

Speedy Gazette

"Improving Lives... Building Futures"



PVA

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Texas Chapter

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March 2024

HELLO SPRING





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Vice President	David Bradshaw
Secretary	Bruce Kuker
Treasurer	Joe Bludeau
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VAVS Houston	Open
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Armando de la Rosa, SNSO Audie L. Murphy SCIC, 210-617-5300 X 16819 ArmandoD@pva.org
Joel Hoot, Veterans Career Program, 210-617-5300 x 10148 JoelH@pva.org

Hello Texas Chapter

Thank you to our board of directors, sponsors, members, volunteers and participants who contributed to make our 16th Annual Kill'n Clays Classic a success! I am grateful for the volunteers who helped plan and prepare for the event months in advance as well as the numerous volunteers who were there at the shooting complex to lend a helping hand. This year we were fortunate enough to have a group of new volunteers who brought their own group of volunteers! We couldn't have pulled it off without all the help selling raffle tickets, taking pictures, cooking, serving lunch and cleaning up afterwards.

It was a fantastic day of competition and comradery for individuals, friends and corporate teams. We couldn't have asked for better weather. We had 83 shooters participate this year and several new sponsors came onboard. Next year's event will take place on Saturday, February 22nd. I am hopeful we can build back up to pre-pandemic numbers.



On Saturday, March 23rd Team Paralyzed Veterans of America, TX Chapter will participate in Walk MS: San Antonio 2024 fundraiser. The festivities will take place at Morgan's Wonderland and will begin at 8:30 am. Please let us know if you'd like to join us.

I hope everyone can get out and do something fun to enjoy this gorgeous spring weather we're having!

Please reach out anytime if you need assistance or just want to say Hi.

Amanda Saunders

Board of Directors Contact Information

Frank Daebelliehn: frankd@texaspva.org/ Phone #281-256-5652

David Bradshaw: dbradshaw@texaspva.org

Bruce Kuker: brucek@texaspva.org/ Phone #210-632-0495

Joe Bludeau: joeb@texaspva.org

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Juan Reyes: jreyes@texaspva.org/ Phone #210-618-6359

Zach Jones: jreyes@texaspva.org/ Phone #661-435-3324



Washington Update

REMINDER: PVA National President Robert Thomas testifies before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on March 6 at 10:00 am ET. Watch [here](#).

DOT RELEASES PROPOSED RULE TO IMPROVE THE AIR TRAVEL EXPERIENCE OF WHEELCHAIR USERS

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has published a [notice of proposed rulemaking](#) on ensuring safe accommodations for wheelchair users in air travel. The proposed rule is based in large part on [PVA's February 2022 DOT petition](#) to initiate rulemaking authority, as well as follow up letters on the topic. The changes proposed by DOT include several vital steps that would dramatically improve the air travel experience for people with disabilities. Specifically, they would clarify airlines' obligations and responsibilities to individuals with disabilities; better enforce violations and administrative penalties onto airlines that mishandle assistive devices; and improve airline processes for returning, repairing, and replacing mishandled wheelchairs, to include informing wheelchair users about the location of their device during transit and allowing them to choose their own repair company, if their wheelchair or scooter is damaged. The changes would also mandate critical hands-on training on a regular basis to any airline staff or contractors who physically assist passengers with mobility disabilities or handle battery-powered assistive devices. PVA will be submitting comments in response to the proposal.

FY 2024 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Congress continues to struggle with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget process. As the expiration of the continuing resolution approached for four bills, including the bill funding VA, Congress passed another continuing resolution that would give them until March 8 to try and finalize them. Congress also extended the deadline for the other four bills from March 8 to March 22. It's hoped that Congress will be able to use the additional time to finalize the FY 2024 bills without having to pass another continuing resolution.

INDEPENDENT BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2025 AND 2026 RELEASED

While Congress remains focused on passing this year's funding, The Independent Budget (IB) which is formulated by PVA, DAV, and VFW is looking to the future. On February 22, the IB released, "[The Independent Budget Recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026](#)." The report serves as a comprehensive roadmap to ensure VA is fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future.



The IB's recommendations, coupled with the Administration's fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget proposal, still yet to be released, will be used to guide Congress with its spending decisions for the coming year. For FY 2025, the IB veterans service organizations are recommending \$151.8 billion for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to ensure that all veterans choosing VA for their care receive timely and high-quality medical services. The IB report details specific funding levels and targeted increases for VHA programs, including a \$2.8 billion increase to fill clinical and support care vacancies across VHA and a \$1 billion boost in long-term care to account for the increasing number of aging veterans and their need for essential services. We also called on Congress to significantly increase funding for VA's major and minor construction programs, and recommend a total of \$6.1 billion for FY 2025.

To view The IB's full budget recommendations, please visit independentbudget.org.

PVA SUBMITS JOINT COMMENTS FOR DOJ'S PROPOSED RULE ON ACCESSIBLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT UNDER THE ADA

PVA, in conjunction with the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD), submitted [joint comments](#) in response to the Department of Justice's (DOJ) [notice of proposed rulemaking](#) on accessible medical diagnostic equipment (MDE) under [Title II](#) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). MDE includes equipment like medical examination tables, weight scales, dental chairs, x-ray machines, mammography equipment, and other imaging equipment. Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination in healthcare services that receive state and local government funds.

The proposed rule outlines specific scoping standards and technical requirements for MDE. The requirements are based on the [standards](#) published by the U.S. Access Board in 2017. The Access Board's standards are not enforceable under the ADA until the DOJ adopts them. However, the 2017 standards did not include a requirement for the [low transfer height](#), but the Access Board is expected to publish this final rule in the near future.

The CCD comments urged DOJ to quickly issue a final rule for accessible MDE. Inaccessible MDE may deny mobility device users access to certain types of medical exams or treatment, cause a delay in receiving medical treatment because they must find a provider with accessible equipment, receive inequitable services, or are given subpar medical exams because the provider cannot thoroughly examine the person without accessible equipment. CCD agreed DOJ should adopt the Access Board's standards, but also require a 17-inch low transfer height. Despite the proposal that providers must only have 10-20 percent of their MDE be accessible, CCD urged DOJ to require 100 percent accessible MDE. The comments also advocated for proper staff training on the use of the accessible MDE to ensure the safety of personnel and patients.

PVA SUBMITS JOINT COMMENTS TO DOT'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON TRANSIT FACILITY ACCESS

PVA, along with the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Transportation Task Force submitted [joint comments](#) to the Department of Transportation's (DOT) [request for information](#) (RFI) on accessibility requirements for transit facilities. The RFI posed questions on possible changes to accessibility requirements for transit facilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The RFI was specifically seeking comments on updating requirements for vertical access, like elevators and long ramps between platforms; communications, such as how people with sensory disabilities can receive information about the facility and schedules; and wayfinding, considering how people can use technology to navigate transit stations and their travels.

The CCD Transportation Task Force comments urged DOT to revise the ADA standards so people with disabilities can independently and safely use transportation services equally to those without disabilities. The comments recommended DOT implement requirements to increase options for vertical access, reduce elevator outages, and better communication systems for notifying riders of any elevator outages. The CCD Transportation Task Force recommended DOT require at least two methods for

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in Paralyzed Veterans of America

🐦 @PVA1946

📷 @PVA1946



What – 2024 National MS Society (NMSS) San Antonio Walk

When – 23 March 2024 (Site Opens @ 0800, Program Starts @ 0815, Walk Kickoff @ 0830)

Where – Morgan’s Playland, 5223 David Edwards Dr., San Antonio, TX 78233

Team Name – Paralyzed Veterans of America, TX Chapter

FAQs: *Do I need to do anything? Separately register, etc?* Nope! Just show up and support your Chapter’s MS advocacy & recruitment.

Is there a registration fee or anything? Negative!

Please promote our NMSS Walk Team & fundraising efforts on your social media accounts. This is our team’s QR code which donors can make a tax eligible donation to the NMSS on behalf of our team, I’ve also added our Chapter’s QR Code and the PVA Ntl. MS Committee QR Code, but for the walk the NMSS is the important one:



MS Walk



Our Chapter



PVA Ntl. MS Page

<https://events.nationalmssociety.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&participantID=427205&referrer=mf%3A427205%3Ayou-share>

^^^ This is the link to our Team’s page for the NMSS San Antonio Walk, please share this along w/ the QR Code. **PLEASE WEAR YOUR PVA SHIRTS, CAPS, ETC. (IF YOU HAVE THEM) OTHERWISE, WEAR SOMETHING VETERAN ORIENTED IF YOU CAN, OLD PT SHIRT, VET T-SHIRT, CAMPAIGN CAP, ETC.**

POC: Joe Bludeau @ joeb@txpva.org, PVA TX Chap. Treasurer & MS Program Director

Did you know? There are roughly 75,000 Veterans w/ MS! o The PVA’s first ever president, Gilford Moss, had MS? o Nationally, Veterans w/ MS make up over 25% of TOTAL PVA membership! o The PVA is the **only** VSO specializing in MS claim representation. o Nationwide, there are approx. 1 million people living w/ MS



What – 2024 National MS Society (NMSS) Houston Walk

When – 06 April 2024 (Site Opens @ 0800, Program Starts @ 0915, Walk Kickoff @ 0930) * Stay as short or as long as you'd like

Where – Univ. of Houston Main Campus, The Moore's School of Music (The Grove), 3333 Cullen, Houston, TX 77004

Team Name – Paralyzed Veterans of America, TX Chapter

FAQs: *Do I need to do anything? Separately register, etc?* Nope! Just show up and support your Chapter's MS advocacy & recruitment.

Is there a registration fee or anything? Negative!

Please promote our NMSS Walk Team & fundraising efforts on your social media accounts.

This is our team's QR code which donors can make a tax eligible donation to the NMSS on behalf of our team, I've also added our Chapter's QR Code and the PVA Ntl. MS Committee QR Code, but for the walk the NMSS is the important one:



MS Walk



Our Chapter



PVA Ntl. MS Page

<https://events.nationalmssociety.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&participantID=427205&referrer=mf%3A427205%3Ayou-share>

^^^ This is the link to our Team's page for the NMSS Houston Walk, please share this along w/ the QR Code. **PLEASE WEAR YOUR PVA SHIRTS, CAPS, ETC. (IF YOU HAVE THEM) OTHERWISE, WEAR SOMETHING VETERAN ORIENTED IF YOU CAN, OLD PT SHIRT, VET T-SHIRT, CAMPAIGN CAP, ETC.**

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INKS LAKE STATE PARK FUN FOR ALL!

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH, 10AM-3PM

Join us for a day of activities adapted to suit a range of abilities including;

- **Kayaking:** Use our new ADA Transfer Bench! Additional Equipment and assistance provided by Camacho Activity Center.
- **Fishing:** TPWD Derby Pond stocked with catfish and all fishing equipment provided. Please bring a cooler and ice, or buy ice from the Park Store, if you want to keep your catches; limit TBD.
- **Archery:** Wheel-chair accessible shooting area with adaptive equipment and coaching from the Lonestar Paralysis Foundation
- **GRIT Chairs** available for off pavement trial AND a challenge course for some extra fun!

**VALID DAY-USE
PASS REQUIRED**

For more
information:



Only 1 month away to the Sportsman's Challenge.

5 scored shots at each event. Best overall score wins!

Bring your own guns and ammo if you have them. PVA loaner compound bows will be available if needed. Lots of good food and prizes. Call the chapter office, Ronnie Lofton (listed on the flyer below), or Steve Holbert (281-660-7054) if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

Sportsman Challenge



Start time: 9am SHARP



Date: April 6, 2024

Place: Diamond L Ranch
18025 Osburn Rd.
Montgomery, Texas



Turkey Shoot:
Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun



Clays
Archery
Tomahawk



Raffle and Door Prize



Call Ron Lofton for details:

Cell: 936-661-7634



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Daniel Wallace

REST IN PEACE



Herman Norton
Arthur Henderson
Steven Webster
Michael Read
Oscar Quincy



Has
Joined



TO BECOME THE LARGEST MOBILITY DEALERSHIP IN TEXAS WITH 10 LOCATIONS!

Let United Access help you get on your way, because your mobility is our mission

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- ✓ Scooter & Wheelchair Lifts
- ✓ Power Transfer & Lift Up Seats
- ✓ Hand Controls & Steering Devices
- ✓ High Tech Driving Systems
- ✓ Wheelchair Accessible Van Rentals



We're here to help!

Call us today or stop by and take a test drive.



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www.unitedaccess.com



Proud Supporters of the



**Paralyzed Veterans
of America**





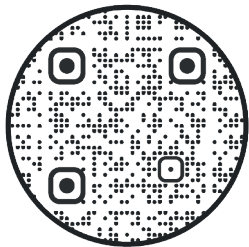
Ekso Indego® Gets Veterans Walking Again

Eligible veterans can receive an Ekso Indego exoskeleton at NO COST!

Ekso Indego Personal

What is Ekso Indego?

Ekso Indego is an FDA-cleared, powered exoskeleton worn around the waist and legs that enables individuals paralyzed from spinal cord injuries (level T3-L5)* to stand and walk, offering a new level of independence.



Scan with your phone for more information on how you could receive your own Ekso Indego Personal.

Getting Veterans with SCI Back on Their Feet

A recently revised VA policy allows Ekso Indego to be issued to qualified veterans at no cost.**

- Walk at home and in your community
- Improve your cardio & bone density
- Enjoy eye-level conversations again



Contact us to find out if you are eligible to receive an Ekso Indego at NO COST!

An evaluation by your provider at a SCI/D center is required to determine eligibility for use of the Ekso Indego Personal device



Proudly designed & assembled in the USA
www.eksobionics.com

* For full indications for use, visit: www.eksobionics.com/indications-for-use/

Donate your gently used clothing and household items to help support our chapter. Please be sure to mention you'd like your **donation to benefit the TEXAS PARALYZED VETERANS. All donations are tax deductible. To schedule a pickup please call:**

713-696-5500



Don't



Remove hangers, check the pockets and wash if possible. Don't forget we need shoes, purses, and accessories.

Even towels and bedding that are threadbare can have a second life as they are used for cleaning up, and recycling.

We continue to offer free, In Person, mental health counseling for military veterans and their families. We practice social distancing guidelines and have hand sanitizer available. We can also help with transportation needs with weekly bus passes.

Charles Jackson MA LPC
Licensed Professional Counselor
Healthy Minds, Healthy Heroes

American GI Forum – National Veterans Outreach Program
210-248-9933 Phone
cjackson@nvop-sa.org
206 San Pedro, Suite 201, San Antonio, TX 78205

Veterans when you sign up the tickets that you request will be at will call the day of event. This is all over the country and they have events like Disney on ice, monster trucks, nba, nfl, mlb, college sports, comedy shows, you name it.

Website: <https://www.vettix.org/tixer/my-account/login>

San Antonio membership forums will take place on the 1st Thursday of each month at 2 pm in the SCI Rec. Room

April Birthdays

George Kawanami

David McCreery

Leroy Johnson

Joe Cruz

Cruz Rivas

Charles Jones

Peter Simmons

Willie Gadison

Rebecca Johnson

Daniel Barton

James Ward

Philip Stewart

Johnny Beamon

Marcus Montieth

Robin Willis

Mary Beard

Jay Travis

Anne Collins

David Bradshaw

William Sutherland

Thomas Vaiana

Edward Sterner

William Neuls

Gerald Gates

Calvin Greene

Maurice Bullard

Terrence Young

Svend Svendsen

Shawna Jerry

Robert Lefeve

Alex Benoit

David Pruitt

Chad Stuart

Scott McDonald

Christopher Sullivan

Alicia Santiago

Peter Shaver

Decker Goss

Wesley Howard

Zachary Jones

Scott Graham

Kristen Reyna

Jose Zelaya

Thomas Sagpao

Robert Trevino

Jason Gutshall

Vincente Turrubiates

January Birthday Raffle Winners:

1. Phuc Nguyen
2. Kimberly Henderson
3. Martez Davis
4. Lisa Coryell
5. Earl Conner

February Birthday Raffle Winners:

1. Adam Darling
2. Nakia Merritte
3. Brian Pruett
4. Brandon Cortez
5. John Fuller



March 2024 Houston Parks and Recreation – Adaptive Programs

Metropolitan Multi Service Center (West Gray) 1475 West Gray, Houston TX 77019

Monday –

9am-10am Water Fitness Class
12pm – 1pm Line Dancing
1pm - 2pm Boccia
2pm - 4pm Air Rifle
6pm – 8pm Track and Field
6pm - 9pm Wheelchair Basketball

Tuesday –

8am – 12pm Pickleball
1pm – 2pm Tabata Tuesday
(no class 3/5, 3/12)
6pm – 9pm – Youth
Wheelchair Basketball

Wednesday –

9am-10am Water Fitness Class
1pm – 2pm BINGO
4pm – 5pm Wheelchair Soccer
6pm – 9pm Wheelchair Basketball



Thursday –

10am – 11am ZUMBA
1pm – 2pm Dance Crew
6pm – 8pm Wheelchair Rugby
7pm - 9pm Wheelchair Tennis

Friday –

8am – 12pm Pickleball
9am-10am Water Fitness Class
12pm - 2pm Pool Volleyball
1pm - 2pm Uno Crew
6pm – 8pm Wheelchair Lacrosse
7pm - 9pm Wheelchair Tennis

Saturday –

9am-11am Wheelchair Rugby
11am - 2pm Powerchair Soccer
2pm - 4pm Deaf Basketball
6pm – 8pm Wheelchair Tennis

Sunday – CLOSED



Chuck French | Administration Manager

Front desk 832-395-7333

charles.french@houstontx.gov

Hannah Walker | Recreation Facility Manager

Nolan Griffin | Recreation Therapist

hannah.walker@houstontx.gov www.houstonparks.org



San Antonio Sports Practice:

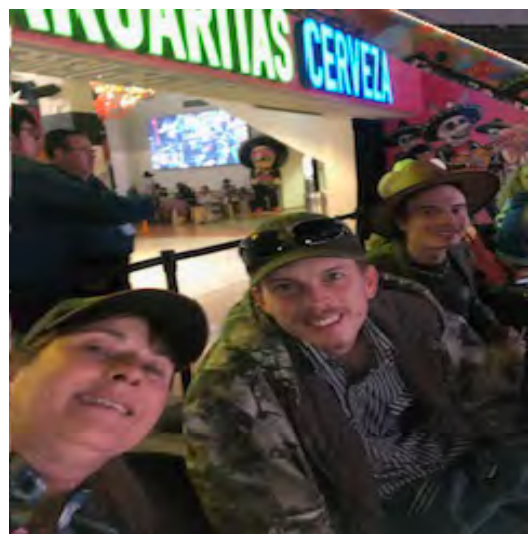
Air Guns- Fridays at 10am in the SCI Rec. Room

Bowling- Thursdays at 11am at the Lanes at Oak Hills

Boccia- Wednesdays at 1pm in the SCI Rec. Room

Trap/Sporting Clays- Thursdays at 1pm (Membership Meeting Days) at San Antonio Gun Club

San Antonio Rodeo



JOIN US IN WHEELCHAIR TENNIS



- No experience required
- Free practices
- Equipment provided
- Become a part of an amazing community
- All levels and mobility are welcome!



**Practices held every
Thursdays 7pm-11pm, &
Sundays 9am-11am**

**West Gray Recreational Center
1474 W Gray St. Houston, TX 77019**

Contact us!

ADAPTIVE ATHLETICS
at
UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

  [uhadaptiveathletics](#)

 uhadaptiveathletics@gmail.com

 **Coach Gabe: (281) 256 - 5804**

Holbert Wins State Championship



Steve Holbert earned the Texas Field Archery Association State Championship in indoor archery 2024. He competed in the male, compound bow, free style, Silver Senior (age 60-69) division. The TFAA's Shoot Your Way Across Texas competition runs for several months, starting in October and culminating with the State Meet which was held March 1st through 3rd this year. There is no handicap division so he competes right alongside every other 60 year old male in the free style division. SYWAT is a family type oriented competition. Most of the archery shops across Texas hold a local competition. You may be shooting next to a kid or a 70 year old archer. Scoring your arrows as a group. TFAA only keeps your three best scores. Checking on the TFAA web site where you stand across the state keeps you motivated to shoot more events trying to improve on those posted scores throughout the season.

Steve first tried archery at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games with a PVA bow. After two years competing at the NVWG, he bought his own bow. This is his third year of competing in SYWAT.

Spring is in the air and its Racing Season !!.

Whether you're a novice or seasoned cyclist it is time to Ride.

Adaptive Cycling Opportunities are now available throughout State and Country. PVAT along with Operation Comfort (OC) Adaptive Cycling will be sponsoring a team /Slots for this year's MS 150 OCT 2024. Training rides will be announced and members must train for this event (all ability levels accepted).POC is Bruce. O.C. continues to offer DV's weekly group (WED) rides along with the ability to be fitted onto an adaptive trike. Adaptive Adventures will be at this year's Texas Regional Games.They also offer multiple wonderful cycling Adventures The Wounded Warrior Cycling program also has Adaptive Cycling camps and ability group rides both local and Nationally. The PVA Para-Cycling is the tip of the spearhead of all the Veteran Adaptive Cycling programs. PVA has Off Road Races and Camps that Members can attend. (some equipment is available at registration). Most of these trikes have Power Access so you can enjoy more of the Countryside. Of course PVA continues to offer High Performance Road Racing and Cycling Camps throughout the year. If being outside is not your thing, Join us on Zwift, Strava or RGT for some indoor cycling. Sometimes we have a Zoom Meeting featuring Guest speakers thus we stay connected. Houston members can ride indoors at West Grey. However, we can always ride at State Parks or around the City on designated cycling paths, on the Gulf Coast of Corpus Christi and/or Galveston. Houston and San Antonio Parks and Recreation have continuously improved the bike trails throughout their Cities.Just like the Trails, registration is open for most of the following Rides The only thing missing is YOU.

UPCOMING ADAPTIVE CYCLING EVENTS

- 2024 MAR Texas Senior Games
 - 2024 APR Texas Regional Games
 - 2024 APR PVA Off Road Camp
 - 2024 AUG National Veteran Golden Age Game
 - 2024 JUL National Veterans Wheelchair Games
 - 2024 OCT MS 150 Ride to the River
 - 2024 OCT Army 10 Miler
 - 2024 OCT Marine Corps Marathon
- Trikes, SRAM, Trident Trikes





PVAT Sports and Rec Director - Bruceek@texaspva.org

PVA NAT Para-Cycling Peter Park - peterp@pva.org

Operation Comfort Cycling - Jorge Avalos - cycling@operationcomfort.org

Texas Parasport aka Texas Regional Games - www.texasregionalgames.com

WWP Cycling Mike Owens - mowens@woundedwarriorproject.org

Adaptive Adventures.org - Move United - moveunitedsport.org

Challenged Athletes Foundation CAF www.challengedathletes.org

Pedal Guerrero Trike Shop 3700 Fredericksburg Rd, SA TX 78201 - VA Vender and Trike Fitting

VA National Veterans Sports Programs - www.department.va.gov/veteran-sports

San Antonio Parks and Recreation - Fitness in the Park - www.sanantonio.gov

Houston Parks and Recreation - www.houstonparks.org

West Grey Adaptive Program -1475 West Grey, Houston TX 77019 Hannah Walker hannah.walker@houstontx.gov

Reliable Products: Top End, Cattrike, Carbon Bikes - USA, Fat Tad, Lasher, Electric Bike Outfitters, Terra Trikes, SRAM, Trident Trikes

Leading Edge Archery in Boerne



TEXAS
REGIONAL GAMES
SAN ANTONIO

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE HARTFORD
INSURANCE

April 25-28, 2024

The logo for the Texas Regional Games San Antonio is displayed on a yellow and blue background. The logo features silhouettes of athletes in wheelchairs and on a bicycle, with one athlete in a wheelchair holding a trophy. The text "TEXAS REGIONAL GAMES" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "SAN ANTONIO" below it. The logo is framed by a blue and white border. Below the logo, the text "IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HARTFORD INSURANCE" is displayed, with "THE HARTFORD" in a large, bold, serif font. At the bottom, the dates "April 25-28, 2024" are written in a large, bold, orange font.

See the VSO announcement below. Veterans receiving VA benefit payments into different accounts are going to need to consolidate the payments into one account by April 20, 2024.

The announcement tells Veterans how to change their direct deposit information through VA.gov and provides a Quick-Link to click on, but you must register first. If the Veteran does not wish to register, they will need to get a SF-1199A completed (attached), which requires a signature from the Financial Institution the Direct Deposit is being set up with. The VA is hoping Veterans with multiple payments register in VA.gov since they feel this is the easiest way to complete the task.

Dear Veterans Service Organization Partners,

Starting April 20, 2024, VA will no longer send a Veteran's or family members' benefit payments to more than one bank account. We're making this change to help protect Veterans and families from fraud and ensure that VA is able to pay Veterans on time, every time, without error.

This will require all Veterans and beneficiaries who receive GI bill payments and other benefit payments across multiple banking accounts to select one account by April 20, 2024. For example, if a Veteran receives GI Bill payments to one of their bank accounts and disability compensation payments to another, they will need to consolidate and select one account for all payments by April 20.

This shift is happening as a part of VA's efforts to modernize the 50-year-old, antiquated GI bill payment system. Once fully deployed, the platform will improve claims processing and customer service by providing direct, online, one-stop access to GI Bill benefits and information.

This shift will impact nearly 50,000 of 800,000 total GI Bill beneficiaries. Fortunately, VA has all of the contact information for these Veterans, and we have successfully managed many transitions like this in the past. In fact, we have already transitioned all other VA benefits payments to one account – education programs are the remaining outliers.

VA will be aggressively reaching out to these students through text message, phone, and email on a weekly basis through April 20. They will continue to receive text messages and emails until they have updated their information in VA.gov. VA is also working with schools, Veterans Service Organizations, and other relevant parties to make sure that Veterans meet the deadline.

The easiest way for beneficiaries to make this change is to log on to [Change Your VA Direct Deposit Information | Veterans Affairs](#). When they get to the pay information, there will be a box for the bank account information of their education benefit, and a box for the bank account information for the other benefit they receive. The beneficiary should then update the bank account information to use the same account for all benefits.

Importantly, no Veteran will miss a benefits payment of any type. For any students who do not consolidate their bank accounts for benefits by April 20, VA will consolidate them on their behalf, electing their non-education benefit pay account as their primary bank account.

We would like to offer a briefing to you this week to review the above and answer any questions you may have on this topic.

Kind regards,

Joshua Jacobs, Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration

V/r,

Kim

Kimberly M. Mitchell

Senior Advisor

VSO Liaison

Office of the Secretary

Department of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Ave. NW

Washington, DC 20420

Cell: (202) 738-2944

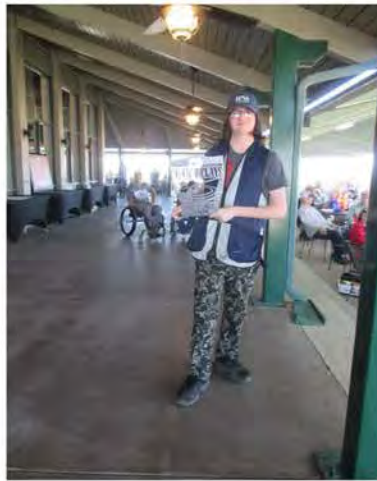
16th Annual Kill'n Clays Classic 02/24/2024





AWARDS





Raffle Winners



National Veterans Wheelchair Games

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

2024 Registration will be open from February 1st to April 5th, 2024.

<https://wheelchairgames.org/athletes/registration/>



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!

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**Annual contributions for
2023-2024 will be as follows:**

Platinum Donor	\$1,000 or more
Titanium Donor	\$500 - \$999
Gold Donor	\$250 - \$499
Silver Donor	\$100 - \$249
Bronze Donor	\$5 - \$99



2023-2024 DONOR CLUB as of March 2024

Platinum: Wayne & Joann Moore Charitable Foundation, Jacqueline Hehli, Mobius Mobility LLC, CFC TASC, Kevin E Corcoran, Maxwell Medical Services Inc, Scott E & Elisa Caudill, Heritage Linehaul & Trucking Inc, Johnny Godwin, GMP Developers LLC, Steven Wardlow, Jose G Laguna, Scott Parker, Phillip G & Frances J Rowe, Sonora Bank, United Access LLC, Texas Regional Para Sports, & Paxton Arms LLC.

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Paralyzed Veterans of America is dedicated to providing our Veterans and their families with the support they need. That's why we are thrilled to announce that we are now accepting applications for scholarships for the 2024-2025 school year!

We will be accepting applications until May 15, 2024, and will award scholarships worth \$2,500 for full time students and \$1,000 for part-time students.

To be eligible to apply, you must be:

- A PVA member, the spouse of a member, or an unmarried child (under 24 years of age) who is dependent (as defined by the IRS) on the member for principal support.
- A citizen of the United States.
- Accepted and enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited U.S. college or university.

Scholarship recipients will be notified between June 6 and June 16, 2024.

For more information and to access the application form, please visit our website at <https://pva.org/find-support/scholarship-program/>.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to reach out to members@pva.org.

PVA Membership Team

Direct Member Line: 888-838-7782 Members@pva.org



MAY 8, 2024

ADAPTIVE BOWLING CLINIC

Bowling Tournament Schedule

8:30-9:30 AM REGISTRATION CHECK IN
9:30- 9:45 VOLUNTEERS AND LANE ASSIGNMENTS
9:45-10:00 POSTING OF COLORS AND PLEDGE
10:00-10:30 ORIENTATION CLINIC
10:30-10:45 WARM UP
11:00 TOURNAMENT STARTS
12:30- 2:00 LUNCH
2:00-2:30 AWARDS

The venue is located 3 miles from the VA's SCI center and 7 miles from the San Antonio International airport. The Drury Inn San Antonio Northwest Medical Center, Courtyard by Marriott Medical Center, and Spring Hill Suites Marriott San Antonio Medical Center are all within a 5 miles radius. They all have ADA rooms available.



Register online at
pva.org/adaptive-sports/sports-calendar/

&

Onsite registration is
available.

Please arrive by 10am.

POC: Amanda Saunders:

amandas@texaspva.org

Bruce Kuker:

brucek@texaspva.org

Awards:

Wheelchair & Ramp
Divisions

If you are flying in for the event:

San Antonio Airport Address

9800 Airport Blvd.

San Antonio, TX 78216

The Lanes at Oak Hills

7330 Callaghan Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78229

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DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

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Dial 988 then
Press 1

Chat

Text

FIND SUPPORT

Benefits Helpline: 1-866-734-0857

Veterans Crisis Hotline: 988 , Press 1

Women Veterans Hotline: 1-855-829-6636

Caregiver Support: 1-855-260-3274

Donor Hotline: 1-800-555-9140

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- Employment
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- Drug treatment

• or many other services

Call 2-1-1 or 210.227.4357

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2-1-1 Texas/United Way Help Line
is a public/private partnership between the
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
and United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

Disabled Outdoorsmen Banquet



PVA Texas secured a table at this Years Disabled Outdoors Banquet - (FEB 2024).

Bruce & Susan, Richard & Tiffani both came very close to winning some major prizes last month.

Cameron did a masterful job organizing this event. He also arranged/allowed us to put our Killing Clays Flyers into all of the 500 Goody bags. This directly influenced attendance at our own fundrasier and provided awarness of our Organization. Our relationship with Disabled Outdoorsmen is deeply rooted and we were proud to attend this annual fundraising event.



Good Times at the SAN ANTONIO RODEO

A special Thanks to the PVAT Chapter for providing San Antonio Rodeo Tickets via Raffle this year. Susan Soto and Family enjoyed some wild Bull riding, motivating Barrel Racing and some adorable little people Mutt Busting. Though the selections of food items were fantastic the ladies were more impressed with the Top Self Concerts. Thank Y'all, Hope to see ya next go round.

Special Note: This Years SA Rodeo was the site of 153 Recruits Accepting the Oath of Enlistment into the United States Armed Forces. God Bless America !!



We have a previous member's wife selling her 2017 Chrysler Pacifica.

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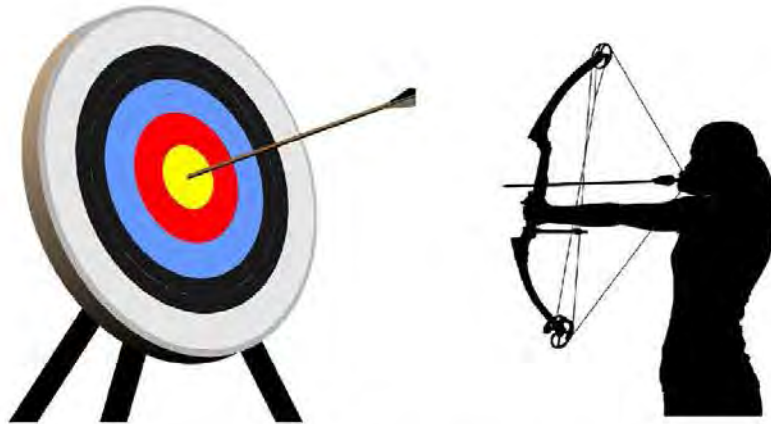




Air Gun Practice



Discover Archery Day



Houston's Discover Archery Day Feb 19th was a success. Along with some experienced para archers, there were some that learned how to shoot a bow and arrow for the first time. With expert coaching from Jeremy Velez, Kat and Koko everybody got personal attention. With the wagon full of adaptive equipment Jeremy brought along everybody was able to shoot some arrows. Including a double arm amputee Marine Corps Vet. We had a blast trying to pop balloons before somebody else could shoot them. Don't miss out on this next time the PVA Chapter hosts it again or go check out your local archery shop. I'm sure they would help you give archery a try.







Hand Controls for Vehicles

John Allen, Senior Benefits Advocate

For veterans who have experienced disabilities that affect their ability to operate a standard vehicle, regaining independence and mobility can be a daunting challenge. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a ray of hope through its comprehensive program for hand controls for vehicles. These adaptive driving aids provide veterans with the means to navigate the road with confidence and autonomy. In this article, we will explore the significance of hand controls for veterans, the types of controls available, and the VA's role in ensuring that those who have served our nation can continue to lead active, independent lives.

The Significance of Hand Controls cannot be overstated. For many veterans, the ability to drive is not just a convenience but a lifeline. It represents freedom, the chance to rejoin the workforce, and the means to partake in social and recreational activities. However, for those who have lost the use of their legs or experienced significant mobility impairments due to injuries sustained during their service, standard vehicle operation becomes an insurmountable challenge. This is where hand controls come into play.

Hand controls for vehicles are adaptive devices that allow individuals with disabilities to operate a car or van safely and effectively. These controls can be essential for veterans seeking to live independently and maintain their quality of life. By using hand controls, veterans can regain their mobility, access job opportunities, attend medical appointments, and participate in family and community events.

There are also several types of Hand Controls. Hand controls come in various designs, each tailored to suit specific mobility and dexterity needs. The Department of Veterans Affairs provides eligible veterans with access to a range of hand control options, ensuring that individuals can select the one that best fits their requirements. Here are some common types of hand controls:

- **Push-Pull Hand Controls:** These controls consist of a lever that is pushed or pulled to operate the accelerator and brake. They are user-friendly and adaptable for various types of vehicles.
- **Electronic Accelerator and Brake Controls:** These controls employ electronic technology to allow drivers to accelerate and brake using hand-operated controls. They are particularly useful for veterans with limited upper body strength.
- **Spinner Knobs:** Spinner knobs are steering wheel attachments that make it easier for individuals with limited hand mobility to steer the vehicle.
- **Left Foot Accelerators:** These controls are designed for veterans who have mobility limitations in their right foot. They allow for left-foot acceleration, making driving more accessible.
- **Reduced Effort Steering:** For veterans with upper body limitations, reduced effort steering systems can make turning the steering wheel less physically demanding.

The VA plays a crucial role in ensuring that eligible veterans have access to the hand controls they need to regain their independence and mobility. Here are some key aspects of the VA's involvement:

- **Eligibility Assessment:** Veterans seeking hand controls first undergo an eligibility assessment by VA healthcare professionals. This assessment helps determine the specific type of hand controls needed to address their mobility limitations.
- **Vehicle Modifications:** The VA can assist in modifying veterans' personal vehicles or help them acquire adapted vehicles equipped with hand controls. The VA covers the cost of these modifications for eligible veterans.

- **Training and Education:** The VA offers comprehensive training and education on the proper use of hand controls. This training is essential to ensure veterans' safety and confidence when operating adapted vehicles.
- **Ongoing Support:** The VA provides ongoing support to veterans who use hand controls, including maintenance and repairs to ensure the continued functionality of the adaptive devices.

Hand controls for vehicles provided by VA are more than just adaptive devices; they are instruments of empowerment, enabling veterans to reclaim their independence and mobility. These controls offer a lifeline to those who have served our nation, allowing them to rejoin the workforce, engage in social activities, and live life on their terms. Through its commitment to ensuring access to these essential adaptive tools, the VA continues to make a profound difference in the lives of veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country. It is a testament to the nation's promise of care and support for those who have served.

For additional information, always contact your local Paralyzed Veterans of America Service Office either at your local VA Regional Office or the Veterans Administration Medical Center that serves your area.

ARE YOU A VETERAN WITH A DISABILITY? DO YOU NEED HOME REPAIRS OR



MODIFICATIONS? SBP CAN HELP!



SBP is a disaster recovery organization that is looking for disabled veterans who need repairs or modifications to make their home more accessible.

To be eligible for our services you must meet the following requirements:

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- ✓ Recipients must occupy the home as a primary residence
- ✓ Must not own multiple properties
- ✓ Be within service area
- ✓ Not located in a floodway or the 100 yr floodplain

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