

The Wheeled Herald

Published by the Paralyzed Veterans of America Great Plains Chapter

Omaha, Nebraska

Oct - Nov 2025

Inside This Issue

President's Report

Power Soccer

ED Report - Cornhole

Caregiver Tax Credit

Upcoming Events

Adaptive Fitness

Thank you Red Robin

Poster + Poem Contest

NSO Update

Volunteer Apprecia-
tion/Giving Tuesday

Trunk or Treat

Washington Update



Great Plains Chapter

7612 Maple Street
Omaha, NE 68134
tel. 402.398.1422
fax: 402.398.1424

e-mail: pva@greatplainspva.org
www.greatplainspva.org



President's Message by Randy Squier

The chapter is winding down another productive year. I can see the finish line just ahead. Time flies when you're having fun. We have enjoyed the activities going into the fall and the participation from our members. The billiards tournament in September was well attended. The "trunk or treat" Halloween at the chapter parking lot was also well attended.

Thanksgiving is upon us and the chapter Christmas party shortly after. Soon 2025 will be at an end. We'll continue our efforts to improve our membership and community participation.

Let us give thanks for our family and the friendships that have brought us together, hopefully to renew again in 2026.



Chapter Officers

Randy Squier, President
John Scott, Vice President
Will Leavitt, Secretary
Seth Kotouc, Treasurer

Chapter Directors

Dave Nelson, Director
Tom Timmerman, Director
Shayna Goerd, Director

Immediate Past President

Mark Linquist

National Director

Dave Nelson

National Service Officer

Mike Sheets
402-420-4017
MikeS@pva.org
LisaN@pva.org

Executive Director

Mary Bushman
bushman@greatplainspva.org

Government Relations

Director &

Newsletter Editor

Amanda Vazquez
vazquez@greatplainspva.org

Sports Director

Patrick Reynolds
reynolds@greatplainspva.org

MS/Women Veterans Lead

Shayna Goerd
shayna@greatplainspva.org

Thank you to the Midwest Street-rod Association for choosing Great Plains PVA as the recipient of a \$1,000 donation.

Pictured at right: Connie Koontz, Secretary of the Midwest Street-rod Association and Randy Squier, Great Plains PVA President.



Veterans Day Parade in Council Bluffs

Great Plains PVA Member Seth Kotouc participated in the Council Bluffs Veterans Day Parade, representing our chapter.



HELP US STAY CONNECTED!

In an effort to keep our records current, please contact Amanda at the chapter office 402-398-1422 or vazquez@greatplainspva.org with any updates or changes to your email address, mailing address, or phone number. We want to ensure you stay informed of chapter activities, VA health care and benefits changes, and other issues affecting veterans and people with disabilities.

Omaha Power Soccer Club Season Ends

Our Omaha Power Soccer Club finished its fall season strong, continuing to work on skills and practicing some new drills under the direction of Coaches Mitch Treu and Kylie Comba. An exciting moment this season was the arrival of the program's own Strike Force power soccer chair. This provided both coaches the opportunity to experience the game through the lens of the players, as well as a chance for some of our players to try out the chair as they work to secure funds to purchase one of their own. The session ended just before Halloween, and after a break through winter, the team will come back together in the spring to continue honing their skills.



GPPVA Hosts Adapted Cornhole Event

by Mary Bushman

In early November, Great Plains PVA once again partnered with Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) to present the 2nd Annual Adapted Cornhole Clinic and Tournament. The two-day event was held at Great Plains PVA and welcomed players from Nebraska and Iowa.

The weekend began on Friday evening with a 2-hour instructional clinic led by two adapted cornhole players from the American Cornhole Organization (ACO). Following the clinic, a dinner catered by Olive Garden Restaurant was provided by WWP.

Players returned on Saturday for an adapted cornhole tournament that included 3 divisions featuring different throwing distances – 10 feet, 14 feet, and 24 feet. Twenty-eight individuals competed across the three divisions. Winners for each division received a trophy and gift cards. Congratulations to Great Plains PVA members Dave Nelson, Shayna Goerdts and Randy Squier for placing first, second and third in the 14 ft. Division. Congratulations to member Will Leavitt for placing fourth in the 24 ft. Division.

Thank you to WWP for providing Saturday's lunch catered by Porky Butts. Food that was left over from Friday's dinner and Saturday's lunch was taken to the Dunham House, an assisted living facility for combat-wounded veterans supported by Wounded Warrior Project.

Special thanks to the Millard Central Middle School Bridge to Early College Program for providing volunteers for Saturday's tournament. Fourteen students and 4 parents from the program volunteered as scorekeepers and bag/board attendants. This is the second year for this volunteer team and players commented on how helpful and respectful the students were.

Thank you to Will Leavitt and Wounded Warrior Project, and members of the ACO, for partnering with Great Plains PVA to help promote the sport of adapted cornhole in our community.





Nebraska Caregiver Tax Credit

Information from <https://revenue.nebraska.gov/caregiver-tax-credit-act>

Caregiver Tax Credit Act

Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 77-3163 to 77-3166

LB 937 (2024) (Sections 56 through 59). Operative for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

The Caregiver Tax Credit Act (Act) establishes a nonrefundable tax credit for family caregivers who provide care and support to an eligible family member for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, that requires an application filed with the Nebraska Department of Revenue (DOR).

Eligible family caregivers are individuals who provide care and support to an eligible family member and personally incur uncompensated expenses directly related to caring for an eligible family member. In addition, family caregivers have federal adjusted gross income of less than \$100,000 for married, filing jointly returns or \$50,000 for all other returns.

Eligible family members include a dependent, spouse, parent, or other relation by blood or marriage of the family caregiver who lives in a private residence and requires assistance with at least two activities of daily living as certified by a licensed health care provider. Activities of daily living include:

- (a) Ambulating, which is the extent of the ability of an individual to move from one position to another and walk independently;
- (b) Feeding, which is the ability of an individual to feed oneself;
- (c) Dressing, which is the ability of an individual to select appropriate clothes and to put the clothes on without aid;
- (d) Personal hygiene, which is the ability of an individual to bathe and groom oneself and maintain dental hygiene and nail and hair care;
- (e) Continence, which is the ability to control bladder and bowel function; and
- (f) Toileting, which is the ability of an individual to get to and from the toilet without aid, using it appropriately, and cleaning oneself.

Family members living in an assisted-living center, nursing facility, or residential care home are not eligible.

The tax credit will equal 50% of the eligible expenditures incurred by the family caregiver during the taxable year with a maximum credit of \$2,000, or \$3,000 if the eligible family member is a veteran or is diagnosed with dementia. The eligible expenditure must be directly related to assisting the family caregiver in providing care to an eligible family member. The definition of eligible expenditure includes:

1. The improvement or alteration to the primary residence of the family caregiver or eligible family member to permit the eligible family member to live in the residence and to remain mobile, safe, and independent;
2. The purchase or lease of equipment by the family caregiver, including, but not limited to, durable medical equipment, that is necessary to assist an eligible family member in carrying out one or more activities of daily living; and
3. Other paid or incurred expenses by the family caregiver that assist the family caregiver in providing care to an eligible family member such as expenditures related to:

Caregiver Tax Credit continued on page 7...

Caregiver Tax Credit continued...

- (A) Hiring a home care aide;
- (B) Respite care;
- (C) Adult day care;
- (D) Personal care attendants;
- (E) Health care equipment; and
- (F) Technology.

Eligible expenditure does not include general household maintenance activities such as painting, plumbing, electrical repairs, or exterior maintenance. If two or more family caregivers claim the credit for the same eligible family member, the maximum credit will be allocated equally between family caregivers. Any unused credit cannot be carried forward.

Family caregivers must apply for the tax credit with DOR. If approved, DOR will certify the tax credits to the family caregiver. DOR will process applications in the order received based on the following annual limitations for the State fiscal year:

- July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 \$1,500,000
- July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 \$1,500,000
- State fiscal years after \$2,500,000

For the 2025 taxable year, DOR began accepting applications in February 2025, for eligible expenditures made on or after January 1, 2025.

Upcoming Events

December

2nd: Volunteer Appreciation Night

11th: BOD Meeting 1:00pm

25th: Merry Christmas!

**Office Closed December 22nd - January 5th.*

January

1st: Happy New Year!

8th: BOD Meeting 1:00pm

19th: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office Closed

February

12th: BOD Meeting 1:00pm

14th: Valentine's Day

16th: President's Day - Office Closed

» Texas Hold'em games held every Thursday (except BOD meeting days) at the Chapter office at 12pm.

» Bowling League practices every Wednesday at Mockingbird Lanes at 1pm.

Daniel Schmitt, 5th Fittest Neuro Athlete in the World

This year's competition was held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Westgate Resort and Casino September 12-14. Over 9 events, Daniel proved his fitness with a consistent performance by finishing every event between 3rd-6th. He did a great job on the final day to secure 5th place worldwide, placing 4th in the last 3 events. We couldn't be more proud of how he showed out in Las Vegas!

September Challenge Results

This workout was a pyramid chipper that consisted of a sled push/drag, ski, cleans and burpees. There was a five-minute rest in the middle with only 1/3 of the total work is left after the rest break, so the competitors had to move as fast as they can through the first half because they couldn't dig out of a hole after. Chris Parnell paced well ahead of the field, finishing almost an entire minute ahead of 2nd place Barry Ridout. Below is the leaderboard of the September Challenge:

- **Leaderboard**
 - 1. Chris Parnell – 24:59
 - 2. Barry Ridout – 25:50
 - 3. Bruce Froendt – 26:28
 - 4. Daniel Schmitt – 26:46
 - 5. Ethan Eckelbarger – 27:52
 - 6. Tim Hobbs – 28:32

October Challenge Format & Results

September was a long slog of a test, so of course October is going to be a set-your-hair-on-fire sprint. This was a three modality chipper of 30 pulldowns, 30 overhead presses and 30k on the Vitaglide (standing division was 30 ring rows, 30 overhead presses and 21 calories on the Echo Bike). Travis Hasenkamp pulled out a narrow victory, winning the event by on 3 seconds over 2nd place Barry Ridout. Below are the formats and leaderboard of the October Challenge:

- **Formats**
 - Seated
 - For Time:
 - 30 pulldowns
 - 30 one-arm dumbbell overhead presses
 - 30k VitaGlide (2)
 - Standing
 - For Time
 - 30 ring rows
 - 30 seated one-arm dumbbell overhead presses
 - 21 calorie Echo Bike
- **Leaderboard**
 - 1. Travis Hasenkamp – 2:59
 - 2. Barry Ridout – 3:02
 - 3. Chris Parnell – 3:03
 - 4. Daniel Schmitt – 3:13
 - 5. Tim Hobbs – 3:16
 - 6. Bruce Froendt – 4:12



2025 Team Competition

My favorite thing we do here over the entire year is our team competition and it's now time! This year's competition will see Tim/Daniel, Travis/Chris and Bruce/Barry pair up to find the fittest team in our gym. This will be several events spread out over 6 weeks, which you can keep up with the scoring via our Facebook page (Great Plains PVA Adaptive Fitness). We'll also have video posted to our YouTube channel and Instagram page. Should be a fun one!

THANK YOU



Red Robin on 144th & Maple Streets in Omaha held a gift card drive around Veterans Day, inviting its patrons to purchase a gift card of any amount to be donated to veterans. The General Manager of this store chose Great Plains PVA to be the recipient of these gift cards. We are grateful for their partnership and the generous support from the community!

If you are a PVA member and would like a gift card to Red Robin, please email Amanda at vazquez@greatplainspva.org! We will be happy to mail a gift card to you!

Gift cards will be mailed on a first come, first served basis.



Veterans Day Poster + Poem Contest

During October, students in grades 1 through 8 were invited to participate in our Veterans Day Poster + Poem Contest. This year's theme was Barriers Still Exist, and students were encouraged to write a poem or draw a poster illustrating how barriers exist and why they should be removed for veterans and others living with a disability.

We received entries from four different schools in the Omaha Metro area and our PVA members voted for their favorites. Winners received a \$25 Target gift card and a plaque or certificate. Great Plains PVA Member Will Leavitt, along with chapter staff Mary & Amanda, presented the winners with their awards.

Congratulations to the following winners:

Grand Prize Poem - Liliana R., Millard Central Middle

Grand Prize Poster - Kai W., St. Wenceslaus

1st Place Poem (7th/8th) - Jaya G. Millard North Middle

1st Place Poem (5th/6th) - Ruby M., St. Wenceslaus

1st Place Poster (3rd/4th) - Allie G., St. Wenceslaus

1st Place Poster (1st/2nd) - Emryn G., Sandoz Elementary

Winners from Millard Central Middle & Sandoz Elementary are pictured below.



*Liliana R., 6th Grade
Grand Prize Winner - Poem*

The Path He Fought For

He came back from the fighting,

A hero with a grin,

But found that new battles waited

For him to fight and win.

Not with a rifle or a pack,

But with a set of wheels,

And sidewalks built so long ago,

That do not know how he feels.

The curb is like a brick wall,

The doorstep is a mountain,

And accessibility should flow,

Like water from a fountain.

His wheelchair is his freedom,

A promise he can roam,

So let's build a path for him

And truly welcome him home.

*Kai W. 3rd Grade
Grand Prize Winner - Poster*



Ruby M. 6th Grade
1st Place Poem - 5th/6th Grade Category

The mirror shows a strangers face
 A soldier trapped in time and place
 Memories march through sleepless nights
 While daylight masks their inner fight

They learn to lift with arms alone
 To build a life with a shattered home
 Each sunrise brings a battle a new,
 Not with a gun, but pushing through

Yet in their eyes, a quiet night
 A war still burns without the fight
 Through steel has damaged the lower frame,
 Their spirit rises just the same

So lets remove all the challenges
 That they battle with
 Lets let them live a normal life
 Without feeling "but if.."

Jaya G. 7th Grade
1st Place Poem - 7th/8th Grade Category

They give us hope,
 Serve our country with pride
 Appreciation overflows
 For our Veterans
 So what can we do?

Walls stand
 Between them and their world
 They protect
 So what can we do?

We tear down the walls,
 The barriers between
 Dedicate to the people
 Who are selfless and kind
 That is what we do

We let them in,
 Treat them as kin
 That is what we do

Emryn G. 2nd Grade
1st Place Poem - 1st/2nd Grade Category



Allie G. 3rd Grade
1st Place Poem - 3rd/4th Grade Category



The winner from Millard North Middle is pictured below.



Poster + Poem continued...



Winners from St. Wenceslaus are pictured here.



NSO Update

PVA National Service Officers (NSOs) gathered for their annual Continuing Education Program this fall. This training is designed to ensure PVA's NSOs remain knowledgeable on US Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and changes so they can better help veterans receive the benefits they have earned.



L to R: Robert Thomas, Wayne Baker, Jason Stephenson, Earnest Hill, Jackie Berkshire, Stephanie Strickland, Chris Custer, Zachary Nuetzel, Mike Killen, Carl Blake

AI-generated content



Earnest Hill - Victor S. McCoy Award, Chris Custer - East Region NSO of the year, Zachary Nuetzel - East Region Medical Services Award, Mike Sheets - PVA Trivia Award won by East Region, Jason Stephenson - West Region Medical Services Award

Reverse Giving Tuesday Volunteer Celebration

Volunteers are central to the success of our organization, and help us further the impact of our mission. With that in mind, we decided to take the opportunity on Giving Tuesday to celebrate a reverse day of giving, in which we gave back to our volunteers as a way to thank them for their support throughout the year. We had a buffet of tasty appetizers and an evening of arcade games at Draftcade in Omaha. What a fun, retro atmosphere it provided for a relaxing evening of great conversation and friendly competition. We are so grateful for the many volunteers who support us throughout the year with their time & talents!

“Volunteers are love in motion!” —Author unknown



We appreciate the effort that Share Omaha makes to support nonprofits locally, helping drive successful giving in our community. Thanks to their partnership with the nonprofit community, the local Giving Tuesday movement saw over \$5 million in donations supporting vital programs across the Omaha metro!

Great Plains PVA staff received a special surprise visit from one of Share Omaha's Giving Tuesday 402 partners, Farm Credit Services of America, who delivered a bag full of goodies. It was a thoughtful gesture and greatly appreciated!



A Look Back at Great Plains PVA's Trunk or Treat

In October, Great Plains PVA hosted its 4th annual Trunk or Treat - an accessible Halloween event for children and families with special needs. PVA members, Wounded Warrior Project members, Nebraska Spina Bifida members, and other partner agencies decorated trunks and passed out candy throughout the evening. We appreciate our partners for joining us in this fun community event and look forward to doing it again next year.



Grassroots Advocacy - Thank You for Your Efforts!

by Amanda Vazquez, Government Relations Director

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our advocates for the work they have done this year. PVA had a lot of accomplishments including, the Advocacy Legislation Seminar, building a petition opposing the dismantling of VA's SCI/D System of Care, letters to Congress regarding veterans and disability issues, as well as advocacy efforts done on the local level.

If you have a story to share, please reach out! PVA is gathering stories from our members relating to our current campaigns. If you have stories about any of the campaigns on PVAAction Force that you are willing to share for advocacy, I would love to hear from you and put you in touch with our Advocacy team. If you haven't already, please check out PVAAction Force! It has all of the current campaigns PVA National has been working on, and will continue to work on throughout the next year. The more voices that join in these efforts, the greater the chance to see these issues move forward.

Your voice is critical in effecting change in your community, state, and on the national level. I encourage you to continue advocating wherever there is an opportunity to improve upon the services and access needed to live a full, independent, and active life.

**PVAAction
Force**



Join PVAAction Force to keep up-to-date on legislation that impacts veterans and people with disabilities, and easily communicate with your Senators and Representatives about these issues.

CHAPTER BIRTHDAYS

December

Garret Wiley * Shayna Goerdts * Stormy Brandt * Renee Barnes * Michael Webb *
Thomas Gerber * Daniel Wick * Alexander Tomic

January

Mark Zulkoski * James Tichota * Shawn Stencil * Charles Fattig * Jerry Trumble *
David Burgess * Mark Rowland * Kim Hanson * Daniel Kurtenbach * Richard Cornett *
Ronald Hendryx

February

Dominic Lovison * Neeley Gentry * Teddy Daniels * Dana Hall * Sidney Rightmyer *
Clayborn Barnett * David Seyler * Andrew Nelsen * James Harrin * Jerry Tharp *
Norman Davis



Washington Update

Check out the [PVAAction Force](#) page to view legislative campaigns and a list of key legislation.

BILL TO INCREASE SMC AND DIC INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

On November 17, Rep. Tom Barrett (R-MI) introduced [H.R. 6047, the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act](#), which would increase the amount of Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) for the most severely disabled veterans. It would also raise VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) rates for the surviving family members of deceased servicemembers and veterans. For years, PVA has advocated for increasing these benefits for veterans with the most significant service-connected disabilities and their survivors.

SMC is arguably the most important ancillary benefit for veterans with severe, service-connected disabilities. The benefit is unique in that it is dependent on non-economic factors such as the profoundness of the disability, personal inconvenience, and social inadaptability. For example, a veteran who lost the use of their lower extremities in service to their country is compensated not just for the loss in their future earnings potential, but also all future hardships and costs associated with the disability.

DIC is intended to protect against survivor impoverishment after the death of a service-disabled veteran. In 2025, this compensation starts at \$1,653.07 per month and increases if the surviving spouse has eligible children who are under age 18. The DIC program

was established in 1993 and has been minimally adjusted since then. DIC payments were intended to provide veterans' survivors with the means to maintain some semblance of economic stability after the loss of their loved one.

[The Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act](#) would increase the rates of SMC R1, R2, and T, which are reserved for the most seriously disabled veterans, and increase the DIC amount by one percent every year for five years in addition to the yearly cost-of-living adjustment. This would be the most significant increase in survivors' benefits and SMC in years, and a major step toward addressing the needs of our nation's seriously disabled veterans and their survivors.

On December 3 at 10:15 am ET, PVA National Treasurer Tom Wheaton will testify before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in a legislative hearing that includes this bill. The hearing will be [broadcast live](#). Also, please [visit PVAAction Force](#) to send a message of support for this bill to your Representative.

HOUSE HOLDS OVERSIGHT HEARING FOCUSED ON VA'S MDEO

On November 20, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held an oversight hearing titled,

PVA.org

@ParalyzedVeterans

Paralyzed Veterans of America

@PVA1946

@PVA1946

“Improving Outcomes for Disabled Veterans: Oversight of VA’s Medical Disability Examination Office (MDEO).” The hearing was a single panel comprised of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the VA’s Executive Director of MDEO. PVA submitted a statement for the record.

The Veterans Benefits Administration houses MDEO, which is tasked with overseeing contract examiners who provide compensation and pension (C&P) examinations. In 2024, GAO made several recommendations to improve the oversight mechanism within MDEO. PVA highlighted that report in a previous hearing focused on C&P exams that had accessibility barriers at facilities leased by contractors providing examinations. An additional report was released earlier this year focused on oversight, quality control issues, preventing errors during exams, and correcting errors while improving accountability.

Over the past few years, GAO has reported breakdowns in procedures for correcting frequent or complex issues with contracted exams, incorrect financial incentive payments made to contractors, and gaps in feedback from examiners; all of which was highlighted in GAO’s written testimony to the committee.

Subcommittee members pressed VA and GAO representatives for answers to what were seemingly simple questions, such as overall spending on contracts for C&P exams, error rates, improvements that MDEO plans to implement, and how MDEO plans to improve their oversight obligation. However, VA provided very few answers to the subcommittee, often stating they would have to take a question for the record and follow up later. Subcommittee Chairman Morgan Luttrell (R-TX) closed the hearing out by informing VA that they would be invited back soon and expressing his hope that they would have more appropriate answers at the next hearing.

You can watch the hearing [here](#).

PVA PARTICIPATES IN HOUSE QUARTERLY MEETING

PVA recently joined other veterans service organizations (VSOs) in a meeting with Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA). Last Congress, Rep. Levin was the ranking member on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee (HVAC), Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity (EO), but he moved to the House Committee on Appropriations where he is a member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

While he was a member of HVAC, Rep. Levin set himself apart from other members by holding quarterly check-in meetings with VSOs who worked EO issues. Although he is no longer a member of HVAC, he continues to hold meetings with VSOs to get a sense of what the veteran community needs from his new assignment.

PVA stressed the need for increased infrastructure funding across the VA, especially for projects related to care for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders. There was also discussion related to recent articles in The Washington Post, which have led to a Senate hearing and several roundtables in the House. PVA staff stressed the importance of maintaining the current veterans’ benefits system and safeguarding hard won benefits. He agreed that VA should continue to engage in robust oversight and offered his office as a resource.

NEWS OF NOTE

DOJ Opens Investigation into Florida Theme Parks for Banning Rollator Walkers

The U.S. Department of Justice [announced](#) at the end of November that they opened an [investigation](#) into United Parks & Resorts Inc. after receiving complaints that three theme parks banned rollator walkers. The DOJ investigation will determine whether the three parks, including SeaWorld Orlando, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, and Aquatica Orlando, violated Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA requires public accommodations to permit individuals with mobility disabilities to use wheelchairs and manually powered mobility aids in any areas open to public use. Complaints filed alleged that the parks prohibited rollator walkers

PVA.org

@ParalyzedVeterans

Paralyzed Veterans of America

@PVA1946

@PVA1946

with seats. Furthermore, the complaints allege that the parks offer guests the option to rent alternative mobility aids for a surcharge. The DOJ investigation seeks to determine whether the parks engaged in disability discrimination in violation of the ADA.

VA Officials Warn of New Scam Targeting Veterans

VA recently sounded the alarm about a new scam targeting veterans, surviving spouses, and family members who receive VA benefits. The scammers pretend to be VA representatives collecting an overpayment of VA benefits. They are using official looking letters, emails, and texts that often include fake VA logos and letterhead, making it extremely difficult to distinguish from genuine VA communications. If you receive a letter or any communication about a VA benefits overpayment, log into your official [VA.gov](https://va.gov) [account](#) immediately to verify if you truly owe money.

If you find you do owe money, VA's Debt Management Center offers many [repayment options](#). Also, be aware that VA will not call you about potential overpayments unless you initiated the inquiry first. You can learn more about the scam and ways to protect yourself [here](#).

use of a wheelchair, and currently residing in the U.S.) will receive a link to the full online survey.

Your Privacy Matters: Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential.

Have Questions? Please contact the research team at:

- Email: travelX@iu.edu
- Phone: 812-855-9037

The survey will close once researchers have reached the target number of completed responses.

Veterans' Committee Activities

Please visit the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Veterans' Affairs Committee webpages for information on previous and upcoming hearings and markups.

SURVEYS & COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

REMINDER: Survey for Project Focused on Improving the Airport Journey of Wheelchair Users

InterVISTAS is currently collaborating with Indiana University – Bloomington (IUB) to collect information on the air travel experiences of people with disabilities. Funded by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, this project strives to identify ways to enhance the air travel experiences of individuals using wheelchairs. PVA is a member of the panel overseeing this project.

How to Participate:

1. **Register:** Please first [complete the screening survey](#). This will only take 5 minutes.
2. **Survey:** Once registered, eligible participants (those aged 18 or older, living with a disability that requires the



Join PVAction Force to keep up-to-date on legislation that impacts veterans and people with disabilities, and easily communicate with your Senators and Representatives about these issues.

PVA.org

@ParalyzedVeterans

 Paralyzed Veterans of America

 @PVA1946

 @PVA1946



LADIES AUXILIARY

Great Plains Chapter

Purpose

To support the mission of Paralyzed Veterans of America Great Plains Chapter and to foster the continuing education of young adults with disabilities through the McAleer/Pierce Memorial Scholarship program.

Activities

The Auxiliary assists PVA members and staff with planning and preparation of:

- holiday gatherings
- membership dinners
- fundraisers
- awareness & other activities

Questions? Want to Join?

Contact Great Plains PVA
at 402-398-1422!

Fundraising

Wine & Roses, a fundraiser hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary each year, offers guests a selection of wines to taste, specialty desserts prepared by auxiliary members, a silent auction, and roses for the ladies. Proceeds from this event fund the McAleer/Pierce Memorial Scholarship.



McAleer/Pierce Memorial Scholarship

Each year, Auxiliary members review applications from students who have a physical disability or have a parent with a physical disability.

A \$500 scholarship is awarded to the students that are chosen by the scholarship committee. The Auxiliary is proud to have awarded over \$40,000 in scholarship money since the program began in 1988.



Jean McAleer was the founder of the Great Plains PVA Ladies Auxiliary and wife of Great Plains PVA founder, Jay McAleer. Stemming from her passion to help people with disabilities, Jean and the Ladies Auxiliary began a memorial scholarship fund in 1988.

Membership

- Anyone who is interested in helping carry out our mission is welcome to join!
- Auxiliary members are invited and encouraged to be a part of chapter events and activities!
- Members are asked to donate at least 1 item to one of our activities each year.

Fun Fact

Great Plains PVA's Ladies Auxiliary was the first PVA auxiliary. Only 1 other chapter has an auxiliary to this day.



Paralyzed Veterans of America

Great Plains Chapter



Follow us on Social Media!

@greatplainspva



Great Plains PVA, 7612 Maple Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68134-6502

www.greatplainspva.org

402-398-1422



Paralyzed Veterans of America Great Plains Chapter (Great Plains PVA) is a non-profit organization that has dedicated over 50 years to helping veterans with spinal cord injuries, as well as other individuals living with disabilities across Nebraska, Western-Iowa, and Kansas. Great Plains PVA is dedicated to improving quality of life by providing education, promoting equal opportunities, encouraging independence, and enhancing lifetime health and fitness. PVA is at the forefront helping and advocating for the rights and benefits of veterans and all people living with disabilities.