

Speedy Gazette

"Improving Lives... Building Futures"



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

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September 2018



**IN HONOR
AND REMEMBRANCE** 



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

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President Report

Anne Robinson



Greetings TPVA Members, Donors, Family, Caregivers, and Volunteers, Staff and VA Staff

I hope I was able to cover everyone who might take an opportunity to read our newsletter and has contributed to the chapter in any way, I apologize if I left anyone out. It does not seem real that this is my last report as President for the newsletter, time has flown by. When I first became President, after David Fowler passed away, I was not sure if I would be able to fill the shoes of those who had held the position before me. There were definitely challenges, but the rewards far outweighed the challenges, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been trusted by the members to lead the organization, I will forever be humbled by the experience. I owe my husband many rides on his motorcycle for all the hours and miles he spent helping me and driving me from place to place. And a big thank you to my VP, Tammy, for always being on the other end of the phone when I needed help. To the many people who provided guidance, wisdom and kept me out of trouble over the years, thank you, couldn't have done it without you.

On that note, I would like everyone to welcome the new President of TPVA, Mr. Derrick Perkins. Derrick has been huge part of the Chapter leadership for several years. He resides in Houston and has worn many hats besides just being a board member, he has been Satellite Director, Chapter Hospital Liaison, performed site visits at the Houston VA, peer counselor and function coordinator. Mr. Perkins has also attended several National board meetings and has learned the ins and outs of the TPVA and PVA. I think he will do a great job leading the Chapter and representing Texas. Please throw all your support his way so that he can continue TPVA's mission and provide opportunities for its members to live life to its fullest. He could definitely use more volunteers in Houston, so if you're interested, please let him know.

I will not be far away, as I will fill in the role as immediate past president (IPP) and help Derrick and the BOD, I will continue serving as National Director for the Chapter, serve as chairperson of the women's health committee for PVA and be active in San Antonio. I will definitely become more involved in Boccia, finish remodeling my house and spend lots of time with the grandbaby. I'm always easy to contact either by phone or email.

Please do not hesitate to give me a call,

Anne Robinson
President

Vice President Report Tammy Jones

Weekly Ongoing Events



San Antonio

ALMVA SCIC

Location, unless stated otherwise, ALM SCIC Rec Room
Monday - 1pm Adaptive Gaming
Tues - 10am Indoor Archery Boerne Leading Edge
1pm Boccia
Wed - 9am Bowling Oak Hills Lanes
1pm Table Tennis 9 ball, etc.
Thurs - Wellness and Social
Friday - 9:30am Air Rifle/Pistol

STRAPS

Location Morgans Wonderland unless stated
Sunday - 9am Spurs w/c Basketball
3:30pm Power Soccer
6pm W/c rugby
Monday - 6pm W/c soccer
Wed - 3:30pm Boccia
Thurs- 3:30pm Spurs W/c Basketball
7:30pm Adapted Crossfit Mind Body Soul

Austin/Harker Heights (www.texasregionalparalympicsports.org)

Sunday- 5:30-7pm Sled Hockey Northcross Mall Ice Rink
Monday- 8:30am-11am Rowing for All (every other Mon) Call Genny 210-241-2508; Texas Rowing Center
Tuesday- 1:30-4:30pm Archery; Harker Heights Rec Center
Saturday- 8:30-11am Rowing; Texas Rowing Center (www.texasrowingforall.org)
4-6pm W/c Basketball Harker Heights Rec Center

Houston Area

Houston Parks & Recreation

Metropolitan Multiservice Center (1475 W. Gray)

Monday- 6-9pm W/C Basketball open gym
Tuesday- 6-8pm Basketball/Rugby Off season Training Program
Wed- 6-9pm W/C Basketball open gym
7-9pm Kayak Basketball League
Thurs- 7-9pm W/C Rugby League
Friday- 7-8:30pm W/C Tennis
Saturday- 10-11am Sled Hockey Memorial City Mall Ice rink

TIRR Memorial Hermann

<http://tirr.memorialhermann.org/patient-resources/adaptive-sports/>

For more information on the sports below visit the website(above) or call 713-797-5928

W/C Basketball - Jr. Hotwheels & Adult Hotwheels Teams

Quad Rugby - TIRR Texans

W/ C Ultimate Frisbee

Handcycling

Paralympic Sport



July 11 – 16, 2019
Louisville, KY

www.wheelchairgames.org



March 31 - April 5, 2019
Snowmass, CO
www.wintersportsclinic.org

Membership Events

August

- 3-5 - Abilities Expo Houston NRG Stadium Hall E -Volunteers needed
- 9 - SAS Member Forum ALM SCIC Rec Room 5pm meal 6pm Meeting (2nd Thursday****DATE CHANGE)**
- 9 - Women w/SCI Support Group 1:30pm ALM SCIC Dayroom
- 20-21 - All Can Ski, register www.youcanski.org or 210-820-2100
- 24 - Missions Game 6:30pm Wolff Stadium San Antonio 3rd Base Will Call
- 7/28-8/1 - National Veterans Golden Age Games
- 29 - Houston Member Forum 12pm MED SCIC Rec Room

September

- 6 - SAS Member Forum ALM SCIC Rec Room 5pm meal 6pm Meeting
- 8-9 - STRAPS Power Soccer Clinic 9am - 5pm Morgan's Wonderland
- 13 - Women w/SCI Support Group 1:30pm ALM SCIC Dayroom
- 21-22 - DITW Fishing Weekend Island Queen II Port Aransas (Fri. Evening & Saturday 1-5pm)
register at www.ditw.org
- 24-26 - Valor Games Southwest, San Antonio various venues
- 26 - Houston Member Forum 12pm MED SCI Rec Room
- 29 - Adapted Sailing at Canyon Lake, reg. at www.ditw.org
- Ongoing - Dove Hunts contact Josue Lopez, David Bradshaw, Alvin Guererro

October

- 4 - SAS Member Forum ALM SCIC Rec Room 5pm meal 6pm meeting
- 11 - Women w/SCI/D Support Group 1:30pm ALM SCIC Dayroom
- 12 - Jack Sanders Awards Banquet; Magnolia Haus San Antonio, TX
- 13 - TPVA Board Meeting
- 31 - Houston Member Forum 12pm MED SCIC Rec Room

November

- 1 - SAS Member Forum ALM SCIC Rec Room 5pm meal 6pm meeting
- 4 - Daylight Savings Ends
- 10 - SA Veterans Day Parade line-up 10am, roll off 12pm; contact Chapter office if interested
- 11 - Houston Veterans Day Parade RSVP Chapter Office if interested
- 22 - Thanksgiving

Government Relations by Kerry Reyna

TPVA members:

Two months until we all go to the polls to vote and I truly hope you get out and vote. A lot of candidates will be having town halls as we get closer to November. Trust me they notice your presence and hear your voice.

In case you haven't heard the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act was signed by President Trump on 13 August 2018.

One of the highlights: Veterans with a permanent service-connected disability rated as total, are Granted Space A Available Travel Eligibility. Veterans under this new eligibility will be placed in category VI (6) and will be authorized to remain in the Space Available backlog up to 60 days. You are authorized to travel within CONUS and to US Territories as currently listed in DoDI 4515.13. The downside is that eligibility is NOT extended to Dependent Family Members of Veterans.

For more information you can call the JBSA Lackland//JBSA Randolph Passenger Terminal at 210-295-8714 or locate them on Facebook under JBSA Lackland//JBSA Randolph Passenger Terminal. Take Care and my appreciation to all the caregivers!



Thursday, October 25th 12 Noon MEDVAMC

SCI Unit Day Room

Lunch and entertainment provided by Paralyzed

Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

PVA Legislative Summary

by Eric Lindsay

Austin Democrats with disability forum with the Austin Mayor and candidates for mayor September 16 from 2-4 PM at 1100 S. IH 35 in Austin.

What is “sovereign immunity?”

The concept of “sovereign immunity” protects states from suits and legal liability by its own citizens unless the state consents to be sued or the state is sued by one of its citizens in a federal court as a result of violation of federal law. Sovereign immunity originates from the 11th amendment of the United States Constitution. There have been legal precedents supporting and opposing sovereign immunity.

Why is it important?

Governor Abbott in his former capacity as attorney general of the state of Texas, has been reluctant to support ADA law suits against Texas citing sovereign immunity. Currently, in Texas, individuals with disabilities who experience discrimination on the part of a state entity or actor may have no legal recourse if a state entity or actor refuses to make reasonable accommodations for them. A few states including Texas, assert that the 11th amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants all states sovereign immunity from suit under the ADA. Texas made this assertion in an amicus brief filed in Lane v. Tennessee.

Who does it effect?

The entire disabled community is vulnerable to discrimination if the state of Texas continues to apply the concept of sovereign immunity. Hypothetically, maintaining sovereign immunity could mean that the disabled community is refused access to government buildings diminishing their ability to redress legal grievances, advocate, demonstrate and to hold the government accountable for protecting civil rights.

What can we do?

Contact your state senator and find out what their position is on sovereign immunity as it relates to the Americans With Disabilities Act. Ask them if they support waiving sovereign immunity to enable disabled access. Texas Senate Bill 296 (January 2017) introduced by state senator Hinojosa seeks to waive sovereign immunity in Texas. Encourage your state senator to support waiving sovereign immunity, at least as it pertains to the Americans with disabilities act in order to enable freedom of access. VOTE.IN.NOVEMBER.

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has donated \$10 million to the “With Honor” super PAC, a bipartisan political action committee organized to elect veterans to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Below are some voting resources the disabled community can access in order to vote in November’s elections:

<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/reqabbm.shtml>

vote411.org

<https://www.fvap.gov/texas>

<http://www.revuptexas.org/>

Dear Cici

by: Jan Waddy

Dear Cici,

I've never thought about the possibility that my husband and I would have to live apart from each other. It's been a long rough road for us. Sam has been in a wheelchair for almost four years now, and although I have problems with fibromyalgia and am in pain frequently, I was still able to take care of him and myself. Earlier this year, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and it seems to be progressing rapidly. The doctors are not optimistic, and my doctor says it is impossible for me to continue taking care of him at home. The recommendation is for him to go to a nursing facility where he can receive full time care, and I can continue to take care of myself.

We are both distraught over this, and he says he does not want to go to a facility. I really want to honor his wishes, but we cannot afford to hire someone to help us, we are not eligible for assistance through the VA, and we have no relatives who can help us. I don't want to make this decision without him, but I feel I have no other choice. Do you have any suggestions?

Claire

Dear Claire,

Sometimes troubles seem to be overwhelming, especially when our options are limited and we feel powerless to resolve them. My first recommendation is to do research, both on the disease and on facilities in your area. Your doctors (medical and psychological) can help you better understand and deal with your particular situation. You and Sam can benefit from visits to facilities and talking with their residents and the residents' family members.

Forced separations can be made easier if you commit to frequent visits. It offers the assurance that your loved one does not feel abandoned.

Frequent outings are also a plus. Find out what programs are available at each facility, and whether you can do some of them together. Soliciting Sam's friends to visit, either with you or on their own, will help Sam realize he's not alone. It is not the best of situations, but it is a doable thing if you want what is best for both of you. And remember to plan time for yourself; it will benefit both of you, and it will serve to keep depression at bay.

Focus on the positive things you have and take one day at a time. That's the best any of us can do.

Wishing you well,

Cici

Act Now: Urge Congress to increase funding and expand PRC services

<https://www.christopherreeve.org/blog/daily-dose/act-now-urge-congress-to-increase-funding-and-expand-prc-services>

Since its founding in 2002, the Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) has helped millions of people access information, receive direct mentoring and support, and participate in grant-funded programs that improve quality of life. Recently, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) re-awarded the Reeve Foundation a three-year grant to continue running the national PRC.

However, being selected for the grant is only step one—the PRC also needs support from Congress. While ACL provides the grant, it's Congress that funds it. The more funding Congress provides, the more the PRC can do to help families impacted by paralysis.

We are thrilled to report that the Senate Appropriations Committee recently voted to increase funding for the national PRC by \$1 million, to a total of \$7.7 million for the next year of the three-year grant.

The committee noted that the PRC “has long provided essential, comprehensive information, and referral services that promote independence and quality of life for the 5.4 million people living with paralysis and their families.” These funds will enable the PRC to extend the reach of its programs and services and help more families navigate the immediate realities and long-term challenges of paralysis. There is more work to be done, more people to help, and this increase in funds will power the PRC to have a deeper and greater impact across the paralysis community nationwide.

Unfortunately, the House Appropriations Committee did not match the Senate's increase. Instead, the House version of the bill “level-funds” the PRC, keeping it identical with last year's funding level. Luckily, there's still time to ask your Representatives to match the Senate level.

Eventually, the House and Senate will meet to iron out differences in their respective funding bills. If enough members of Congress hear from advocates like you, the more likely they are to accept the Senate numbers and formally pass the \$1 million increase. That is why we need your voice to explain why this increase in funds is not only vital but also a smart use of federal dollars given the depth and breadth of PRC services. With your story and advocacy, legislators will understand the value of these additional dollars and how they will tangibly help families impacted by paralysis.

How you can help:

You can use Reeve's advocacy portal to contact your Representative and urge them to increase funding for the PRC. We strongly urge you to personalize your letter with information on how the PRC and its programs have helped you and your family. Legislators want to hear from you and understand your unique story as someone impacted by paralysis. It will take only a few minutes, but the impact has the potential to change lives and help more families living with paralysis.

As Christopher Reeve said, “It comes down to us. We have the power to make an extraordinary difference,” Your voice can and will make a difference so please act now and help us secure more life-changing funding for the Paralysis Resource Center.

First Dove Hunt 2018 Buda, TX

Let's get ready - and the activity begin by Alvin Guerrero



Hunters in session



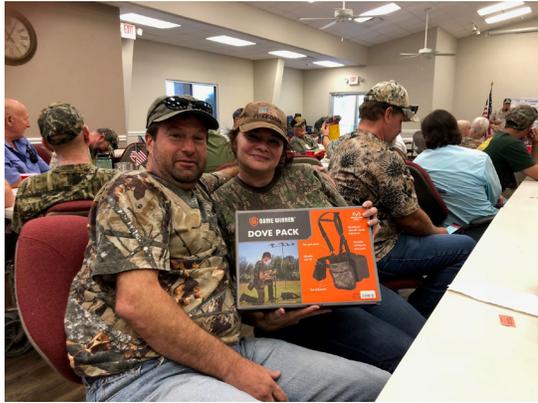
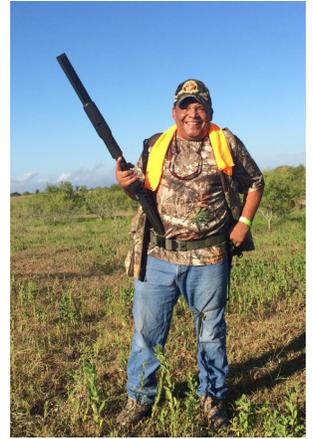


Our Rewards



Thanks to our helpers

Fun Times!



Veteran Celebration.... Texas Style

By: Scott Caudill

My wife Lisa and I support Trinity Oaks, a charitable organization that supports veterans, very ill children and those without the means to enjoy the great outdoors. It's been a blessing in our lives and this year I again purchased a whitetail Hunt for two at their annual Gala.

I decided to take Dr. Benny Reynaga who is a member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Texas Chapter with me as my partner. I met Dr. Ben out on the sporting clays course at the National Shooting complex. I'm blessed to shoot often with Alvin Guerrero and his group of vets and I cannot say enough about what these guys do for those who have served. I'm very proud to be associated with them.

While schedules are always hard to align we managed to set a good date in January at Thumbtack Ranch just outside of Batesville, Texas.

Dr. Ben has a love of the outdoors and has been sharing with me pictures of his daughter and son in law who live in Alaska hunting and fishing. Turns out that he has never actually had the blessing of Deer Hunting himself which of course was going to make this weekend particularly special.

We loaded up the wheelchair accessible van and made way to the ranch while we chatted a great deal more about our past. I got to know a lot of things about him that I found remarkable. Turns out not only did he serve in the Navy in Vietnam but when he was young he was a Wing Walker! I learned out how he got into this crazy stunt plane thing and found myself riding shotgun with a real dare devil! Turns out Dr. Ben is also a pilot and has served with the flying Samaritans, taking aid and medical support into areas that desperately need it. Arriving for lunch with Ryan Cantu of Trinity, our Guide we dined at the little Mexican restaurant and everyone got a chance to catch up and talk about plans for the hunts ahead.

We made way to the range to site in rifles. Trinity is blessed to have access to Thumbtack and the necessary equipment to handle wheel chair bound guests. Dr. Ben was provided a power track chair which really opened the entire ranch to him. We took the time to adjust to several shooting positions from the chair and to get comfortable with the equipment to make a clean shot should the opportunity present itself. Taking the time to really get comfortable for any first-time hunter is important but I have to say Ryan has a calm and patience that puts anyone right at ease.

We set out that Friday evening to different parts of the Ranch. I'm hunting a tower blind on the edge of a fence line with pretty clear shooting lanes to several open positions. Josh Mayfield is my guide and he is also a veteran. This is South Texas brush country and from this position I have a good view for quite some distance. The weather is fair and the wind a little stiff. Dr. Ben sets out with Ryan and they are overlooking food plots not too far from the Ranch house. I saw some remarkable deer but I'm looking for a particular class of animal and this first evening it was just not meant to be. I watched the last light fade into darkness and we headed back to the house to swap stories of the hunt and get ready for dinner. Turns out their hunt had started very slow, but some quality bucks had shown up late. Again though, not the class of animal we are looking for.

Dinner was awesome in Uvalde at the Outback. We talked a lot about Trinity, the American Paralyzed Vets, hunts of the past and how these organizations have had an impact on the lives of those they have touched.

Its early to bed and prepare for Saturday. Morning comes early and Ryan it turns out has a special gift. He can make a mean pot of coffee and I don't think he drinks any himself. I have a habit of over indulging in morning Joe and today was no different. The plan for the am hunt is the same locations to see if what we are looking for makes way into the areas we had chosen. Unfortunately, we had very much the same results. We both saw a lot of deer, but our particular quarry was not either around or not showing themselves. We are hunting 150 class whitetail. A nice animal in any book as far as I'm concerned.

Veteran Celebration.... Texas Style

During the afternoon, a brief snooze, more story swapping and we are back into our blinds. We took the time to survey the ranch in the early afternoon considering a move. At this point we decide to stick to our location and plan for one more sit. In my case it pays off. There are deer everywhere and several animals I had not previously seen. We were looking for a specific deer and sure enough about half way into the hunt our buck shows up about 100 yards out. Its relatively early so we keep watching. There are deer at 4 of 5 shooting lanes and there is a good bit of time before sunset. Finally, our buck disappears into the brush only to reemerge at about 125 yards to my left. It's clear this is my best opportunity and I squeeze my Remington 700 trigger and the 270 finds its mark dropping the buck right where he stood. A clean kill on a fine animal.

Ryan and Dr. Ben had not been as successful. They had a great story though. A classic experience. Turns out they were about ready to take a particular deer when a fox came running through and scared off all the deer just before they get a shot. That's the kind of story a new hunter needs to have for a campfire chat with the boys.

Sunday am comes early. Another pot of Ryan's coffee and today I'm blessed to join Ben and Ryan. The blind they have is mobile and equipped to handle the track chair. It easily fits all three of us and I'm not about to miss this last hunt which we are all praying to be a success. Saturday evening chatting with other hunters yielded a fresh idea for another location. We will have to go in early and move the blind with the truck. Ryan not only gets us out there and into position, but he realizes he needs to trim brush for a clear shot based on the position of the blind. A little added prayer and sure enough we are seeing exactly what we are looking for. In the first few minutes we have a prime buck in exactly the right class. A beautiful symmetrical 8-point buck. Now the patience that we practiced at the range comes into play. Ryan has binoculars on the buck and Dr. Ben has the rifle up spotting our deer with the scope. The buck moves in, out, away and this waltz continues for about 25 minutes. Ryan is coaching Ben on the shot, the location and finally the shot presents itself. "Take Him". The Buck is hit clearly and hard. He ran into the brush just out of site. There is absolute exuberance in the blind as we know the deer was hit right. The classic slap sound of the bullet hitting the animal was evident to everyone. We waited about 20 minutes before heading out to look for Dr. Ben's first buck. The deer had not gone far. About 15 – 20 yards he was laying in the open. We took a lot of celebration photos. This was something to remember.

On our ride home, Dr. Ben said the only thrill better than flying might be his new love of deer hunting. Now that is a blessing. Lisa and I are grateful to have been blessed with the resources to support Trinity and the Paralyzed vets but I'm particularly grateful for the time spent in the outdoors with some remarkable people.





Paralyzed Veterans of America



Texas Chapter

BBQ Cook-Off

FRIDAY, OCT 19TH

&

SATURDAY, OCT 20TH

V.F.W. 10352 - 16035

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Gold Donor	\$250 – \$499
Silver Donor	\$100 – \$249
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Platinum: Wayne & Joann Moore Foundation, Fred and Donna Mason, Jose C. Laguna, Maps of Texas, United Way, Takata, Enemeez, Inc, Mr. & Mrs. William Mandel, Adaptive Driving Access, John and Bertha Lindsey, Rosemarie Zimmer, Velma Ellison.

Titanium: American Online Giving Foundation, Fidelity Gift Fund, Paxton Arms, Sandra Kennedy, Amazon Smiles, Campbell-Williams VOFW Post 4458, Reagent Chemical & Research, Twenty One Hundred Plaza, LLC, Arletha Guerrero, Johnson Glass & Mirror, Miller Truck Lines, LLC.

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We're going fishing!!!

**You're invited Wednesday, October 10th, 9 am
(4 hour trip) Galveston Bay**

Food and drinks are served on the boat at no cost to you. Please RSVP as soon as possible and let us know if you will need hotel accommodations. For those traveling from the Houston area we will cover one night hotel and those traveling from further areas can request two nights.

I hope you can join us! This is a fun fishing trip and there's plenty to see and do on Galveston Island. Please RSVP as soon as possible and contact the chapter office if you will need a hotel room.

Call Amanda 713-520-8782 x2

FYI – the restrooms on the boat are not accessible

Don't forget to take Dramamine if you are prone to motion sickness



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

5th Annual Freedom Shoot

December 1st, 2018

Mail checks to: PVA, TEXAS
P.O. Box 989, Crosby, TX 77532 OR
Credit card 713-520-8782 x2

Go to www.iclays.com and click on upcoming tournaments

OPEN TO ALL SHOOTERS - Novice AND Experienced
HELD AT PECAN MEADOW, 2225 FM 834 RD. W LIBERTY, 77575
For directions, please go to www.pecanmeadow.com

Registration begins at 7:30 am - Shooting begins at 9:00 am
SCORE CARDS IN BY 1:00 PM

Team AND Individual Scoring
4 man teams
Mulligans available / 4 max per person / \$5 per Mulligan

Golf Carts available by reservation only
If reservation is not made 5 days in advance, golf cart availability is not guaranteed
Bringing your own UTV, ATV or golf cart is allowed

For more information visit www.texaspva.org
Amanda 713-520-8782 x 2 or via email amandas@texaspva.org

Team name: _____ Email address _____
Shooter # 1 _____ Wheelchair Y/N - Lady Y/N
Shooter # 2 _____ Wheelchair Y/N - Lady Y/N
Shooter # 3 _____ Wheelchair Y/N - Lady Y/N
Shooter # 4 _____ Wheelchair Y/N - Lady Y/N

MAIN EVENT

100 bird sporting clay course \$100
entry - \$400 entry per team

FUN EVENTS

Terror of Teal

\$10 per attempt

Crazy Rabbit

\$15 per attempt

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Veteran Team Sponsor - \$400

Includes one 4 man team of vets, lunch, name on banner, sign on course

Station Sponsor - \$100

Includes 1 station sign at 1 out of the 10 stations, name on banner

Bronze Sponsor - \$1000

Includes one 4 man team, lunch, name on banner, sign on the course

Silver Sponsor - \$1500

Includes two 4 man teams, lunch, name on banner, sign on the course

Gold Sponsor - \$2000

Includes three 4 man teams, lunch, name on banner, sign on the course

For question on these events please contact us at: sburgess@pecanmeadow.com
(936) 391-8079

Please contact Amanda
713-520-8782 x 2 or amandas@texaspva.org

CLASSIFIEDS / SERVICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVERTISE WITH THE SPEEDY GAZETTE!

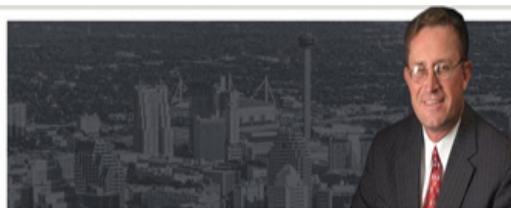
All submissions for the Classified Section of the SPEEDY GAZETTE must be submitted to the TPVA Office no later than the 1st of the month. The charge is \$15.00 for 15 words (each additional word is \$.25 cents). Payment must accompany the ad. If you are a member in good standing with TPVA, you may place a 15-word ad for FREE! An incentive of a 10% discount applies on ANNUAL commitments.

Display Advertisements: to offset some of the cost of printing and mailing the SPEEDY GAZETTE, the following ad rates apply:

SIZE:	MONTHLY:	ANNUAL (Approximately 6 issues per year):
Business Card	\$20.00	\$120.00 less 10% = \$108.00
¼ Page	\$30.00	\$180.00 less 10% = \$162.00
½ Page	\$55.00	\$330.00 less 10% = \$297.00
Full Page:	\$125.00	\$750.00 less 10% = \$675.00

Please call 1-800-933-4261 or 713-520-8782 (EXT. 4) to place a Display Advertisement or Classified Advertisement and watch your business get noticed!

Jon R. Disrud Board Certified Family Attorney



I have been a licensed attorney for 27.5 years. I also have 27 years of military service, active and reserve as a Judge Advocate. I have a general law practice covering many areas, but I am a Family Law specialist having experience and compassion for military members going through a divorce. I also represent military members before the Formal Physical Evaluation Board regarding military medical separations.

At the Law Offices of Jon R. Disrud, our practice comprises a wide range of legal services, including:

- Divorce and Texas family law
- Criminal law and military courts-martial defense
- Military medical discharge problems
- Estate preservation documents, estate planning and probate administration

Law Office of Jon R. Disrud
13750 San Pedro, Suite 410
San Antonio, Texas 78232

www.disrudgarcialaw.com
Telephone: (210) 494-6633
Telecopier: (210) 494-6640
jon@jdisrudlaw.com

In Memoriam Always in our hearts



**Gerald G. Fesenmeyer
Robert P. Guill**

Emergency Planning

As you know, most emergency preparation and response efforts are handled at the state and local levels and there is a certain degree of responsibility that falls on individuals when mass natural disasters occur. A wealth of information about emergency preparation, response and recovery can be found at Ready.gov.

Partner with your local/state disability coalition - If your chapter has not previously connected with allies in the disability community, you should reach out to your local Center for Independent Living (CIL) or Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) - [a directory for local CILs and SILCs can be found at www.ilru.org] or to your state Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system [a directory for which can be found at <https://www.acl.gov/programs/aging-and-disability-networks/state-protection-advocacy-systems>]. Ask your SILC or P&A if there is a disability emergency preparedness and response coalition in your state and how your chapter might become involved with that group or at least get a briefing about what your chapter members need to know in the event of a catastrophic emergency.

Contact your State and Territorial level resources – This page contains contact information for emergency management agencies and offices - <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies>.

Is there a VOAD in your state, city or county? Some nonprofits are part of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) or Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), which are responsible for meeting disaster-caused unmet needs of disaster survivors. State VOADs work pre-disaster to promote training and preparedness. They work post-disaster to facilitate coordination of response and recovery efforts to assist in immediate coordination of voluntary agency response. The state VOAD often serves as advocate and liaison between member agencies and the state government agencies. Some communities develop COADs, which are coalitions of organizations based within a community or geographic area and composed of representatives from public, private, and not-for-profit agencies.

Reach out to the FEMA Regional Disability Integration Specialist - Each regional office for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is supposed to have a Regional Disability Integration Specialist (RDIS) tasked with ensuring that people with disabilities are included in preparation, response and recovery plans. Your chapter should consider contacting the RDIS in your state to develop relationships with these individuals through invitations to your meetings or other community events. Below is a regional disability integration specialist; Six-Denton Christin Bradley Recovery Division christin.bradley@fema.dhs.gov

Federal resources - Finally, this link - <https://www.dhs.gov/civil-rights-emergencies-and-disasters> - connects to a website for the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that contains resources for ensuring nondiscrimination in disaster preparation, response and recovery. It also contains links to transcripts from listening sessions conducted in California, Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands concerning FEMA's response to the 2017 disasters in those states which may offer to advocates suggestions for improving disability inclusion in emergency preparedness in their own communities.

Additional select state level resources - Some states and major cities have incorporated disability personnel into their emergency planning. **Houston, Texas - Maria Town is the city's disability specialist and may be able to point to the right people to connect with at the state level. Her email is maria.town@houstontx.gov and her number is 713-204-3832.**

Additional On-Line Resources

- Pacific ADA Center – this member of the network of ADA Centers has developed particular expertise in emergency preparedness and response for people with disabilities. They sponsor regular webinars on relevant topics and can be reached at <https://www.adapacific.org/>.
- National Organization on Disability (NOD) – has developed a number of fact sheets on disaster readiness:
- Portlight Inclusive Disaster Strategies - Portlight Strategies, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1997 to facilitate a variety of projects involving people with disabilities, including post-disaster relief work. <http://www.portlight.org>
- Pass It On Center – national and state resources for reuse of assistive technology
- <https://texashelp.tamu.edu/browse/disaster-preparedness-information/hurricane-evacuation-planning-for-people-with-special-needs/>



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