



## Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

**January 2018**

### **Happy New Year TPVA!**

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and that your New Year is starting off the way you hoped. We are providing a summary newsletter this month, as we are in the process of putting our annual report together that you should receive by the end of the month. Fiscal years 2016-2017 were very successful for TPVA and we cannot wait to share the highlights with you.

In San Antonio, after the site visit in October, we have discussed having a town hall meeting to address the issues of the spinal cord patients to the physicians and staff. On February 15, Dr. Wickrmasinghe, MD, the new Executive Director of the VA's Spinal Cord Services will be meeting with patients and members of TPVA at the VA. I do not have an exact time yet, but will let everyone know as soon as I can. Also, for those of you that had issues at the site visit, that have been denied equipment, or saw a reduction in your program services, I need you to please make an appointment at the spinal cord clinic to address those concerns with the new acting chief, Dr. Barber. He is diligently working on solving the issues and concerns that have been raised, but he cannot help if you do not go see him.

I received notice that a site visit will be taking place in Houston at the SCI on March 12-14, with the membership meeting being scheduled at 3 PM on March 12 in the day room in the spinal cord unit. If you have any concerns you wish to address, please attend the meeting. Mark your calendars for our annual Kill'n Clays fundraising event to be held March 10, at the national shooting complex.

Keep an eye on the calendar of events for many upcoming opportunities to get out and enjoy spring in Texas.

Sincerely,  
Anne Robinson

### **Government Relations by Kerry Reyna**

It's that time of year where you form good habits and I will do my best to keep the PVA membership abreast of local, state and national officials see during the year.

The week of 5-8 March 2018, some of your PVA board members will be in Washington, DC for the PVA National Advocacy meeting. Two of those days we will actually be meeting with our elected representatives to discuss issues pertinent to our membership. For example, the Air Carrier Access Act and expanding care giver benefits.

In 2017, we were invited to Senator John Cornyn's Thursday coffee and met with him personally. I have applied to Senator Cornyn's Thursday coffee to 2018 and hope to report back on our discussion. During this Advocacy trip I intend to meet with our representatives who serve on the Veterans Committee. They are Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX) and Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-TX) to let them know about the membership's concerns. Please see the website:

<https://veterans.house.gov/resources-for-veterans/veterans-service-organizations.htm>

We also intend to go see Senator Ted Cruz who serves on the Armed Services Committee and the website is <https://www.armed-services.senate.gov> along with Texas Representatives Mac Thornberry and K. Conaway. Please the website: <https://armedservices.house.gov>.

Lastly, since it is the New Year give your local PVA chapter a call to see what you can volunteer for and get with our reps to ensure all your Veterans Administration paper work is up to date.

## 2018 San Antonio Rodeo availability

**Friday 02/09/18 7:30 pm**      **Brett Eldridge**

**Saturday 02/10/18 1 pm**      **Josh Abbott Band**

**Saturday 02/10/18 7:30 pm**      **Kip Moore**

**Monday 02/12/18 7 pm**      **Chris Young**

**Sunday 02/18/18 1 pm**      **Cam**

**Sunday 02/18/18 7:30 pm**      **Caliber 50**

**Thursday 02/22/18 7 pm**      **Cody Johnson**



## Sports Director:

Hello PVA members welcome to a new year, as you all know the 38th National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held in **Orlando from July 29 to Aug. 4, 2018**. This is just a friendly reminder for all that are planning to attend this event, you will need to get your points in on time as well as any other things that will have to be done to participate, application, doctor's appointments and equipment check.

Time flies and you don't want to miss out on the fun!