Paralyzed Veterans of America
Minnesota Chapter

NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS
The Minnesota PVA Chapter is actively seeking new members, if you know of a Veteran with a spinal cord injury or disease, please have the Veteran contact the Minnesota PVA Chapter office at 612-467-2263 or 1-800-663-6782 and we will be happy to provide them with a Membership Application to complete. The membership application is also on our website at mnpva.org.
Since our last newsletter, a lot has been happening at the chapter. You will notice as you flip thru the pages that we had another handicap accessible van donated to our chapter, who in turn donated it to a MNPVA Member; April is the PVA Awareness Month and the chapter held its annual bowling event; Advocacy Director Todd Kemery was recognized by National PVA for the Cliff Crase Award for Professionalism, and finally the donation received from the Carlson School of Management which is featured on the front page.

On February 21st the Carlson School of Business Management held its annual Carlson 4 Community Charity Auction at the TCF Football Stadium on the campus of the University of Minnesota. The Minnesota PVA was the beneficiary for this year’s event. Many of our members attended the event and had an opportunity to share our experiences with facility, students, and alumnus. Close to 450 people were in attendance for the event. There was a silent auction along with a live auction where they auctioned off many fabulous items. Items such as two Adirondack chairs with the university “M” logo on them that sold for $1,600 and a week’s adventure on a yacht in the U.S. Virgin Islands for $4,500. On March 31st, students from the Carlson School stopped by the MNPVA Office to present to the chapter a check for $30,737.64. This money has enabled the chapter to allocate funds to the following programs:

A. Prosthetic Aid Fund
B. Softball, Trapshooting, Air Rifle/Air Pistol Programs
C. Tickets to the Minnesota Twins Baseball, Minnesota Wild Hockey, and Minnesota Vikings Football
D. Enable the participants to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games reimbursement for the majority of their travel and hotel expenses during the event this year in Dallas, TX.

A huge thank you goes out to the Carlson School of Business Management for selecting the MNPVA as their beneficiary for 2015!

In February, the MNPVA received a phone call from Gail (Sue) Sundvall saying that her husband passed away on January 9, 2015 and her family would like to donate their handicap accessible vehicle to the MNPVA. Her late husband, Martin, better known as “Zooner” was a chapter member and thought their vehicle could be donated to a fellow chapter member who was in need of this type of vehicle. Upon accepting this generous donation, we contacted MNPVA member Ollie Anderson, from Mankato who had been in need of such a vehicle. Ollie came to the MNPVA Office to accept the donated van and he was very appreciative of such a wonderful gift. The chapter wants to thank Sue Sundvall and her family for donating their van to the MNPVA.

April was PVA Awareness Month. This year we held our 4th annual bowling event at the Brunswick Bowl in Blaine, MN. Many of our regular bowlers attended this event along with some new Veterans that gave it a try. Lunch was served after everyone had a chance to knock down some pins. Thanks to Brunswick Bowl who opened their doors early just for out group and to the volunteers that made this event a success.
Van donated by the family of MNPVA member Martin “Zooner” Sundvall
From Left to Right: MNPVA President Ken Klein, van recipient MNPVA member Ollie Anderson, MNPVA Treasurer John Christensen, MNPVA Board of Directors member David Hallis.

MNPVA Board of Directors member Dale Haugen during our yearly bowling event.
In April I attended the HLO (Hospital Liaison Officer) program which was held in Dallas, TX. At this conference we listened to various speakers who talked about Veterans care and how this important program will benefit not only newly injured Veterans but also Veterans who served and were injured in the past. An HLO’s main function is getting out and talking to Veterans and asking how their VAMC experience has been. We want to hear any complaints so we can report them immediately to the appropriate people. The new Secretary of the VA Bob McDonald, has an open door policy and wants to be informed of any complaints our Veterans have encountered.

This past March, Todd Kemery and I attended the 69th annual PVA National Convention in San Diego, California. During the week long convention we reviewed and passed the annual budget. We discussed and passed new resolutions and elected the National Executive Board. We also elected on new Vice President to the Executive Board, Mr. Hack Albertson from the Kentucky/Indiana Chapter. Hack will be a great asset to the Paralyzed Veterans of America in his new position.

CLIFF CRASE AWARD

Serving in a humble manner that profoundly encourages others, Todd Kemery received the Cliff Crase Award for Professionalism at the recently completed PVA National Convention in San Diego California.

Serving as a Board Member for the Minnesota PVA Chapter for more than 12 years, Kemery is a diplomatic and effective advocate. He is particularly strong in the areas of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Spinal Cord Injury Peers Mentors Program and articulating veterans and disability issues to Minnesota state lawmakers and members of Congress. Additionally, his efforts with coordinating the "mini games" a prelude to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, shows his ability to initiate and maintain working relationships with the Department of Veterans Affairs while also providing an encouraging atmosphere for newly-injured veterans. Kemery's outstanding leadership is considered a big reason the Minnesota Chapter has a favorable partnership with its National Service Officers and the health care professionals and administrators at the Minneapolis Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Besides being a major influence in veteran’s lives, Kemery is a big force in his community. He has helped provide input on the accessibility of Minnesota Twins' games at Target Field, as well as the new home of the Minnesota Vikings. This year, Kemery worked to bring more than 8 miles of accessible trails to Lebanon Hills Park in the Minneapolis area. Todd calls it a "privilege" to help his fellow veterans and notes how grateful he is for the chance to effect change not just for his fellow chapter members, but also for the disabled community as a whole.
Advocacy Director
Todd Kemery

Great news chapter members, after 2 ½ years of supporting a grassroots effort to bring SCI-TBI research grant monies to Minnesota, the Minnesota State House and Senate agreed to include, in the upcoming biennium budget, one million dollars to be awarded through a grant for any number of Minnesota research facilities, including the SCI-TBI team at our Minneapolis VA. Legislative Director, Stephen Thell and I spent the last four months up at the St. Paul Capital knocking on doors and taking meetings to talk on behalf of this initiative. I have to thank chapter member George Bonfe for his help at using his contacts up on the hill. We now have a presence at St. Paul and we look forward to adding our voice to any and all veteran’s issues that would have an impact on our membership. Of course, the PVA prides itself on providing a voice for our catastrophically disabled community be it veteran or civilian. Our initiatives affect all of us who need specialized care. Our chapter will continue with our responsibility in serving you at the state level.

Our next initiative is to focus on a change of policy concerning the wild turkey hunting licensing process. We would like to be able to use our disable veteran turkey license, in more than one zone. Once upon a time there was only a few choices to participate in a disable veteran’s turkey hunt. Most of us went to Camp Ripley for their veterans hunt. There are now more choices to be involved with a hunt. The Dakota County Strutters and Bob Bardwell’s disabled veteran’s turkey hunt, at his Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville, MN, are two newly established disabled veteran hunts, which come to mind. So our goal is to push for the availability to hunt different zones with just one license, if there is a no harvest situation. If you don’t bag a bird up at Ripley, you can use that license, the next weekend, somewhere else. There is precedence in this idea, the disabled veteran’s deer hunt allows for the hunter to use his harvested license, elsewhere in the state.

I am also pleased to announce our chapter has been approached by the Minneapolis Metropolitan Council to continue our input for accessibility throughout, their area of responsibility, the regional parks and trails system. With the new Vikings stadium half way completed and the opening of the St. Paul Lower Town Ballpark, for the St. Paul Saints, our immediate future at creating awareness for accessibility for our wheelchair community, veteran and civilian alike, is headed in an exciting direction.

On the horizon, for our chapter to become involved with future projects, is the Timber Wolves extensive renovation plans for the Target Center. We have already had a first meeting on the plans for renovation. Exciting times ahead, indeed.

For other timely events, I just returned from a National ADA symposium held in Atlanta, Ga. Even though it is mid-May, there was no “Hotlanta” this past week when Stephen and I attended. The weather was very pleasant.

This July is the 25th anniversary for the signing into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is a law that was enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1990. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), authored the bill and was its chief sponsor in the Senate. President George Bush Sr. signed it into law. So this year’s focus was on the beginning of our ADA. The classes that we attended were once again informative and necessary to stay current.
Even after 25 years in existence, ADA continues to evolve and grow. I am reminded of my latest interaction with those that still don’t understand why there is an ADA and how ADA has changed the quality of life for countless numbers of disabled people here in America. I’ve been in the chair for 33 years now and I remember those early days before ADA. The same arguments that were being made against ADA and accessibility rights 25 years ago, are the same arguments and discriminatory comments that were made against the Lebanon Hills Park project, from earlier this year. Those that fought for our quality of life, look to us, the current generation, to keep pushing forward to be included in our own communities. As long as there are those of us that wrestle with disabilities, there will always be a need to teach and speak awareness to those that don’t. Thank goodness there are those now that have never known what it was like Pre ADA. There is a generation that has grown up with door handles not doorknobs and curb cuts not trail blazing downtown, dodging traffic, while looking for a safe section of accessible sidewalk. Remember when priority was to be able to enter a building from the front and not through the service entrance in the back? Shopping isles wide enough to use and public bathrooms that had a large enough stall. Now we are looking at accessible playgrounds for children, park and trails designed for families to enjoy together, accessible camping, picnic pavilions and picnic tables and fishing piers. We are advancing quality of life opportunities and going to the next level. To be all inclusive.

I will close with this, our chapter has the tools and the desire to help change your area of day to day living, if need be. Accessibility is necessary in our own communities. Each of us has the right to go where we need, locally. If there is a need, let us help negotiate a change in the quality of life, in your community. Most of the time, it’s a simple conversation of awareness but if you have already had that polite discussion and still there is no change, let us have a go at that polite conversation and maybe our power of persuasion might accomplish a positive outcome.

Todd Kemery
Advocacy Director

2015 Support our Troops
As I write this article on May 18th the high for today is 45 degrees with a chance of a frost tonight. I am reminding myself that yes it is Spring this is just a temporary setback. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a special program that is a benefit for us and a few other points of interest.

**GreenCare for Troops (GCFT) and SnowCare for Troops (SCFT)**

The Toro Corporation started these programs with contractors to provide free lawn and landscape services to deployed military personnel and now wounded and disabled veterans. GCFT first started as Project EverGreen as a national nonprofit organization that promotes the benefits of green spaces such as yards, parks and neighborhoods.

Its relative to winter is SnowCare for Troops (SCFT) that provides free snow removal services to (like the GCFT) deployed military personnel and wounded and disabled veterans.

The process to get these services is easy and can be done online by doing the following.

Go to **projectevergreen.org**

1. On the website click on Programs scroll down and click on **GreenCare for Troops**.
2. Scroll down and click on **Military Family Sign Up**.
3. Click on **sign up here**.
4. Fill out the Family Sign up Form and submit.

You will receive a confirmation and they will provide contractors in your area to get in contact with. There may be cases that a contractor is not on their registry for your area. Please be patient and you will eventually get connected.

**SCI Research Bill**

Todd Kemery and myself have been working with Minnesota Spinal Chord Injury (MNSCI) and Get Up Stand Up (GU-SU) on getting a bill passed for Spinal Chord Injury Research. We were lobbying with our state lawmakers to get this bill passed with the amount of $8 million annually. On May 16th we received word that the bill was passed! The only downside is we received $1 million for the biannual. It is a good start though, as this is the first time the state has ever done anything like this. This gives us hope for other things in the future. As for the amount of money we can continue to lobby for an increase once we have a working program in place.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

July 26th marks the 25th Anniversary of the ADA of 1990. Since then there has been the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 which was added to the original act and became effective on January 1st 2009. The ADA was originally enacted in public law format and later rearranged and published in the United States Code. The United States Code is divided into titles and chapters that classify laws according to their subject matter.

1. Titles I, II, III and V of the original law is coded in Title 42 Chapter 126 of the U.S. Code beginning at section 12101.
2. Title IV of the original law is coded in Title 47 Chapter 5 of the U.S. Code.

Even with this act in place we still have resistance, areas and people who don't follow the act to provide accessibility for the disabled showing ignorance, prejudice and segregation towards the disabled. When cases like this come to us I work closely with Todd Kemery our Advocate Director to educate and take a stand if necessary and needed for our disabled community.

Take Care of Yourselves!

Stephen Thell

Legislative Director
Although I have been on the MNPVA Board of Directors for over a year now, I would like to introduce myself for those who may not know me. My name is Eric Lorence and I am a Veteran of both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army. I was an Army Captain having served 2 tours in Iraq and was in Afghanistan when I was injured by an IED in March 2010. I have been a member of PVA since 2010 and look forward to continuing volunteering my time with this organization as its new Sports Director.

We are all looking forward to heading down south in June for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Dallas, TX., where will be taking 25 athletes, 3 being novices. It is always a good time getting away and competing with so many other Veterans and getting to see friends from past years! If you were not able to make this year’s games, I encourage you to try and make next year’s game in Salt Lake City, Utah.

We have many upcoming events coming up for our members. Although our Minnesota Wild Hockey Team was eliminated from the playoffs, we are looking forward to next season…hopefully with Dubnyk still in the net! This past season was the first time our chapter purchased tickets for the Wild Games, and from what I saw, it was a great turnout. We offered tickets to 22 games to our members and those tickets flew out the door in less than a month. That’s what we love to see…our members out having a good time! I am happy to say that for next season, we have purchased tickets for the entire season. This will give even more members the opportunity to attend a Wild Game.

For our Minnesota Vikings football fans, I have good news for you as well. Our chapter has purchased season tickets for the upcoming season at TCF Stadium! Since football season is a small one, tickets will not be given out on a first come first serve basis, instead there will be a drawing for every single game. My suggestion to you would be to go ahead and look over the schedule and get your name in early for the drawings. You need to either call or email the office to get your name entered. Also, in order to give every member an opportunity to attend a game, you will only be allowed to attend 1 game if your name is selected. If your name is selected for a game, your name will be removed from the other games list. We want to make this as fair as possible to everyone.

As we have for many years now, we still currently have Minnesota Twins baseball tickets available. Just give the office a call or email to the office and speak with Naomi about getting some tickets.

For you shooters, we will be having our 1st Annual Trap Shoot / Sport Clay Shooting Event taking place July 25, 2015. Whether you are in a power chair or manual chair and you can shoot, we invite you to register for this event. Although open to the public, we would like to see as much member participation as possible. If you are concerned about needing help out at the event, we will have volunteers who will be dedicated to each and every wheelchair shooter and these volunteers will be there to assist with anything you may need for the event. There will also be a silent auction and raffle.

Archery will continue upon our return back from the National Veteran’s Wheelchair Games.

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call at the office or send me an email and I will be happy to speak with you.

Eric Lorence
Sports Director
### Annual PVA/AWBA Bowling Tournament Series Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mountain States PVA Tournament</td>
<td>August 21–24, 2014</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal-Diego PVA Tournament</td>
<td>September 12–14, 2014</td>
<td>Fountain Valley, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada PVA Tournament</td>
<td>December 4–7, 2014</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Gulf Coast PVA Tournament</td>
<td>April 24–26, 2015</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWBA National Event</td>
<td>June 9–13, 2015</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England PVA Tournament</td>
<td>Date TBD</td>
<td>Location TBD</td>
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</table>

### PVA National Shooting Sports Circuit

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keystone PVA Tournament</td>
<td>August 29–31, 2014</td>
<td>Jefferson Hills, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Central PVA Tournament</td>
<td>September 6–7, 2014</td>
<td>Sioux Falls, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lone Star PVA Tournament</td>
<td>October 17–19, 2014</td>
<td>Fort Worth, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona PVA Tournament</td>
<td>October 25–26, 2014</td>
<td>Tucson, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paralympic Nationals</td>
<td>May 3–13, 2015</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wichita Omnium</td>
<td>May 29–31, 2015</td>
<td>Wichita, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run for the Dream</td>
<td>May 30–31, 2015</td>
<td>Williamsburg, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic PVA Tournament</td>
<td>November 7–9, 2014</td>
<td>Richmond, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Gulf Coast PVA Tournament</td>
<td>March 12–14, 2015</td>
<td>Odessa, FL</td>
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### Annual PVA Air Rifle & Air Pistol Program Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cal-Diego PVA Tournament</td>
<td>January 26–27, 2015</td>
<td>Point Loma, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckeye PVA Tournament</td>
<td>May 15–16, 2015</td>
<td>Geneva, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic PVA Tournament</td>
<td>March 12, 2015</td>
<td>Camp Pendleton, CA</td>
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### Annual PVA/NWPA Billiards Tournament Series Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-South PVA Tournament</td>
<td>October 17–19, 2014</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic PVA Tournament</td>
<td>March 29–22, 2015</td>
<td>Midlothian, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-America PVA Tournament</td>
<td>April 10–12, 2015</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain States PVA Tournament</td>
<td>May 16–18, 2015</td>
<td>Fountain, CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckeye PVA Tournament</td>
<td>June 19–20, 2015</td>
<td>(Not an NWPA event) Independence, OH</td>
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### Bass Tour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-America PVA Tournament</td>
<td>September 26–28, 2014</td>
<td>Eufaula, OK – Lake Eufaula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeastern PVA Tournament</td>
<td>October 10–12, 2014</td>
<td>Appling, GA – Clark Hill Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaughan/National PVA Tournament</td>
<td>October 24–26, 2014</td>
<td>Mt. Vernon, IL – Reid Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Gulf Coast PVA Tournament</td>
<td>March 27–29, 2015</td>
<td>Kissimmee, FL – Lake Toho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky-Indiana PVA Tournament</td>
<td>April 17–19, 2015</td>
<td>Gilbertsville, KY – Kentucky Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic PVA Tournament</td>
<td>May 29–31, 2015</td>
<td>Richmond, VA – James River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National PVA Tournament</td>
<td>June 5–7, 2015</td>
<td>LaPlata, MD – Patuxent River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star PVA Tournament</td>
<td>June 25–26, 2015</td>
<td>Garland, TX – Lake Ray Hubbard</td>
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### PVA Handcycling Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne Marathon</td>
<td>February 1, 2015</td>
<td>Melbourne, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasparilla Criterium</td>
<td>March 21–22, 2015</td>
<td>Tampa, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redlands Classic</td>
<td>April 9–13, 2015</td>
<td>Redlands, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clocktower Classic</td>
<td>April 23–26, 2015</td>
<td>Rome, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh Marathon</td>
<td>May 3, 2015</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paralyzing Nationals</td>
<td>May 23–25, 2015</td>
<td>Chattanooga, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wichita Omnium</td>
<td>May 28–31, 2015</td>
<td>Wichita, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run for the Dream</td>
<td>May 30–31, 2015</td>
<td>Williamsburg, VA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-America PVA Tournament</td>
<td>May 22–24, 2015</td>
<td>Springfield, KS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial PVA Tournament</td>
<td>June 5–7, 2015</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England PVA Tournament</td>
<td>Date TBD</td>
<td>Location TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaughan/National PVA Tournament</td>
<td>Circuit Year-End</td>
<td>July 10–12, 2015</td>
</tr>
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### 35th National Veterans Wheelchair Games

**June 21–26, 2015**

**Dallas, TX**
Sports and Recreation:
MNPVA maintains an active sport and recreation program for its members and all persons with disabilities, the ability to be active in sports or become involved with a recreational event. Our primary goal is to get the members involved whether young or old, and newly injured or long time wheelchair user. This program provides health benefits by keeping active, support among the members during each event and the camaraderie developed among the athletes at each event is priceless.

South St. Paul Rod & Gun Club
600 Gun Club Road
South St. Paul, MN
55075
651-455-7249
www.sspgunclub.com

MNPVA: 612-467-2263
and
www.mnpva.org

Saturday July 25, 2015

Trap Shooting and Sport Clay Shooting - Silent Auction and Raffle

South St. Paul Rod & Gun Club
$400.00  Corporate Sponsor
Includes 5 shooters, lunch, and signage at the fundraiser

$100.00  Station Sponsor
Signage at one of the shooting stations

$65.00  Participant(s)
Includes 1 shooter, lunch, and shells

$10.00  Lunch Only

Total

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ATTENTION ALL MNPVA MEMBERS

2014 UPCOMING ELECTION

The MNPVA Chapter is accepting nominations for all officers’ and two board of director’s position!!

The Minnesota PVA Chapter elections for Officers and Board of Directors are fast approaching. Nominations for candidates for all officer positions and two (2) Board of Directors positions will be taken from June 15, 2014 to July 15, 2014. The following positions are up for re-election:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Two (2) Board of Director position

When submitting your nominations for candidates you must follow these guidelines:

- Nominations must be in writing
- You must include your name when submitting your choice of candidates
- You must be a voting member of this chapter
- You must specify what position you want each individual to be considered for when submitting your nominations

We need individuals who are willing to contribute time and effort to the well-being of our chapter; not just someone who attends board meetings once a month.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Walsh, Chapter Secretary
I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation for the opportunities that the Paralyzed Veterans of America has provided me over the past twelve going on thirteen years as a volunteer for the Minnesota Chapter. I have had the privilege to be able to be in the position to help fellow veterans either through a simple conversation or being an example through my day to day life or by direct personal involvement. I am also grateful for the chance to effect change not only for my fellow chapter members but also for the disability community as a whole.

Many of you already know about my recent change in work responsibilities and part of that change is to spend more time at growing our advocacy efforts. I would also like to spend more time representing you and the chapter at the Executive Board level as a candidate for Chapter Vice President and I need your help at achieving this goal. I believe that I can bring to the position, as your Vice President, the time and motivation and desire to promote and carry out our mission. I have no problem with speaking, in a positive manner, to the public and addressing awareness on behalf of veterans and veteran’s issues. Part of my current responsibilities as Advocacy Director coincides with what a Vice President needs to do on behalf of the chapter. We need a good XO for our President to rely on and to work with, as our chapter moves forward. We are in exciting times as a chapter, new faces, new focus and the chance for a new voice at the executive level. I have the temperament and patience in dealing with those on the outside who may be ignorant of our history and our mission. I have the desire to be an effective conduit to teaching awareness to those that need it. We are a very unique veteran’s service organization. We may have the smallest ranks of veterans within the VA health care system but we have the greatest impact in our results for both our members and veterans and the disabled community alike.

All of the experience and training and knowledge that the PVA has provided me during my time serving the Minnesota Chapter, has provided me many opportunities to do some very satisfying work for our organization. I won’t go into every success or event that I have had a chance to be part of but there are a couple of things I am proud to have been part of. On the sports part of what I did, the most rewarding project for me was my longest running responsibility. I am very passionate about the Veterans Games. The process starts each year during Christmas with the application part and doesn’t end until we return to Minnesota after the games. I have also had the privilege to work with our VA SCI team, when it involves the Games. Each year my coaches have been a mix of Prosthetics personnel and Physical Therapists from the Minneapolis VA. In addition, the SCI Rec Therapy department has partnered with me to develop the Mini Games, as an event we put on the VA campus each year. For the inpatients, the Mini Games provides a live example of what the summer games are like. There is also a mentoring opportunity as inpatients interact with the athletes. This will be our fifth Mini Games this year. I have spent a lot of energy and time on managing the games because I feel that this one event has the largest impact on our members and the new to the wheelchair group. There is a chance to learn how to travel, to be included in a team atmosphere, the friendships and camaraderie that grow in that part of the team experience. The sense of accomplishment that is realized after the competition. I am convinced that attending the games is a great platform to start moving forward in life for someone who is new to the chair or is having a hard time adjusting to the chair. I recruit very hard to get as many novices I can get to attend. I also lobby very hard to get our returning athletes to fill out the application each year. As the years have progressed I have seen an increase in numbers of our novices go from 0 to 1 to, within the last four years, 4 and 5 novices each time. Many of you have been a direct recipient of my games recruiting so chances are you can relate to my words above.

My time with the Minnesota chapter has led me to some unique opportunities that has changed my life. As a peer Mentor on the SCI floor and as an ADA coordinator for our chapter, I have had the chance to witness change and help create change. I am rewarded daily, because of my surroundings and personal interactions.

Recently, I was recognized by my peers for the level of responsibility and commitment I bring to my work. It is humbling and a privilege to be able to do the work I do, for my fellow veteran. My reward is to witness a positive outcome for someone in need or to see a change for the better, because of my efforts.

I want to continue to bring that message forward and to continue to increase our responsibilities, here in Minnesota. It is with great pride in our chapter and our parent organization that I come before you and to ask you to support me, in my bid, to be your next Vice President.

Gratefully,
Todd Kemery
Greetings to all our fellow members from Dale Haugen. I am the present Membership Officer on the Board of Directors for our Minnesota PVA Chapter. I am up for re-election this year and want to run another term of three years. For you that know me and those who don’t recognize my name I want to explain my reasons for running again. I want to encourage more of our members to get involved in our Chapters many social events, sporting activities, and educational meetings, etc.

It is very important for everyone to get the best health care possible at our SCI Center and the VA Medical Centers. I can help connect you to the proper channels and try to answer any questions that may arise. Any suggestions how we can better inform and improve our services to you are always welcomed. One of my main responsibilities is to hear from and listen to your concerns. I receive and review new membership applications for our Board of Directors to vote on.

Hopefully, you will consider my qualifications and interests in making your decisions.

Thank you,

Dale Haugen
I am Ric Jost and I ask that you accept this as my notice of intent to seek a position on the Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America. I have been a member of PVA since 1975. I originally joined the Gateway Chapter in St. Louis. I was also able to attend the 1st National Veterans Wheelchair Games where the stats say there were 82 of us. Man times have changed. The MNPVA is about to head to Dallas and there will be over 600 athletes competing in “the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the world” – way to go PVA!

I remember a small meeting that was held at Courage Center in Golden Valley. Bill Matthews was the national service officer back then and I remember Tom Fjerstad, Russ Osborne, Ollie Skov and I am sure there were others. The group was gathered to discuss forming a Minnesota Chapter. Tom Fjerstad took the lead and made it happen. We owe much to our founders; Clayton Bawden, Thomas Fjerstad, Russ Osborne, and Oliver Skov. Thanks guys!

During my time with MNPVA I have served on the board as a director, national director, advocacy director, vice president, and I was the chapter’s first executive director. A position I was in for 10 years. It was amazing to watch the chapter grow, not so much in numbers but in being a sound solid chapter that runs every program that national required and we far exceeded that.

We hosted the 25th National Veterans Wheelchair Games in 2005 and assisted in the building of the best SCI center in the system “in my opinion”. I remember dedication day 2008, I was talking to my father (Big Fred) about a week before the dedication and I said why don’t you come up (he lives in the St. Louis area). We said our goodbye and I get a phone call the next day and he says they are coming up. So Big Fred, his wife Peggy, my nephew Zak came on up. What a day. I thank God and the Minnesota Paralyzed Veterans of America for giving me that moment with my father. He realized that I had made a new home and that I was surrounded by friends.

Now the reason for this letter. I’m not trying to bring back the past, I’m trying to enhance the future for those who will come after us.

I am honored to have been able to serve MNPVA during the last 20 years and I would appreciate your support for 1 more term.

Thank you

Ric Jost
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Respite care is a distinct VA program with the unique purpose of providing temporary relief for unpaid caregivers from routine care giving tasks and to assist with maintaining the chronically ill veteran in the home, thereby supporting the veteran’s desire to delay or prevent nursing home placement.

Respite care planning is an individual approach to care or services for respite developed by an interdisciplinary team. The plan specifies the amount of time, the type of care and the care setting for respite services. In order to receive respite care, the veteran must be enrolled for VHA health care and receive established, on-going, routine health care services from a VA or a contracted VA health care provider or care team.

The respite care benefit provides services to eligible veterans for up to 30 days in a calendar year. This 30-day program limit includes the sum of all respite-specific resources provided, regardless of the setting. If a veteran is in need of respite services in excess of 30 days because of unforeseen difficulties, such as the illness or death of a primary caregiver, with the approval of the medical center Director, or designee, may be granted additional days.

To be admitted to respite care the veteran must have a diagnosed chronic disabling illness or condition; live at home and requires the substantial assistance in the activities of daily living in order to continue to reside safely in the home; the veteran’s caregiver is in need of temporary or intermittent relief from day to day care tasks in order to sustain this care-giving role and the veteran must meet clinical criteria, as well as eligibility criteria for nursing home and long-term care.

Referral to respite care must be initiated through the completion of VA form 10-0415, VA Geriatric and Extended Care Referral and in accordance with local medical center policy. For more information please contact the SCI Center Outpatient clinic at 612-629-7005 and speak with the veteran’s social worker.

If you have any questions, please contact Tami J. Anderson, Senior National Service Officer at 612-970 5668 or Jason Stephenson, Regional Director at 612-629-7022.
Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance – Tami Anderson
Chapter 35 (38 USC 35; 38 CFR 21.3030)

Survivors’ and Dependents’ Educational Assistance is a program of education or special restorative training for eligible children, spouses and surviving spouses. The educational assistance may not exceed 45 months or the equivalent in part-time training. If it is determined that it will take longer than 45 months for special restorative training; under certain circumstances it will be authorized.

Eligibility for Chapter 35 educational benefits are children, a spouse or a surviving spouse of a veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability; or a veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence; or a service member missing in action or captured in the line of duty by a hostile force; or a service member forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power; or a service member who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability.

The period of eligibility for a child usually will begin on the child’s 18th birthday or on successful completion of secondary schooling. Eligibility will generally end on the child’s 26th birthday. There are some instances where the child may be eligible before their 18th birthday and extend past their 26th birthday.

The period of eligibility for a spouse, (after October 27, 1986); eligibility is the effective date of the rating or date of notification or any date between these two dates that is specified. Benefits will end for the spouse 10 years from the date the VA finds you eligible or the date of death of the veteran. If the VA rated the veteran permanently and totally disabled with an effective date of 3 years from discharge a spouse will remain eligible for 20 years from the effective date of the rating. The period of eligibility for a surviving spouse ends 20 years from the date of death.

For more information, please contact Tami Anderson, National Service Officer at 612-970-5668 or Jason Stephenson, Regional Director at 612-629-7022; or go to the VA website and put in Chapter 35 educational benefits.
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Roseville, MN 55113
Phone: 651-633-7887

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## June 2015

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### Schedule of Events

**June 2**  Bingo  
**June 17**  MNPVA BOD Meeting  
**June 22-26**  35th Annual NVWG’s (office closed)  
**June 24**  SCI/D Education Night

*Trap Shooting every Monday morning (Please call office to RSVP)*

*Bowling South: Thursday mornings starting at 12:00 p.m. at Eden Prairie Bowling Lanes in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.*  
*Bowling North: Thursday afternoons starting at 1:00 p.m. at Stars & Strikes Bowling in Wyoming, Minnesota*

Please call the MNPVA office if you plan on attending any of the above activities at 612-467-2263 or via email at mnpva@qwestoffice.net
2 Chronicles 7:14 (New International Version)

14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

We remember the members we have recently lost.

Membership Report by Dale Haugen
Current Membership = 339
Service Connected = 139
Non Service Connected = 200

June Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edward Turk</th>
<th>Matthew Kurzhals</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Matthews</td>
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<td>Gene Witte</td>
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<td>John Wabbe</td>
<td>Janice Breth</td>
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<td>Jeanette Jones</td>
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<td>Charles Bloom</td>
<td>Dennis Dahlien</td>
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<td>Eugene Buckley</td>
<td>Joey Krog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan-Michael Denfield</td>
<td>Jeffrey McSorley</td>
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Change Service Requested

Membership Change of Address

First Name: ___________________________ MI: ______________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________ State: ___________ Zip: __________

Home Phone: (_____) _______ _______ E-mail: ____________________________

Birth Date: _____/____/____ Membership ID Number: _____________________