Photos from the 2017 IPVA Christmas Party

Festive decorations of Elves, wonderful catered meal by Hickory Park, visiting and gifts from Santa, singing carols and LOTS of memories....
As President of Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter, I regularly visit the VA Medical Center in Des Moines. I seek out veterans in need. I mentor. I discuss the benefits and care these veterans are entitled to and most importantly, I represent Iowa PVA.

I have fought for and done everything in my power to assist my fellow veterans. I have served in many capacities including being appointed Regional Veterans Liaison by U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Anthony Principi) during the George H.W. Bush administration. I have met and had the honor of serving more veterans and heroes than I could ever begin to count. It has been my pleasure and privilege to work alongside these veterans and try to help them in anyway I can.

My point in this is to encourage all of you to do whatever you can to assist our veterans whether it is through PVA, other veteran service organizations, or by just visiting or volunteering at the VA. There are many programs and benefits available to all veterans and a little research on your part could not only benefit you but also might bring you some knowledge to share and help out other veterans.

If you have any interest is assisting, please contact our office at 515-277-4782.

Below is a photo of Terry Lipovac and I sharing a handshake and some reminiscing conversation at the VA Medical Center in Des Moines. Terry is a member of our chapter, a very good old friend and served as a National Service Officer for VFW and Purple Heart. His son, Brian took the photo. Brian is also a PVA associate member as well as an Army Veteran.
This year's pheasant hunt was held at a preserve in Madrid, Iowa. This is our third annual pheasant hunt and they are getting better every year. There were more hunters this year and a lot more pheasants to shoot. Stacy and Jody Night contacted us three years ago and wanted to know if we would have any members interested in pheasant hunting. This year Jody and Stacy contacted Sean Blomgren and Michael Martin to see if they would be interested in letting us hunt on the preserve at Madrid.

There was plenty of ground and cover for the pheasants to hide. Michael is the owner of the property and was very generous to let us hunt on his property. I took my track chair and was able to roll along side of the walkers in the field. There were several dogs and some of them were pointers which helped me get ready to shoot when the birds were flushed. I was able to bag three birds from help of the dogs and the volunteers. As you can see from the pictures we had a great time. After the pheasant hunt we all went to the little town of Luther and ate at a Barbeque place. They had plenty of meals to choose from and the food was great.

I already know that Jody and Sean are working on next year’s pheasant hunt. If you want to be a part of this hunt you need to contact our office or you can contact me at 515-570-1402. Besides my track chair the chapter has a track chair available to anyone that wants to try hunting out of it. Some of the hunters like hunting out of the back of trucks so you can choose which way you want to hunt. For those hunting out of trucks, we would sit you at the end of the field and try to drive the pheasant toward you. We saw double the birds on the ground so there should be opportunity for you to get a chance to shoot a bird. Everyone had a great time and if this is something you miss doing we have plenty of volunteers to help you get back out in the field again.
From the Desk of Kim Gould
Iowa Chapter Sports Policy

The Iowa Chapter has policies in place to enable our members to participate in virtually any sporting event they choose. It is possible to have your attendance (and that of your caregiver) funded to the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, Castaway Disabilities Fishing Event, Trap/Pistol shooting events, Bass tournaments, Boccie clinics and events, cycling events, billiards tournaments, DAV Winter Sports Clinic, hunting events and other events with pre-approval by the Iowa Chapter Board of Directors. Please review the Chapter Sports Policy below. PLEASE contact me if you have ANY interest in participating and I will assist you with the process.

Kim

Iowa Chapter Sports and Recreation Funding Policy

A. Individual Participation:

1. Any event a member wishes to participate in must be PVA sponsored, and/or approved by the Iowa Chapter Board of Directors.
2. The Chapter will assist in funding for members in lodging, registration fees and transportation only in accordance with the following schedule. Members will be responsible for all other expenses.

   100% - for Wheelchair Games and four (4) other PVA sponsored events. Any additional events will need additional Board of Director’s approval.
   70% - Maximum of two (2) additional PVA sponsored events.
   100% - Local events (local is defined as within 250 miles of the Chapter office and/or state of Iowa). Maximum of three events.

Member must be certified for attendant funding in accordance with National guidelines. Attendant will be reimbursed at one hundred percent (100%) of travel (if by air) and lodging. However, extenuating circumstances will be given consideration.

B. Team Participation:

1. With approval by the Iowa Chapter Board of Directors and if funding is available, the Chapter may fund Chapter Teams for various sporting events.
2. The Chapter may fund the minimum number of events for a team to qualify for team awards.
3. The Chapter will provide funding assist for the team members to include lodging, registration fees and transportation only.

Team Participation: When physically possible, a team is to ride together to the approved events. If an individual does not want to ride with anyone, their reason needs to be in writing and brought to the Board of Directors 60 days prior to the event for approval.

C. General Terms and Conditions:

1. Travel:
   A. If traveling by air, reimbursement will be based on the amount of the most economical, round-trip, coach fare available at least thirty (30) days prior to departure.
   B. If traveling by automobile, Chapter will allow amount equal to the amount of the most economical, round-trip coach air fare available thirty (30) days prior to departure, or at .25 per mile, whichever amount is the lesser. However, extenuating circumstances will be given consideration.

“continued on next page”
2. Mileage: For events within the State of Iowa a rate of $.30 per mile will be paid. For events outside the State of Iowa reimbursement will be paid upon receipt of gas receipts.
3. Lodging: Lodging will be reimbursed at the rate of double occupancy (night before first day of event and nights of event). However, extenuating circumstances will be given consideration.
4. Registration Fees: The basic cost for a member to participate in a recreational activity or event.
5. Receipts will be required to substantiate all expenditures of Chapter Funds.
6. All expenditures must be documented on an official Chapter Business Expense Report.
7. For a member to be considered for future assistance, all Business Expense Reports must be submitted to the Chapter for payment within fifteen (15) working days following the last day of the activity.
8. Must be a Member in Good Standing. Regular members have preference.

In order to request financial aid a member must be:
- an active member;
- a registered PVA volunteer;
- If residing within a radius of 100 miles of the Chapter office, member must attend one half Chapter Membership Meetings (i.e. Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet, Christmas Party, etc.) during each Chapter Fiscal Year. (Excused absence will count as attendance.) Member must notify Chapter Office for each meeting from which they wish to be excused. Excused absence will be allowed due to illness, death in the family, or working in veterans activities).
- Any member requesting funds from Iowa Chapter and living within a 150 mile radius of the Chapter office, must participate in one half (1/2) of the fundraising activities sponsored by the Chapter.

9. For a member to request funding to participate in any event, a member must complete and provide a Funding Approval Form to the Iowa Chapter Board of Directors at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled event. Extenuating circumstances will be given consideration.
10. A member may not solicit funds for any event on behalf of the Iowa Chapter or Paralyzed Veterans of America name. All fundraising will be done through the chapter office.
11. All appeals must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors.

**MEMBERSHIP CONDUCT**

Any member of the Chapter, who attends PVA events, will act, dress and conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. If funding is provided to any Member to attend any event, a Business Expense Report, including any unused funds, must be submitted to the Chapter within fifteen business days following the last day of the event. Any member who does not follow these guidelines will be barred from attending any event in the future and in accordance with Chapter Bylaws, Article III Section 5, may have their membership suspended or be expelled.

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**The Mission Statement of Paralyzed Veterans of America**

*The Paralyzed Veterans of America,* a congressionally chartered veterans service organization founded in 1946, has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members—veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction.

PVA will use that expertise to be the leading advocate for:
- Quality health care for our members,
- Research and education addressing spinal cord injury and dysfunction,
- Benefits available as a result of our members’ military service,
- Civil rights and opportunities which maximize the independence of our members.

To enable PVA to continue to honor this commitment, we must recruit and retain members who have the experience, energy, dedication, and passion necessary to manage the organization and ensure adequate resources to sustain the programs essential for PVA to achieve its mission.
**January**

Sandra Kelderman  
Darren Jargo  
Jesse Barwick  
James Copeland  
Shawn Meyers  
Gerald Ebsen  
James DeLany  
Robbie Robinson  
Cynthia Greulich  

**February**

Travis Lamphier  
Janet Gruber  
Richard Beckwith-Adams  
Lowell Bartel  
Jerry Nail  
Rod Taylor  
Robert Fencl  
George Lehman  
Paul Barton  
Miles Chaplin  
Burl Corrigan  

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Phone:  515-962-0701  Fax:  515-962-9251

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**SUPPORT THE IOWA PVA**

Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter 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:

Paralyzed Veterans of America - Iowa Chapter  
7025 Hickman Rd, Suite #1  
Urbandale, IA  50322  
Thank you!

---

**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  
iowapvagretchen1@yahoo.com

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Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Iowa Chapter
The pool tournament was held at the Iowa Veterans Home like we usually do. This year we had eighteen participants. This is the most we had for a long time. We always start out by telling the rules of nine ball to everyone which most of them already know but sometimes we have new people that are not familiar with the game. Most of the prize money and trophies stayed with the winners at the Veterans Home.

Now I said that most of the winners were at the Veterans Home but there was one winner my wife Pauline took third place. I always thought she was just lucky but when I look on top of our entertainment center there are four trophies. Only one of those trophies are mine so I am rethinking there must be more to her winning than just luck. Everyone has to play from a wheelchair. Those that walk find out it is not always that easy to be shooting pool out of a wheelchair.

As for Kim Gould and me we shouldn’t feel real bad about getting beat the first round. Kim’s opponent took first place and mine took second place. Although, if Kim and I would play more than once a year we might do a lot better. Our first place winner was Joe Husak and the second place winner was Sonia Owens.

Every year we meet to play at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, Iowa usually the weekend before Thanksgiving. If you want to play pool with us mark your calendar for that time of the year and come join in some fun.
Rollout of new Veteran Identification Cards
By: Gus Gonzalez, NSO

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has announced the application process for the new Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is now available for veterans.

The VIC is available for those who served honorably in the United States Armed Forces. The new ID cards are also for men and women who meet the minimum obligation for service to include the Reserves and General "Under Honorable Conditions".

The new form of ID will provide a safer and more convenient way to show proof of your military service. This will eliminate carrying a copy of your DD-214, and this will allow Veterans to easily identify themselves when retailers are offering promotional discounts or for other services.

Also, the VIC card is personalized to display the emblem of service the Veteran was in. Future, it is designed in Braille to help the visually impaired Veterans and it has the VA telephone numbers and emergency care instructions.

To request a Veterans Identification Card (VIC), veterans must:
- Visit vets.gov.
- Click on “Apply for printed ID card.”
- On the bottom left of the page sign in and create an account.

Once you have applied for the new ID card, you should receive it within 60 days. You can also check on the status at vets.gov.

If you have any question or concerns, please contact your local Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Service Officer at 515-323-7544 or 1-800-795-3602.

Have you considered including Paralyzed Veterans of America—Iowa Chapter in your will or trust???

“It takes a notable person to plan 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 which will reap our members benefits for many years to come.

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Excel stairway lift with a 300# limit. Manufactured in 1997.
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Call Oscar at 515-289-1575 if you are interested.
Paralyzed Veterans of America Names Interim Executive Director

Organization’s policy expert steps in to lead national office operations

WASHINGTON, DC—Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) today announced that its President and Executive Committee have named Carl Blake the organization’s interim executive director. Paralyzed Veterans is the only veterans service organization that serves veterans living with spinal cord injury or disease, and Blake has led its government relations program since 2014.

Blake, a West Point grad and U. S. Army veteran, first became a member of Paralyzed Veterans in 2001, and has served as its associate executive director of government relations for the past three years.

“Carl Blake has shown unfailing dedication and commitment to the members of Paralyzed Veterans of America, all veterans and the greater disability community for more than a decade,” said National President David Zurfluh. “His leadership of our national advocacy and legislative efforts has given severely disabled veterans and their families new hope and opportunities for a better quality of life, families of their own and the benefits they’ve earned in service to our great country. We are confident he will continue to put the needs and concerns of our paralyzed veterans first, and do everything possible to improve the lives of our members and their families, as well as the lives of all veterans and disabled Americans.”

As head of the organization’s government relations department, Blake has been responsible for the planning, coordination, and implementation of its national legislative and advocacy program agendas with the United States Congress and federal departments and agencies. He has developed and executed Paralyzed Veterans’ Washington agenda in areas of budget, appropriations, health care, and veterans’ benefits issues, as well as disability civil rights. He has also spearheaded the consortium of veterans service organization partners who annually plan, author and publish The Independent Budget, a collaborative policy and budget recommendation publication that is presented each year to the United States Congress.

In this role, Blake has also represented Paralyzed Veterans to federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Small Business Administration, the Department of Transportation, Department of Justice, and the Office of Personnel Management. He has coordinated all activities with Paralyzed Veterans’ Association of Chapter Government Relations Directors, as well its Executive Committee, Board of Directors and senior leadership.

“I am honored and privileged to be asked to carry the responsibility of advancing the mission of Paralyzed Veterans of America,” said Blake. “As a Paralyzed Veterans’ member, I take seriously the organization’s commitment to the men and women who rely upon us to be their advocates. The leaders who have come before me have built this organization into a influential force in the veterans and disability communities, and I humbly intend to build on their legacy.”

More About Carl Blake

Carl Blake was raised in Woodford, Virginia. He graduated the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1998, with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Upon graduation from West Point, Blake was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry in the United States Army. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (1st Brigade) of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He graduated from Infantry Officer Basic Course, U.S. Army Ranger School, U.S. Army Airborne School, and Air Assault School. His awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Expert Infantryman’s Badge, and German Parachutist Badge. Carl retired from the military in October 2000 due to injuries suffered during a parachute training exercise.

Blake is a member of the Paralyzed Veterans Mid-Atlantic Chapter in Virginia. He lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia with his wife Venus, son Jonathan and daughter Brooke.
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Paralyzed Veterans of America “Deeply Disappointed” in New Tax Reform Plan

Organization cautions on provisions that undermine economic independence and community integration of veterans with disabilities


WASHINGTON, DC— Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans) today reacted to the new tax reform plan via a strongly worded letter to U.S. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal, saying in part that the provisions will “eliminate important sections of the tax code that directly affect veterans and people with disabilities.” While the letter went on to say the organization appreciates the efforts to effect broader tax reform, it reiterated caution on several key issues it had laid out in a similar letter to the committee earlier this year.

Citing serious concerns, including the repeal of medical expense deductions, work opportunity tax credits and credits for accessibility expenditures, Paralyzed Veterans Associate Executive Director of Government Relations Carl Blake today issued the following press statement:

“Only days away from Veterans Day, I cannot imagine a more disappointing message to the most catastrophically injured men and women who served our country than to hinder their financial independence, detrimentally affect their quality of life, or undermine the civil rights provided to them under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),” he stated.

“Nearly 300,000 veterans benefitted from The Work Opportunity Tax Credit between 2013 and 2015, the large majority of whom are veterans who have served during the War on Terror since September 11, 2001. Additionally, the Disabled Access Credit is a vital tool in helping small businesses abide by the Americans with Disabilities Act,” he continued. “I’m certain Congress doesn’t wish to place further burdens on veterans and people with disabilities who face barriers to employment, impose financial hardships for medical expenses, or further compromise on outstanding compliance issues with our country’s critical disability law. We urge policymakers to find a better balance that doesn’t abandon our commitment to spinal cord injured veterans and all disabled Americans.”

To request a copy of the full letter, contact Tracey Lynn Shifflett (TraceyS@pva.org; 202.416.7670).

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 on line shopping needs.

Thank you for your continued support.
BECOME A FELLOW
Serve as Leaders Among Your Peers

Paralyzed Veterans of America’s Fellows Program provides paralyzed veterans the opportunity to advocate through its network of public, private and nonprofit organizations. Through public appearances and speaking engagements, Paralyzed Veterans Fellows will serve as leaders among their peers, elevating the nation’s awareness of the contributions and struggles of U.S. veterans living with spinal cord injury or disease. This position comes with compensation.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE:

- Paralyzed Veterans members or eligible for membership
- Available to work a minimum of 20 hours a month
- Able to travel
- Able to commit to the Fellows 2-year program

Completed Applications Must be Received by November 15, 2017
For more information, contact: commdept@pva.org

APPLY NOW:
pva.org/fellowship

ParalyzedVeterans • PVA1946 • #VeteransMatter
Deer Hunt 2017
By Kenny Lloyd

Well it finally happened. After sixteen years of filling everyone’s deer tags, we were unable to fill all the tags this year. I knew our luck or whatever you want to call it would not keep going forever, although every one of our PVA members and two volunteers did fill their tags. There were six deer in all that were taken this year. We had some new hunters this year and I was glad that they were able to fill their tags. Our volunteers this year really worked hard to help our members to fill their tags.

As for me, I did fill my tag this year and I usually don’t brag too much about my hunting but my deer was the largest and the first deer taken of our deer hunt. I was sitting in my trackchair waiting to see what our volunteers would push through the timber. I was down the hill looking up in the timber when I saw two bucks coming at me. All I could see was the heads and their necks coming at me in the tall grass. I put the crosshairs on the neck of the biggest buck and squeezed the trigger. I was shooting a black powder and when I shot, there was a poof of smoke that came in front of my face. I could not see a thing for about 30 seconds. I looked down the fence row and I watched two bucks running away. I was only fifty yards away when I shot and was really disappointed that I missed.

The bucks had ran across this open field and our volunteers decided to see if we would find a blood trail or the bucks that ran away. We went across the field and into another timber and there was no sign of the deer or any blood. I went back to the spot I was sitting and decided to take my trackchair up higher on the hill to see if I could see anything. I was limited to how far I could go because of a fence that separated me and the deer when I shot. As I was peering through the tall grass I could see something white lying on the ground. At this point I was really getting excited thinking there must have been three bucks in this group instead of two. It was too warm for snow so I was confident it was a deer laying there and I yelled at one of our volunteers and told him I was either looking at snow on a rock or there was a deer which sure enough it was. That was when I found out it was a ten point buck that I had shot. The head of this deer will be on my living room wall.

I want to say thank you to our PVA members that came out to hunt this year which was Tom Sankey, George Barber, and Oscar Ballard. I want to especially say thank you to the volunteers for their hard work and they were Tony Geary, Brian Tidman, my brother Gary Lloyd, Jarad Brown, Jameson Brown, and Randy Torgeson. I also want to say thank you to the ladies that helped with the lunches which were Alesha Barber, Debra Sankey, and my wife Pauline. If you want to join us next year you need to call the office or me.
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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.
Lone Star Shooting Sports Tournament  
June 22-24, 2018  
Waxahachie, TX

Iowa Shooting Sports Tournament  
June 15-17, 2018  
Pistol Tournament 
Cedar Rapids, IA

PARALYZED VETERANS BASS TOUR
Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament  
April 8-8, 2018  
Kissimmee, FL

KY-IN Bass Tournament  
May 4-6, 2018  
Kuttawa, KY

National Bass Tournament  
June 1-3, 2018  
Marbury, MD

Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament  
June 8-10, 2018  
Richmond, VA

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Mid-America Billiards Tournament  
April 20-22, 2018  
Oklahoma City, OK

Mountain States Billiards Tournament  
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Buckeye Billiards Tournament**  
June 22-23, 2018  
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Cal-Diego Boccia Tournament  
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For more information, visit: pva.org/sports
Gov. Reynolds appoints Steve Lukan as Iowa VA Executive Director

(DES MOINES) – Gov. Kim Reynolds announced the appointment of Steve Lukan Monday as Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs executive director. Most recently, Lukan served as director of the Governor’s Office of Drug Control Policy. He replaces Jodi Tymeson, who announced her retirement last month.

Lukan is a former state representative, serving Iowa House District 32 from 2003-12. From 2008-12, he assisted in guiding the House Republican Caucus as assistant leader. During Lukan’s time in the Iowa House, he also chaired the House Economic Development Appropriations Committee, championed the creation of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and enacted legislation to help disabled veterans through establishment of the Veterans Trust Fund.

Lukan served four years in the U.S. Navy, earning four promotions and obtaining the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and Navy Achievement Medal.

“I am humbled and honored to serve the brave men and women of our armed forces in this way,” Lukan said. “They have given excellence in their service, and excellence in fulfilling the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs will be our goal.”

“Steve is a proven champion of Iowa veterans,” Gov. Reynolds said. “He used his time in public office to make veterans’ issues a priority. He showed them they matter to our state and play an important role in our society. I appreciate Steve’s passionate advocacy and am confident in his ability to ensure Iowa veterans receive the benefits they deserve.”

“Steve has been successful in uniting diverse interests at the Office of Drug Control Policy,” Lt. Gov. Gregg said. “He’s been able to focus the public’s attention on drug control, and I am confident he will also be able to shine a spotlight on the needs of those who have so bravely served our nation.”

Lukan’s appointment is effective immediately. Dale Woolery will serve as interim director of the Office of Drug Control Policy.
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.