



Paralyzed Veterans
of America

Central Florida Chapter

WHEELS IN MOTION

January 2020



Happy New Year!



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**Paralyzed Veterans of America
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Email: office@pvacf.org

Chapter Officers 2019-2021

President..... Steve Kirk
Vice President..... Sean Gibbs
Treasurer..... Brian Terwilliger
Secretary..... Jimmy Green
National Director..... Craig Enenbach
Chapter Hospital Liaison..... Tim Wolfe

Executive Director John DeMauro

Elected Board Members

Craig Enenbach..... Class of 2020
Tim Wolfe..... Class of 2020
Dan Guppenberger..... Class of 2021
David Rountree..... Class of 2021
Roger Sack..... Class of 2022
Ken Weas..... Class of 2022

National Liaison Vice President: Robert Thomas

Appointees

Editor..... Steve Kirk
Membership/Vol Coordinator..... Brenda Ciccarello
Office Manager..... Joanne Poretti

National Service Officers:

Earnest Hill (386) 755-3016
David Ray (407)-631-1835

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Mission Statement

Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida, is a congressionally chartered veteran's service organization that provides a platform of advocacy, education and research, communication, adaptive sports and recreation for veterans paralyzed as a result of spinal cord injury or dysfunction, in an effort to afford them with the highest quality of healthcare and life experiences.





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Members we need your help. We are rebuilding our Chapter Hospital Liaison program and need information from you all. If you have experienced an incident, good or bad, concerning events at Tampa VA, we need to hear about them. The best way to

let us know is by email or hard copy letter. These methods give us data we can easily show to the people who can champion to make things better. You can e-mail them to Timw@pvacf.org, or stevek@pvacf.org. Thanks, we hope to hear from you.

National Director's Report

Craig F. Enenbach

The Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) held its 2019 Fall Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting on November 15 - 17, 2019 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Representing the Central Florida Chapter was National Director Craig Enenbach, President Steve Kirk, Executive Director John DeMauro, Roger Sack, Tim Wolfe, David Rountree, Brian Terwilliger, David Ray and Louis Irwin. David Rountree led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Roger Sack provided an outstanding rendition of our National Anthem. National President David Zurfluh gave an opening address followed by a very detailed report by the National Treasurer, Tom Wheaton. Next came the Report of the Executive Director Carl Blake and his staff followed by a lengthy question and answer session. A slate of 14 Resolutions were proposed and eight passed.

NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTER	STATUS	VOTE COUNT	MY VOTE
19-N-1	Including PVA Publications in the Anita Bloom Committee	Executive Committee	Passed	32-0-0	Yes
19-N-2	Modify PVA "Speedy" Award Selection Process	Gateway Chapter	Passed	32-0-0	Yes
19-N-3(S)	Revisions to PVA's Investment Policy	Executive Committee	Passed	32-0-0	Yes
19-N-4	Altering Composition and Function of the Finance Committee	Executive Committee	Passed	32-0-0	Yes
19-N-5	Membership Meeting Requirements	Executive Committee	Failed	21-11-0	No
19-N-6	Outside Membership on Chapter Board of Directors	Keystone Chapter	Failed	14-18-0	No
19-N-7	At-Large Member Assignment to Chapters	Keystone Chapter	Withdrawn		
19-N-8	Modify Proof of Citizenship for PVA Membership	Gateway Chapter	Passed	31-1-0	Yes
19-N-9	Membership Documentation	Cal-Diego Chapter	Passed	32-0-0	Yes
19-N-10	Announcement of the Poster and Poem Contest	Keystone Chapter	Passed	32-0-0	Yes
19-N-11	Retention and Transfer of Member Application Documents	Keystone Chapter	Withdrawn		
19-N-12	Update PVA Publications Policy	Gateway Chapter	Passed	32-0-0	Yes
19-N-13(S)	Membership Demographics	Cal-Diego Chapter	Failed	4-27-1	No
19-N-14	Enhanced PVA Logo	Keystone Chapter	Failed	2-30-0	No

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 202-549-2313 or cfevette@gmail.com.



This is the time of year when I give a rundown of what I did as your President. Suffice it to say, like all of us, there seems to be more to do, and much less time to do it. The older we get the faster the year goes by. I had the usual number of Chapter Board Meetings, National Meetings, Local City Meetings, Committee Meetings and a number of inner office Meetings. Here are a few of the highlights:

We hosted the Holiday Party here at the Chapter and learned we had out grown our facility. So, this year, when you read this, it will have taken place at the Lake Mary Marriott.

I hope you have taken the time to visit our Website. It is running smoothly and we are proud of how it looks and operates. We endeavor to keep posting new information to keep it as current as possible in these quick changing times.

Our major fund raising effort, the Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was a success thanks in most part to John and Joanne working above and beyond everyone else.

We have and are still trying to, construct a separate building for additional storage and space for sports activities.

As we have done in the past, we held our Spring Fling here at the Chapter in April. We had a moderate turn out, but would like to make it much larger. If you all would like to see something different, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Roger and Liesl worked very hard with our members to prepare them to go to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Some of us drove some traveled by air. The Chapter will do the same this year. This year's Games will be held in Portland OR.

We did some roof repair and installed large downspouts and screens that were added to gutters on the rear and front of the building. Later we had to do more. It now appears we have things fixed and have funded a continuing maintenance program.

The Chapter proposed a resolution which was presented by Craig Enenbach, tasking National PVA to find out who takes care of PVA members when NSO's are on extended breaks. The motion passed and we now have a number that can be called. During weekends and days when PVA offices are closed, any member (or veteran) needing assistance can contact the PVA Veterans Benefits Hotline to reach the National organization at (866) 734-0857. Information received through the hotline will be forwarded to the appropriate program manager for action. Craig was also re-elected for another three year term as the Chapter's National Director.

A number of members along with myself dressed up and attended Center for Independent Living Gala. Then a few weeks later another group went to the Chair the Love venue.

John worked and complied with the Better Business Bureau requests, by sending all documents that were essential to them. The Better Business Bureau said we are compliant in 19 out of 20 standards. We are as close as we can be and it was decided we would not pursue this any further.

The Chapter paid for and set up two computers for Gaming in the multi-purpose room at the chapter. It works quite well. All we need is for you, our members, to come on down and enjoy them.

As you know we held elections. I would like to re-iterate we had 45 ballots returned. And the Results were President: Steve Kirk, VP: Sean Gibbs, Treasurer: Brian Terwilliger, Secretary: Jimmy Green, BOD: Roger Sack and Ken Weas. Thanks for those who sent in their ballots.

Another of John's achievements was the Reeve Foundation Grant: A 20k grant for a hand cycle program was received. 3 hand cycles have been purchased with more to come. Once again I urge any and all to come to the Chapter and take advantage of these items we are providing.

I would like to take this space and thank you for your support in me as your President. I couldn't have done it without you.

Steve Kirk



Thank You For Your Service

AAA is Proud to Support
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Central Florida



Welcome to 2020! Last year was another good year for the Central Florida Chapter. We were able to send nine members, six caregivers and two coaches to the National Veteran Wheelchair Games in Louisville, KY at no cost to them. For two of those that went to the Games, it was their first time ever. One has been injured 8 years and the other for over 20 years and the oldest member attending was 71 years old. Proof that you are never too old for the Games. Preparation

for the Games started in January with people practicing bowling and swimming. Boccia is increasingly becoming one of the most popular events at the Games and it is something everyone can do. The Chapter has the equipment and a court laid out in its multipurpose room for anyone to practice throughout the year. We also have power lifting equipment set out and ready to anyone interested as well as a small slalom course. Additionally we have an air gun range for practicing your target shooting and we have arranged with the Polk County Skeet and Trap Club for our members, who are interested, to shoot at the club. All you need to do is contact us and let us arrange for your going there to shoot. We encourage any of our members to let us know if they are interested in going to the Games this year in Portland, OR July 3 – 8. The Chapter has budgeted a significant amount of money to send those who want to go (and their caregivers, if necessary) but you must let the office know of that interest early in the year. Advocacy is important to each of our members and in addition to being a part of the Florida Veterans Council, the Orange County Veterans Council, the Orlando Veterans Council and the Seminole County Association of Veterans Affairs Council; we attended the Paralyzed Veterans of America Advocacy Seminar in Washington DC every year. This past year we visited 18 different legislatures' offices advocating on behalf of our membership. This year Chapter Vice President Sean Gibbs and I will be "on the hill" seeking support for priority bills that can benefit each of our members. We had a successful "Spring Fling" in April of 2019. April is PVA Awareness month and each year we host an event at the chapter, where we have large blow up water slides, games, t-shirt painting, music, food and fun for all people of all ages. We invite all of our members to attend and bring their families and their extended families (caregivers, their family, friends and neighbors). This is a great time to introduce PVA to people you know and to reunite with your peers. This year's event will be held, here at the chapter, on April 11, 2020 from 11am-3pm.

Also on April 25, 2020 we will have our 6th Annual Jerry Dugan Memorial Charitable Golf Tournament at the Metro West Country Club in Orlando, FL. We have

raised nearly \$124,000 in the last five years through this tournament that memorializes Jerry Dugan, a faithful chapter member who always made PVA Central Florida a priority in his life and served the chapter well right up to his passing in September of 2014.

In September, we had six members and one caregiver participate in the Champions Ride for Charities. Champions Ride for Charities is a local cycling event that takes place in Lake Mary, Florida and is hosted by the Rotary Club of Lake Mary. The event begins at the National Offices of AAA (AAA is a major sponsor of PVACF) with over 400- riders. Our group that rides and a booth that we man, allows us to introduce to the cycling community, hand cycling and a way in which people with paralysis can ride side by side with able bodied participants.

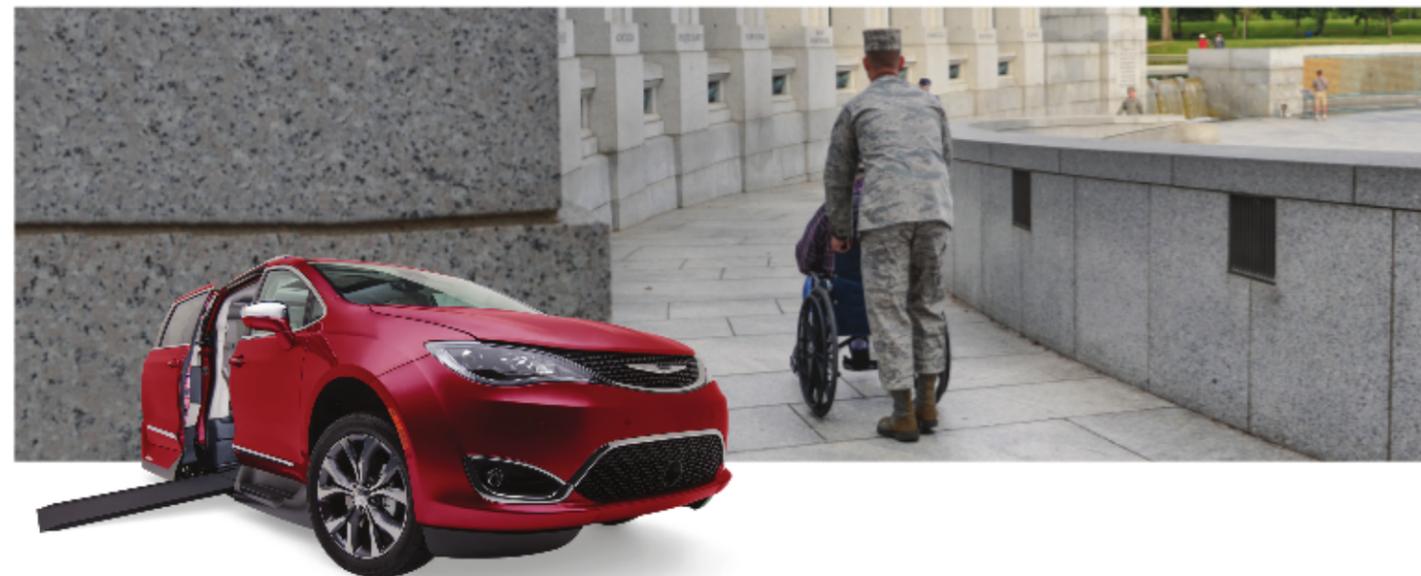
Finally, in November, at the National Fall Board Meeting of PVA we were recognized as being guilty of one of the "PVA Chapter Worst Practices" because we have articles in our newsletter "which note trivia not tied to the direct or indirect relevance of benefitting members". Chapter President Steve Kirk, Chapter National Director Craig Enenbach and I adamantly defended those articles stating, "Our membership enjoys those articles and tell us so all the time." Now the last thing we want to do is "waste" space and resources (it costs us approximately 15 cents a page to print and mail our newsletter). So, if you (our members) would prefer that we keep the subjects of our articles only on issues that have "direct or indirect relevance of benefitting members" (i.e. "The benefits of digital stimulation to assist in bowel care"), let us know and we will "cease and desist in writing articles about subjects such as "Babe Ruth, or Pocahontas, or Annie Oakley, or the Hubble telescope, or any other "trivia not tied to the direct or indirect relevance of benefitting members". Now, just to be totally transparent, we do include relevant information in our newsletter but we can't see the value in printing articles that have already been printed and sent to you in other publications (such as: Sports and Spokes or the PN magazine). When we hear of or see something that we believe will benefit our members, we put it on our website (www.pvacf.org) and in our newsletter. Additionally, we put National's sports schedule, photos of our members participating in events and announcements of upcoming events, in the newsletter. Our goal is to make the newsletter interesting enough for you to look forward to receiving it every month and wanting to read it from cover to cover. We are here to serve you and we want our newsletter to give you what you are looking for in a newsletter. So, if those at the National office who believe we are not giving you a quality newsletter are correct, please let us know and we will change our format. Until then, we will keep on doing what we do in 2020!



Happy New Year!

John DeMauro

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PAVING ACCESS FOR VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

By Lauren Lobrano, Director, PAVE Program

Paralyzed Veterans of America's veterans' employment program, PAVE – Paving Access for Veterans Employment - was launched in 2007 to ensure that PVA members, their spouses, and caregivers, have access to meaningful employment, educational, and volunteer opportunities. Our team of certified vocational rehabilitation counselors and employment analysts provide high-touch, one-on-one assistance to guide veterans through the process.

Studies have found that there are significant benefits for individuals who are engaged, including improved quality of life, enhanced self-confidence, expanded social network, a sense of community and increased income for those who are employed.

PAVE staff are specially trained to work with veterans receiving Social Security Disability Insurance and other government benefits. We work hand in hand with PVA national service officers to take into consideration other benefits a veteran may be receiving from the VA.

Despite the positive attributes of regular engagement, veterans with significant service-connected disabilities are not currently seeking employment. More than 62% of veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 60% or higher either struggle with or opt out of joining the civilian workforce. When layered with the added challenges of managing a new injury or medical diagnosis, many may feel that the barriers to gainful employment

are overwhelming. PVA's PAVE program Counselors and Analysts continue to be leaders in dispelling the myths and challenging stereotypes of those with disabilities. Working with dedicated employment partners, we will continue to create opportunities for quality and sustainable careers for those with significant and catastrophic injuries.

PVA Member Sean Ferry recently found success returning to work through the PAVE program. In late 2018, Sean decided that he was ready to pursue employment opportunities again. He did not have a great deal of success working on his own and reached out to the PAVE program in spring of 2019. Sean worked one-on-one with PAVE Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Genia Hachenberg, M.S., CRC, to explore his areas of interest and review the necessary accommodations at work. In September, Sean returned to work for the first time since his injury and shared the following about his experience working with PAVE:

“After my injury in 2014, my life was turned upside down. It was not easy to transition from being a Mechanical Engineer, and a rather avid hunter and fisherman, into a wheelchair dependent individual. After five years of unemployment, I turned to the PAVE program and its employees for assistance in getting back into the workforce. They were a great asset to me and a resource that helped me get my job and gain back my independence and self-confidence. Thank you PAVE.”

If you, your spouse, or caregiver, are interested in more information about Paralyzed Veterans of America's PAVE program, please reach out to PAVE Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Genia Hachenberg at (202) 304-8544 or GeniaH@pva.org. You may also visit our website: www.pva.org/PAVE.org.



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Courage to change the things I can and the WISDOM to know the difference.

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Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida

6th Annual

Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday April 25, 2020

MetroWest Golf Club Orlando



Registration 8:00 AM Shot Gun Start 9:00 AM

Registration: \$125.00 per golfer (Veterans \$100)

Foursomes: \$440

Cart & Green Fee, Range Balls, unlimited drinks during play (beer, soda & water)

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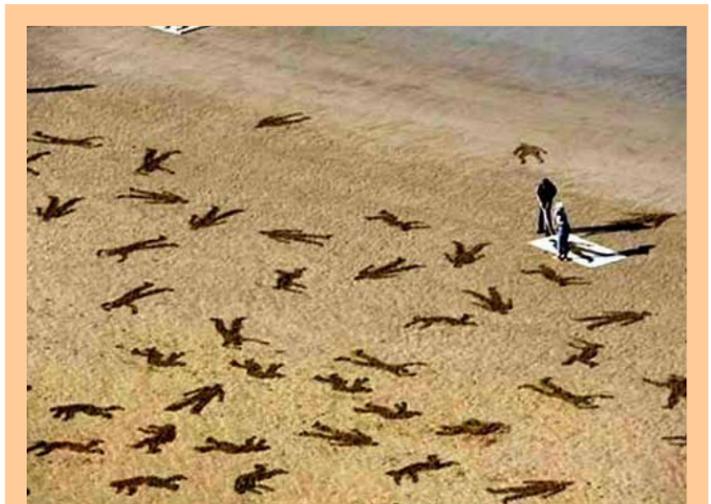
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This year, British artist Jamie, accompanied by numerous volunteers, took to the beaches of Normandy with rakes and stencils in hand to etch 9,000 silhouettes representing fallen people into the sand.

Titled The Fallen 9000, the piece is meant as a stark visual reminder of those who died during the D-Day beach landings at Arromanches on June 6th, 1944 during WWII.

The original team consisted of 60 volunteers, but as word spread nearly 500 additional local residents arrived to help with the temporary installation that lasted only a few hours before being washed away by the tide.

9,000 Fallen Soldiers Etched into the Sand on Normandy Beach to Commemorate Peace Day.



NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW!

During weekends and days when PVA offices are closed, any member (or veteran) needing assistance can contact the: PVA Veterans Benefits Hotline to reach the National organization at **(866) 734-0857**. Information received through the hotline will be forwarded to the appropriate program manager for action.

Other numbers that you may need:

Tampa VA (After Hours & Holidays)	813-903-3600
SCI Admission Coordinator Alan Alcantara, RN	813-972-2000 ex 2200
SCI Center Main Office to leave a message:	813-972-7515
SCI Main Fax	813-978-5913
SCI Clinic RNs	813-972-2200 ex 4545
Main Outpatient Pharmacy	813-903-4884

Did You Know

UPS trucks don't turn left. Their policy to never turn across oncoming traffic, even when it shortens their routes, reduces traffic collisions and delays, so they plan routes that avoid left turns whenever possible. This reportedly cuts their number of trucks by 1,100, saves 10 million gallons of fuel and emits 22,000 fewer tons of carbon dioxide per year, and lowers the annual distance traveled by 28.5 million miles.

Galapagos batfish have frowny-faces and giant red lips. They also use their fins as feet to walk around the sea floor, because they're terrible swimmers.



Did You Know

Thomas Jefferson was afraid of public speaking. He had terrible stage fright, added accent marks to his copy of the Declaration of Independence in case he ever had to read it aloud, and often faked illness to avoid giving speeches. He was so opposed to public attention that about 20 pages into his own autobiography, he complains that he's already tired of talking about himself.

A pill bug (aka roly poly) isn't a bug at all. Though commonly referred to as such, pill bugs are actually land-dwelling crustaceans that are much more closely related to shrimp and crayfish than to any kind of insect.



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