



WHEELS IN MOTION

July 2021



Golfers *Pages 6-9*

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**Paralyzed Veterans of America
Central Florida Chapter
2711 S. Design Ct.
Sanford, FL 32773-8120
Phone (407) 328-7041
Fax: (407) 328-7139**

July Board Meeting on **zoom** is July 8th 10:30 AM.

Website: pvacf.org
Email: office@pvacf.org

Chapter Officers 2019-2021

President..... Steve Kirk
Treasurer..... Brian Terwilliger
SecretaryJimmy Green
National DirectorCraig Enebach

Executive Director John DeMauro
Office Manager Joanne Poretti

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David Rountree Class of 2021
Roger Sack Class of 2022
Ken Weas..... Class of 2022
Tim Wolfe..... Class of 2023
Eddie Hawks Class of 2023

National Liaison Vice President: Robert Thomas

Appointees

Editor..... Steve Kirk
Membership/Vol Coordinator Brenda Ciccarello
Government Relations Director Tim Wolfe

National Service Officers:

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

Our 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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First Place

Josh Katsur
James Katsur
Bryan Richardson
Steve Escobar

Second Place

Dave DiMauro
Mike Erickson
David Reese
Dan Spencer



Third Place

Louis Poretti
Eric Bush
John Gryzbala
Jeff Cook



Our 7th Annual Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was a huge success due to the support of so many. The following is a list of our event sponsors.

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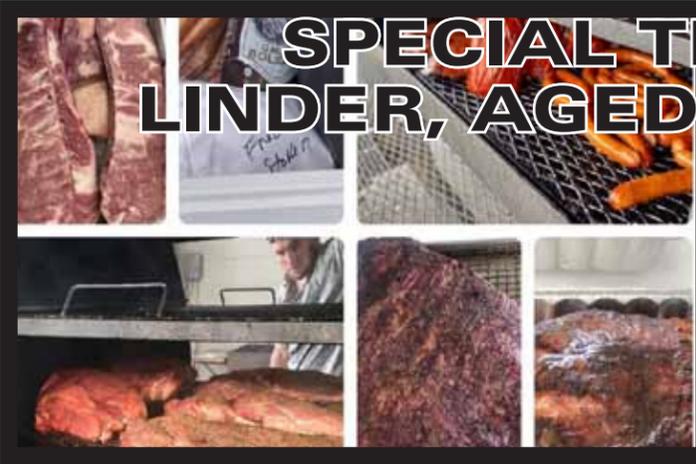
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Our Volunteers





SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MIKE'S BIG BUTT HUT, DEBERARDINI, LINDER, AGED & BUSTER'S BISTRO FOR PROVIDING FOOD & DRINKS!



I recently attended a funeral of a victim of the Covid virus. Covid has killed nearly seven million, but there is a bigger killer. The meager, long-legged insect that annoys, bites, and leaves you with an itchy welt is not just a nuisance it's one of the world's most deadly killers. Spreading diseases such as malaria, dengue, West Nile, yellow fever, Zika, chikungunya, and lymphatic filariasis, the mosquito kills more

people than any other creature in the world.

Adi Utarini had her first of two bouts of dengue fever in 1986, when she was still a medical student. Within a few hours, she spiked a temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit and couldn't stand up, because her knee was shaking so badly. Within a few days, she was in the hospital. That experience is common in Utarini's home city of Yogyakarta, Indonesia: It has one of the highest rates of dengue in the country, which itself has one of the highest rates of dengue in the world. Thanks to her work, that might soon change.

Dengue fever is caused by a virus that infects an estimated 390 million people every year, and kills about 25,000; the World Health Organization has described it as one of the top 10 threats to global health. Utarini and her colleagues have spent the past decade turning these insects from highways of dengue into cul-de-sacs. They've loaded the mosquitoes with a bacterium called Wolbachia, which prevents them from being infected by dengue viruses. Wolbachia spreads very quickly: If a small number of carrier mosquitoes are released into a neighborhood, almost all of the local insects should be dengue-free within a few months. It's as if Utarini's team vaccinated a few individuals against a disease, and soon after the whole population had herd immunity.

The World Mosquito Program (WMP), a nonprofit that pioneered this technique, had run small pilot studies in Australia that suggested it could work. Utarini, who co-leads WMP Yogyakarta, has now shown conclusively that it does. Her team released Wolbachia-carrying mosquitoes in parts of Yogyakarta as part of a randomized controlled trial. The results, which were unveiled last year and have now been published, showed that Wolbachia rapidly spread among the local mosquitoes, and reduced the incidence of dengue by 77 percent. "That provides the gold standard of evidence that Wolbachia is a highly effective intervention against dengue," says

Oliver Brady, a dengue expert at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who was not involved in the study. "It has the potential to revolutionize mosquito control."

The trial's results were so encouraging that the researchers have since released Wolbachia-carrying mosquitoes over all of central Yogyakarta—a 32-square-kilometer zone that's home to more than 400,000 people. They're now expanding into the densest surrounding provinces, aiming to protect 4 million people by the end of 2022. If they succeed, they should be able to prevent more than 10,000 dengue infections every year, Katherine Anders of the WMP said. And the team is optimistic enough that it's daring to think about an even grander goal: eliminating dengue from the city altogether.

"Dengue is a particularly challenging virus," according to Natalie Dean, a statistician at the University of Florida. It comes in four distinct versions, or "serotypes." People who recover from one serotype can still be infected by the other three; if that happens, they're more likely to develop severe and potentially lethal symptoms. For that reason, the only existing dengue vaccine also increases the risk of severe dengue in people who've never been infected, and is recommended only for people who've already encountered the disease.

Then there's the mosquito. *Aedes aegypti* was once a forest insect confined to sub-Saharan Africa, where it drank blood from a wide variety of animals. But at some point, one lineage evolved into an urban creature that prefers towns over forests, and humans over other animals. Carried around the world aboard slave ships, *Aedes aegypti* has thrived. It is now arguably the most effective human-hunter on the planet, its senses acutely attuned to the carbon dioxide in our breath, the warmth of our bodies, and the odors of our skin. The viruses it carries have also thrived, including those responsible for Zika, chikungunya, yellow fever, and dengue. (Malaria, the deadliest mosquito disease, is caused by a parasite that's spread by a different mosquito species.) "Dengue is one of the few infectious diseases that has increased year-on-year over the past few decades," says Brady. *Aedes aegypti* can be poisoned with insecticides, but quickly evolves resistance. The standing water in which it breeds can be removed, but the mosquitoes always come back. The world needed something new.



Wolbachia was first discovered in 1924, in a different species of mosquito. At first, it seemed so unremarkable that scientists ignored it for

decades. But starting in the 1980s, they realized that it has an extraordinary knack for spreading. It passes down mainly from insect mothers to their children, and it uses many tricks to ensure that infected individuals are better at reproducing than uninfected ones. To date, it exists in at least 40 percent of all insect species, making it one of the most successful microbes on the planet.

But *Aedes aegypti* isn't one of Wolbachia's natural hosts. Scott O'Neill, the founder of the WMP, spent decades trying to get the latter to stably infect the former, and his team finally succeeded in 2006. Five years later, it released 300,000 of its special mosquitoes into two suburbs of Cairns, Australia. Within four months, 80 to 90 percent of the local mosquitoes were full of Wolbachia. Dengue cases fell, but it was hard to say if that was due to the mosquitoes or some other factor. To prove that Wolbachia could really make a dent in dengue, the team needed to set up a randomized controlled trial. It did so in Yogyakarta.

First, WMP's Indonesian chapter spent years earning public trust. The Wolbachia approach is unorthodox, and involves releasing live mosquitoes into people's backyards. Beyond setting up community meetings and WhatsApp hotlines, "we opened up our entomology lab for people to see the technology for themselves," Utarini reported. By the time the researchers started their trial in 2017, their surveys showed that the endeavor had support from 88 percent of the public. The team divided a large portion of the city into 24 zones and released Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes in half of them. Almost 10,000 volunteers helped distribute egg-filled containers to local backyards. Within a year, about 95 percent of the *Aedes* mosquitoes in the 12 release zones harbored Wolbachia.

From January 2018 onward, the team checked on people in the city who showed up to primary-care clinics with a fever, and tested them for dengue. This continued until March 2020, when the pandemic brought the trial to a premature end—but fortunately not before it had enough participants. The team found that just 2.3 percent of feverish people who lived in the Wolbachia release zones had dengue, compared with 9.4 percent in the control areas. Wolbachia also seemed to work against all four dengue serotypes, and reduced the number of dengue hospitalizations by 86 percent.

Even then, these already remarkable numbers are likely to be underestimates. The mosquitoes moved

around, carrying Wolbachia into the 12 control zones where no mosquitoes were released. And people also move: They might live in a Wolbachia release zone but be bitten and infected with dengue elsewhere. Both of these factors would have worked against the trial, weakening its results. That those results exist, let alone that they are so impressive, is surprising. "We don't have strong evidence of how effective most [dengue] interventions are," says Gonzalo Vazquez-Prokopec of Emory University, who studies vector-borne diseases. "When you see trucks spraying insecticides, we don't know how many dengue cases that prevents."

The Wolbachia method does have a few limitations. The bacterium takes months to establish itself, so it can't be "deployed to contain an outbreak today," according to Vazquez-Prokopec. As the Yogyakarta trial showed, it works only when Wolbachia reaches a prevalence of at least 80 percent, which requires a lot of work and strong community support. And the dengue viruses could eventually evolve some way of resisting Wolbachia. Still, Wolbachia seems to block dengue infections in a variety of ways. It out competes the viruses for the nutrients they need to reproduce, and also boosts the mosquito's immune system. That should make it harder for the viruses to get around the Wolbachia blockade.

The method has other benefits too. It is self-amplifying and self-perpetuating: If enough Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes are released initially, the bacterium should naturally come to dominate the local population, and stay that way. Unlike insecticides, Wolbachia isn't toxic, it doesn't kill beneficial insects (or even mosquitoes), and it doesn't need to be reapplied, which makes it very cost-effective. An analysis by Brady's team showed that it actually saves money by preventing infections.

"There's no reason to think that the public-health benefits we're seeing in Yogyakarta would not accrue elsewhere," Anders said. "The science is there." The WMP is now working in 11 countries and territories. So far, 7 million people live under the protective blanket of Wolbachia, and the organization's goal is to cover at least 75 million by 2025, and at least half a billion by 2030. Those people won't be protected against just dengue. Wolbachia also seems to work against the other diseases that *Aedes aegypti* carries, including Zika and yellow fever. It could transform this mosquito from one of the most dangerous species to humans into just another biting nuisance.

Steve Kirk



Ready or not here they come. Hurricane season began June 1, 2021 and runs through November 30, 2021. Are you ready? The National Hurricane Center is predicting that there will be 18 named storms this hurricane season. As of today (the day I am writing this article), there have already been two named storms. The latest (Bill) has a 30% chance of developing into a tropical storm.

Living in Florida means having great weather during those brutal winters up north but it also means living with the threat of hurricanes. Being prepared is essential to living in paradise! Being prepared for a person with paralysis is even more essential.

First, know your hurricane facts and understand common terms used during hurricane forecasts. Storm conditions can vary on the intensity, size and even the angle which the storm approaches your area, so it is vital you understand what the forecasters and news reporters are telling you.

Tropical Depressions are cyclones with winds of 38 mph. Tropical Storms vary in wind speeds from 39-73 mph while Hurricanes have winds 74 mph and greater. Typically, the upper right quadrant of the storm (the center wrapping around the eye) is the most intense portion of the storm. The greatest threats are damaging winds, storm surge and flooding.

Here are some important terms you may hear:

- Tropical Storm Watch: Tropical storm conditions are possible in the area.
- Hurricane Watch: Hurricane conditions are possible in the area. Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.
- Tropical Storm Warning: Tropical storm conditions are expected in the area.
- Hurricane Warning: Hurricane conditions are expected in the area. Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of tropical storm force winds.
- Eye: Clear, sometimes well-defined center of the storm with calmer conditions.
- Eye Wall: Surrounding the eye, contains some of the most severe weather of the storm with

the highest wind speed and largest precipitation.

- Rain Bands: Bands coming off the cyclone that produce severe weather conditions such as heavy rain, wind and tornadoes.
- Storm Surge: An often underestimated and deadly result of ocean water swelling as a result of a land falling storm, and quickly flooding coastal and sometimes areas further inland.

During a watch, prepare your home and evacuation plan in case a warning is issued. During a warning, carefully follow the directions of officials, and immediately leave the area if advised to do so. In the event of an Extreme Wind Warning/Advisory, which means that extreme sustained winds of 115 mph or greater are expected to begin within an hour, immediately take shelter in the interior portion of a well-built structure.

Predicting a tropical cyclone's path can be challenging; there are many global and local factors that come into play. The storm's size and path can directly influence what sort of wind patterns guide, enhance or hinder its growth, and vice versa! Forecasters have computers that take huge amounts of data and try to predict where the storm will go and usually can calculate 2-3 days out fairly accurately. This is where you hear the terms computer models and spaghetti models being used. Generally, the forecast track or path is given with the average consensus of these models. The National Hurricane Center has the most up-to-date information on tropical cyclone developments, forecasts and weather alerts, discussions analyzing the data and more.

Making a plan ahead of a storm can be a lifesaving decision. Depending upon where you live (in a costal property or inland) and the intensity and direction of the storm, will often determine whether you vacate your property or not. It has been quite some time since the Central Florida coast has been directly hit by a major hurricane. As a result, many of its residents have become complacent and ignore the warnings, when asked to evacuate. Finding a place to evacuate to may be difficult for our chapter members.

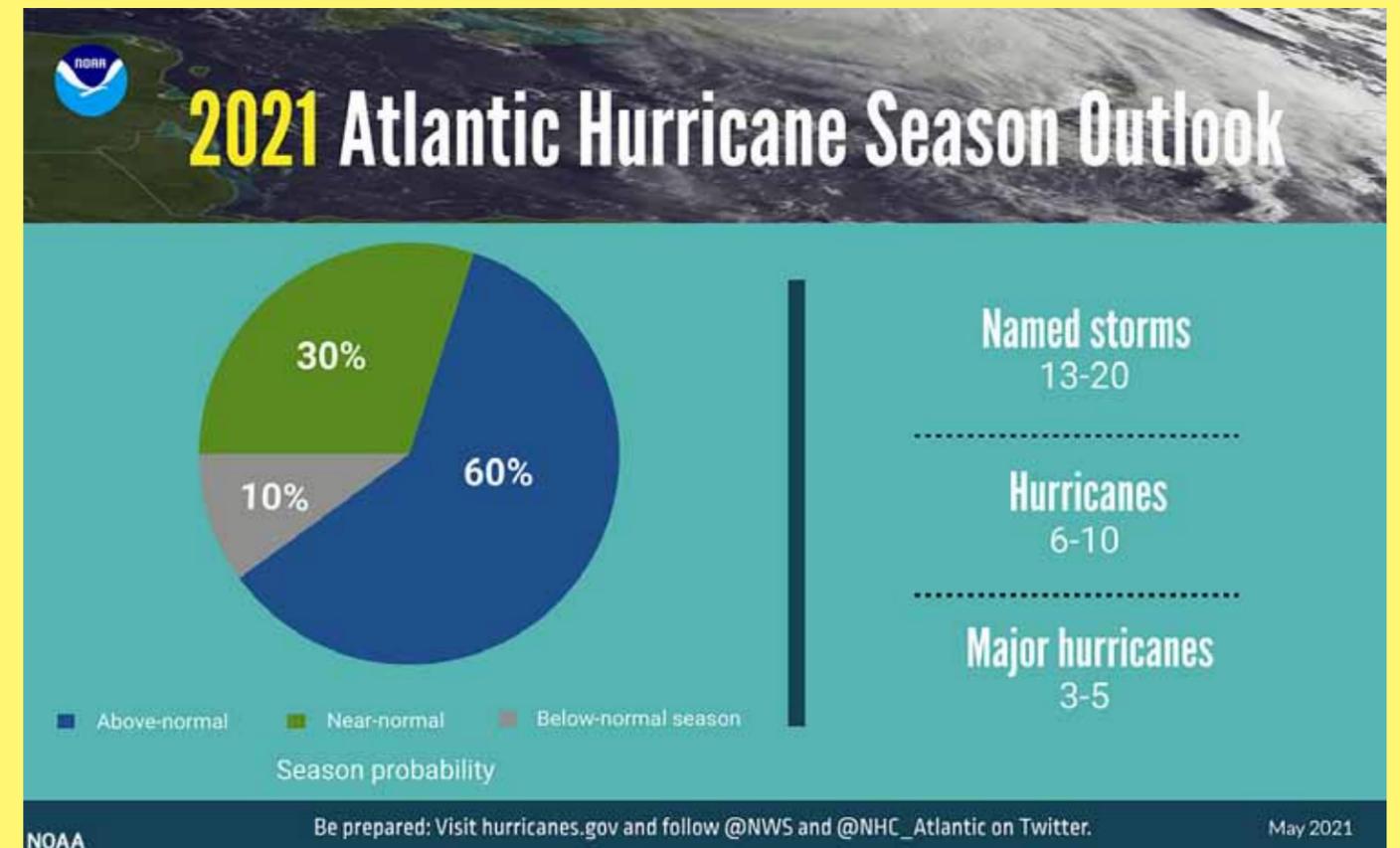
It is important to create a kit of supplies that you could take with you if you are forced to evacuate. This kit will also be useful if you are able to stay in your home, but are still affected by the storm, such as through the loss of power. One common trend seen when hurricanes are approaching is a wide-spread panic. When this happens, people rush in large numbers to get all the supplies they think they need. However, if you prepare your kit ahead of time, you can alleviate a lot of the potential

stress of a very chaotic situation. You should create your kit in a bag that you can easily take with you. Some recommended items to include are:

- Non-perishable food (enough to last at least 3 days)
- Water (enough to last at least 3 days)
- First-aid kit (include any prescription medication you may need)
- Personal hygiene items and sanitation items
- Flashlights (have extra batteries on hand)
- Battery operated radio (again, have extra batteries)
- Waterproof container with cash and important documents
- Manual can opener
- Lighter or matches
- Books, magazines, games for recreation
- Special needs items: These are going to be specific to you and your injury level
- Cooler and ice packs

- A plan for evacuation and for if family members are separated
- A generator for emergency power. This is something that you would need if you decide to ride out the storm at home. The chapter has five generators that it can lend out to members in need on a first come first served basis. Call the office if you need one after a storm.

Florida law requires special needs shelters be available for people with special needs according to chapter 64-3 of the [Florida Administrative Code](#). The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Preparedness and Response administers a statewide Special Needs Shelter Program to assist County Health Departments in addressing the special medical needs of people in their community. Special Needs Shelters are designed to meet the needs of persons who require assistance that exceeds services provided at a general population shelter. To find a special needs shelter near you go to <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/disaster-response-resources/spns-index.html>



John DeMauro



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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 {two board members will be rotating off the board (Danny Guppenberger and David Rountree). However, both can be nominated for re-election and can serve again, if nominated and elected. The two board positions are for three years (from October of 2021 through September of 2024).

Board Executive Committee positions are also open this year. The positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are two-year positions (from October 2021 through September 2023). Nominations will be received no later than July 31, 2021 by email, calling the office (follow up with written confirmation) or at a board meeting. Only chapter members can make nominations. Ballots will be mailed to chapter members the first week of August and must be returned by August 31, 2021. An ad hoc committee will count returned ballots before the September Board of Directors Meeting. Those newly elected will be announced and inducted at the September board meeting and will take office October 1, 2021. 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) board 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 mandated programs required by National. The materials will be made available.”

The following members are not eligible for nomination for board membership (because they are currently serving as board members) but are eligible for nomination for the Board Executive Committee positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary: Roger Sack, Ken Weas, Tim Wolfe and James “Eddie” Hawks.

REMEMBER: NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED, IN THE OFFICE BY EMAIL, PHONE CALL (follow up with written confirmation) BY JULY 31, 2021 OR AT THE JULY BOARD MEETING ON JULY 8, 2021.

We will pay you for where you go and what you know!

Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida is ready to pay its members to go out on the town and have fun! And as you do, we want you to tell us how wheelchair accessible your experience was. Go out to dinner, the theatre, a sporting event or any other public place where people eat or are entertained. Report back to us if the facility was accessible, if the staff is receptive to your visit and if you would recommend the establishment to others in wheelchairs.

Here is how this works:

- Go to a restaurant or a place of entertainment and enjoy!
- Send your receipt to us with your name and the name of your guest written on the back side.
- Answer the questions on our questionnaire (**on line at <http://tinyurl.com/wheelsgo>**) or mail the form below to 2711 S Design Court, Sanford, Florida 32773
- Cash your reimbursement check for 100% of what you spent

and enjoy using it again and again (Up to \$500 per year per member/guest).*

This questionnaire (with answers) must be sent with the receipt in order to receive a refund

Where did you go (Name and address of the establishment)?

When did you go (Day of week and time of day)?

Was there adequate handicap parking and was it wheelchair friendly?

Was there a handicap ramp? Was it wide enough?

Was the entrance wheelchair friendly (was the doorway wide enough, was there an automatic door opener for the handicapped)?

Were you received well by the staff?

Was the facility accommodating (restrooms, counter tops, buffet counters, drink stations, etc.)?

Would you recommend the establishment to other PVACF members?

***Please note: we do not pay for alcohol.**



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Upcoming (July) Events PVACF Sports & Recreation

July 4th: (4pm) Canceled Due to Holiday

Bowling & Billiards
Boardwalk Bowling
10749 E. Colonial Dr.
Orlando, FL 32817

PVACF will pay for 2 games of bowling and 3 games of billiards for any active PVACF member and any of their immediate family members or care attendant.

Contact: Sean at (SGibbs8885@gmail.com)

July 7th: (9:30am & 1:30pm)

PVACF Air Rifle Training & Postal Match
PVA Central Florida Office
2711 S. Design Ct. Sanford
Contact: RogerS@PVACF.org

July 8th: (2pm)

PVACF Boccia Practice
PVA Central Florida Office
2711 S. Design Ct. Sanford
Contact: Front Office (407) 328-7041

July 10th: (9am)

Handcycle Practice
Seminole Wekiva trail
8515 Markham Rd., Lake Mary FL 32714
Any level riders welcome. Families welcome. PVACF membership NOT required.
Contact: Sean G. (SGibbs8885@gmail.com)

July 18th: (4pm)

Bowling & Billiards
Boardwalk Bowling
10749 E. Colonial Dr.
Orlando, FL 32817

PVACF will pay for 2 games of bowling and 3 games of billiards for any active PVACF member and any of their immediate family members or care attendant.

Contact: Sean at (SGibbs8885@gmail.com)

July 21st: (9:30am & 1:30pm)

PVACF Air Rifle Training & Postal Match
PVA Central Florida
2711 S. Design Ct. Sanford
Contact: RogerS@PVACF.org

July 22nd: (2pm)

PVACF Boccia Practice
PVA Central Florida Office
2711 S. Design Ct. Sanford
Contact: Front Office (407) 328-7041

July 24th: (9am)

Handcycle Practice
West Orange Trail
501 Crown Point Cross Rd, Winter Garden, FL 34787
Any level riders welcome. Families welcome. PVACF membership NOT required.
Contact: Sean G. (SGibbs8885@gmail.com)

Sean Gibbs

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those in need

GOD, Grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change.
Courage to change the things I can and the WISDOM to know the difference.

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As mankind thinketh in their minds... so they are.

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Pulling Someone's Leg

Meaning: deceive someone playfully; tease someone.

Origin: While there is no evidence to back up these claims, there are two popular theories for the origins of this playful expression, neither of them particularly playful. The first relates to thieves in medieval times, who apparently pulled on the legs of their victims to trip them, and swiftly make off with their booty. The second theory comes from the Tyburn, the principal place of execution in Ye Olde England. It referred to the so-called 'hangers-on' who tugged at the legs of people being hanged to give them a mercifully swift death. Neither of these theories are really plausible however, so the search for the true origin continues.

Let Your Hair Down

Meaning: Behave uninhibitedly.

Origin: It was an important rule between Parisian nobles to wear elaborate hairdos while in public, and some of the looks required hours of long work. Clearly, a moment of taking your hair down after a long day became associated with a relaxing ritual.

To Sell Someone Down The River

Meaning: Betray someone, especially so as to benefit oneself.

Origin: This idiom comes from 19th century, in the Southern states of America. During this period it was already illegal to import slaves, so there would be internal trades where people would ship slaves down the Mississippi river and sell them at the market. For this reason, 'selling someone down the river' symbolizes betraying someone and using them for your own good.

This specifically refers to kidnapping free black people in the north and taking them down the river to sell them into slavery.

Read The Riot Act

Meaning: Give someone a strong warning that they must improve their behavior.

Origin: In 18th century England the Riot Act was a legal document, that was read aloud in front of a crowd bigger than 12 people that were considered a threat to the peace. A public official would read a small part of the Act and order people to leave peacefully within an hour, anyone that remained after one hour was subject to arrest or removal by force.

Paint The Town Red

Meaning: Go out and enjoy oneself flamboyantly.

Origin: There are two versions on how this idiom came to use. First, it is believed that back in 1837 a famous mischief maker known as the 'Marquis of Waterford' had a wild night out with his group of friends, during which they knocked over flower pots, pulled knockers off of doors and even broke windows. One of their biggest acts of vandalism was painting the doors of several homes with red paint. The other version of the story says that the origin of this idiom might have originated from the brothels of the American West, where they referred to drunk men behaving as if the whole town was a red-light district.

Beat About The Bush

Meaning: Discuss a matter without coming to the point.

Origin: Beating about the bush is actually an action performed while hunting, driving birds and other animals out into the open. After this was done others would then catch the animals.

Break The Ice

Meaning: Do or say something to relieve tension or get conversation going in a strained situation or when strangers meet.

Origin: In the old days, commercial ships would often get stuck in frozen rivers during winter time, so smaller ships called "icebreakers" would come to clear a path to shore by breaking the ice. In the 17th century, people began to use the phrase to mean "to reduce tension in a social situation."

More Than You Can Shake A Stick At

Meaning: a large amount or quantity of something.

Origin: This idiom was born when farmers, who waved sticks to herd sheep, would have more sheep than they could control.

Minding Your Ps And Qs

Meaning: Be careful to behave well and avoid giving offence.

Origin: This expression has quite a few theories as to its origin, but our favorite refers to the practice of chalking up a 'tab' of drinks for later payment. The P refers to pints, and the Q is quarts. You would do well to correctly tally up the right amount as not to cause offense, especially a customer with a few beers under their belt! Again, there is little to support this theory other than the correct lettering, but we like it nonetheless.

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PVA Raises ADA Issues to Department of Justice's Disability Rights Section

Through our work with the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Rights Task Force, PVA recently had the opportunity to meet with staff for the Disability Rights Section of the Department of Justice regarding a variety of issues of interest to the disability community. During the meeting, PVA staff specifically expressed the need for renewed enforcement of disability civil rights laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and for regulations governing standards for equipment and furniture under the ADA. In 2017, the Department withdrew pending regulatory action on web access, next generation 911, and accessibility of equipment and furniture, including medical equipment and hotel beds. DOJ officials noted that the Department had recently filed a Statement of Interest in a case pending against Aimbridge Hospitality regarding bed height. The Statement of Interest clarified that where an alleged barrier—the height of a hotel bed—is not addressed by the ADA Standards, the ADA's general nondiscrimination provisions still apply, including making reasonable modifications where necessary to provide goods and services to people with disabilities. To read DOJ's Statement of Interest, [click here](#).

Disability Employment Incentive Act, H.R. 3765, Introduced in House

On June 8, Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced H.R. 3765, the Disability Employment Incentive Act. This is the House companion to S. 630 sponsored by Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA). The measure expands the populations covered by the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to include persons receiving Social Security Disability Insurance and makes long overdue increases in the Accessibility Tax Credit and Architectural Barrier Removal Tax Deduction that can help businesses with pre-1990 buildings upgrade their facilities. PVA has endorsed both bills. To take action on these bills, please [click here](#).

Senate Bill on Paratransit Introduced

On June 10, Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ), introduced legislation to increase accessible transportation for people with disabilities (S.2038). This is the companion piece to H.R. 1697 introduced by Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI). The bill establishes a pilot program for one-stop para-transit services. This would provide transport for eligible recipients to child care and education facilities, banks or ATM stations, pharmacies and or grocery stores.

New Episode of VA Benefits News Available

In the latest episode of VA Benefits News, VA Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Michael Frueh, discusses the impact of the American Rescue Plan on the accessibility of veteran benefits, some of the Veterans Benefit Administration's outreach initiatives and partnerships, and ways VA and veterans service organizations work together to improve benefits delivery.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Available from FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing financial assistance for COVID-related funeral costs incurred after January 20, 2020. If you or someone you know have had COVID-19 burial expenses, [click on the link](#) to learn how to apply.



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