The Iowa Chapter lost a Director to our Board, our Chapter Treasurer and a dear friend in April this year. William “Bill” Kauzlarich passed away at Bright Kavanaugh House Hospice in Des Moines, IA on April 20, 2015. He was surrounded by friends and family.

Bill was a very active member with the Iowa Chapter for many years. Along with his wife, Lee Ann, he attended the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the Castaway Disabilities Fishing Event, the IVH Pool Tournaments, our bowling and golf events and virtually all of the events sponsored by the Iowa PVA. He served as our Chapter Treasurer, our Chapter Membership Officer and the PVA representative to the Des Moines VA Volunteer Advisory Committee. Bill was dedicated to the Iowa Chapter of PVA and was always the first one to help any and all veterans in need.

Bill graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Engineering, but his greatest joy was his time as a fighter pilot in the Vietnam War. He loved airplanes!

Bill was smart, funny and kind. We will miss him very much.
A Message From The President  
Jon R. Schneider

IOWA PVA CHAPTER HAS MOVED!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are proud to let you know that the Iowa Chapter has a new home.

Our new office address is:

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA-IOWA CHAPTER  
7025 HICKMAN RD SUITE 1  
URBANDALE, IA  50322

Before I say anything, I want to give a big "thank you" to two individuals who assisted in the move, that of our Executive Director Kimberly Gould (Kim) Gould, and our Office Manager Linda Krause, for without their assistance, this project could not have been done.

Others I want to thank for all the packing from our old office were Tish Simons, Susan Brinkmeyer, Bev Frideres, and Pauline Lloyd.  Also assisting with input and making suggestions that we used were Larry Phillips, our National Director, and Vice President Kenny Lloyd, and our Chapter's Sports Director David Graham.

Dedication of our new offices with open house will be held later on this summer.

The opening of a new building is a significant moment in a PVA Chapter's history and the building dedication ceremony celebrates a chapter's success and growth, and we all want to enjoy the moment.  As President, I plan to have a Dedication Committee, and it is also made up of key personnel that will be honored at the dedication ceremony.  The ceremony is also a chance for the chapter to publicly display the success it has achieved.

Below please enjoy the picture of our new Chapter Office.

jrs
This year the convention was held in San Diego, California. I was hoping when we arrived that there would be sunny warm days but instead we had cold rainy days. Of course we were not there to enjoy the weather but to do business for the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The first day before convention started, the audit committee met to discuss the upcoming audit from the auditors. They gave us their planning and timeline for the audit. They will give us a full report in the fall of their audit of PVA. I have chaired this committee since 2006 and it is an honor to serve PVA and its members.

The Convention started out with a presentation from Robert McDonald the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. For the second year in a row, our chapter was awarded a plaque for the most volunteer hours for the year. We cannot say "thank you" enough to all our volunteers for the work they do at our Iowa Chapter.

The rest of the week went smoothly with the Executive Committee and National Staff answering questions from their reports. There were nine resolutions the board had to discuss and approve. The resolutions are as follows.

15-M-1 Bylaw change-Status of PN Magazine Editor Withdrawn
15-M-2 Jurisdiction to Discipline Executive Committee Members Withdrawn
15-M-3(S) Judicial Committee Complaint Response Time Passed
15-M-4(S) Spouses Committee Passed
15-M-5 PVA Corporate Patriot Award Passed
15-M-6 Chapter Website Awards Committee Composition Passed
15-M-7(S) Gordon Mansfield Congressional Leadership Passed
15-M-8 Eliminating Financial Connection Mandate & Renaming Support Program Passed
15-M-9 Sports Specific Funding through Commissioned Employment-(Pilot Program-Fishing) Withdrawn

After going through the budget and being approved by the Board of Directors, the elections were held. Al Kovach was reelected President; David Zufluh was reelected Senior Vice President; the three Vice Presidents that were reelected were Charles Brown, Joe Fox, Ken Weas;., and the new Vice President is Hack Albertson. The Treasurer, Tom Wheaton, was reelected; Larry Dodson was reelected as Secretary.

After Convention, there were closing ceremonies where awards were given out. One of our associate members received the non-member award for the most volunteer hours for the year. Tish Simons was able to be there in person to accept her plaque. If there are any questions about convention, you can call me at 515-570-1402.
From the Desk of the Executive Director

I am sure many of you have heard about charities that may not be spending the dollars donated to them on the causes and programs they claim to support. I am often asked the question "How much of each dollar donated goes directly to the veterans?" I am also questioned regarding the reputation of certain charitable organizations including National PVA in this area.

I would like to address some of these issues here and explain why I choose to donate my own money to this organization. The concerns expressed with the reputation of our National PVA can be easily explained. National PVA (as well as Iowa PVA) relies entirely on grants and donations. We receive no government funding. National PVA for many years depended heavily on direct mail as the main source of donation generation. This was a very lucrative yet expensive endeavor. For example, it may cost $75 million to raise $100 million through direct mail. National PVA could not survive without the profit of $25 million but when you figured the administrative cost vs program expenses ratio, it showed that National PVA's ratio was very low. In this scenario on its face, it would appear that only $.25 of every dollar donated to National PVA would go directly to the veterans.

In recent years, every effort has been made to diversify in National PVA fundraising efforts to paint a more favorable picture. Through these efforts, vast improvements have been made and recent percentages are now acceptable.

The Iowa Chapter of Paralyzed Veterans of America is fortunate to be part of a large organization that provides each chapter with monthly financial support. This financial assistance along with local fundraising efforts allows the chapters to function and provide our eight programs (see page 10) to our members within the state of Iowa. The Iowa Chapter is responsible for our own fundraising, files our own tax returns and undergoes our own separate independent annual financial audit. As a chapter, $.80 of every dollar donated goes directly to our veterans programs. Our administrative costs are kept very low. (Iowa PVA's Federal Income Tax return Form 990 is a matter of public record and these figures can be verified there.)

Another advantage to donating to the Iowa Chapter is that every dollar stays within our Chapter to benefit local service connected and non-service connected Paralyzed Veterans. The money raised through the majority of our fundraising efforts is directed toward financing the travel and participation of our members and their caretakers in events. Last week alone, we had three members (plus their caretakers) attending the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG's) in Dallas, TX. The NVWG's is an annual event sponsored by National PVA and the U.S. Veterans Administration. It is held in a different city each year and is attended by appx. 600 wheelchair athletes. It is similar to an Olympic competition with appx. 40 separate sporting events (i.e. power soccer, track and field event, swimming, cycling, ping pong, rugby, archery, trapshooting, etc.) All events are wheelchair events. Adaptive sports are vital to the rehabilitation of these veterans. Adaptive sports are also very expensive. It costs the chapter alone over $2000 to send one athlete to these events. Iowa PVA also finances the travel and attendance of athletes to the Winter Sports Clinic in Snow Mass, CO each March for a week of snow skiing (in sit down sleds) and other winter sports. One of Iowa PVA's most expensive endeavors is a rehabilitation event called the Castaway Disabilities Fishing Event. Iowa PVA, in partnership with the Iowa City VA Hospital and the Iowa City Eagles Club, sponsors and hosts this week long fishing trip for 30-40 disabled veterans and their caretakers on the Lake Resort in Ely, MN. This is a huge undertaking and normally costs over $40,000 per trip. Iowa PVA and the Eagles Club split that cost. These are just a few of the programs that your donated dollars help finance.

I hope this explains why Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America is a wonderful organization to donate your hard earned dollars to.

Kim

Handicapped Accessible Van For Sale

2010 Dodge Grand Caravan with Amerivan Conversion
59,500 miles. Side entry with fold out wheelchair ramp.
14" lowered floor with kneeling system & power sliding doors.
Removable driver & passenger seats to allow upfront wheel chair seating for passenger or driver.
2 EZ locks for auto chair tie down or complete manual tie down system.
Well cared for one owner vehicle with new brakes at 50,000 miles & new tires at 40,000 miles. $29,000.

Call Bev 515-210-0420
2015 Iowa Trap Shoot in Cedar Rapids is over and we are settling into our new office. Some nice improvements were made to the Otter Creek facility; new wide sidewalks going to the shooting area was the most noticeable. I was not there for Friday’s registration or the pistol shoot, but I understand that both went smoothly. The event had a good number of wheelchair shooters and a slight increase in the number of able shooters (25 shooters total). I am going to look at a few ways of increasing those numbers going into next year’s event. Rain stayed around the area but, we got lucky. Besides a few minor sprinkles and the occasional shift in wind, things went pretty smoothly. I would like to thank the board and members at Otter Creek for their support, the volunteers, and all the participants of the event.

Pictured above are the winning participants from Wisconsin, placing first in the “Team” event. They are from left to right, Back Row, “Don Ho” Trenkle, Dave David (Top Overall Shooter); Front Row, John Pilotte (Memorial Award for High Overall SCI Shooter), Ken Buchholz, and Jim Rutledge.

Scholarship Opportunity from Sarah Marchant

I am emailing you because my company is offering an annual scholarship, the Goedeker’s Appliances Public Service Scholarship, which is available to active military, reserves, and veterans, as well as their immediate families. We feel that this is a great opportunity to support higher education and take some of the financial burden off of students.

Here is a link to the scholarship rules page: http://www.goedekers.com/college-scholarship

The Goedeker’s Appliances Public Service Scholarship is open to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as all fields of study. The deadline to enter is July 31, 2015.

We handle everything involving the scholarship. We would just like to promote it through your organization to give more people the chance to win!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Please let me know if you need any other information.

Sarah Marchant
Content Creator at Goedeker’s
Email: sarah.marchant@goedekers.com
Website: www.goedekers.com
Dr. Lauren Lieberman and I from Department of Kinesiology, Sport Studies, and Physical Education at the College at Brockport, SUNY are conducting a study to determine the accessibility of accommodation facilities with the life experiences of people with disabilities. We are ready to send the questionnaire out to people with disabilities, their families and traveling companions. We would greatly appreciate if you could help us reach the participants. It should take about 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Results are expected to help improve the accessibility of tourism facilities. We would be so thankful if you could please forward this to any list serves that you have and any friends you know that have disabilities or travel with people with disabilities.

The link is: http://www.gumus.com/survey/
Thank you for all of your support!

Sincerely,

Ozkan Tutuncu, Ph.D.
State University of New York, College at Brockport
Department of Kinesiology, Sport Studies, and Physical Education
Phone: (585) 967-8740 Email: otutuncu@brockport.edu

P.S. This is an IRB approved research. If you want, I can send IRB approval documents.

Answers for Veterans about Medicare Part B & Part D

(DES MOINES) April 9, 2016 —

The Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) and the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs are offering a new factsheet titled Medicare and VA Healthcare to help answer questions regarding the need to enroll in Medicare Part B and Part D.

There is much misunderstanding and misinformation about Veterans enrollment in Medicare Part B and Part D,” SHIIP Director Kris Gross said. “Our new factsheet, developed in partnership with the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs, provides clear information and answers to many questions.”

“We’re always looking for ways to ensure veterans clearly understand the options available to them. This information concerning their health care is extremely important,” Executive Director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs Colonel Robert King said. “Iowa’s SHIIP program is an outstanding program and provides excellent informational materials as well as one-to-one SHIIP counselor assistance — and all at no cost to the veteran.”

Veterans can review the Medicare and VA Healthcare factsheet online at http://www.therightcalliowa.gov/Resources/0079_Medicare_and_VA.pdf or call a SHIIP representative at 800-351-4664 to have a paper copy sent by postal mail.

The factsheet answers questions for veterans including:

• Do I need to enroll in Medicare Part B?
• Should I consider purchasing a Medicare supplement policy?
• How do Medicare Advantage plans coordinate with VA benefits?
• Do I need to enroll in the Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit?
• If I enroll in Part B and D can I get help with these costs?

SHIIP representatives are available free of charge to help answer questions for Iowans about Medicare supplement insurance. To meet with a trained SHIIP insurance counselor please call 800-351-4664 or visit SHIIP’s website at www.therightcalliowa.gov. SHIIP counselors do not sell insurance or promote specific insurance companies, policies or agents.
Care for the Caregiver:
Starting the Conversation: Advance Care Planning

A telephone education group focused on strategies to enhance resilience and restore balance

Facilitated by the VA Caregiver Support Line
Tuesday, July 14th at 9am
With encore sessions
Wednesday, July 15th at 6pm
Wednesday, July 22nd at 2pm
This is open to Family Caregivers of Veterans of all eras.

Care for the Caregiver:
Stepping into Stillness: Maintaining Your Center of Gravity While Caring for a Loved One with Complex Medical Needs

A telephone education group focused on strategies to enhance resilience and restore balance

Facilitated by the VA Caregiver Support Line
Tuesday, August 11th at 9am
With encore sessions
Wednesday, August 19th at 6pm
Wednesday, August 26th at 2pm
This is open to Family Caregivers of Veterans of all eras.

If you would like to participate, please contact
Regina MacRae, Caregiver Support Coordinator
515-699-5999; x9-4015
Sara Gustason, Program Support
515-699-5531
Iowa PVA volunteer Tish Simons was awarded the 2014 Dwain Taylor Award for Volunteer Service at National Convention in San Diego, CA in May. Tish had the most PVA volunteer hours in the non-member category of all volunteers in the country.

Have you considered including Iowa Paralyzed Veterans in your will or trust?

“It takes a notable person to plant a seed for a tree that will one day provide shade for someone he may never meet”

This type of donation will serve as an investment in our organization that will reap our members benefits for many years to come.

Turkey Hunt 2015

The IPVA Turkey Hunt was held April 25-26 on Kenny’s farm in Union, Iowa.

Support the Iowa PVA

The Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America relies solely on private donations and receives NO government funding! Your contribution is 100% tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) corporation. Support by individual donors and businesses enable us to make our services FREE to members. Please support our mission through a direct donation to:

Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America (Iowa PVA)
7025 Hickman Rd, Suite #1
Urbandale, IA  50322

Thank you!
Diversity Day is an annual tradition at Southeast Polk Junior High. Each year, students attend an exciting array of sessions to learn from presenters and participate in activities. This event stems from our Diversity Committee's mission statement: Southeast Polk Junior High celebrates the diversity of our global community and promotes respect and acceptance of all people.

On March 25, over 180 eighth grade students at Southeast Polk Junior High had the chance to learn from Kenny and Pauline Lloyd and David Graham. Kenny and David shared their stories of perseverance. Our students were inspired by their service to our country and how they continue to be of service to so many individuals through the Paralyzed Veterans of America community and beyond.

David and Kenny each brought their cycles for students and staff to try. Students also enjoyed viewing the video about the 2014 National Veterans Wheelchair Games and getting to spend time with Cally, Kenny's service dog. The following excerpts from thank you letters show the impact their visit made on our eighth graders:

Thank you for your service. I learned and will remember to never give up no matter how hard the situation is. -Makenna

I do realize how much we take for granted, and I'll always remember that giving up doesn't get you anywhere in life. Cally is beautiful and lucky to have you for a handler. Thank you for changing my perspective on never giving up. -Jules

Thank you for talking with our class yesterday. I had no idea that there were so many things you could do. Your positive attitude is very inspirational. You're a great role model. -Lindsey

I want to thank you for what you have done for our country, and also how you are very motivated. . . . It's amazing how those who are paralyzed are capable of doing more than what we think. -Joanna

I have always known that being in the army was very brave, but didn't think about after the service. The things you and David do make the paralyzed soldiers' lives easier after is very kind and full of love. All the activities the PVA provides is too many to count, and that is amazing. Thank you for serving our country and continuing to serve our vets. -Natalie

Thank you for sharing about yourself and about your everyday life and past. I believe you helped spread awareness in our school. -Isaiah

Thank you for coming to our school. . . . I enjoyed hearing about your Never Give Up attitude. -Evan

I was not aware of the Wheelchair Games or PVA before you came and I think it is an awesome thing! Thank you for coming to my school and talking to us about something you believe very strongly about. -Jaeden

It really takes a lot of heart to push yourself to be that strong. I loved hearing you, your wife, and David talk. -Avery

Your presentation [on] Diversity Day was one of my favorites. It was always interesting to me. -Tyler

Your dog was so well behaved! I was very impressed even with all the kids petting her she didn't bark. I can't believe you can ride a recumbent bike. I did RAGBRAI last year and it was hard enough with a road bike. --8th grade student

I enjoyed listening to the video and listening to you talk about the wheelchair games. I now have a new perspective on things that everybody can do. . . . I had fun getting to know more about you, your wife, David, and Cally. -Lauren

We appreciated you taking the time out of your day to speak to us. Thank you SO much for your service to our country. That is a service that is un-repayable. -Eric

I thought everything you talked about was interesting, especially the Wheelchair Games video. . . . The bikes were difficult to ride and they take a lot of arm strength. Thank you for inspiring people to do incredible things. -Devin

I gained much respect for people with disabilities from what you said. I was inspired by how both of you were able to accomplish so much, despite what's holding you back. It also opened my eyes to how much disabled people can still do. Thank you for teaching me that disabled people are just like us. -Ben

Thank you so much for taking time out of your days to tell us about PVA. I really enjoyed being able to use the bikes around the halls. I also really loved getting a chance to meet the service dog, Cally. The PVA seems like an amazing program that is very helpful. -Ami

Southeast Polk Junior High staff and students are grateful for our continued partnership with the PVA for over a decade.

Leslie DeBrower
8th grade English teacher
Southeast Polk Junior High
The Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America (IPVA) is a non-profit veterans service organization chartered by Congress and is one of 34 chapters which represents our national organization, Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Our membership is free and consists of veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have suffered a spinal cord injury or received a diagnosis of disease affecting the spinal cord.

Provides a National Service Officer to assist veterans in the processing of their claims through the Veterans Administration.

Sponsors athletes who attend the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and other sporting or recreational events.

Provides funds for patient programs at both the Des Moines and Iowa City VAMCs, and at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown.

Provides funds for medical personnel to attend special training seminars dealing with the care and treatment of spinal cord injuries/dysfunction.

Provides funds for foundations and corporations who promote finding a cure and/or improving the quality of life for those with catastrophic spinal cord injuries or diseases (these include both national and local research projects).

Provides education and advocacy to the community at large to improve the accessibility to public and private institutions for all disabled individuals.

Sponsors social activities for our members and their families.

Iowa PVA relies solely on private donations and grants and receives no governmental funding. All contributions are tax deductible, as we are a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Contact Information: Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America
7025 Hickman Rd. Suites 1 and 2
Des Moines, IA 50322
515-277-4782 or 1-888-909-4782
www.iowapva.org
www.Facebook.com/iowapva
25 July, 2015
Veterans Memorial Building in Cedar Rapids
50 2nd Ave Bridge
Open to the Public!

Bash starts at 3 PM!

All American Bash!

Benefit for the Paralyzed Veterans of America
Iowa Chapter

Riders Gather at J&P Cycles at 10 am
Kickstands up at 11 am
Stops at Baxa’s Tavern, Shueys, and Wild Hogs

$10 Donation per bike

Presented by The Cedar Rapids Eagle Riders Motorcycle Group

Live music starts at 5 pm

Crankshaft

Sponsored by:

Cedar Rapids VFW
Prime Mobile Truck Repair
Go Fish Marina Bar & Grill

AMVETS

Shueys

Baxa’s Sutliff Store & Tavern
Indianola Home Medical Supply L.L.C.
207 South Howard St.
Indianola, IA 50125

Wheelchairs, Scooters, Bathroom Safety and Daily Living Products

Full Service and Parts Department

Home Modifications, Patient Lifts, Entry Ramps, Stair Lifts,
Porch Lifts, Scooter Lifts and Elevators

Darl Kaldenberg, Manager
Phone: 515-962-0701
Fax: 515-962-9251

Service Matters: Help Serve Those Who Have Served

Penske Automotive Group has proudly teamed up with Paralyzed Veterans of America’s Mission:ABLE campaign. With one donation, you can help support Paralyzed Veterans of America’s Mission:ABLE campaign and ensure that veterans with disabilities get the care, benefits and job opportunities they’ve earned and deserve.

Service your vehicle at any Penske Automotive Group dealership now through December 31, 2015, and consider making a $1 or more donation to Paralyzed Veterans’ Mission:ABLE campaign. Your donation will be matched by Penske Automotive Group up to $500,000.

Thank you for considering a donation to Paralyzed Veterans of America and joining our commitment to serve those who have served. With your help, we can continue to change the lives of our American heroes.

Learn more about Paralyzed Veterans of America by visiting PVA.org/PAGServes or connect and share items marked #PAGServes on social media.
Veteran Owned and Operated

Iowa’s Leader In Mobility Vans

** $1000 Veteran Discount Available **

- Convienent Locations Serving Iowa, Nebraska, & Illinois
- Top Dollar For Your Trade-In!!!
- New & Used Wheelchair Vans
- Many Makes, Models & Conversions To Chose From
- Hundreds Of Vans Available
- Sales and Service
- Wheelchair Lifts & Driving Controls
- VA Funding & Financing Available
- Buy-Back Program
- Stairlifts & Other Equipment
- 24 Hour Emergency Service

- Toll-Free: (877) 543 - 8826
- Email: rods@iowamobility.com
- Website: www.iowamobility.com
## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/9</td>
<td>Bingo at the DSM VA CLC - 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/16</td>
<td>Joint SCI/D Team Meeting with Iowa City and Des Moines VA SCI teams at the Iowa PVA office - 10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/23</td>
<td>IPVA Board of Directors Meeting at the IPVA office - 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/25</td>
<td>All American Bash - See pages 10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/27</td>
<td>Fair Tickets Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/13</td>
<td>Bingo at the DSM VA CLC - 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>Veterans Day Parade at the Iowa State Fairgrounds - 10:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/20</td>
<td>IPVA Board of Directors Meeting at the IPVA office - 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Our Family Helping Your Family With All Your Mobility Needs...**

- Auto Mobility:
  - Lowered Floor Minivans
  - Full Size Vans with Lifts
  - Inside and Outside Scooter Lifts and Ramps for Cars, Trucks and SUV's
  - Standard and Electronic Driving Controls

- Home Mobility:
  - Stair Chairs
  - Porch Lifts
  - Elevators
  - Portable Ramp Systems

---

**Contact Us:**

Iowa PVA
7025 Hickman Rd., Suite #1
Urbandale, IA 50322

- 515-277-4782
- 888-909-4782
- 515-277-8165—Fax

iowapva1@yahoo.com
iowapvakim@yahoo.com
iowapvalin17@yahoo.com

---

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Iowa Chapter

Total Mobility is a full line mobility dealer specializing in:

2408 W. 2nd Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46222
Phone: 515-901-0573 • Toll Free: 800-698-0573

go-totalmobility.com
The Nation’s Leader
Offering more than 250 new and used vehicles in stock

Find your ride. Live your life. Experience the Rollx Vans difference

- Chrysler Town & Country, Dodge Grand Caravan, Ford Econoline, Honda Odyssey and Volkswagen Routan
- Entire inventory and pricing listed online – www.rollxvans.com
- Nationwide delivery
- At Home Delivery and Service
- Industry’s first to offer OnStar® FMV technology
- Family owned-and-operated for nearly 40 years
- Meets or exceeds all NHTSA safety standards

Act now and save $250 on your purchase!
Call: 800.956.6668 • E-mail: questions@rollxvans.com
Find out more about Your Ride at www.rollxvans.com.
Follow us on:
Veterans, Service Officers, and Key Stakeholders,

On Monday, June 22nd, 2015, VA Central Iowa Health Care System teamed up with the Des Moines Regional Office to host a Veterans’ Town Hall and Summer of Service Open House, to share information on federal hiring, volunteer opportunities, and VA programs such as our Caregiver Program, MyHealtheVet, and assistance with VA disability claims. Those who attended the Town Hall, heard remarks from Des Moines Regional Office Director Terri Beer and VA Central Iowa Health Care System Acting Director Sandra Horsman, who shared the national VA message and noted local accomplishments. As these facts and figures really bring to light the amazing work the VA does, we have decided to share them with a broader audience.

LOCAL
VA Central Iowa Health Care System (VACIHCS)
• Serves 40 different counties in Central Iowa and Northern Missouri;
• Full service medical center and 5 Community Based Outpatient Clinic, staffed with over 1400 Employees;
• In 2014 alone, VACIHCS:
  o Served over 33,000 unique patients;
  o 350,000 outpatient visits with a daily average of over 1,000 outpatient visits;
  o 3,000 Veterans admitted to our medical center;
  o 50,000 Home Health Visits; and
  o 7,000 Veterans sent by our facility to Non-VA Care for services we didn’t offer.
• June 2015 Patient Access Data (CLICK HERE FOR RECENT PUBLICALLY RELEASED DATA) shows:
  o Over 97% of VACIHCS appointments are scheduled 30 days and under;
    • 95% scheduled less than 2 weeks out;
  o On average, our patients wait less than:
    • 4 days for both non-emergent primary care AND specialty care,
    • 2 days for regular mental health appointments
    • PLEASE NOTE THAT EMERGENCY CARE OF ANY TYPE ARE SEEN AS THEY PRESENT TO THE FACILITY.
  o WE EXCEED THE NATIONAL STANDARD

Des Moines Regional Office
• 114 employees (75% are Veterans)
• Drastically decreased local backlog claims 70% from 5,100 claims in June 2012 to 1,600 claims in May 2015;
• Reduced 1 year old claims by 85% from Fiscal Year 2012 to Fiscal Year 2015.
• Boast a 96% claim based rating accuracy

NATIONAL
*VA is the second largest agency in the Federal government with over 11 million Veterans registered, enrolled or using at least one VA benefit. We have over 350,000 employees (1/3 of them Veterans), and a budget of $1.69 billion.
Veterans Health Administration – VHA (the largest fully-integrated health care system in the nation)
• Serves 9 million unique patients;
• 1,000 clinics;
• 300 Vet Centers and mobile clinics;
• 167 VA Medical Centers;
• 23,000 Doctors;
• 91,000 Nurses
• Affiliated with over 1,800 educational institutions;
• Invests $1.8 billion in research each year:
  o Notable accomplishments to include the first successful liver transplants, nicotine patches, hypertension medication, implantable cardiac pacemakers to name a few.
  o Our researches have earned 3 Nobel Prizes and 7 Lasker Awards – proving that an aspirin a day reduces risk for unstable angina, license the shingles vaccine, and showed fully paralyzed patients they can use their minds to control robotic limbs.
• Over 70 % of ALL US doctors receive training at the VA;
• 88,000 students, residents, nurses, and other health field students train with us each year;
• Telehealth leader serving over 700,000 Veterans through 2 million telehealth visits each year;
• 273 million lab tests each year;
• 270 million prescriptions each year;
• We LEAD the nation in treating Posttraumatic stress disorder, Hepatitis-C infections, opiate use, and Agent Orange medical issues.

National Cemetery Administration – NCA
• 131 National Cemeteries, 1 national burial ground and 33 soldier’s lots and monuments in 40 states. Other states, to include Iowa have State run Veteran Cemeteries.
• Over 22,000 acres;
• 3.4 million gravesites;
• Ranked as THE top customer-service organization in the nation (public or private)

Veterans Benefits Administration - VBA
• Provides 123,000 disabled Veterans with vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits;
• Provides 1.4 million Veterans and family with Post 9/11 GI Bill Benefits (program only 5 years old);
• Helped 2.2 million Veterans with VA Home Loans;
• Nation’s 10th largest insurance enterprise with nearly $1.3 million in Veterans coverage;
• Spent $58 billion in Veteran disability and survivors compensation last year alone;
  o 450,000 Veterans rated 100% disabled
• Reduced claim backlog from 611,000 in March 2014 to 146,000 in May 2015 (76% reduction in 25 months)
• Claim accuracy jumped from 83% in 2011 to 91% in 2015 and to 96% at the issue-level.
• Average degree of disability over 47.7%
*By 2017, the VA expects 9.8 million (46% of all Veterans) to be 65 or older. By then the VBA will have completed 1.4 mission claims, accounting for over 5.9 million medical issues in claims.

We hope that these impressive facts and figures give a better appreciation for what the VA provides to our Veterans. We are proud of the accomplishments at both the national and local level, and know that we wouldn’t be as successful without or dedicated Veterans, Service Organizations, Supportive Congress, and key stakeholders.

During the recent Town hall meeting, we touched briefly on the current VA budget situation. We just received a fact sheet from our national office that we would like to share with you. The fact sheet is included above.

Kristi Catrenich
Public Affairs Officer
VA Central Iowa Health Care System
Office: 515-699-5588
Cell: 515-423-4122
iGive Shopping Donation Program

Iowa PVA recently became part of the iGive online shopping program. As friends and supporters of Iowa PVA, this is an easy and inexpensive (free) way to support our programs and causes.

1. Log in to iGive.com and create a free iGive account. You simply create a login in and password and designate Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter as your cause. By simply creating this account, $5 is donated to us automatically.

2. After your account is created, any online shopping you do from over 1000 participating stores generates a donation to our organization (%). The only catch is that you must log in to iGive and then choose the store you wish to order from.

Please visit the iGive website. You will see that almost every store you can think of is listed as options for your online shopping needs.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wheelchair Basketball

Adaptive Sports Iowa continues to host weekly wheelchair Basketball pickup games in Ankeny. The games are held at the First Family Church located at 317 SE Magazine Road. The facility is reserved from 6-8 p.m. every Thursday night. Adaptive Sports Iowa will have six sports chairs on site. There is no cost to participate. Come out and enjoy the fun.
ATTENTION

Please check out our new and improved web page! [www.iowapva.org] Many items of interest will be posted frequently. This will bring you news about the chapter between newsletters. It is a work in progress, but you will find it very interesting and informative.

Please provide us with your email address. We would like to provide you your newsletter and other information electronically. This will make it easier for you and less expensive for us.

Cookbooks

The cookbooks have arrived and are going like hotcakes!!!! With every donation of at least $20.00, you will receive a free cookbook. Please send your donation directly to our office at:

Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America
7025 Hickman Rd., Suite #1
Urbandale, IA  50322

Associate Membership Drive

Please consider becoming an Associate Member of Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America. Simply contact our office and request an Associate Membership Application. Complete it and mail it with a check for $75.00 back to our office. Applicants for Associate Membership will receive a free cookbook.

Be sure to include the address you would like your gift sent to.

Thank you!!!!!!!!
Come Join Us At The 2015 Iowa State Fair

The Iowa Paralyzed Veterans of America invites you to attend the Iowa State Fair on us. We are again offering **FOUR FREE tickets** per family for our Family Time August event.

We do ask, if possible, to **please participate in the Veterans Day Parade** on Monday, August 17th. **FREE parking passes will be issued prior to the parade.** The Iowa Military Band will play and there will be other specific events honoring our nation’s veterans. **Please know that by being in the parade, you will have free admission for that day AND you can use your four FREE tickets another time!** Plus, those who participate in the parade will be the only ones eligible for any extra unclaimed tickets. The Veterans Day Parade is our chance to be recognized by thousands. We are historically the only group in the parade to receive a standing ovation which is a very touching tribute to those participating. While heat can be an issue, the past few years have been perfect. PLEASE call and tell us you will participate!!!

All ticket orders must be received **before Monday, July 27th.** For those participating in the parade, you may call the office and order any remaining tickets after August 10th. We will give you those extra tickets when you arrive to be in the parade. This is our most popular event of the year, so call to order your tickets ASAP. There will be NO reorder, so once the tickets are all spoken for, we will be done issuing tickets. As we have done in previous years, we will mail out your tickets to you as soon as we receive them in our office.

Call today, 515-277-4782 or 888-909-4782, to order your Iowa State Fair Tickets!!!!

---

**ARE YOU MOVING?!?!**

Don’t forget to notify the office of your new address. If you are a PVA member, we will let National PVA and PN PARAPLEGIA NEWS know where you are moving to, so you won’t miss a single issue.

Call us at 888-909-4782.