

THE

# DESERT ORACLE

A Member Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America

December-January 2011 Vol. 13 Issue 2

Happy Holidays  
from the Staff  
at your  
Arizona Chapter



**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

# Arizona Chapter, Paralyzed Veterans of America



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Friday 7:30 am—3:pm

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**The end of two years;** the fiscal year the Chapter bases its finances on and the end of the 2010 calendar year. Either way, both have been rewarding and exhausting. The Holidays are here and please take the time to remember and thank those who have helped us and members and friends who did not get to see the 2011 New Year's celebration.

We have moved and are now the proud owners of a building. The address is 5015 N 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85013. The building is located just north of Camelback Rd on the east side of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. We sit diagonally north-east from the light rail stop and have a north bound bus stop in front of our door. Presently there are 24+ parking spots; 9 of those covered in the rear of the building. After the New Year we will be repainting the lot to accommodate a larger number of handicap spots. We will have less parking spots but it will be better suited for our members.

The building consists of two office suites under one roof. The Chapter is in Suite 2 or on the right side as you face the building from the street. The entire building is almost 4000 sq feet and we will occupy about 60 percent of building. We have some modifications planned such as enlarging the conference room and adding a few more accessible features. However Suite 2 was renovated in 2005 and is ADA compliant. Now that we are closer to the Phoenix VA we hope to see more members and guests.

This upcoming year is an election year. President Moye will be assembling a committee to develop a slate of candidates that you should be getting in early spring. New faces are always a plus; Diego Suazo has left the board to become a National Service Officer right here in Arizona. So there is always room for more. PVA has done more than most people realize to get SCI/SCD veterans premium service from the VA Healthcare System. Everyone should be able to give back just to help the veterans who follow us and thank those who started all of this before us.

Membership is probably the biggest obstacle we face. Many veterans do not know the difference between all the Veteran Service Organizations or that we even exist or what we can do for them. The VA is not going to go out of their way to let the veterans know there is a group that will help them get what they need and not charge them a cent. So if you happen to be talking to a veteran and they seem to be at a loss, please have them contact the Chapter or the Service Office for assistance.

We look forward to seeing more of you in the new office and hope you enjoy the holidays with friends and family.

# Happy Holidays

**Hey people**, and welcome to our winter season, and let us bid “*adieu*” to our sweltering summer weather. I actually moved out here from New Mexico to be in this heat, (hmm, who knew that heat was going to play such an important role in my life).

During my most recent trip to El Paso, I found myself having problems catheterizing and had to go to the emergency room at Physician’s Hospital. The doctors there tried their best to help me, but it was a lot more complicated than what we thought. I ended up being admitted and had to have an endoscopic procedure done to help me void. I had an in dwelling catheter. That was only the beginning of my problems. Later that night I was having trouble breathing and had chest pains, so, the next day I was transferred to Telemetry, to monitor my heart. I had a very hard night, by 9:00 am, I was on my way to an angiogram to check my arteries, come to find out it was not my heart, I had a blood clot in my right leg. I had a filter put in my main leg artery to prevent the clot from traveling to my heart, lungs or brain.

I thank God for all the good doctors who worked on me. That night my heart rate was very high and my blood pressure sky rocketed, so I had to have all kinds of shots to calm me down. I ended up in the hospital for seven days and still had to wait four more before I could fly back home. Goes to show how unpredictable MS can be, so we must learn to take it one day at a time.

I was so glad to be home that if it had not been so very hot when we got off the airplane, I would have kissed the floor. I am doing better now it is going to take a while before I completely recuperate, so I’m taking it slowly.

Merry Christmas and a Big Happy New Year



Benjamin Garcia, I.P.P.



## **New Medical Forms Will Streamline Veterans Claims Process** *Physician Questionnaires to Boost Disability Exam Efficiency*

**WASHINGTON** – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has released three new disability benefits questionnaires for physicians of Veterans applying for VA disability compensation benefits. This initiative marks the beginning of a major reform of the physicians' guides and automated routines that will streamline the claims process for injured or ill Veterans.

“This is a major step in the transformation of VA’s business processes that is yielding improvements for Veterans as we move to eliminate the disability claims backlog by 2015,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. These new questionnaires are the first of 79 disability benefits questionnaires that will guide Veterans’ personal physicians, as well as VA physicians, in the evaluation of the most frequent medical conditions affecting Veterans. Accurate and timely medical evaluations are a critical element of VA’s continued commitment to high-quality and prompt decisions about the nature and degree of conditions afflicting Veterans. Streamlining this process by directly involving Veterans’ treating physicians in providing specific information needed to evaluate their claims will lead to completeness in the examination and faster compensation decisions.

VA’s goal is to process all claims in fewer than 125 days with a decision quality rate no lower than 98 percent, a mark Secretary Shinseki has mandated by 2015. The physician questionnaire project is one of more than three dozen initiatives actively underway at VA, including a major technology modernization that will lead to paperless claims processing. The disability benefits questionnaires are part of VA’s automated health records system which prompts VA physicians conducting disability examinations to include precise information in a standardized way to assist claims adjudicators in ensuring Veterans receive the benefits they deserve as quickly as possible. These VA examination results are electronically available to claims adjudicators in VA regional offices. For Veterans who receive their care from private physicians, VA has placed the disability benefits questionnaires on its Internet site (<http://www.vba.va.gov/disabilityexams>) with instructions for physicians to submit examination results on Veterans’ behalf.

The first three questionnaires cover B-cell leukemia (such as hairy-cell leukemia), Parkinson’s disease and ischemic heart disease. VA recently published a final regulation to be implemented Oct. 30 that will establish the presumption of eligibility to VA disability compensation benefits for Veterans with one of these three conditions who were exposed to Agent Orange, a herbicide agent used extensively in Vietnam. In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war who have a “presumed” illness do not have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This “presumption” establishes eligibility to VA compensation if their condition is disabling to a compensable level. For additional information on the VA disability compensation program or additional presumptive disabilities for Veterans exposed to herbicide agents, contact VA at 800-827-1000 or visit <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/AO/claimherbicide.htm>.

# Help yourself to some FREE SAVINGS!

FREE Prescription Drug Card, compliments of



The card at the bottom of this page is pre-activated and can be used immediately to save up to 75% on your prescription drugs. A number of additional benefits (back of card) have also been included to show our appreciation!

## Prescription Drug Card Highlights:

- The FREE Prescription Drug Card is available to EVERYONE.
- The card is accepted at over 50,000 pharmacies nationwide.
- The card is pre-activated and can be used immediately.
- The card can be used to get discounts of up to 75% off all brand name and generic medications, with average savings around 30%.
- All prescriptions processed through the program are confidential.
- In addition to the Prescription Drug Card, the program offers other discounts on teeth whitening supplies, prescription eye glasses, hearing aids and diabetic supplies.
- The program was launched to help the uninsured and underinsured, but EVERYONE is eligible.
- For those with insurance, the card can be used to cover all non-covered medications.
- This program can be used by people who have Health Savings Accounts (HSA's), High Deductible Plans, and Medicare Part D (on non-covered drugs).
- This program has "LOWEST PRICE" logic to guarantee that you get the best pricing on prescriptions.

*This card is pre-activated for immediate savings at participating pharmacies! Simply cut out the card below and fold along center line.*

<h2>Rx Prescription Drug Card</h2> <p>Compliments of:</p>  <p><b>PVA</b> PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA</p> <p>Customer Service (CSR) 877.321.6755</p> <p>Pharmacy Helpline 800.248.1062</p> <p><small>THIS PROGRAM IS NOT INSURANCE THIS PROGRAM IS A POINT OF SALE DISCOUNT PLAN</small></p>		<p><b>ADDITIONAL SAVINGS</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$25.00 Prescription Eyeglasses <a href="http://www.25dollareyeglasses.com">www.25dollareyeglasses.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Teeth Whitening-Save up to 70% <a href="http://www.prosmileusa.com">www.prosmileusa.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Diabetic Supplies-Save up to 50% <a href="http://www.diabeticsavingsplan.com">www.diabeticsavingsplan.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Lasik Surgery-Save 40-50% Call 1-888-733-6695</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Hearing Aids-Save up to 50% <a href="http://www.ushearingplan.com">www.ushearingplan.com</a></td> </tr> </table>		\$25.00 Prescription Eyeglasses <a href="http://www.25dollareyeglasses.com">www.25dollareyeglasses.com</a>		Teeth Whitening-Save up to 70% <a href="http://www.prosmileusa.com">www.prosmileusa.com</a>		Diabetic Supplies-Save up to 50% <a href="http://www.diabeticsavingsplan.com">www.diabeticsavingsplan.com</a>		Lasik Surgery-Save 40-50% Call 1-888-733-6695		Hearing Aids-Save up to 50% <a href="http://www.ushearingplan.com">www.ushearingplan.com</a>	<p><b>PARTIAL LIST OF PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES:</b></p> 
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	Lasik Surgery-Save 40-50% Call 1-888-733-6695												
	Hearing Aids-Save up to 50% <a href="http://www.ushearingplan.com">www.ushearingplan.com</a>												
<p><b>NAME:</b> _____</p> <p><b>RxMBR ID:</b> Customer's Ten (10) Digit Phone Number <b>OR</b> Initials &amp; Last 4 Digits of Phone Number</p> <p><b>RxGRP:</b> PVAORG <b>RxBIN:</b> 610709 <b>RxPCN:</b> 7777</p> <p><b>PROGRAM:</b> UNA RX CARD - UNITED NETWORKS OF AMERICA</p> <p>POWERED BY:  </p> <p><small>NOTE: This card is being provided to you at NO COST. There are no forms to fill out. Simply take this card into a participating pharmacy (see back) with your Rx to qualify for discounts on medications. You also have access to other value added programs listed on back. Each family member must have his/her own card. This card has been pre-activated for immediate use! To obtain information and to print additional cards visit <a href="http://www.pva.org">www.pva.org</a>.</small></p>													

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# 2011 Calendar of Events

When	What	Where	Who
January 1 2011	New Year's Day	Happy New Year's	Office Closed
February 17th-19th 2011	15th Annual National Trap Shoot	Ben Avery Trap Facility	APVA Office 602-244-9168
February 8 2011	Board of Directors Meeting	Chapter Office 5010 N 7th Ave Phoenix, AZ	APVA Office 602-244-9168
April, 2011	Board of Directors Meeting & BBQ	Marana, AZ	APVA Office 602-244-9168
May 8, 2011	Mothers Day		
June, 2011	Board of Directors Meeting & Picnic	Prescott. AZ	APVA Office 602-244-9168
July 4th 2011	Celebrations through out Arizona		Office Closed

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT from The Arizona Chapter

The Arizona Chapter voting membership stands at **542** as of November 2010.

National and APVA records show our voting membership as:  
**309- Service Connected 233- Non-Service Connected**

The Arizona Chapter encourages each of our members to contact the Chapter and let us know how you are doing, and if we can help you in any way. If you know of any of our members who have passed away, or if you have an address/phone change, please contact the Chapter as soon as possible. Also, if you would like to receive the Desert Oracle Newsletter by e-mail, please call or e-mail the office with your e-mail address.

Do you know a veteran with spinal cord dysfunction who isn't a member of the APVA?

Let us know at the Chapter office by calling  
602-244-9168 or 1-800-621-9217 e-mail: [azpva@azpva.org](mailto:azpva@azpva.org)

# Happy Birthday December January

Toby Clement  
Robert Payne  
John Mollica  
Dennis Olp  
Anthony Mangine  
Robert Rose  
Gerald Feinholtz  
Antonia Broten  
Erica Hockings  
James Mangan  
Thomas Lopeman  
William Garmon  
Steven VanNote  
Joe Curtin  
John Davis  
Robert Vomocil  
Paul Cartter  
William Mooney  
Bernard LyFord

Joy VanVeen  
Christopher Verdi  
Mario DeAcetis  
Carlos Moleda  
Teresa Chavez-Morales  
Charles Anderson  
Paul Febock  
Milissa Johnson  
James McCammon  
Gary Moe  
Brent Yadon  
Russell Chappell  
Adrian Patterson  
Kenneth Taylor  
Lloyd Dalbeck  
Steven O'Brien  
Richard Kelly  
Christopher Romero  
Ralph Heiser-Washington



Dennis Kavanagh  
Robert Schmidt  
Arnold Gustafson  
James Escobar  
Francis Bessette  
Milton Scott  
King Houston  
Richard Bead Sr.  
Merlin Hocken  
Bernard Hixson  
Nelford Wilson  
Francis Stacy  
Michael Osolnik  
Todd Dittmer  
Leroy Welch  
Stewart Davis  
Kenneth Plante  
Rodney Thomas  
Manuel Ballesteros  
Kenneth Perry

Fred DeGalan  
Harry Dierkes  
Joseph DiMeco  
David Carlson  
Kenneth Huckans  
Reymundo Chavez  
Kathleen A. Lake  
William Lambert  
Donald Woodward  
Joe Ebeling  
George Kohl  
John Gardner  
Jose Dastas  
Nathan Junker  
jeffrey Malm  
Keith Borges  
David Bell  
Jean Hackthorn  
Margaret Dixon  
Arthur Majaka

## CLASSIFIEDS

### FOR SALE

Surprise, Arizona – Accessible home with 2-Bedrooms, 2-Bath. Roll-in shower, cutout sink and roll-in closet in master bedroom. Kitchen has cutout under sink and accessible refrigerator and stove. Call Patty Stelton at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. (480)951-1010. Just Reduced to \$120,000.00!

