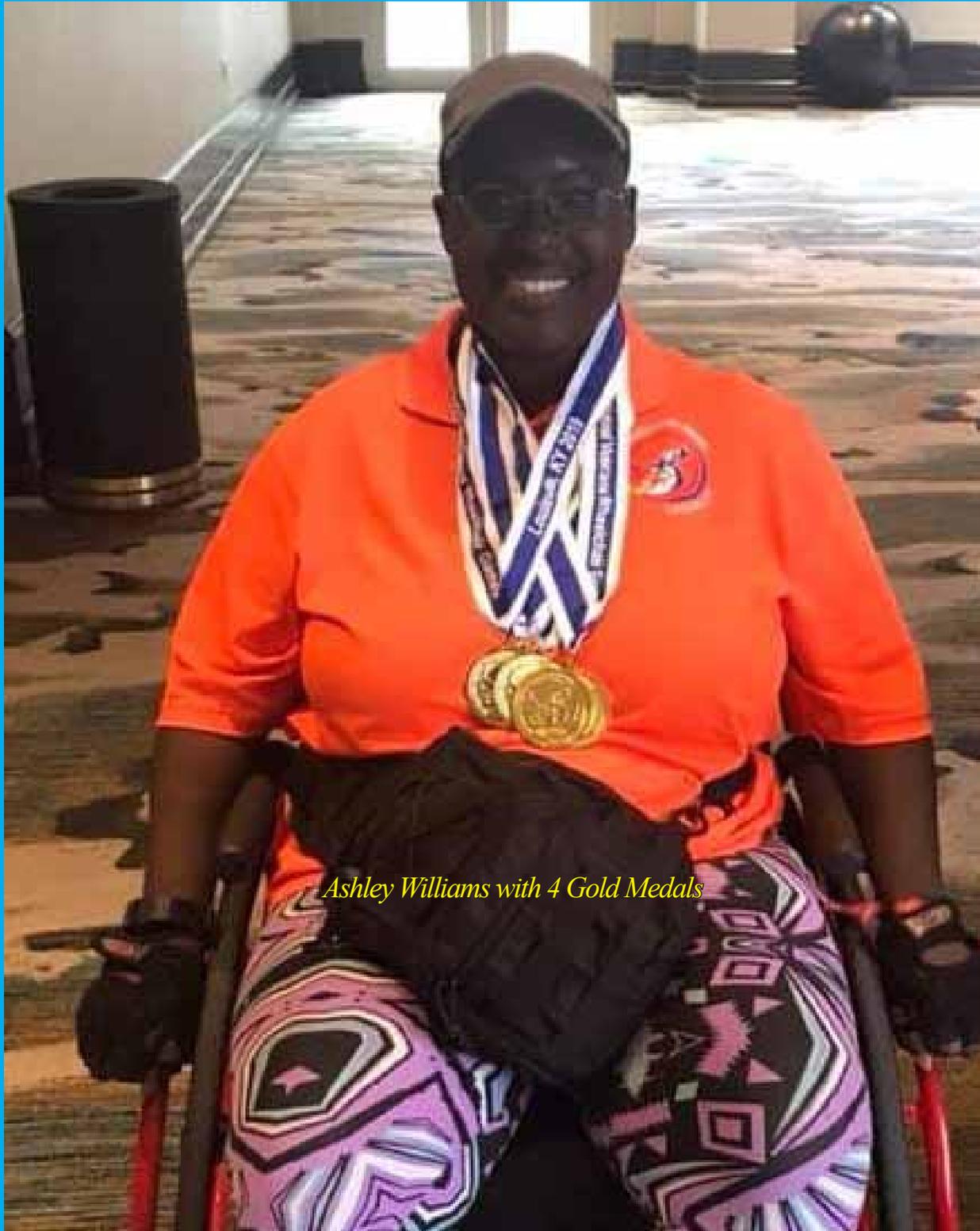




Paralyzed Veterans
of America
Central Florida Chapter

WHEELS IN MOTION

August 2019



Ashley Williams with 4 Gold Medals

President



You may, or may not be, familiar with Annie Oakley, but growing up in the west I was. So, indulge me while I let you read some things I didn't know, such as Shiril Kasper, repeating Oakley's own story about her very first shot at the age of eight. "I saw a squirrel run down over the grass in front of the house, through the orchard and stop on a fence to get a hickory nut." Taking a rifle from the house, she fired at the squirrel, writing later that, "It was a wonderful shot, going right through

the head from side to side".

Oakley never failed to delight her audiences, and her feats of marksmanship were truly incredible. At 30 paces she could split a playing card held edge-on, she hit dimes tossed into the air, she shot cigarettes from her husband's lips, Frank Butler, and, a playing card being thrown into the air, she riddled it before it touched the ground.

R. A. Koestler-Grack reports that, on March 19, 1884, she was being watched by Chief Sitting Bull when: Oakley playfully skipped on stage, lifted her rifle, and aimed the barrel at a burning candle. In one shot, she snuffed out the flame with a whizzing bullet. Sitting Bull watched her knock corks off of bottles and slice through a cigar Butler held in his teeth.

Now here is another thing I didn't know. Buffalo Bill was friends with Thomas Edison, and Edison built the world's largest electrical power plant at the time for the Wild West Show. In 1894, Oakley and Butler performed in Edison's Kinetoscope film The "Little Sure Shot of the Wild West," an exhibition of rifle shooting at glass balls, etc which was filmed November 1, 1894 in Edison's Black Maria studio by William Heise. It was the eleventh film made after commercial showings began on April 14, 1894.

Again, I found this very interesting. In 1904, sensational cocaine prohibition stories were selling well. Newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst published a false story that Oakley had been arrested for stealing to support a cocaine habit. The woman actually arrested was a burlesque performer who told Chicago police that her name was Annie Oakley.

Most of the newspapers that printed the story had relied on the Hearst article, and they immediately retracted it with apologies upon learning of the libelous error. Hearst, however, tried to avoid paying the anticipated court judgments of \$20,000 (equivalent to \$557,704 in 2017) by sending an investigator to Darke County, Ohio with the intent of collecting reputation-

smearing gossip from Oakley's past. The investigator found nothing.

Oakley spent much of the next six years winning all but one of her 55 libel lawsuits against newspapers. She collected less in judgments than the total of her legal expenses.

In 1912, the Butlers, Annie and her husband Frank, built a brick ranch-style house in Cambridge, Maryland. It is known as the Annie Oakley House and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. In 1917, they moved to North Carolina and returned to public life.

She continued to set records into her sixties, and also engaged in extensive philanthropy for women's rights and other causes, including the support of young women she knew. She embarked on a comeback and intended to star in a feature-length silent movie. She hit 100 clay targets in a row from 16 yards (15 m) at age 62 in a 1922 shooting contest in Pinehurst, North Carolina.



In late 1922, the couple were in a car accident that forced her to wear a steel brace on her right leg. She eventually performed again after more than a year of recovery, and she set records in 1924.

Her health declined in 1925 and she died of pernicious anemia in Greenville, Ohio at the age of 66 on November 3, 1926. Her body was cremated in Cincinnati two days later and the ashes buried at Brock Cemetery, near Greenville.

Butler was so grieved by her death, according to B. Haugen, that he stopped eating and died 18 days later in Michigan, and his body was buried next to Oakley's ashes. One rumor claims that Oakley's ashes were placed in one of her prized trophies and laid next to Butler's body in his coffin prior to burial. Both body and ashes were interred in the cemetery on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1926.

After her death, her incomplete autobiography was given to stage comedian Fred Stone, and it was discovered that her entire fortune had been spent on her family and her charities.

A vast collection of Oakley's personal possessions, performance memorabilia, and firearms are on permanent exhibit in the Garst Museum and the National Annie Oakley Center in Greenville, Ohio. She has been inducted into the Trapshooting Hall of Fame, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas, the National Women's Hall of Fame, the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and the New Jersey Hall of Fame.



Steve Kirk

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Executive Director



Well, the 39th National Veteran Wheelchair Games are over and we are half way through the summer. Nominations for officers and board membership is over and we are sending out ballots in the next few days for members to vote for the chapter leadership for the next few years. Preparation is being made for closing out the last quarter of the year. Wow! It seems like it was just yesterday we were saying “Happy New Year” to each other and we are already thinking about how we are going to finish out the year and prepare for a new decade.

And talk about time flying by, on July 1st, I celebrated my five year anniversary as your Chapter Executive Director. It seems like it was just a few months ago that I sat talking to Brian Terwilliger and Steve Kirk about the position. It has been quite a busy five years. Let me take a moment to reflect on the past five years. Although I could not even begin to remember everything we have accomplished, let me try. In late 2014, we started to plan a golf tournament to help raise funds for the chapter and our first Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was held on May 23, 2015. We raised \$16,936.04 and have had a golf tournament each year since then, raising a total of \$118,594.20. In September of 2014 we hired Joanne Poretti as our Office Manager (Joanne will celebrate her five year anniversary with us in a couple of months). In October of 2014, we purchased a 14’ box truck and started our REEP (Refurbished Equipment Exchange Program). Through this program, we receive donated medical durable equipment and after cleaning it up, we give it to people who need it in the community. In the past five years, we have received nearly \$285,000 worth of equipment and have given away over \$261,550 of it to date. In 2015, in partnership with the Lake Nona VA, we submitted a bid for hosting the 38th National Veteran Wheelchair Games. After many, many meetings, much planning and numerous presentations seeking funding, we helped bring the best games ever to Orlando in 2018. In late 2015, we designed and produced a new brochure for the chapter and we received a \$10,000 grant to purchase power lifting equipment. In January of 2016 we hired Roger Sack to fill the role of part-time Director of Sports and Recreation. In June of 2016, we received a donation of two all-terrain power chairs to be used on the beach as well as on trails throughout Florida. We also received funds to purchase two trailers to transport the all-terrain power chairs. In 2016, for the first time in many years, the chapter sent members and their caregivers to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Five members and three caregivers went to Salt Lake City, Utah to participate in the games and brought home 15 medals. We have sent members and their caregivers to the games every year since. This year we sent ten members, two coaches and five caregivers to the games and brought home sixteen gold, eleven silver and four bronze medals. In June of 2016 we conducted our first satellite meeting in Jacksonville and 4 members from the Jacksonville area attended as well as 4 members from the Orlando area. Later that year we conducted a satellite meeting in Ocala and 8 members attended that

meeting. In late 2016 we received a \$6,000 grant to start a Veterans Air Gun Outreach Series. We have been conducting air gun competitions at the chapter and across the state ever since then. In January 2017 a group of our members played in the Wounded Warriors/NFL Alumni Flag Football Game during NFL Pro Bowl Week in Orlando. In April 2017 representatives from the Chapter Program Review Committee of the national office came down to Central Florida to conduct an audit of our chapter. In its report to the Executive Committee of PVA was the statement “the Central Florida Chapter operations were well organized and the committee would note that many of PVA’s other chapters could do well to emulate the efforts of this chapter.” We are proud of that statement because that is what we strive to be; the best possible chapter that is here for its members. In June of 2017, a group of our members participated in the Women’s Pro Bowlers Association pro-am in Orlando.

2018 brought the National Veteran Wheelchair Games to Central Florida and we were able to raise over \$100,000 to pay for our chapter’s part of the games. Because we were able to raise so much, we were also able to offer those coming to the games an awesome experience beginning with an Athletes Reception where everyone was invited including caregivers and family members. We fed a plated meal to 1100 people. The games were a great success and it was the largest attended games in its 38-year history. We still have some memorabilia from the Orlando games, so if you are interested in getting a shirt or a sweatshirt, call the office and talk to Joanne. The games took a lot of time and energy but despite them, we continued to do what we have done every year for the last five years. We attended the spring and fall national board meetings; we attended the Advocacy Training Seminar and spent time on Capitol Hill fighting for the causes that mean the most to our membership, we conducted business as usual in the office and conducted our best golf tournament this year netting over \$25,000. In the past five years we have raised over \$259,000 with fund raising, we received nearly \$290,000 in cash donations and over \$50,000 in grants. Our total income in the past five years was \$2,084,178.24 and expenses were 1,810,467.84.

So where do we go from here? I have a vision to expand our programs to include not only sports but recreation as well, for both our members and their caregivers and family. We recently received a \$20,000 grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation to purchase hand cycles and some accessories to put together a had cycle program for those who would like to give it a go to see if it is something they might be interested in doing on a regular basis. I would like to see the chapter reach out to more of the women in our chapter and offer programming specifically directed toward them. I would like to see our chapter offer more opportunities for its member’s families and caregivers. I am hoping to involve more of our members in the operations of the chapter and get more input in how we can improve on what we are already doing. I look forward to the next five years and what they might bring our way. Give us a call at the office and let us know what you think and what you would like to see the chapter offer you. We want to hear from you! Until then, have a great finish to your summer and I look forward to seeing you soon.



John DeMauro



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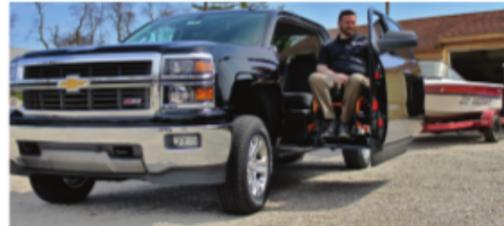
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Board Elections

It is that time of the year again! Time to nominate and elect officers and board members for the coming PVACF Year. We have two open board positions, Ken Weas will be rotating off the board. However, he can be nominated for re-election and can serve again, if elected. The board positions are for three years (2020-2022). Nominees must be certified members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida Chapter. Nominations will be received in June and July by email, calling the office or at a board meeting. Only chapter members can make nominations. Ballots will be mailed in August and an ad hoc committee will count returned ballots in early September. Those newly elected will be inducted at the September board meeting and will take office October 1, 2019. Please note the requirements for nominations for board membership as per the Policies and Procedures of the PVA Central Florida Chapter; "Any voting member running for Chapter Office must be certified through the National PVA Secretary prior to being placed on the official ballot. The certification process includes proof of citizenship, proof of Active Duty Service in the Armed Forces and Character of Discharge other than Dishonorable (DD 214), and medical proof of Spinal Cord Injury or Disease. Documents are to be submitted to the CFPVA Secretary

for review and examination before they are forwarded to the National PVA Secretary for member certification. Any prospective Board Member or Officer is required to attend six (6) meetings prior to submitting his/her name to run for a potential Board membership or officer position. A prospective Board Member/Officer may excuse themselves from two (2) meetings due to serious medical complications. These conditions will apply for each fiscal year. Those desiring office should have a working understanding of the Chapter's Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and the eight mandated programs required by National. The materials will be made available."

This year we need to elect the executive offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions are for two-year terms. Nominations are being accepted now. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, you may do so by sending an email to johnd@pvacf.org, calling the office or making the nomination at a board meeting. The next scheduled board meeting is July 25, 2019. Job descriptions for each of these positions can be found on the chapter website at www.pvacf.org. Go to About Us, then Policies and Procedures, then Governance and scroll down to each position.



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Play-Doh was originally a wallpaper cleaner. Back when people burned coal to heat their homes, they got rid of soot by rolling the dough across their walls. The advent of vinyl wallpaper and new heating methods rendered the dough useless- so they changed the product name and started selling it as a toy.





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Sports



Nine members of the Central Florida Chapter PVA competed in the 39th annual NVWG held in Louisville KY. Athletes competed in over 19 sports including Air Rifle, Archery, Boccia, Basketball, Field and Track events, Hand cycle, 9 ball, power slalom, power

lifting, slalom, bowling, softball and table tennis. The team challenge was power lifting,



shot put, air rifle, sled pull and rock climbing. The PVACF had a strong showing to defend the championship title but the competition was stiff. The PVACF chapter sent two novice athletes and two novice coaches. As a first time attendee at the games, I was personally moved and amazed at what the games offer to the participants. Adaptive Sports and

Liesl Begnwad

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up doors to health, friendship, happiness and fullness of life. The games go far beyond Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. I witnessed personal records being made and broken. Along with the competition came tears and smiles, each athlete learning and growing. The best moments came when the athletes were teaching, coaching, supporting and cheering for one another. Congratulations to all our PVACF members and their accomplishments and medals! Until next year, keep on training and see you in Portland, Oregon!





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