. Hardin
Borden P. Hessel
Carl W. Jensen
Kelly J. Jordan

Michael T. Kelley
Anthony L. Marx
Michelle L. Morris
Terry M. Ogan
Frederick D. Parker
Peter E. Parsons
Gordon D. Pike
Gerald W. Sandlin
Joel F. Satoris
Robert R. Smith
Rex A. Stevens

Judy A. Strode
Chris L. Studwell
Ron H. Taylor
Gary L. Tucker
Fritz VonAllmen

July 2009 Birthdays

Bert M. Bradshaw
Craig W. Colerick
Nancy A. Coon
Donald R. Darland
Louis Di Croce
Virginia M. Facer
George E. Faust
Mike E. Gardner
Carl D. Griffith
Stanley W. Harmon

Steven A. Hickam
William R.C.R Hobbs
Steven D. Hudson
Robert J. Huffman
Joseph M. Jones
Curtis A. Ketchum
Patrick L. Kilmartin
Robert E. La Favor
David L. Lawson
Matthew G. Lexow

Franklin McMaster
Kirk D. Parkhurst
Douglas W. Powell
Randle K. Reddett
Vern Spaur
Ken L. St. Julian
Uili Talimao
Neal N. Tooze
Daniel S. Umbriaco
Albert S. Usinger

Roger C. Watson
D.R. Way
Leon Wheeldon
Charles M. Wheeler
Roger D. Wood
Kenneth L. Woodward
Charles P. Younglove

August 2009 Birthdays

Lois A. Kozic
Bob Mahler
Timothy B. Walusiak
Neal J. Schultz
Leo J. Espinoza
Irl J. Bryant
Karl M. Nuse
Robert E. Baker
Craig R. Ackerson

Dennis E. Davis
Robert H. Blackman
Mark W. Myers
Richard C. John
Randy D. Black
William O. Shields
Daniel T. Fairchild
Ronald D. Childers
Daniel I. Johnson

Michael A. Hebert
Douglas M. Carr
Elmer M. Childress
Casey R. Jones
Gerald H. Caldwell
Leslie O. Burton
Daniel J. Musloff
Richard M. Weaver
Diane M. Grady

John E. Brasch
Eric D. Johnson
Keith A. Miller
Hosie Stadamire
Ernest H. Bensch

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 CLOSED	3 CLOSED	4 
5	6 	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29th Annual National Veterans' Wheelchair Games, Spokane, WA						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 	28	29	30 	31	

Schedule of Events
<u>2nd & 3rd:</u> Closed for 4th of July weekend
<u>6th:</u> Deep Sea Fishing Trip in Depoe Bay
<u>13th - 18th</u> 29th Annual National Veterans' Wheelchair Games in Spokane, WA
<u>27th:</u> Deep Sea Fishing Trip in Depoe Bay
<u>30th:</u> Oregon Paralyzed Veterans Board of Directors Meeting Salem, OR - 10 am

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 	7 	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
PVA Annual Convention, Miami FL						
23	24	25	26	27 	28	29
30	31					

Schedule of Events
<u>6th:</u> Annual Picnic at Oaks Park in Portland
<u>7th & 8th:</u> Trapshooting Clinic at Mitchell's Clay Target Sports in Gervais, OR
<u>17th - 22nd:</u> PVA Annual Convention in Miami, FL
<u>27th:</u> Oregon Paralyzed Veterans Board of Directors Meeting Salem, OR - 10 am



NATIONAL
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
SOCIETY

104 SW Clay St.
Portland, OR 97201
phone: 503-223-9511
800-FIGHT MS (344-4867)
fax: 503-223-2912
info@defeatms.com

Other MS Resources

- Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center
- MS Resource Centre (UK)
- MS Watch
- MS World
- The Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
- Multiple Sclerosis Information
- Multiple Sclerosis Foundation
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- Rocky Mountain MS

**Medical Equipment
Loan Program**

The Oregon Chapter operates a medical equipment loan program for people with MS. For more information or to have an application mailed to you, contact the Oregon Chapter:

Phone: 1-800-FIGHT-MS
(503) 223-9511 (Portland area)
E-mail: info@defeatms.com

Multiple Sclerosis

Information & Resources

The Oregon Chapter MS Society Services

If you would like any information on these and other services, contact the Oregon MS Society at 800-FIGHT MS.

Education & Information

Newsletters
Educational Programs
Research
Literature & Library

Fundraising & Awareness

MS Walk
MS150 Bike Tour
Dinner of Champions
MS Golf Tournament

Client Services

Financial Assistance
Equipment Loans
MS Clinics
Caregiver Respite
Community Resources
Advocacy
Self Help Groups
Provider Referrals
Accessible Recreation

Oregon MS Clinics

The Portland Veterans Administration Medical Center

3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Road
Portland OR 97239
503-220-8262
<http://www.va.gov/portland/index.asp>

OHSU Multiple Sclerosis Center of Oregon

Department of Neurology, UHS 42
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, Oregon 97239
<http://www.ohsu.edu/ms/>

The Providence Multiple Sclerosis Center

9427 S.W. Barnes Road, Suite 595
Portland, OR 97225
503-296-9242



LOCAL NEWS

Scenic Attractions

Salem Converts 1913 Railroad Bridge to Walking Bridge



East side of the river there are miles of paved paths all the way south to a large pavilion and Salem's carousel. The Gilbert House, a wonderful place for children, stands in-between. There are a couple of ramps into the Gilbert house but due to the age and historic value, wheelchair access is limited. The carousel house is accessible. If you just want to take in the whole area, including the main park and the Gilbert house, there are a few handicapped parking places near the pavilion. Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter new parking will be near the walking bridge. With all things considered, it is a nice area to visit on a sunny summer day. Give it a try!

In April, Salem opened its new conversion to the Union Street Railroad Bridge. Over 1500 feet long, it gives all of us a grand view of the Willamette River and a great place for an outing. As the director of membership I thought I might check this place for myself to see how usable and wheelchair friendly this new path actually was so I made a visit in mid-May and it was an outstanding trip. I was in a power wheelchair, so the long, gradual climb wasn't a problem. The gradual slope should allow anyone in a manual chair the ability to negotiate. If you get a little winded the walkway is wide enough to allow you to take breathers and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Parking for the pathway currently is on the east side in the main park's parking lot. The chapter is working with the city to install closer parking for the disabled on the east side and new parking on the west side of the river so that the pathway will be readily accessible for everyone. There are several cutouts to stop and watch activity on the river. There were several jet skiers on my excursion. On the





LOCAL NEWS

Scenic Attractions



Dig for Gems - Spectrum Mine



Dig and screen through designated piles of fresh unprocessed ore for free all day; keep what you find (mine personnel must be present). Additional days are \$50 per person per day, keep all. Free dig will be ending August 1, 2009.

Kids twelve years old and younger are free, always. Clubs and families welcome. Bring screens and hand tools: 1/4" wire mesh screen sandwiched between light weight wood (up to 24" square), screen stand (an A-frame works good), shovel (whatever size you are comfortable with, bucket (whatever size you like), and plastic bags (for sunstones). For pit digs (see above description) please bring chisel, hammer, rock pick, and screw driver.

Spectrum Sunstone Mine is **OPEN MAY 15th - OCTOBER 15th, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.**

SPECTRUM MINE fee digs...

High-Grade Conveyor Belt Run... For the *ultimate mining experience*, pick off our commercial screen plant conveyor belt and our crew will help you pick the gems; payer gets to keep everything that shows up in one hour of running the plant, \$200 per hour; **nearly 6 tons of ore is processed during the hour** and many stones are found. Water is used to wash the dirt from the ore processed on the conveyor belt.

High-Grade Condensed Commercial Ore Piles: Screen through concentrated high-grade sunstone bearing ore piles \$150 or \$200 per pile. Families and groups welcome. Water washing is



available.

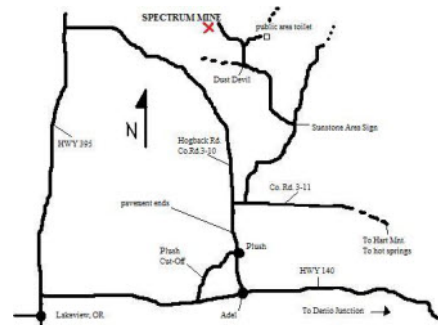
High-Grade Pit Digging: For the "hands-on" experience... Use your digging tools to break through basalt lava rock in one of our high-grade red and green sunstone pits.



\$100-\$200 per person (or sectioned off area).

NEW!!! Cabin accommodations \$45 per night. Stay on-site at Spectrum Mine in one of our clean, one room cabins. Bedding and cooking gear is not included. Call Jessica for reservations, 1-775-830-5797.

Tipi Accommodations: Stay in a 20 foot tipi with fire pit, \$35 per night. Please call Jessica for tipi reservations, 1-775-830-5797 .



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Salem, OR 97305-1472

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